Jewish Federation of Ocean County Impact

Case Study: Federation Impact in Action - Dimona Missile Strike

Context

On March 21, a missile penetrated Israel's defense systems and struck a residential building in Dimona, injuring 60+ people, forcing the evacuation of 485 residents, and causing widespread damage.



Selected Responding Organizations

Or Movement

- Dimona volunteers and staff had participated in Federation-supported training exercises and were prepared to respond immediately.
- A Federation mobile situation room was rapidly deployed to coordinate assistance for evacuees.
- An emergency shelter was established in a sports hall using Federation-supplied equipment.

JDC | GRID

- Local emergency responders arrived 30 minutes before the IDF.
- Using Federation-funded first aid equipment, they treated and evacuated wounded and elderly residents from the building.

Lev Echad

- Building on experience developed during Operation Rising Lions, Lev Echad deployed 602 volunteers, contributing 1,700 volunteer days.
- Volunteers helped residents clear damage and return to normal life quickly.

Social Delivery

- Within hours, delivered essential supplies—including clothing and hygiene items—to evacuees staying in the Dead Sea area.

Fund For Victims of Terror

- Provided Emergency grants to those impacted by the missile strike and ongoing rehabilitation support to those requiring long term rehabilitation.

Access Israel

- Immediately dispatched a team with an accessible vehicle to Dead Sea hotels to support disabled

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YOU Made and Impact through the Jewish Federation of Ocean County – Jewish Relief Network Ukraine (JRNU)

From JRNU
October 20, 2026

On October 17 at night, a missile hit near the Or Avner Jewish School in Kharkiv, prompting an emergency rescue operation. The powerful explosion shook the neighborhood, sending thick smoke into the air and leaving significant destruction to surrounding buildings. According to the school's security guard, the building did not sustain a direct hit, and no injuries were reported on school grounds.

Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov issued an urgent update saying emergency crews were working to rescue civilians believed to be trapped beneath the debris of nearby damaged buildings. Volunteers from Kharkiv's Jewish community joined rescue workers at the scene, assisting in the emergency response.

The attacks on the country's power infrastructure have continued with at least six energy facilities being targeted in recent attacks. The latest explosion near the school follows a particularly difficult weekend for Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, which has endured repeated missile and drone strikes throughout the war.

Despite the dangers, our work with the local community continues, providing food, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance to residents who have stayed in the city despite years of bombardment. Over the past couple of days, dozens of volunteers traveled to damaged residential neighborhoods to distribute emergency supplies to affected residents. Wearing brightly colored identification vests, the volunteers moved through devastated areas, distributing bottled water, fresh bread, and essential food supplies to families whose homes had been damaged or who had been left without basic necessities.

They also provided emotional support to residents struggling in the aftermath of the attacks. Although the missile landed frighteningly close to the school, Chief Rabbi of Kharkiv, Moshe Moskovitz explained that there was no physical damage and operations would continue: "The school will open tomorrow morning as usual," he said. As rescue teams continued searching the damaged buildings into the night, Jewish community volunteers remained involved in the relief effort, assisting residents in the surrounding neighborhood.

The latest strike serves as another reminder of the dangers facing Kharkiv's Jewish community, even as its schools and communal institutions continue operating amid the war. Recently, a massive air attack left a family with nothing but the clothes on their backs. A strike destroyed their home and car, and virtually all of their possessions. Sadly, many others across Ukraine face similar dire situations, as the devastating assaults continue.

Each day, new families are forced to start their lives over from scratch, with nowhere to go. Our leaders, staff, and volunteers work with them to provide much needed financial and other support including temporary housing, clothes, food and other essentials. We know that no amount of aid can restore what has been lost, but we are addressing critical immediate needs and reminding people that they are not alone and not forgotten.

Together we save lives and restore hope.