Jerusalem COVID-19 Giving:
A Curated List from Amplifier and Natan

The Natan Fund supports arts & culture, placemaking, and economic development organizations in Jerusalem with a focus on projects that provide opportunities for different sectors of Jerusalem’s population to connect meaningfully with each other. We reached out to them to compile a list of organizations in Jerusalem that are providing direct services to vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please consider supporting one or more of these organizations if you are able, or host a Virtual Pop-Up Giving Circle to pool money with others and make a collective gift.

15 Minutes amplifies, leverages, and activates consumer voices in order to improve public transportation across Israel. Convenient public transportation enhances social mobility by increasing employment and education opportunities for all residents, and it contributes to a healthier environment by reducing carbon emissions. During the COVID-19 crisis, 15 Minutes is serving a critical role in notifying the public of any changes in public transportation, and letting people know which buses those who have tested positive have been on. It is also serving as the main liaison between the public and the government around issues of public transportation during this time.

Madrasa is a free, integrated social technology platform (website + social networks + in-person meetings) for the study of Colloquial Arabic. Madrasa’s goal is to promote better communication between the different parts of Israeli society. The project combines online studies through interactive courses and a rich content library with ongoing community activity in social media and study groups across the country. During the COVID-19 crisis, more and more people are interested in taking on this online learning.
0202 provides a glimpse into life in Jerusalem as it is experienced by its different population sectors (secular Jewish, religious Jewish, and Arabic-speaking) by providing a platform to access and translate media and news from each sector to the other. During the COVID-19 crisis, it has done much more to connect different sectors of Jerusalem to each other, with innovative programming featuring what life is like in various people’s communities and homes.

The Jerusalem Intercultural Center assists the city’s residents of diverse backgrounds to become responsible, active partners in shaping the development of their communities and Jerusalem’s future. During the COVID-19 crisis, its staff in East Jerusalem, as well as hundreds of volunteers, is working around the clock to help residents in completing unemployment forms, which are only in Hebrew, in order to receive financial assistance and groceries.

The Atta’a Assistance Center for the Rights of East Jerusalem Residents provides access to information by creating culturally competent directives for East Jerusalem. The center is a grassroots capacity building program, empowering Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem to obtain legal rights through ongoing one-on-one work with residents, mass awareness raising, and networking and partnerships with municipal and national agencies, nonprofits, and social service providers. The center continues to do its work during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research is the leading institute in Israel for the study of Jerusalem’s complex reality and unique social fabric. JIPR contributes to decision-making, policy and planning processes, and influences outcomes in Jerusalem and across Israel. The core elements of JIPR’s approach are understanding the issues, building consensus among stakeholders, creating actionable strategies and specific plans, and managing and measuring impacts and results. Since the COVID-19 crisis began, it has been deeply assessing the ways in which Jerusalem has been impacted by the pandemic, which will produce critical information for policy makers.

Kulna Yerushalayim was founded by Arab and Jewish friends from East and West Jerusalem to advance coexistence in the city. Its flagship program is the Jerusalem Double shesh-besh (backgammon) tournaments that are designed to create connections between communities that have been segregated for decades. During the COVID-19 crisis, Kulna has been focused on the dissemination of information in Arabic, food baskets and emergency supplies to residents of East Jerusalem, performances on the streets of East Jerusalem that can be watched from people’s windows, and online educational programming for families.
MiniActive is a network of more than 1000 Palestinian women in East Jerusalem who are trained in “effective activism,” which enables them to tackle practical and incremental projects that improve conditions in their communities. Its activists are changing conditions in East Jerusalem neighborhoods and the way that the municipality engages with the residents of East Jerusalem. During the COVID-19 crisis, the women have been serving as important liaisons to the residents of East Jerusalem.

SAHI engages at-risk youth ages 13 to 18 to use creative means of food collection and distribution as a tool for giving. The locally-based units of young people then go on to advocate for those in need in their local communities. During COVID-16, SAHI has been integral to municipal efforts of providing aid and support for local communities in need.