



המרכז הישראלי לחקר המגזר השלישי  
ISRAELI CENTER FOR THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH

The Forum to Address Food Insecurity  
and Poverty in Israel

# **The Mapping of Nonprofit Organizations in the Field of Food Security in Israel 2004: Scope and Patterns of Activity**

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## FOREWORD

This study is the product of a collaborative effort between The Israeli Center for Third Sector Research (ICTR) and the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel. We at ICTR were particularly interested in taking part in the important project of surveying third sector organizations in the field of food insecurity, for two major reasons:

- First, like the Forum staff, we too recognized the urgent need to understand what is occurring in this domain in light of the increasing size of the population needing the services of these organizations. We wholeheartedly agreed with the direction set by the Forum: planning a study whose intention was to lead to the development of a comprehensive policy in the area. This direction fits in very well with ICTR's major goal of engaging in policy-relevant research. Indeed, we hope that this study's findings, together with additional data, will inform policymakers and aid them in devising appropriate comprehensive frameworks that will provide food for those needing it, while in the process allowing them to utilize the unique characteristics of third sector organizations active in this area.
- Second, at a different level of abstraction, by engaging in this study we saw an opportunity to better understand the characteristics and functions of the third sector in Israel. The Israeli third sector, which is very large has, throughout the years, grown to fill different roles and functions that are not necessarily identical or even similar in the various fields. A comprehensive analysis of the sector's activities in a specific field (such as food insecurity)—the types of organizations it includes, the characteristics of their functioning, their relations with the public and the business sectors, etc.—sheds new light on an additional aspect of the third sector in Israel. Adding the results of this analysis to knowledge from studies in other fields will eventually provide us with the full picture.

As the reader will be able to see, the study has fulfilled our expectations on both those points. For this we should first of all thank the researcher, Esther Levinson, who has produced an excellent report. The study was guided by a steering committee, chaired by Yael Shalgi of Matan, that significantly helped the researcher in setting directions for the study and in overcoming difficult hurdles along the way. This is an opportunity to thank its members: Nili Dror, Shira Erez, Cheri Fox, Tamara Gottstein, Laurie Heller, Batya Kallus, Irit Livneh, Nurit Nirel, Yael Shalgi, and Dr. Ilana Silver.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the study's funders, The Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel, and especially its representatives on the steering committee: Cheri Fox, Laurie Heller, Tamara Gottstein, and Batya Kallus. They provide an excellent example of a creative relationship between sponsor and researchers in which the researchers' principles are respected, yet important goals the funders have set for themselves are not relinquished.

Prof. Benjamin Gidron, Director  
Israeli Center for Third Sector Research (ICTR)

Beer Sheva, August 2005

## INTRODUCTION

The publication of “Survey of Non-Profit Food Organizations: Scope and Patterns of Activity, 2004,” which summarizes the results of the study carried out by the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research, comprises a significant step toward understanding the current status of food assistance in Israel and the developments in this field in recent years. As shown by the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute’s 2002 survey—the first nationwide study of its kind examining food insecurity in Israel—approximately 22% of the Israeli population suffers from food insecurity, and eight percent suffer from severe food insecurity. The new report documents the efforts of the non-profit sector to provide assistance to Israel’s needy population. In addition, the report examines the efforts of 23 local authorities, with large and medium-size populations, to provide emergency food assistance to needy residents.

First and foremost, we are thrilled and awed to see how dedicated people from all parts of the ethnic, religious, and social spectra have mobilized to ensure that no one will lack a nourishing meal or access to healthy food. In recent years, as a result of government budget cuts, third sector organizations have been taking the place of the authorities in providing various services within the framework of Israel’s social safety net. We salute their dedication.

On the other hand, the report documents the absence of system-wide interventions that could have significantly improved the provision of food services in emergency situations. Many of the problems encountered by food organizations could be solved by the development of initiatives at the national-policy level, which would “rationalize” the process of purchasing, collecting and distributing the food—in other words, coordinating it and making it more efficient. All intervention of this kind must involve the government and the local authorities, as well as the business, philanthropic, and non-profit sectors.

Another important finding of the report is the major role local authorities can play by encouraging coordination and cooperation among food organizations. We seek to encourage the local authorities to (a) identify local bodies that can serve as resources in the field of food assistance, and (b) work together with them in order to develop an organizational network that will increase the capabilities of both individual organizations and the entire field.

In conclusion, we wish to thank Professor Benny Gidron, the director of the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research at Ben Gurion University, and Esther Levinson, the primary researcher, for their contributions to this research initiative. This study would not have been possible without their expertise and full cooperation. The members of the steering committee of the survey proved that it is indeed possible for academics, philanthropists, government personnel, and members of the business sector to work together for the common good. We also wish to express our gratitude to our partners in funding the project: two anonymous donors, the Fox Family Foundation, the Rosalind and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the Gimprich Foundation, Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, the Nash Family Foundation, and the Rochlin Foundation, all of whom joined together in order to make this survey possible.

We hope that the enclosed report will stimulate future planning and action and that will strengthen the field of emergency food assistance in Israel.

Laurie Heller and Cheri Fox  
Co-Chairs

The Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel

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# **SURVEY OF NON-PROFIT FOOD ORGANIZATIONS: SCOPE AND PATTERNS OF ACTIVITY, 2004**

by Esther Levinson

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Over the past twenty years, Israel's poverty sector has expanded and socioeconomic gaps have widened. From 2001 on, deterioration in economic activity has occurred, along with salary erosion, increased unemployment, and a decrease in the standard of living. Budget cuts to National Insurance Institute payments began in 2003, which particularly affected allotments for the elderly, welfare payments, and child allowances. At the same time, the number of non-profit organizations that provide food for the needy has increased, and their activity has expanded.

This study provides a broad, comprehensive, and thorough picture of the patterns of activity of non-profit organizations that address food insecurity, including the geographical spread of these organizations, their activity, the scope of their work, their resources, their day-to-day difficulties, etc. The findings of the study constitute one part of the growing body of knowledge about food insecurity in Israel. This survey of food organizations was initiated and funded by the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel, an organization with more than fifty members, including foundations, donors, and Jewish community federations abroad. The goal of the forum is to encourage educated policymaking based on research and solutions that have been used successfully abroad, in partnership with the business, public, and third sectors.

This study was guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Welfare, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, Bar Ilan University, Matan-Your Way to Give, and the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel.

## **2. THE REASONS FOR FOOD INSECURITY**

The concept of food insecurity denotes a paradox in which population groups in countries that are wealthy in terms of food and technology suffer from chronic hunger resulting from a lack of access to food. In 1996, food security was defined by the World Food Organization in Rome as existing "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." The problem of lack of access to food stems from the weakening of the welfare state and the globalization of the economy. These processes have led to increased unemployment, increased stringency in eligibility requirements for receiving pensions, and a decrease in the purchasing power of income from wages and allotments. Governments that in the past dealt with ensuring adequate food, housing, and income by means of the welfare state now deal instead with decreasing external debt and restricting public spending. At the same time, the old problems of homelessness and hunger have recurred even though the wealthy countries possess an abundance of housing and food.

### **3. IDENTIFYING THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

We identified non-profit organizations via databases belonging to two organizations, the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations and the Center for Third Sector Research. In each database, we identified organizations according to key words appearing in the name of the organization or its goals, such as *food, nutrition, catering, hot meal, and soup kitchen*. We also used lists of non-profit organizations compiled in previous studies, lists of organizations compiled by the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel, the Internet sites of the Ministry of Welfare and local authorities, and a list from the Latet organization, which provides food to food-distribution organizations. We also asked twenty-three local authorities and two organizations that work in the Arab sector to provide us with lists of food-assistance organizations. This identification process resulted in a list of 415 non-profit organizations.

### **4. RESEARCH TOOLS: THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

The questionnaire included the following topics: background information, the non-profit organizations' fields of activity in addition to food, their activity pertaining to food, the conditions under which they operate, budgetary and non-budgetary difficulties, etc.

### **5. MAJOR FINDINGS**

#### **Procedure**

The major portion of the telephone study took place between August and October 2004. In some cases the telephone number provided was incorrect, or we were unable to locate the telephone number because the address provided was incorrect.

#### **Limitations**

The study does not include all food-assistance organizations because some organizations are not registered as non-profit organizations. Others deal with food assistance but do not define that field as their major area of activity (for example, yeshivas that send surplus food to needy families). Some centers providing care for the elderly, such as clubs and day centers, also provide hot meals. The school lunch program was developed in 2005, and provides meals to 53,100 children in enriched school day programs, 56,000 additional children in schools, and another 1,920 children in informal settings. The study was not carried out in all non-profit organizations on the list due to difficulty in finding some of them, lack of cooperation on their part, etc.

#### **Response to the Survey**

One hundred thirty-six non-profit food organizations responded to the survey. We did not find some of the non-profit organizations; we assume that these do not exist, are inactive, or our addresses for them are outdated. This problem highlights the urgent need to update the database of the Registry of Non-Profit Organizations. Non-existent telephone numbers and street names appear in their database, which certainly causes difficulty, not only in conducting surveys but also in supervising the non-profit organizations' activity.

## *Response to the Questionnaire*

<b>Questionnaire Status</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Completed questionnaire	128	31.0
Partially completed questionnaire	9	2.0
Non-profit organization does not deal with food and was not included in survey	38	9.0
Non-profit organization deals with food but did not wish to answer	7	2.0
Not known whether non-profit organization deals with food; unwilling to respond	48	12.0
New non-profit organization that is not yet active	2	0.5
Long-time non-profit organization that is inactive	10	2.0
<b>Total non-profit organizations located</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>58.5</b>
No answer by telephone	45	11.0
No such telephone number, or number disconnected	72	17.0
No non-profit organization at this number, or wrong number	56	13.5
<b>Total non-profit organizations not located</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>41.5</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### **Years in Which the Non-Profit Organizations Were Founded**

We are aware of 161 food organizations, including some non-profit organizations that refused to participate in the survey and other non-profit organizations that were not located but which we are sure deal with food. Only fourteen of these (8.6%) were already listed during the 1980s. Beginning in 1995, the rate of establishment of non-profit food organizations accelerated; this trend peaked between 1996 and 2001, during which 50% of the organizations were registered. As of 2002, the rate of establishment of non-profit food organizations leveled off. Between 1999 and 2004, 93 organizations were registered, constituting 57% of all non-profit food organizations. Most of the non-profit organizations are young organizations, in their formation and establishment stages. In the early stages, most organizations engage in modest amounts of activity with a volunteer staff, without a solidified strategy or clear regulations. These statistics, together with our problems in locating the non-profit organizations, point to the high turnover rate among non-profit food organizations.

### **Religious Affiliations of the Non-Profit Organizations' Founders**

Seventy-nine percent of the non-profit food organizations were established by people with some religious affiliation; either ultra-Orthodox, religious, national religious, or traditional. Eighteen percent of the non-profit organizations were founded by secular people. The ultra-Orthodox organizations are the oldest; some were established before 1989. The traditional organizations, established starting in 1995, are the newest.

## Geographic Spread of the Non-Profit Organizations

According to the addresses from the Registry of Non-Profit Organizations, 35 non-profit food organizations operate in the Jerusalem district, 32 in the central district (from Netanya in the north to Gederah in the south), and 29 in the Tel Aviv district. Few organizations have been established on the periphery; there are ten in the north, 14 in the Haifa district, 17 in the south, and six in Judea and Samaria. For all practical purposes, approximately two-thirds of the non-profit organizations are concentrated in the Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and central districts. The overall number of non-profit organizations is a partial indicator of the intensity of community activity in the third sector. Another index for examining the geographic spread of the non-profit organizations is their number per 100,000 residents in each district. There are 4.76 non-profit food organizations per 100,000 residents in the Jerusalem district, 2.58 in the territories, and 2.49 in the Tel Aviv district. At the other extreme are the districts on the periphery: 1.75 non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents in the south and only 0.87 in the north.

We sought to distinguish between the number of non-profit organizations listed in the districts and the number of non-profit organizations that are actually active within them. Some non-profit organizations' places of activity are different from their addresses, and others are active in several locations. In cases in which one non-profit organization is active in several locations, we counted it several times. Examination of the active non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents reveals dense activity in communities in the territories, activity of moderate strength in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and relatively sparse activity in the remaining districts, mainly Haifa and the north.

### *Non-profit food organizations per 100,000 inhabitants, by district in which they operate*

District	Number of residents in 2003 (in thousands)	Number of active food non-profit organizations	Number of active food non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents
North	1,148.6	19	1.65
Haifa	845.9	17	2.00
Center	1,576.9	36	2.28
Tel Aviv	1,164.3	36	3.09
Jerusalem	812.2	34	4.18
South	968.6	23	2.37
Territories	231.8	18	7.76

## Areas of Activity in Addition to Food

Thirty-five percent of the non-profit organizations deal only with food, while the rest are involved with several areas of assistance. For example, approximately one-third of the non-profit food organizations also provide clothing, and 19% of them provide household furnishings. Additional and varied areas of activity exist, but at low rates. It thus appears that non-profit organizations that begin their activity as non-profit food organizations or specialize in food provision respond to their clients' additional needs and expand their areas of activity.

## Methods of Operation

Eighty percent of the non-profit organizations provide assistance by distributing food packages. Fifty-five percent also distribute fruits and vegetables. Forty percent of the non-profit organizations distribute prepared meals. Twenty-four percent operate soup kitchens. Nine percent distribute vouchers for the purchase of food at reduced cost, and seven percent distribute vouchers for free food.

One non-profit organization does not provide services to people but rather to soup kitchens and to other non-profit food organizations. This non-profit organization is actually a “food rescue” organization, meaning that it gathers surplus food from catering halls, hotels, and restaurants, as well as surplus from farmers, and distributes it among the various organizations.

Eighty-one percent of the non-profit organizations combine two to four aid methods. Sixty-two non-profit organizations (47%) distribute dry goods as well as meat and fish. Twenty-three non-profit organizations use four methods: distribution of prepared meals to families, distribution of packaged foods, distribution of fruits and vegetables, and distribution of meat and fish.

## Referral Sources

The welfare bureaus, which refer people to 77% of the non-profit organizations, are the major source of referrals. Fifteen percent of the non-profit organizations rely exclusively on referrals from the welfare bureaus. Second in importance are self-referrals, meaning people who approach the non-profit organizations on their own to ask for assistance. The family health clinics, which treat pregnant women and babies, are a marginal element in referrals even though they are in contact with the groups that are most vulnerable to food insecurity. It is not clear whether this is because the women and babies are not in need of aid from non-profit organizations, or due to a lack of awareness or information.

### *Sources of Referrals to Non-Profit Organizations*

Referral Source	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=135)
Welfare bureau	77%
Self-referral	59%
Neighbor	24%
Relative	16%
School	15%
Rabbi	12%
Family health clinic, well-baby clinic	2%
Other	19%

Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.

## Establishing and Monitoring Eligibility

Approximately 54% of the non-profit organizations conduct their own eligibility tests by means of home visits, checking the salary slips of referred individuals, and by questioning various people. In other words, after individuals receive referrals from the welfare bureau, they undergo an additional examination by the non-profit organization they contact. Thirty percent of the non-profit organizations

do not test for eligibility; they trust the referrals from the outside sources. Sixteen percent of the non-profit organizations believe that only a truly needy person would contact them, and therefore do not conduct eligibility tests.

We estimate that at least 37% of non-profit organizations conduct eligibility tests during the period of aid. Twenty-eight percent of the non-profit organizations do not check the people who receive assistance from them; thus, a person who begins to receive aid can continue to do so for a long time.

### **The Volunteers**

Most of the activity of the non-profit organizations is carried out by volunteers who work at the non-profit organization at least once per month. Five percent of the non-profit organizations that participated in the survey are blessed with five hundred or more volunteers, while 14% have 101 to 499. Forty-three percent of the non-profit organizations have up to 20 volunteers, and two percent have no volunteers at all.

### **Salaried Employees**

Seventy percent of the non-profit organizations do not employ salaried workers. Nineteen percent employ a small staff of up to five workers. Only five percent of the non-profit organizations employ more than ten workers.

### **Equipment**

Approximately two-thirds of the non-profit organizations have offices, computers, warehouses, and refrigerators. Forty-seven percent distribute fish and chicken, yet only 24% possess refrigeration rooms, and only nine percent have refrigerated trucks or a vehicle with a refrigeration compartment. Twelve percent of the non-profit organizations have a heating compartment, while 40% of them distribute prepared meals to homes. It should be noted that in 36% of the non-profit organizations, volunteers distribute the meals to homes. It is likely that they use their own vehicles in order to do so, on a route that enables them to transport the prepared food under reasonable conditions.

Of the 54 non-profit organizations that distribute prepared meals, 44 have refrigerators, 17 have refrigeration rooms, eight have refrigerated trucks or a refrigerated compartment, and eleven have a heating compartment. It is likely that some of the non-profit organizations distribute the prepared food from kitchens of food-service companies and therefore do not need refrigerators or refrigeration rooms, but the problem of transporting food without refrigeration still exists.

### **Monetary Donations**

Eighty-six percent of the non-profit organizations receive monetary contributions from people in Israel. Forty percent receive donations from Israeli donors only. Forty-seven percent of the organizations receive support from abroad; only four percent of the organizations rely solely on support from abroad. Only nine percent of the organizations receive donations from Israeli companies. A few organizations reported receiving allocations from municipalities or from government ministries and from foundations in Israel and abroad.

Sixty-three percent of the non-profit organizations do not receive in-kind donations. The most popular non-financial contribution is free use of warehouses, received by 15% of the non-profit organizations.

## Food Sources

The non-profit organizations obtain food from multiple sources. Seventy-five percent buy food, 45% receive food donations from families, and 37% receive donations from supermarket chains. Manufacturers donate as well: 34% of the non-profit organizations receive assistance from food companies such as Tnuva or Osem (examples for illustration purposes only), and 33% receive assistance from farmers who allow them to gather the surplus fruits and vegetables. Twenty-four percent of the non-profit organizations receive surplus prepared meals from food-service organizations and from wedding halls. Fifteen percent of the non-profit organizations receive food from food banks and 12% receive food from Israel Defense Forces bases. Most of the non-profit organizations combine several methods of obtaining food donations, while 24 non-profit organizations (approximately 18%) purchase the products and do not receive food donations.

## Professional Consultation

Ninety percent of the non-profit organizations do not use the services of nutritional consultants. The soup kitchens serve an identical menu to all clients, and the food warehouses send packages containing identical foodstuffs to all families because the non-profit organizations depend upon whatever donations they succeed in obtaining. The only distinction made between families with children and other families is that some non-profit organizations include disposable diapers in food packages for families with babies.

## Supervision

The non-profit food organizations are supposed to operate under the supervision of at least three agencies:

- The Registry of Non-Profit Organizations, which ensures the proper management of all non-profit organizations in all locations.
- The Ministry of Health, which supervises businesses that manufacture and market food. This supervision includes the manufacturing process, transportation of products, waste created in the manufacturing process, etc.
- The Welfare Ministry supervises only those non-profit organizations that benefit from its support. It ascertains that these non-profit organizations meet the standards set by the ministry<sup>1</sup> regarding food content, scope of activity, operations, etc. In 2002, the ministry supervised 57 non-profit organizations—one-third the number of non-profit organizations that we know to exist today.

In addition, non-profit organizations that distribute meat, chicken, and/or fish or products containing these foods are under the supervision of the municipal veterinarian, who ensures that the food is fit for consumption and supervises the conditions of storage, manufacture, transport, etc. For example, the veterinarian supervises the refrigerators in which the meat and meat products are kept.

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1. For example, that the meal served in a soup kitchen will include 250 grams of soup or 100 grams of cooked vegetables, a protein-rich main dish such as 250 grams of chicken, a carbohydrate-rich side dish, a vegetable side dish, bread, and seasonal fruit or compote. Source: The Ministry of Welfare's notice regarding goals for which support may be requested subject to budgetary approval according to Paragraph 3a of the Budget Law of 1985, *Yalkut Pirsummim 2004*, pages 107 and 298.

Sixty percent of the non-profit organizations reported that they operate without any supervision whatsoever. One-fourth of the non-profit organizations operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, and seven percent operate under the supervision of the municipal veterinarian. It is therefore unclear whether the food distributed by the non-profit organizations and/or served to their clients meets quality standards.

### **Contacts with the Local Authorities**

Sixty-eight percent of the non-profit organizations said that municipalities refer clients to them, usually from the welfare bureau. There is also a reverse connection: 18% of the non-profit organizations report to the welfare bureaus regarding people who receive assistance from them and ten percent of the organizations consult with the welfare bureau.

Twenty-two percent of the non-profit organizations receive assistance such as exemptions from municipal taxes, use of buildings, etc. Twenty-two percent reported that they receive allocations from the local authority.

Twenty-three percent of the non-profit organizations are not in any contact with local authorities.

### **Contacts with Other Organizations**

Seventy-six percent of the organizations indicated that they are familiar with other organizations that do similar work; a total of 52 organizations were mentioned. Names that were mentioned repeatedly included Yad Eliezer, Latet, Pithon Lev, Meir Panim, Hasdei Naomi, LaSova, and Ezer MiTzion. Twenty-six of the non-profit organizations that were mentioned were interviewed for this study, two refused to be interviewed, and one could not be located. It is also likely that eight of the organizations mentioned, which do not appear on the list of non-profit organizations, have not been formally registered as such. We had difficulty identifying seven organizations because several organizations have identical names and because one organization was mentioned that does not deal with food (Yad Sarah). Six organizations were mentioned that were not in our database but which do appear on the list of non-profit organizations.

Fifty-seven non-profit organizations—42% of those participating in the study—have contact with other organizations. These contacts can involve large donations, sharing of information, meetings at conferences, etc.

### **Difficulties Obtaining Resources and Operating the Organization**

The greatest difficulty encountered by 76% of the non-profit organizations was raising funds from donors. Other difficulties, in order of frequency, were: securing food donations from manufacturers, local supermarket chains, and families; obtaining allocations from the establishment, i.e., the local authority and government ministries; and obtaining food donations from farmers and food-service companies.



## **6. SELECTED ISSUES**

### **How Many Non-Profit Food Organizations Exist?**

At the end of this stage of the study, we still do not know with complete certainty how many non-profit food organizations exist. The world of these organizations is very dynamic. They are constantly being established and closed. Besides the 136 non-profit food organizations that responded to the questionnaire, we know of the following: ten non-profit food organizations that refused to participate in the survey (seven of these were identified as non-profit food organizations and three were not, but we know they all deal with food); five non-profit food organizations we could not locate, yet we know are active; and twelve non-profit food organizations that appear on the Welfare Ministry's list as a result of a survey conducted by the ministry for its internal needs. In addition, the interviewees mentioned six non-profit organizations that are not in the Welfare Ministry's database. We can therefore name at least 169 active and registered non-profit food organizations.

### **Connections With the Public**

The non-profit organizations that participated in the survey have varying amounts of contact with different segments of the public.

The non-profit organizations employ 240 workers<sup>2</sup>, benefit from the services of approximately 20,000 volunteers, and distribute food to nearly half a million people throughout the country. In addition, the non-profit organizations reach many people in their homes or in stores who donate money or food products. The non-profit organizations work throughout the entire country, from Katzrin and Kiryat Shemonah in the north to Eilat in the south. This information is enough to demonstrate the power inherent in the non-profit food organizations.

### **Goals of the Non-Profit Organizations**

We did not research as part of the survey the non-profit organizations' formal goals as they appear in the Registry of Non-Profit Organizations, and the connections between these goals and the organizations' actual activities. We are interested in knowing more about this issue, which is characteristic of the non-profit organization sector in general. We found the listings of 74 non-profit organizations, from which we ascertained that the common denominator among the goals of the non-profit organizations is relating to distressed populations of various kinds. The listings variously include the following: people of limited financial means, large families, widows, orphans, disabled people, people who are ill, senior citizens, the forsaken, yeshiva students, etc. Some organizations are intended to assist new immigrants from certain countries or new immigrants in general. The non-profit organizations list diverse goals. Sometimes food is mentioned openly, sometimes it is hinted at, and sometimes it is not listed at all as part of the non-profit organization's goals; this demonstrates that at its inception, the non-profit organization did not intend to deal with food. Most of the non-profit organizations listed many goals, not necessarily connected with each other.

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2. Minus the number of employees and volunteers in the Ezer MiTzion organization, which concentrates mostly on work in the health field. Some of the non-profit organizations refused to report how many employees they have, so we believe that employees actually number more than 240.

## **The Mutual Relationship Between the Local Authorities and the Non-Profit Food Organizations**

Within the framework of the study, we wanted to examine in depth the following aspects of the mutual relationship between the local authorities and the non-profit organizations:

- The municipalities' positions regarding the establishment of non-profit food organizations
- Cooperation between the non-profit organizations and the municipalities
- Mutual influences on work methods
- Development of the organizations and coordination between them

We interviewed social workers in 23 municipalities, including eleven large cities with populations greater than 100,000 and twelve small cities with 5,000 to 69,000 residents, of which five were Arab local authorities.

We asked each local authority interviewed for a list of non-profit food organizations that operate in its region. We found that some of the authorities were not aware of the existence of non-profit food organizations, others were familiar with the non-profit organizations but had no list of them, and still others had lists of the organizations. The people interviewed in most of the local authorities reported that their lists were only partial because not every organization was interested in contact with the local authorities.

We learned from these interviews that the municipalities' support of the non-profit organizations is neither transparent nor based on equal opportunity. The considerations involved in referring clients and providing support are unclear, other than a definite preference for municipal non-profit organizations. The municipalities lack reliable information regarding the existence and activity of the non-profit organizations, some of which are unknown not only to the municipalities but also to the public that needs them. Although the municipalities could fill a significant role by providing inter-organizational coordination and by developing the non-profit organizations, most of the municipalities interviewed preferred not to enter that arena, even though empowering the non-profit organizations could contribute a great deal to community services.

### **Non-Profit Organizations in the Center and on the Periphery**

The peripheral communities in the northern and southern districts fall conspicuously low on Israel's socio-economic scale. Therefore, we might have expected more intensive activity by non-profit organizations in these areas. When we analyzed the results of the non-profit organization survey by district, we found differences between the center and the periphery.

- Non-profit food organizations were initially established on the periphery during the first half of the 1990s, while similar organizations were founded in the center as early as the 1980s.
- The central districts contain more registered non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents than the peripheral districts. The northern district stands out, having the lowest number of non-profit organizations.
- The Haifa and northern districts are conspicuous in their especially low numbers of active non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents.
- The non-profit organizations that work nationally did not provide details of their activity by community, choosing instead to report a global number. This made it difficult for us to estimate the scope of their activity by community and region. Taking into account these limitations and leaving out the assistance defined as "nationwide," it appears that the largest amount of assistance was given in the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv districts. Calculating the number of recipients per 100,000 residents in each district still leaves the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv districts with especially large

amounts of aid, while the northern and southern districts receive the smallest amount of aid. We may assume that the reason for this is the difference in the number of non-profit organizations in each area.

Why are there so few non-profit organizations in the periphery, leading to sparse food-assistance activity? One explanation is the location of the Arab population, which does not tend to establish non-profit organizations. Another reason has to do with the character of the population in these districts, which is generally on a low socioeconomic level and either does not appear to be aware of its ability to engage in organizational activity, or has no resources to invest in it (information, time, funds, etc.). Another likely reason is the scarcity of donors in peripheral communities and the difficulty in raising funds, collecting food, and obtaining resources.

***Scope of Assistance by District (number of people assisted)***

District	Soup kitchens	Prepared meals	Food packages				Total food packages
			Once a week	Once every two weeks	Once a month	Once a month or less often	
Entire country	5,425		16,820	5,000	13,570	2,000	37,390
Jerusalem	3,730	6,390	6,740	5,380	11,630	1,200	24,950
Tel Aviv	7,379	7,775	13,836	6,455	12,000	1,600	33,891
Haifa	1,980	940	10,050			350	10,400
Center	3,000	5,442	3,241	1,706	3,000	580	8,527
North	1,850	795	2,420		200	300	2,920
South	400	1,005	2,130	370		450	2,950
Territories	140	155	870	200	40		1,110
Total	23,904	22,502	56,107	19,111	40,440	6,480	122,138

**7. CONCLUSION**

The non-profit organizations that aim to improve food security are unable to provide, nor do they pretend to provide, all the nutritional needs of those who need their services. Rather, they aim to improve the menus of those who receive assistance from them. The non-profit organizations that participated in the survey assist approximately 474,800 people in Israel, most of them Jews, from Katzrin and Kiryat Shemonah in the north to Eilat in the south.

Eighty-six percent of the non-profit organizations of which we are aware were established in the 1990s or later; 136 of these participated in the survey. Their establishment appears to be a response to the expansion of the scope of poverty and the widening of socio-economic gaps. Since 2001, the establishment of non-profit food organizations has leveled off, despite the economic difficulties during these years and the cuts in National Insurance Institute allotments.

Seventy-nine percent of the non-profit organizations that participated in the survey were established by people who have some sort of religious connection. Most of the non-profit organizations' activity

takes place in the following districts: Jerusalem, the center, Tel Aviv, and the territories. There is less activity in the north and the south even though the resident population of these areas has characteristics that indicate food insecurity. One explanation for this is that the population on the periphery lacks the knowledge, resources, and ability to establish non-profit organizations; this typically characterizes the Arab population, most of which lives in the periphery.

Ninety-eight percent of the non-profit organizations rely on volunteer work; approximately 30% of them also have paid employees. Most of the non-profit organizations have staff members in positions such as director, accountant, and treasurer. Most of the non-profit organizations do not make use of the services of a nutritionist, even though they deal with food. Sixty percent of them operate without any supervision whatsoever. Some of them show signs of distress regarding material resources, especially food storage and transportation equipment.

Approximately 81% of the non-profit organizations combine several methods to obtain food and assist people, for example, soup kitchens and the distribution of food packages. The non-profit food organizations deal with additional areas such as providing clothing and legal advice. From the stated goals of the non-profit organizations, it appears that they intend to be involved, and perhaps actually are involved, with several areas that are not necessarily connected; the same non-profit organization may have goals such as promoting Bible study, providing medical equipment, and distributing food to the needy. Some of the non-profit organizations did not intend to deal with food but were compelled by circumstances to enter the field.

The non-profit organizations obtain food by buying products and through donations. Most of the non-profit organizations do not collect any payment, however symbolic, from their clients. In 2003, the non-profit organizations had difficulty raising money from donors in Israel and abroad and in obtaining food donations from companies, supermarket chains, and families.

Because the non-profit organizations do not limit in advance the duration of the assistance they provide, families can receive assistance from the non-profit organizations for up to several years. The non-profit organizations' client lists do not change much, and clients' eligibility is checked only occasionally; it is likely that this makes it difficult to absorb new clients who need the non-profit organizations' services. In this context it should be noted that the non-profit organizations tend not to check whether their clients receive assistance from similar non-profit organizations, on the assumption that no non-profit organization can supply all the nutritional needs of a person or family.

Work methods between the welfare bureaus and the non-profit organizations are still being determined as activity occurs. The non-profit organizations seek referrals from the welfare bureaus, but there is no clarity regarding who is eligible for a referral and who keeps track of families and their nutritional needs. Likewise, the non-profit organizations tend not to contact each other to pool resources and coordinate activity.

The overall picture that emerges is one of organizations that arose with a great deal of enthusiasm and good will, but without the founders checking actual circumstances. The non-profit organizations did not consult with the local authorities regarding assistance programs and the population's needs. Their occupation with various subjects and with various target populations raises questions regarding the focus of their efforts and their expertise in providing food.

This survey indicates that improvement is needed in the activity of the non-profit food organizations in the following areas:

- Strict standards of food quality and safety, as with any business that manufactures and transports food
- Study and segmentation of the needs of the varied population that requires the non-profit organizations' assistance. For example, a family with adolescent children requires a different food package than an elderly couple.
- More precise examination of the geographical spread of the activity as compared with where activity is needed
- Development of new programs appropriate to the characteristics of the non-profit organizations' target communities
- Presentation of the non-profit organizations' criteria to individuals, families, and institutions needing assistance
- Transparency in providing support to the non-profit food organizations, and equal opportunity for all in dealing with the authorities, whether local government or government ministries
- Coordination between non-profit organizations that will enable them to take advantage of opportunities and more efficiently use resources

# Survey of Non-Profit Food Organizations: Scope and Patterns of Activity, 2004

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## INTRODUCTION

Over the past twenty years, Israel's poverty sector has expanded and socioeconomic gaps have widened. From 2001 on, deterioration in economic activity has occurred, along with salary erosion, increased unemployment, and a decrease in the standard of living. Budget cuts to National Insurance Institute payments began in 2003, which particularly affected allotments for the elderly, welfare payments, and child allowances. At the same time, the number of non-profit organizations that provide food for the needy has increased, and their activity has expanded. The non-profit organizations that address food insecurity have not disappeared from the public agenda, and they have been attracting the attention of the media for several years. Interest in them increases as the holidays approach, or when the periodic reports on the dimensions of poverty in Israel are released.

During the first stage of this study, Israeli food non-profit organizations were surveyed for the purpose of documenting their work and capabilities. This study focused upon non-profit organizations for which the provision of food is a major part of their work, and for which the provision of food is a goal in itself, i.e., it is not part of another central goal (such as a hot meal at a day-care center or a senior citizens' center). We assumed that the non-profit organizations were relatively organized agencies that worked under supervision and could therefore fulfill the tasks entrusted to the food banks.

This study provides a broad, comprehensive, and thorough picture of the patterns of activity of non-profit organizations that address food insecurity, including the geographical spread of these organizations, their activity, the scope of their work, their resources, their day-to-day difficulties, etc. The findings of the study constitute one part of the growing body of knowledge about food insecurity in Israel. This survey of food organizations was initiated and funded by The Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel, an organization with more than fifty members, including foundations, donors, and Jewish community federations abroad. The goal of the forum is to encourage educated policymaking based on research and solutions that have been used successfully abroad, in partnership with the business, public, and third sectors.

This study was guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Welfare, the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, Bar Ilan University, Matan—Your Way to Give, and the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel.

**Part One** presents a brief survey of the literature concerning the reasons for food insecurity in the Western world, its effect on the individual and on society, and the scope of the phenomenon in various places in the world and in Israel. Since 1996, countries have been trying to eradicate the new hunger by means of various strategies; we briefly present examples of solutions developed by Western countries. **Part Two** presents the research methods: how we located the non-profit organizations, the structure of the questionnaire that was used, the procedure of the research and the limitations of the findings. **Part Three** details the findings of the study and their significance: the procedure of the study and the response, the scope of the non-profit organizations' activity, their geographic spread according to the

Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations and according to how active they are, their resources such as budgets, personnel, and volunteers, their day-to-day difficulties, etc.

**Part Four** discusses three specific subjects: contact between food non-profit organizations and local governments, reasons for the absence of food non-profit organizations in Arab communities, and the activity of food non-profit organizations on the periphery, i.e., the northern and southern districts.

# PART ONE: LITERATURE REVIEW

## 1.1 The Reasons for Food Insecurity, Its Consequences, and the Scope of the Phenomenon

The concept of food insecurity denotes a paradox in which population groups in countries that are wealthy in terms of food and technology suffer from chronic hunger resulting from a lack of access to food. In 1996, food security was defined by the World Food Organization in Rome as existing “when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” The problem of lack of access to food stems from the weakening of the welfare state and the globalization of the economy. These processes have led to increased unemployment, increased stringency in eligibility requirements for receiving pensions, and a decrease in the purchasing power of income from wages and allotments (Roni Kaufman and Vered Slonim-Nevo 2004). Governments that in the past dealt with ensuring adequate food, housing, and income by means of the welfare state now deal instead with decreasing external debt and restricting public spending. At the same time, the old problems of homelessness and hunger have recurred even though the wealthy countries possess an abundance of housing and food (Bruno Rainville and Satya Brink 2001).

The lack of food security, unlike situations of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries, does not endanger life, but rather harms day-to-day functioning. Individuals, families, and the entire community pay a heavy price as a result of food insecurity. Individuals who suffer from food insecurity report weakened health, fatigue, exhaustion, impaired cognitive ability, and decreased participation in social activity. Families live from day to day, concentrating on survival rather than on development. The children in these families suffer from stomachaches (Gail G. Harrison et al. 2002), headaches, colds, ear infections, and anemia. Their learning suffers due to their absence from school and their inability to concentrate, leading to low academic achievement. The children suffer from behavior problems such as hyperactivity or passivity and have difficulty forming social connections. When these children grow up, their societal functioning could suffer as a result of these deficiencies.

Research on people who suffer from food insecurity shows that some populations are especially vulnerable to this situation. In an Australian report (Alison Smith 2002), groups of people were sorted according to their level of risk.

At critical risk: homeless youth, drug addicts living on the street, and children living in far-flung communities

At high risk: the unemployed, single-parent families, and renters

At moderate risk: low-income households, underprivileged groups, youth between 18 and 24 years of age, people who never married, people who are separated and divorced

Potential for food insecurity: the disabled, people who live in far-flung communities, refugees, and immigrants

In Wisconsin, Judi Bartfeld and Cecile David (2003) found that food insecurity characterizes single-parent families more than two-parent families, the African-American population more than Caucasians, and families that include a handicapped adult. Groups that suffered from food insecurity in Canada were single-parent families, families living in rented housing, families with a chronically ill or disabled member, and native populations.



In addition to the social dimensions, food insecurity also has a regional aspect. A survey of food insecurity in all fifty states of the United States found high levels of food insecurity in New Mexico, Texas, Oregon, Louisiana, Arizona, Idaho, Mississippi, Montana, and Washington (Ashley F. Sullivan and Eunyoung Choi 2002). It was found that in Wisconsin, those suffering from food insecurity live mostly in downtown urban areas, while in California, large populations suffer from food insecurity in the rural, agricultural region in the north. In southern Australia, concentrations of food insecurity were found in certain suburbs of metropolises, in rural areas, and in far-flung regions where food is expensive and means of physical access are poor. In Canada, the percentage of families suffering from food insecurity was higher in urban areas than in rural areas.

Can food insecurity be eradicated? A comparative survey of Latin American countries and the Caribbean Islands found that the situation improved between February 1990 and July 1995. According to the researcher, these findings reflect improvement in the economic situation and in employment (Leonardo Corral et al. 2000).

The study of food insecurity in Israel is in its beginning stages. The Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute conducted a nationwide survey among the adult population and found that 14% of Israeli households suffer from moderate food insecurity and another eight percent suffer from severe food insecurity (Nurit Nuriel, Dorit Nitzan-Kaluski, Bruce Rosen, Amalia Haviv-Messika et al., forthcoming). The families who suffer from food insecurity come from all strata of society and contain a significant number of elderly people, single people, and childless couples, as well as families with children. Approximately half the households that suffer from food insecurity are from the two lowest income quintiles. The study did not examine the geographical spread of those who suffer from food insecurity. In 2003, five percent of all households reported that they received assistance from organizations that provide food, such as food-distribution centers, food packages sent to homes, school lunches, and soup kitchens.

A study of 791 first-grade pupils in the Negev, conducted by Professor Drora Fraser of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, found that one Bedouin child in six and one Jewish child in eight suffer from malnutrition. In addition, eleven percent of Jewish children suffer from obesity, as do two percent of Bedouin children.

The Department of Social Work at Ben Gurion University of the Negev conducted an exploratory study of levels of food insecurity among clients of the welfare services in cities, development towns, Bedouin communities, and a neighborhood included in a neighborhood rehabilitation project, all in the Negev. A total of 953 families were surveyed (Roni Kaufman and Vered Slonim-Nevo 2004). The study found that 71% of Bedouin families requiring welfare services suffer from food insecurity, as do 36% of Jewish families requiring welfare services, and 35% of families in neighborhoods undergoing rehabilitation. The support systems of the families and of the assistance organizations are not enough to extricate the families from the distress of food insecurity.

## **1.2 Dealing with Food Insecurity**

Assistance to those suffering from food insecurity ranges from involvement at the individual or family level to involvement at the community, municipal, regional and state levels. Three major strategies exist for coping with the problem: food assistance, personal skills development, and policy change.

**Food assistance**, which began with the operation of various kinds of soup kitchens, is one of the oldest kinds of aid in the charitable field. Alongside the traditional soup kitchens, which serve hot meals to anyone in need, additional avenues have been instituted, such as the “Noon Club,” which includes a meal at reduced cost and social activity, mainly for the elderly, but not only for them. The “community café” offers a menu of light meals at symbolic prices along with social activity. A different kind of assistance is the provision of prepared meals to homes, or cooking and packing for people who take the prepared food home. Another method is to provide foodstuffs (“packages”) to homes regularly or before the holidays. There are assistance plans for defined population groups, such as school nutrition programs for children via coupons or discounts. The American Department of Agriculture operates the Food Stamps program, which provides low-income families with vouchers or magnetic cards for the purchase of foodstuffs at supermarkets.

Various assistance programs measure and evaluate themselves according to variables such as the number of people helped by the program, the cost of the food, the quantity of food, and the number of volunteers.

**Personal skills development** and behavioral change are the aims of programs that teach family budget management, purchasing, and cooking. In Australia, there were several versions of a program whose goal was to improve purchasing power and families’ menus with the help of professional or volunteer counseling. The “community kitchen,” which was developed by one of the local food banks in Vancouver, Canada, is particularly popular there (Mojdeh Baghaei-Zandieh 2002). This is an association of several families who meet at regular intervals, decide upon a menu, buy the ingredients or obtain them from a food bank, and cook them together in the home of one of the families or in a public kitchen. Then, every family takes home the prepared food.

The program includes skills improvement in mobilizing resources and healthy cooking. Another program is the food cooperative, via which the members of the cooperative learn how to run a store. They negotiate regarding product costs, order products, and maintain and manage the store. Another kind of cooperative is the community vegetable garden, which helps families by providing food, mainly fruits and vegetables; the garden also addresses the need to create a community and improve the environment. The local government in Australia played a large part in the development of this program because the municipal departments for maintaining parks and gardens understood the potential of a plan to improve the urban landscape.

**Policy change.** The organizations that provide food do not extricate their clients from their distress, nor do they pretend to do so. Participation in initiatives by the UN and coalitions of voluntary organizations can rouse the authorities to act. For example, after the Food Conference in 1996, the Canadian government declared its commitment to reduce poverty in order to lessen the number of those suffering from food insecurity, as well as its commitment to additional measures such as promoting access to high-quality, safe food.

## PART TWO: RESEARCH METHODS

### 2.1 Identifying the Non-Profit Organizations

We identified non-profit organizations via databases belonging to two organizations, the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations and the Center for Third Sector Research. The former does not distinguish between active and inactive non-profit organizations; the latter identifies non-profit organizations that are financially active according to their reports to the Income Tax Authority. In each database, we identified organizations according to key words appearing in the name of the organization or its goals, such as food, nutrition, catering, hot meal, and soup kitchen. From previous studies, we knew that there are long-standing non-profit organizations for which food assistance is a new branch of activity, so the keywords that we defined would not appear in their registries. Therefore we also used lists of non-profit organizations compiled in previous studies, lists of organizations compiled by the Forum to Address Food Insecurity in Israel, the Internet sites of the Ministry of Welfare and local authorities, and a list from the Latet organization, which provides food to food-distribution organizations. We also asked twenty-three local authorities and two organizations that work in the Arab sector to provide us with lists of food-assistance organizations. We compared the non-profit organizations from the lists of the studies and the Internet sites to the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations and sifted out non-profit organizations that had been deleted and no longer exist officially. The identification process resulted in a list of 422 non-profit organizations.

The information obtained regarding each non-profit organization was the following: its registration number, name, address, year of establishment, and management status (standard, deficient, in the process of being deleted, or already deleted). Some of the listings contained telephone numbers and names of contact people.

### 2.2 Research Tools: The Questionnaire

The questionnaire included the following subjects (see Appendix 1):

**Background information.** The name of the non-profit organization, the name of the interviewee and his/her position

**Areas of activity.** Fields of activity in addition to food.

**Activities in the area of food.** The year food activity began; the ways the non-profit organization provides assistance; in which communities it operates; its scope; whether it charges a fee for its assistance; target populations; sources of referrals; whether the non-profit organization checks its clients' eligibility; how often eligibility is checked; how many volunteers the non-profit organization has and what they do; whether the non-profit organization has a consultant or nutritionist; the founders' religious affiliations; and ideas for improving service.

**Methods of operation.** Who supervises the non-profit organization's activity; the kind of contact the non-profit organization has with the local authorities; the non-profit organization's financial sources; in-kind donations; equipment; number of salaried employees; titles of salaried positions; contact with other organizations; budgetary and non-budgetary difficulties; and whether they plan activities yearly. At the end of the questionnaire were questions specific to the type of assistance provided by the non-

profit organization: organizations that operate soup kitchens, organizations that distribute prepared meals to families, organizations that distribute food packages, and food banks. During the study, it became clear that most of the non-profit organizations provide several types of assistance that cannot be considered separately. Alternatively, the numbers did not allow for statistical analysis.

## **2.3 Procedure**

The main portion of the telephone survey took place between August and October 2004. In November, an additional effort was made to locate those non-profit organizations with which no telephone contact had been made. The interviewers called each non-profit organization four times at different hours of the day, assuming that some of the non-profit organizations operate from the homes of volunteers who are not at home during working hours. In some cases the telephone number provided was incorrect, or we were unable to locate the telephone number because the address provided was incorrect. Based on intermediate findings, we also treated additional issues such as contact between non-profit organizations and local government, methods of assistance in the Arab sector, and the needs of the periphery as compared with the solutions that have been developed.

## **2.4 Limitations**

The study does not include all food-assistance organizations because some organizations are not registered as non-profit organizations. Others deal with food assistance but do not define that field as their major area of activity (for example, yeshivas that send surplus food to needy families). Some centers providing care for the elderly, such as clubs and day centers, also provide hot meals. The school lunch program was developed in 2005 and provides meals to 53,100 children in enriched school day programs, 56,000 additional children in schools, and another 1,920 children in informal settings. The study did not deal with organizations that collect food only for the holidays, nor did it reach all the non-profit organizations on the list, due to difficulty in finding some of them, lack of cooperation on their part, etc.

# PART THREE: THE STUDY'S FINDINGS

## 3.1 Response to the Study

The list we used for the survey contained 422 non-profit organizations that we located via key words, but during the study we found that seven non-profit organizations were listed twice, under two different names. Thus, the final list included 415 non-profit organizations.

One hundred twenty-eight non-profit organizations completed the questionnaire, and nine partially completed it (see Table 1). Thirty-eight non-profit organizations responded that they do not deal with food and therefore the study was not relevant to them. Seven non-profit food organizations refused to participate in the study. Two non-profit organizations had not yet begun their activity, and ten long-standing non-profit organizations were found to be inactive.

Forty-eight non-profit organizations refused to participate in the survey and would not agree to report whether they deal with food. We know that three of them are definitely food organizations. The remainder of the non-profit organizations were not located for various reasons. In 56 cases, the respondents claimed that there was no non-profit organization at the address or telephone number. In 72 cases, we found no telephone number or that the telephone number that appeared in the listing was disconnected. Forty-five non-profit organizations did not answer the telephone even though we called them more than four times at various hours during the day.

*Table 1: Response to the study*

Questionnaire Status	Number	Percentage
Completed questionnaire	128	31.0
Partially completed questionnaire	9	2.0
Non-profit organization does not deal with food and was not included in survey	38	9.0
Non-profit organization deals with food but did not wish to answer	7	2.0
Not known whether non-profit organization deals with food; unwilling to respond	48	12.0
New non-profit organization that is not yet active	2	0.5
Long-time non-profit organization that is inactive	10	2.0
Total non-profit organizations located	242	58.5
No answer by telephone	45	11.0
No such telephone number, or number disconnected	72	17.0
No non-profit organization at this number, or wrong number	56	13.5
Total non-profit organizations not located	173	41.5
Grand total	415	100.0

We assume that some of the non-profit organizations that we did not find do not exist, are inactive, or our addresses for them are outdated. Our difficulties in locating them point to the urgent need to update the database of the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations. Non-existent telephone numbers and street names appear in their database, which certainly causes difficulty, not only in conducting surveys

but also in supervising the non-profit organizations' activity. After we completed the study, we noticed that three non-profit organizations that had completed questionnaires had had their status changed to "deleted" in the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations; in other words, these organizations are supposedly forbidden to operate as non-profit organizations.

### 3.2 Who Were the Respondents?

In 53% of cases, the chairperson or director-general of the non-profit organization was the respondent. The rest of the respondents were volunteers, administrative employees, members active in the non-profit organization, or the coordinator of volunteers (see Table 2).

*Table 2: Questionnaire respondents by position in the non-profit organization*

Position	% of Respondents (N=135)
Chairperson	28%
Director-general	25%
Volunteer	11%
Secretary	8%
Active member of non-profit organization	6%
Organization manager/office manager	4%
Coordinator of volunteers	4%
Other	14%

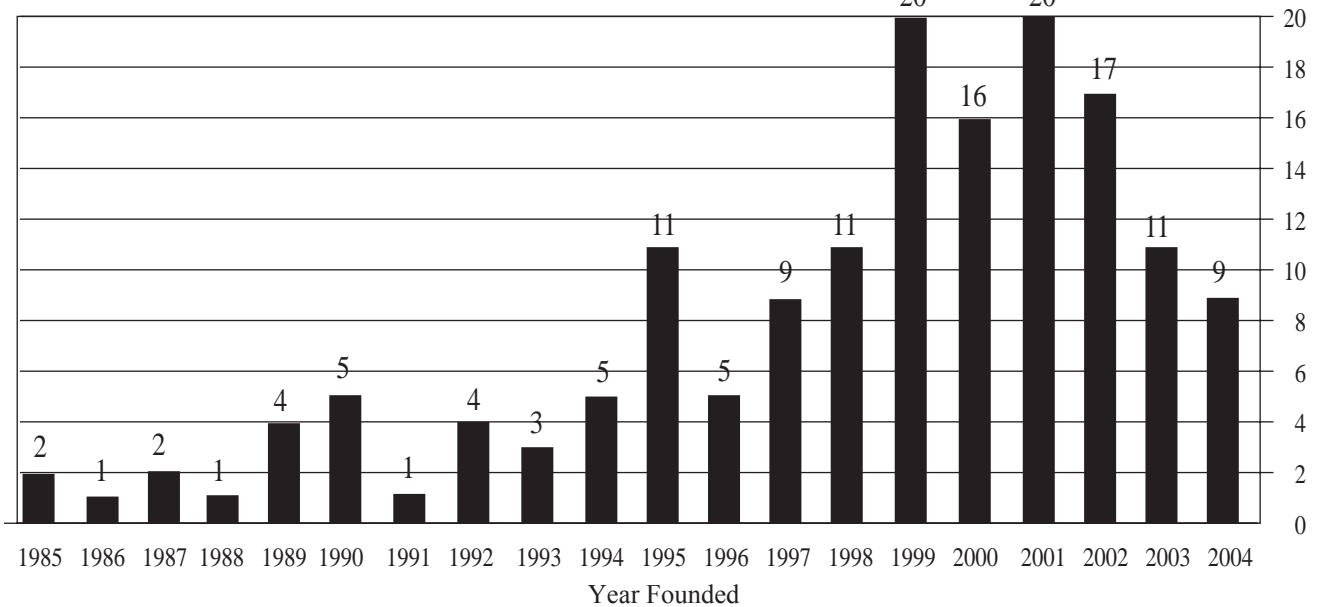
### 3.3 Years in Which the Non-Profit Organizations Were Founded

We are aware of 161 food organizations, including some non-profit organizations that refused to participate in the survey and other non-profit organizations that were not located but which we are sure deal with food. Only fourteen of these (8.6%) were already listed during the 1980s (see Graph 1). Beginning in 1995, the rate of establishment of non-profit food organizations accelerated; this trend peaked between 1996 and 2001, during which 50% of the organizations were registered. As of 2002, the rate of establishment of non-profit food organizations leveled off. Between 1999 and 2004, 93 organizations were registered, constituting 57% of all non-profit food organizations.

The field of food assistance expanded a great deal during these years, and most of the non-profit organizations are young organizations, in their formation and establishment stages. In the early stages, most non-profit organizations engage in modest amounts of activity with a volunteer staff, without a solidified strategy or clear regulations (Mike Hudson 1999). These statistics, together with our problems in locating the non-profit organizations, point to the high turnover rate among non-profit food organizations. The trend of an increase in the number of non-profit food organizations corresponds to the trend of increase in the number of non-profit organizations in Israel in general and in the field of welfare in particular. Thirty and a half percent of all non-profit organizations in Israel and 33% of non-profit organizations in the welfare field were registered between 1995 and 2001 (Benny Gidron, Yael Elon, and Rinat Bin-Nun 2004).

In the Tel Aviv, central, and Jerusalem districts, there are veteran non-profit food organizations that were registered during the 1980s. In the Haifa and southern districts, non-profit food organizations were established beginning in the second half of the 1990s. After 2000, many non-profit organizations were established in each of the districts.

**Graph 1: Non-profit organizations by year founded**



### 3.4 Years in Which the Non-Profit Organizations Began Dealing with Food

Occasionally there is a time lag between the establishment of a non-profit organization and its beginning to operate. This was also observed in the survey; two non-profit organizations responded that they had not yet begun to operate. Of 126 non-profit organizations that responded to this question, 43% began to operate between 1995 and 2000, and another 25% began to operate in or after 2001 (see Table 3). This is in agreement with our findings regarding year of registry and the acceleration in the establishment of the non-profit organizations during the second half of the 1990s.

**Table 3: Non-profit organizations by year they began to deal with food**

Time Period	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Deal with Food or Dealt with Food in the Past (N=126)
1960–1970	2%
1971–1980	2%
1981–1990	12%
1991–1995	16%
1995–2000	43%
2001–2004	25%

### 3.5 Religious Affiliations of the Non-Profit Organizations' Founders

Seventy-nine percent of the non-profit food organizations were established by people with some religious affiliation; these founders were either ultra-Orthodox, religious, national-religious, or traditional (see Table 4). Eighteen percent of the non-profit organizations were founded by secular people. The ultra-Orthodox organizations are the oldest; some were established before 1989. The traditional organizations, established starting in 1995, are the newest.

**Table 4: Non-profit organizations by founders' religious affiliation**

Founders	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=123)
Ultra-orthodox	38%
Religious	23%
National-religious	11%
Traditional	7%
Secular	18%
Varied	11%
Other	2%
Unknown	2%

(Note: The total is more than 100 percent because multiple answers could be given.)

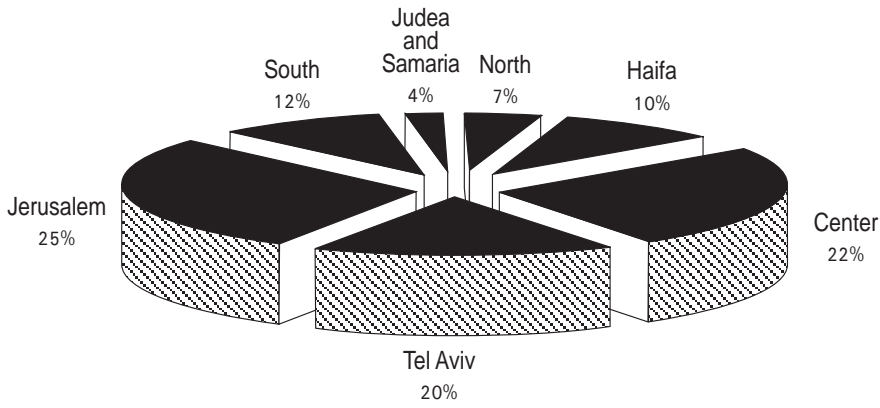
### 3.6 Geographic Spread of the Non-Profit Organizations

According to the addresses from the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations, 35 non-profit food organizations operate in the Jerusalem district, 32 in the central district (from Netanya in the north to Gederah in the south), and 29 in the Tel Aviv district. Few organizations have been established on the periphery; there are ten in the north, 14 in the Haifa district, 17 in the south, and six in Judea and Samaria. For all practical purposes, approximately two-thirds of the non-profit organizations are concentrated in the Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and central districts (see Graph 2). This picture corresponds more or less to the general distribution of non-profit organizations in Israel, with the Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and central districts having more non-profit organizations and the districts of Haifa, the north, and the territories having fewer. The overall number of non-profit organizations is a partial indicator of the intensity of community activity in the third sector.

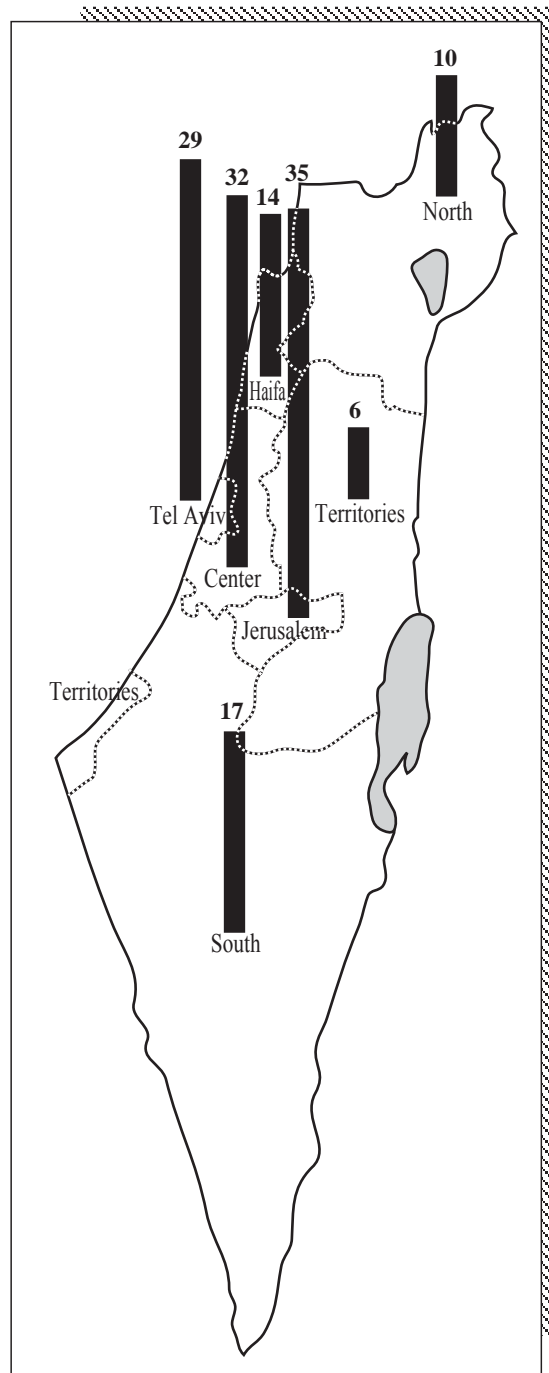
Another index for examining the geographic spread of the non-profit organizations is their number per 100,000 residents in each district. There are 4.76 non-profit food organizations per 100,000 residents in the Jerusalem district, 2.58 in the territories, and 2.49 in the Tel Aviv district (see Table 5). At the other extreme are the districts on the periphery: 1.75 non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents in the south and only 0.87 in the north.



**Graph 2: Non-profit food organizations by district, in percentages**



**Map 1:  
Food NGO's by districts**

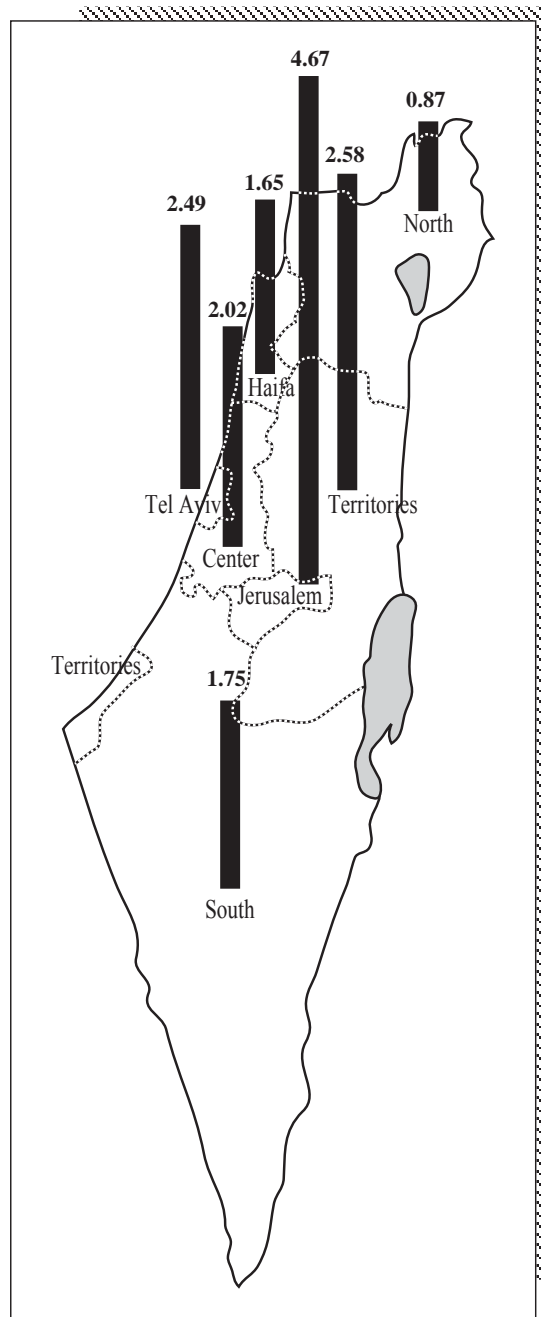


*Table 5: Non-profit organizations per 100,000 inhabitants by district*

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of Inhabitants 2003 (in thousands)</b>	<b>Number of Food Non-Profit Organizations</b>	<b>Number of Food Non-Profit Organizations per 100,000 Inhabitants</b>
North	1,148.6	10	0.87
Haifa	845.9	14	1.65
Center	1,576.9	32	2.02
Tel Aviv	1,164.3	29	2.49
Jerusalem	812.2	38	4.67
South	968.6	17	1.75
Territories	231.8	6	2.58
Total	6,748.4	146	2.16

Source for number of inhabitants: Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel Statistical Yearbook, No. 55, Jerusalem: 2004.

**Map 2:**  
**NGO's per 100,000 residents**  
**by district**

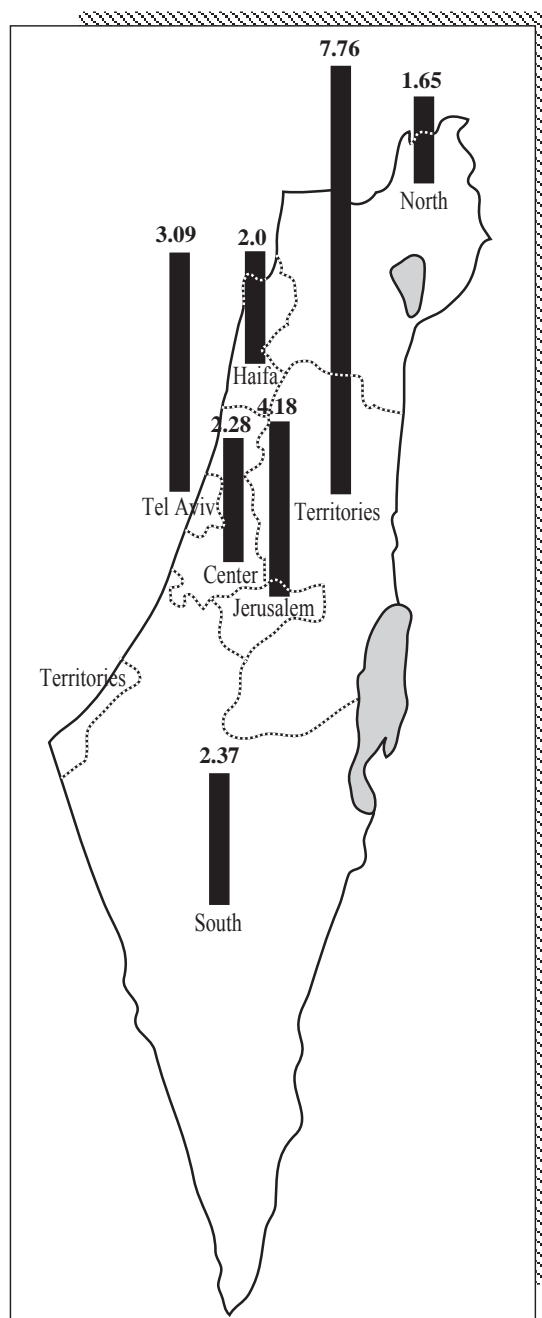


We sought to distinguish between the number of non-profit organizations listed in the districts and the number of non-profit organizations that are actually active within them. Some non-profit organizations' places of activity are different from their addresses, and others are active in several locations. In cases in which one non-profit organization is active in several locations, we counted it several times. In addition, fourteen non-profit organizations described themselves as "nationwide" without giving details about the locations of their operations. Examination of the active non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents reveals dense activity in communities in the territories, activity of moderate strength in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and relatively sparse activity in the remaining districts, mainly Haifa and the north (see Table 6).

**Table 6: Non-profit food organizations per 100,000 inhabitants, by district in which they operate**

District	Number of Inhabitants 2003 (in thousands)	Number of Active Non-Profit Food Organizations	Number of Active Non-Profit Food Organizations per 100,000 Inhabitants
North	1,148.6	19	1.65
Haifa	845.9	17	2.00
Center	1,576.9	36	2.28
Tel Aviv	1,164.3	36	3.09
Jerusalem	812.2	34	4.18
South	968.6	23	2.37
Territories	231.8	18	7.76

**Map 3: Active NGO's per 100,000 residents by district**



### 3.7 Areas of Activity in Addition to Food

Thirty-five percent of the non-profit organizations deal only with food, while the rest are involved with several areas of assistance. For example, approximately one-third of the non-profit food organizations also provide clothing, and 19% of them provide household furnishings and equipment (see Table 7). Additional and varied areas of activity exist, but at low rates. It thus appears that non-profit organizations that begin their activity as non-profit food organizations or specialize in food provision respond to their clients' additional needs and expand their areas of activity.

*Table 7: Areas of activity of the non-profit food organizations*

Areas of Activity	% of Respondents (N=136)
Food, including food distribution, food vouchers, food packages, catering	100%
Clothing	36%
Household furnishings	19%
School supplies	13%
Supplementary lessons, tutoring, promotion of academic achievements/education	10%
Financial aid, loans	8%
Subsidizing or arranging events (weddings, bar mitzvahs, memorial services, etc.)	8%
Assistance for the ill, medical assistance (not dental)	6%
Afternoon activities for children, social activities, youth projects	5%
Loans of furnishings and equipment for events	4%
Operating schools	3%
Dentistry	3%
Legal counseling	2%
Assistance in finding work	2%
Empowerment and skills acquisition	1%
Housing	1%
Lodging	1%
Other	3%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.8 Methods of Operation

Eighty percent of the non-profit organizations provide assistance by distributing food packages. Fifty-five percent also distribute fruits and vegetables. Forty percent of the non-profit organizations distribute prepared meals, and twenty-four percent operate soup kitchens (see Table 8). Some non-profit organizations distribute meals to schools or educational institutions such as boarding schools or youth clubs on the assumption that with this help, these institutions can free their budgets for educational activity. Nine percent distribute vouchers for the purchase of food at reduced cost, and seven percent distribute vouchers for free food. The La-Sova non-profit organization is about to inaugurate a magnetic card that will provide a family with food and basic products valued at NIS 200. The exchange rate on Aug. 1, 2005 was NIS 4.52 to the US dollar.

One non-profit organization does not provide services to people but rather to soup kitchens and to other non-profit food organizations. This non-profit organization is actually a “food bank,” meaning that it gathers surplus food from catering halls, hotels, and restaurants, as well as surplus from farmers, and distributes it among the various organizations. Three or four such non-profit organizations exist in Israel, two of which participated in the study, but only one of which identified itself as a food bank. Eighty-one percent of the non-profit organizations combine two to four aid methods. Sixty-two non-profit organizations (47%) distribute dry goods as well as meat and fish. Twenty-three non-profit organizations use four methods: distribution of prepared meals to families, distribution of food packages, distribution of fruits and vegetables, and distribution of meat and fish.

Twenty-six non-profit organizations use only one method of assistance. Eleven of these distribute non-perishable food items to families, five distribute prepared meals, four operate soup kitchens, one distributes meals to schools, and one non-profit organization distributes food vouchers. Four other non-profit organizations use other assistance methods not detailed in the questionnaire.

The non-profit organizations mostly assist at the individual and household level, using a strategy of direct provision of food; only a minority of them supply food indirectly by giving vouchers. Only one non-profit organization works at the community level. This is the Community Advocacy Association, which has set up two cooperatives that operate stores, one in Jerusalem and another in Beer Sheba. This non-profit organization did not participate in the study, claiming that it does not provide food.

**Table 8: Methods of activity used by non-profit organizations to provide people with food assistance**

<b>Method of Activity</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=136)</b>
Distribution of non-perishable food to families (food packages)	80%
Distribution of fruits and vegetables to families (food packages)	55%
Distribution of meat and/or fish to families	47%
Distribution of prepared meals to families	40%
Soup kitchens	24%
Distribution of school lunches	8%
Distribution of vouchers to purchase food at a discount	9%
Distribution of vouchers for free food	7%
Distribution of non-perishable or other food, or prepared meals to institutions (boarding schools, enriched school days)	8%
Distribution of food to soup kitchens and assistance organizations (food banks)	1%
Other	8%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### **3.9 Payment for Services**

Eighty-seven percent of the non-profit organizations do not charge for their assistance, while thirteen percent charge a symbolic fee.

### 3.10 Target Populations

Do the non-profit organizations prefer to assist specific age groups? Seventy-nine percent of do not give preference to any specific age group (see Table 9). A few organizations noted three preferred groups: babies, children, and the elderly. Indeed, these age groups are especially vulnerable to food insecurity.

**Table 9: The non-profit organizations according to assistance by age group**

Age Groups	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=135)
Babies	11%
Children	15%
Elderly	13%
Other group mentioned	4%
The non-profit organization does not specialize in particular age groups	79%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

The non-profit organizations help every population universally and do not give preference to any one social group (see Table 10). Eighty-seven percent of the non-profit organizations noted that they assist the entire population. Thus it can be seen that there is no difference in this realm between non-profit organizations whose founders have a religious affiliation and those whose founders are secular.

**Table 10: Non-profit organizations by assistance provided to social groups**

Social Group	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=135)
New immigrants	3%
Youth at risk (assistance for enriched school days, children removed from their homes, etc.)	3%
Families of yeshiva students	2%
Disabled people	2%
Ultra-orthodox	1%
Women	1%
Arabs	1%
Other group	11%
The non-profit organization does not specialize in particular social groups	87%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.11 Referral Sources

How do people arrive at the non-profit organization? The welfare bureaus, which refer people to 77% of the non-profit organizations, are the major source of referrals (see Table 11). Fifteen percent of the non-profit organizations rely exclusively on referrals from the welfare bureaus. Second in importance are self-referrals, meaning people who approach the non-profit organizations on their own to ask for assistance. Neighbors who draw the non-profit organization's attention to people in need of its services are a third source. Relatives, schools, and rabbis also refer people to the non-profit organizations. The family health clinics, which treat pregnant women and babies, are a marginal element in referrals even though they are in contact with the groups that are most vulnerable to food insecurity. It is not clear whether this is because the women and babies are not in need of aid from non-profit organizations, or due to a lack of awareness or information.

*Table 11: Sources of referrals to non-profit organizations*

Source of Referral	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=135)
Welfare bureau	77%
Self-referral	59%
Neighbor	24%
Relative	16%
School	15%
Rabbi	12%
Family health clinic, well-baby clinic	2%
Other	19%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.12 Establishing and Monitoring Eligibility

Approximately 54% of the non-profit organizations conduct their own eligibility tests by means of home visits, checking salary slips of referred individuals, and by questioning of various people (see Table 12). In other words, after individuals receive referrals from the welfare bureau, they undergo an additional examination by the non-profit organization they contact. Thirty percent of the non-profit organizations do not test for eligibility; they trust the referrals from the outside sources. Sixteen percent of the non-profit organizations believe that only a truly needy person would contact them, and therefore do not conduct eligibility tests.



**Table 12: The non-profit organizations according to how they test the eligibility of potential clients**

Method of Checking Eligibility	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=134)
Home visits	33%
Salary slips	19%
Questioning trustworthy sources	17%
Confirmation of income (such as National Insurance Institute allotments)	16%
Questioning neighbors	13%
Do not check; rely on referral from outside source	30%
Do not check; believe that only truly needy people ask for help	16%
Other	15%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

Do non-profit organizations check the eligibility of their clients from time to time? According to the answers we received, we estimate that at least 37% of non-profit organizations conduct eligibility tests during the assistance period (see Table 13). Twenty-eight percent of the non-profit organizations do not check the people who receive assistance from them; thus, a person who begins to receive aid can continue to do so for a long time. In face-to-face interviews, the directors of the non-profit organizations gave two reasons for this:

- The belief that nobody wants to be in need of food assistance and that those whose situation improves stop the assistance themselves.
- Some people are in chronic need of assistance and there is no reasonable chance that their situation will improve, such as disabled people or bedridden elderly people.

**Table 13: Non-profit organizations according to how often they conduct eligibility tests of their clients**

Frequency of Eligibility Checks	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=124)
Every two weeks	2%
Every 5–9 months	15%
Every 12 months	16%
Every 18 months or less often	4%
Various intervals	33%
The non-profit organization does not check whether people still require assistance	28%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

From interviews held at the local authorities and at the non-profit organizations, we learned that more people have been contacting the assistance organizations. We therefore asked each non-profit organization if they check whether individuals are receiving similar assistance from other sources, and found that 42% of the non-profit organizations perform such checks. Why do most non-profit organizations not

examine whether there is a duplication of assistance? The answer we received was that no single organization can fulfill the needs of a needy family, so there is nothing wrong with a family contacting additional aid organizations. There is something to this claim, because the average cost of a monthly food supply for a household in 2002 was NIS 1,735, including fruits and vegetables (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2004).

### 3.13 The Volunteers

The activity of the non-profit organizations is mostly carried out by volunteers who work at a non-profit organization at least once per month. Five percent of the non-profit organizations that participated in the survey are blessed with five hundred or more volunteers, while 14% have 101 to 499. Forty-three percent of the non-profit organizations have up to 20 volunteers, and two percent have no volunteers at all (see Table 14).

**Table 14: The non-profit organizations according to the number of volunteers who work there at least once per month**

Number of Volunteers	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=121)
None	2%
Up to 5 volunteers	7%
6–10 volunteers	21%
11–20 volunteers	15%
21–50 volunteers	20%
51–100 volunteers	15%
101–500 volunteers	14%
More than 500 volunteers	5%

#### What do the volunteers do?

In 67% of the non-profit organizations, volunteers distribute food packages to families, and in 64%, volunteers sort and pack the foodstuffs and donations. In 36% of the organizations, the volunteers distribute meals to families; in 22%, the volunteers cook. The volunteers also collect donations and raise funds. In 26% of the organizations, the volunteers obtain food donations from factories or supermarkets, in 22%, the volunteers collect food donations for families, and in 19% they raise funds (see Table 15).

These statistics reveal the following picture: the volunteers obtain donations (of money or food products from various sources), prepare the food (cooking, sorting or assembling the food packages), and distribute it (serving food at soup kitchens or distributing food to homes). Few volunteers deal with maintenance (cleaning), and it is interesting that no non-profit organization noted that the volunteers act as managers, even though 70% of the non-profit organizations have no salaried employees, so volunteers do in fact work as managers.

**Table 15: The non-profit organizations according to the positions filled by volunteers**

<b>The Role of the Volunteers</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=127)</b>
Distribute food packages to families	67%
Sort and pack foodstuffs and donations	64%
Distribute prepared meals to families	36%
Obtain food donations from manufacturers such as food companies, bakeries, supermarkets, and stores	26%
Collect food donations (such as canned foods) from families	22%
Cook	22%
Obtain funds from various sources	19%
Serve food in soup kitchens	16%
Clean	16%
Other	20%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.14 Job Titles

We asked the respondents what job positions exist at their non-profit organizations. We learned that all the non-profit organizations have a director or general manager and an accountant (see Table 16). Eighty-one percent have a treasurer, and 75% also have a coordinator of volunteers whose task is mainly to assign work to the volunteers and not necessarily to nurture them. An important position that exists in 69% of the non-profit organizations is the family coordinator, who checks the needs of the families from time to time. Because the non-profit organizations rely on donations, 57% also have a fundraiser and 45% have a public-relations worker.

**Table 16: The non-profit organizations according to job positions**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations</b>		
	<b>Number of Respondents</b>	<b>Position Exists in Organization</b>	<b>Position Does Not Exist in Organization</b>
Director or general manager	124	93%	7%
Treasurer	124	81%	19%
Accountant	124	92%	8%
Coordinator of volunteers	124	75%	25%
Family coordinator	124	69%	31%
Public-relations employee	123	45%	55%
Fundraiser	123	57%	43%
Legal adviser	124	58%	42%
Other position	9		

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.15 Salaried Employees

Seventy percent of the non-profit organizations do not employ salaried workers. Nineteen percent employ a small staff of up to five workers (see Table 17). Only five percent of the organizations employ more than ten workers. We assumed that not all the workers were employed full-time, so we asked for the number of salaried positions in the entire organization, but the question was not understood properly and the interviewees replied once again with the number of salaried employees.

*Table 17: The non-profit organizations by number of salaried employees*

Number of Salaried Workers	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=122)
None	70%
Up to 5 salaried employees	19%
6–10 salaried employees	6%
More than 10 salaried employees	5%

### 3.16 Equipment

Approximately two-thirds of the non-profit organizations have offices, computers, warehouses, and refrigerators. Forty-seven percent distribute fish and chicken, yet only 24% possess refrigeration rooms, and only nine percent have refrigerated trucks or a vehicle with a refrigeration compartment. Twelve percent of the non-profit organizations have a heating compartment, while 40% of them distribute prepared meals to homes (see Table 18). It should be noted that in 36% of the non-profit organizations, volunteers distribute the meals to homes. It is likely that they use their own vehicles in order to do so, on a route that enables them to transport the prepared food under reasonable conditions.

Of the 54 non-profit organizations that distribute prepared meals, 44 have refrigerators, 17 have refrigeration rooms, eight have refrigerated trucks or a refrigerated compartment, and eleven have a heating compartment. It is likely that some of the non-profit organizations distribute the prepared food from kitchens of food-service companies and therefore do not need refrigerators or refrigeration rooms, but the problem of transporting unrefrigerated food still exists.

**Table 18: The non-profit organizations by availability of equipment**

Item of Equipment	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations		
	Number of Respondents	Organization Has	Organization Does Not Have
Office	129	62%	38%
Computer	129	62%	38%
Warehouse	129	69%	31%
Refrigerator	129	66%	34%
Refrigeration room	127	24%	76%
Refrigeration truck or vehicle			
with refrigeration compartment	129	9%	91%
Vehicle with heating compartment	129	12%	88%
Ordinary truck	128	14%	86%
Other equipment	25		

### 3.17 The 2003 Annual Budget

The question regarding the annual budget caused discomfort among the respondents, and only 59 non-profit organizations answered (see Table 19). Therefore, the results should be regarded with reservation. A wide range of answers was given concerning budgets. Twenty-eight percent of the non-profit organizations had a budget of NIS 100,000 or less per year, while 30% had a budget of one million shekels per year or more. The wide range of answers may indicate the great variety of non-profit organizations, their ability to raise funds, and the scope of their activity.

**Table 19: The non-profit organizations according to annual budget, 2003**

Budget (in NIS)	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=59)
NIS 20,000–50,000	15%
NIS 50,000–100,000	13%
NIS 100,000–200,000	9%
NIS 200,000–300,000	13%
NIS 300,000–500,000	11%
NIS 500,000–1,000,000	8%
NIS 1,000,000–2,000,000	11%
NIS 2,000,000–3,000,000	11%
Above NIS 3,000,000	8%

Since a fair number of the non-profit organizations deal with additional areas of assistance and since some of them have expenses related to personnel and rent, we asked what part of their annual budget was used directly for food assistance. Only 33 organizations agreed to answer this question (see Table 20). It appears that approximately 25% of the non-profit organizations allocate up to NIS 100,000 per

year for food assistance and 28% allocate more than one million shekels. Due to the small number of responses, no conclusions could be reached regarding the division of budgets between food and other goals.

**Table 20: The non-profit organizations by annual budget allocated for food assistance**

<b>Budget (in NIS)</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=33)</b>
NIS 20,000–50,000	19%
NIS 50,000–100,000	6%
NIS 100,000–200,000	16%
NIS 200,000–300,000	13%
NIS 300,000–500,000	9%
NIS 500,000–1,000,000	9%
NIS 1,000,000–2,000,000	16%
NIS 2,000,000–3,000,000	9%
More than NIS 3,000,000	3%

The question of what percentage of the annual budget was used for food received answers from only 51 non-profit organizations and therefore the results should be regarded with reservation. Approximately two-thirds of the respondents used more than ninety percent of their budget for food (see Table 21). These answers contain a certain paradox, since there are multidisciplinary non-profit organizations that direct only a small portion of their budgets toward food activity, yet whose entire budgets are very large, and thus the amount directed toward food assistance is greater than the budget of a small organization that deals with food alone.

**Table 21: The non-profit organizations by percentage of annual budget used for food assistance**

<b>% of Budget Used for Food</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=51)</b>
10%–50%	10%
50%–80%	14%
80%–90%	10%
More than 90%	67%

### **3.18 Monetary Donations**

Eighty-six percent of the non-profit organizations receive monetary contributions from people in Israel (see Table 22). Forty percent receive donations from Israeli donors only. Forty-seven percent of the organizations receive support from abroad; only four percent of the organizations rely solely on support from abroad. Only nine percent of the organizations receive donations from Israeli companies. A few organizations reported receiving allocations from municipalities or from government ministries and from foundations in Israel and abroad.

**Table 22: The non-profit organizations by monetary sources**

<b>Monetary Source</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=129)</b>
Donations from people in Israel	86%
Donations from people abroad	47%
Donations from businesses	9%
Allocations from the municipality	8%
Allocations from government ministries	4%
Donations from foundations in Israel	3%
Donations from foundations abroad	2%
All or nearly all of the above	2%
Other	5%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

We asked whether the non-profit organizations receive in-kind donations besides donations of food. We learned that 63% of the non-profit organizations do not receive in-kind donations. (see Table 23). The most popular non-financial contribution is free use of warehouses, received by 15% of the non-profit organizations.

**Table 23: The non-profit organizations by in-kind donations**

<b>Type of In-Kind Donation</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=117)</b>
Free storage (use of warehouses at no cost)	15%
Free treatment of non-profit organization's vehicles (ongoing maintenance)	6%
Consumable equipment (such as office paper)	3%
The non-profit organization does not receive in-kind donations	63%
Other	20%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### **3.19 Food Sources**

Where do non-profit organizations obtain the food they distribute? They obtain food from multiple sources. Seventy-five percent buy food, 45% receive food donations from families, and 37% receive donations from supermarket chains (see Table 24). Manufacturers donate as well: 34% of the non-profit organizations receive assistance from food companies such as Tnuva or Osem (examples for illustration purposes only), and 33% receive assistance from farmers who allow them to gather the surplus fruits and vegetables. Twenty-four percent of the non-profit organizations receive surplus prepared meals from food-service organizations and from wedding halls. Fifteen percent of the non-profit organizations receive food from food banks and 12% receive food from Israel Defense Forces bases. Most of the non-profit organizations combine several methods of obtaining food donations,

while 24 non-profit organizations (approximately 18%) purchase the products and do not receive food donations.

**Table 24: Food sources of the non-profit organizations**

<b>Food Source</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=126)</b>
The non-profit organization buys the food	75%
Donations of foodstuffs from families (such as canned food)	45%
Donations of foodstuffs from supermarkets	37%
Donations of foodstuffs from producers (such as Tnuva or Osem)	34%
Donations from farmers (fruits and vegetables)	33%
Donations of prepared meals from catering firms and/or wedding halls	24%
Donations from other food organizations such as Latet, Food Bank, Table to Table	15%
Donations of meals from Israel Defense Forces bases	12%
Collections from kindergartens/schools	6%
Kibbutzim	2%
Collections of money/food from people at supermarket entrances	2%
Israel Police	2%
Educational system	1%
Private businesses	1%
Coupons	1%
Soup kitchens	1%
Other	2%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### **3.20 Professional Consultation**

Because the non-profit organizations deal with food for the needy, including children, the elderly, and disabled people, all of whom have special nutritional needs (such as low-salt food for elderly people), we asked whether they use the services of a nutritional consultant. Ninety percent of the organizations responded in the negative. In practice, the soup kitchens serve an identical menu to all comers, and food warehouses send identical food packages to all the families because the non-profit organizations depend on whatever donations they succeed in obtaining. Some non-profit organizations include formula and disposable diapers in packages intended for families with babies; this is the only distinction made between families with children and other families.



### 3.21 Supervision

The non-profit food organizations are supposed to operate under the supervision of at least three agencies:

- The Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations, which ensures the proper management of all non-profit organizations of any kind.
- The Ministry of Health, which supervises businesses that manufacture and market food. This supervision includes the manufacturing process, transportation of products, waste created in the manufacturing process, etc.
- The Welfare Ministry supervises only those non-profit organizations that benefit from its support. It ascertains that these non-profit organizations meet the standards set by the ministry<sup>3</sup> regarding food content, scope of activity, operations, etc. In 2002, the ministry supervised 57 non-profit organizations, which is one-third the number of non-profit organizations that we know to exist today.

In addition, non-profit organizations that distribute meat, chicken, and/or fish or products containing these foods are under the supervision of the municipal veterinarian, who ensures that the food is fit for consumption and supervises the conditions of storage, manufacture, transport, etc. For example, the veterinarian supervises the refrigerators in which the meat and meat products are kept.

Sixty percent of the non-profit organizations reported that they operate without any supervision whatsoever. One-fourth of the non-profit organizations operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, and seven percent operate under the supervision of the municipal veterinarian (see Table 25). It is therefore unclear whether the food distributed by the non-profit organizations and/or served to their clients meets quality standards.

*Table 25: Supervision of the non-profit organization's food activities*

Type of Supervision	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=129)
None	60%
Ministry of Health	25%
Municipal veterinarian	7%
Kosher	2%
Other	16%

### 3.22 Contacts with the Local Authorities

We asked the non-profit organizations whether they are in contact with the local authorities and about the nature of their contact. Sixty-eight percent of the organizations said that the municipalities refer

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3. For example, the meal served in a soup kitchen includes: 250 grams of soup or 100 grams of cooked vegetables, a protein-rich portion such as 250 grams of chicken, a carbohydrate-rich side dish, a vegetable side dish, bread and seasonal fruit or compote. Source: The Ministry of Welfare's notice regarding goals for which support may be requested subject to budgetary approval according to Paragraph 3a of the Budget Law of 1985, *Yalkut Pirsumim 2004*, pages 107 and 298.

people to them, usually from the welfare bureau (see Table 26). There is also a reverse connection: 18% of the non-profit organizations report to the welfare bureaus regarding people who receive assistance from them and ten percent of the organizations consult with the welfare bureau.

Twenty-two percent of the non-profit organizations receive assistance such as exemption from municipal taxes, use of buildings, etc. Twenty-two percent reported that they receive allocations from the local authority.

Twenty-three percent of the non-profit organizations are not in any contact at all with local authorities. Regarding the types of connections with the local authorities, see also Section 4.2.

**Table 26: The connections of the non-profit organizations with the local authorities**

Type of Contact	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=130)
The non-profit organization receives referrals from people in the local authority (such as social workers)	68%
The non-profit organization is not in contact with the local authority	23%
The non-profit organization receives in-kind assistance from the local authority (exemption from municipal taxes, free use of a building, etc.)	22%
The non-profit organization receives funds from the authority	22%
The non-profit organization reports new people who have requested assistance to the authority	18%
The non-profit organization consults with the authority's social workers on various subjects	10%
Other	6%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.23 Contacts with Other Organizations

In light of the increase in the number of non-profit organizations and non-institutionalized organizations dealing with food distribution, we asked the respondents whether they were familiar with organizations similar to theirs. Seventy-six percent of the respondents answered yes, mentioning a total of 52 names of organizations. Names that were mentioned repeatedly included Yad Eliezer, Latet, Pithon Lev, Meir Panim, Hasdei Naomi, La-Sova, and Ezer Mi-Tzion. Twenty-six of the non-profit organizations that were mentioned were interviewed for this study, two refused to be interviewed, and one could not be located. Likewise, eight organizations were mentioned that do not appear in the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations; it is likely that these are unofficial organizations. Other organizations mentioned included one organization active in the United States, seven organizations that were difficult to identify because several organizations have identical names, and one organization that does not deal with food (Yad Sarah). Six organizations were mentioned that were not in our database but which do appear on the list of non-profit organizations.

Fifty-seven non-profit organizations, constituting 42% of the organizations that participated in the study, have contact with other non-profit organizations (see Table 27). Sixty-eight percent of these 57 organizations share large donations when one of them has a surplus of food. Sixty-five percent of the organizations speak with each other, 51% refer clients to each other and share information, 44% coordinate activities with each other, and 25% share volunteers.

Contact is also initiated by other agencies: 37% of the non-profit organizations meet for study days and/or for in-service courses, and 23% are members of joint forums.

**Table 27: The type of contact between the non-profit organizations and similar organizations**

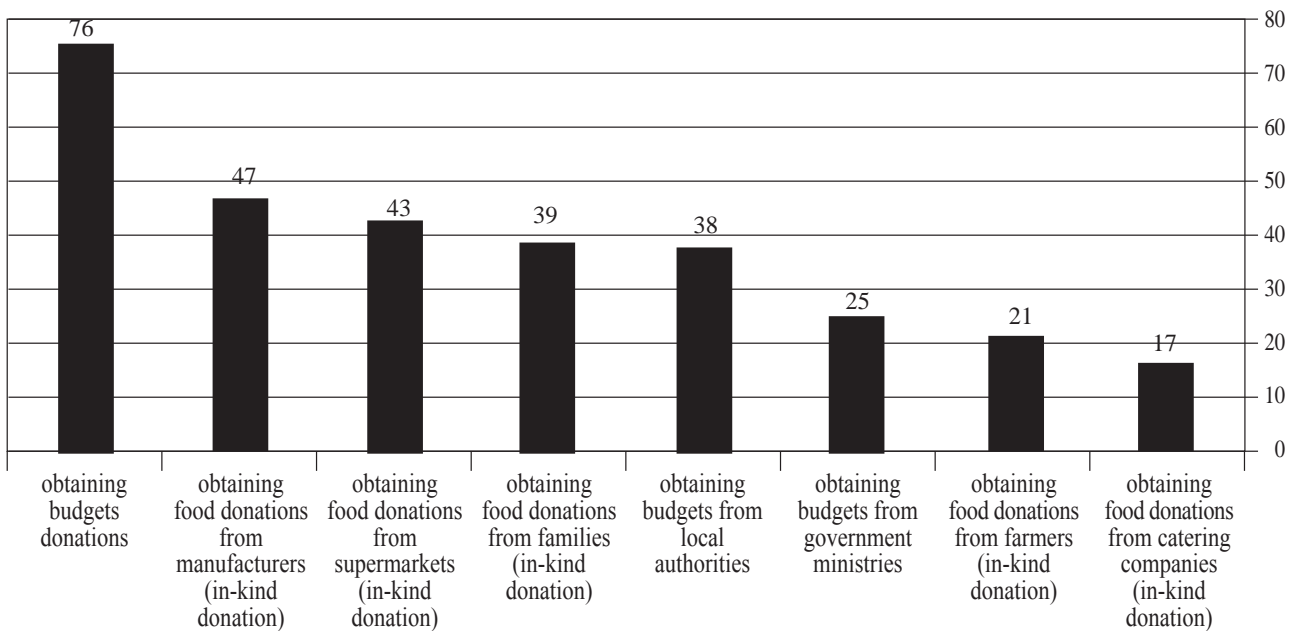
Type of Contact	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations that Are in Contact with Other Organizations		
	Number of Respondents	Occurs in the Organization	Does Not Occur in the Organization
Coordinating activities, such as who does what, or the location or date of the activity	57	44%	56%
Sharing large (surplus) food donations	57	68%	32%
Sending clients to each other	57	51%	49%
Sharing workers	57	7%	93%
Sharing information	57	51%	49%
Sharing volunteers	57	25%	75%
Speaking with each other from time to time	57	65%	35%
Members of a joint forum	57	23%	87%
Meet at conferences	57	37%	63%
Meet at in-service courses	57	30%	70%
See each other when meeting with various officials	57	23%	77%
Other	1		

### 3.24 Problems Obtaining Resources and Operating the Organization

We asked the non-profit organizations whether they encountered difficulties in obtaining resources and in their day-to-day operations.

Regarding obtaining resources, the biggest problem was raising funds from donors. Seventy-six percent of the non-profit organizations encountered this difficulty (see Graph 3 and Table 28). A second problem was obtaining food donations from manufacturers, supermarkets, and families. A third problem was raising budgets from the establishment, i.e., the local authority and government ministries, and a fourth difficulty was obtaining food donations from farmers and food-service companies. Another type of problem was obtaining in-kind donations: 47% of the organizations found it difficult to obtain donations from manufacturers, 43% had problems obtaining donations from supermarkets, and 39% had difficulty obtaining donations from families.

**Graph 3: Difficulties in obtaining resources (responses in percentages)**



**Table 28: The non-profit organizations by problems in obtaining allocations and donations in 2003**

Type of Problem	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations			
	Number of Respondents	There Were Difficulties	There Were no Difficulties	Not Relevant
Obtaining donations from donors	116	76%	19%	5%
Obtaining allocations from the local authority	113	38%	18%	44%
Obtaining allocations from government ministries	114	25%	19%	56%
Obtaining food donations from families (in-kind donations)	115	39%	32%	29%
Obtaining food donations from supermarkets (in-kind donations)	113	43%	27%	31%
Obtaining food donations from manufacturers (in-kind donations)	113	47%	26%	27%
Obtaining food donations from farmers (in-kind donations)	113	21%	35%	44%
Obtaining food donations from catering companies (in-kind donations)	113	17%	36%	47%

The respondents ignored our question regarding difficulties in day-to-day operations, reiterating the difficulty in obtaining funds (see Table 29). A few organizations complained of problems such as a lack of vehicles, equipment, or volunteers. This was despite the fact that one-third of the non-profit organizations do not have offices, computers, or warehouses, three-quarters of them have no refrigeration rooms, and approximately 70% of them have no vehicle with a refrigeration or heating compartment.

**Table 29: The main factors that make the non-profit organizations' day-to-day operations difficult**

Type of Problem	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=118)
Funds	59%
Too many clients for the organization's capability	16%
Not enough food donations	6%
Shortage of or no vehicles	5%
Not enough volunteers	3%
Would like to expand activity but cannot	3%
Lack of space for a warehouse	2%
No vehicles with heating compartments	2%
No office	2%
No vehicles with refrigeration compartments	1%
Five categories or more marked	3%
Other	

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.25 Ideas for Improvement

To conclude the first portion of the questionnaire, we asked the non-profit organizations an open question: whether they had ideas for improving their services. It should be noted that the respondents commented on their clients' needs rather than the needs of the organization's volunteers or employees. Thirty percent of the non-profit organizations wish to obtain additional resources of money and food, 22% want to improve their equipment or buildings, or want to better be able to match the quantity and quality of the food to their clients' needs. Nineteen percent would like to assist more families, 15% want to expand the areas of assistance, twelve percent would like to recruit more volunteers, and six percent would like to open a soup kitchen (see Table 30).

**Table 30: Ideas to improve the services of the non-profit organizations**

Idea	Among Non-Profit Food Organizations (N=67)
Obtaining additional funds/from public sources/new sources of food donations	30%
Improving equipment/at the location/in the building/in food: quantity, quality, and suitability for those in need	22%
Assisting more families/individuals	19%
Expanding the types of assistance/activity	15%
Recruiting volunteers	12%
Advertising/raising awareness	10%
Opening a soup kitchen	6%
Other	18%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

### 3.26 Non-Profit Organizations that Operate Soup Kitchens

As stated above, most of the non-profit organizations provide several types of assistance. Twenty-nine of the 33 non-profit organizations that operate a soup kitchen answered the questions regarding this kind of assistance. Nearly all the soup kitchens operate five to seven days per week, and provide a hot meal once a day nearly all week long (see Table 31). Because some of the organizations operate soup kitchens in more than one community, we asked for details about each branch.

*Table 31: The number of days per week that soup kitchens operate*

Number of Days of Activity per Week	Among Non-Profit Organizations Operating Soup Kitchens (N=29)
2–3 times	7%
5 times	59%
6 times	31%
7 times	28%

In two-thirds of the soup kitchens, more than 80% of the clients come regularly (see Table 32).

*Table 32: The percentage of clients in the soup kitchen who come regularly*

% of Clients that Come Regularly	Among Non-Profit Organizations Operating Soup Kitchens (N=22)
45%	5%
60%–70%	27%
80%–90%	54%
Above 90%	14%

Note: Categories that do not appear in the table (45-60% and 70-80%) were not mentioned by the participants.

The scope of activity of most of the soup kitchens is fairly small. Thirty-three percent of the soup kitchens serve up to one hundred people a day, 21% serve up to 150 people a day, and another 21% receive over 200 people per day. Seventeen percent of the soup kitchens provide meals to at least 1,000 people per day (see Table 33).

**Table 33: The soup kitchens by the average number of clients per day**

Average Number of Clients per Day	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Operate Soup Kitchens (N=24)
20–100 people	33%
100–150 people	21%
150–200 people	21%
200–300 people	8%
More than 1,000 people (between 1,400 and 3,000)	17%

Fifteen non-profit organizations answered the question regarding the duration of assistance, indicating that they do not limit it. The duration of assistance varies; eighty-six percent of the non-profit organizations replied that it varies and can last for several years (see Table 34).

**Table 34: The period of time that the non-profit organizations assist an individual or family**

Length of Time	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Operate Soup Kitchens (N=15)
One year	7%
Two years	7%
Varies or over many years	86%

Sixty-three percent of the non-profit organizations noted that their soup kitchens have access for disabled people; 37% reported that they have no such arrangements.

### **3.27 Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families**

Forty-two of 54 non-profit organizations that deal with the distribution of prepared meals to families answered the questions regarding this kind of assistance.

Thirty-six percent of these non-profit organizations distribute the prepared meals once a week, five percent distribute them at least twice a week, etc. (see Table 35). Seventy-two percent of the organizations provide enough food for one or two days per week (see Table 36). As stated above, this service is intended to supplement the family’s food stocks or provide enrichment.

**Table 35: The number of times per week that non-profit organizations distribute meals to families**

Number of Times per Week	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families (N=42)
1	45%
2	5%
3	19%
4	2%
5	29%
6	12%
7	12%

**Table 36: The number of days for which the food provided to the families is sufficient**

Number of Days	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Food to Families (N=40)
1	42%
2	30%
3	13%
4	3%
6	2%
7	10%

Sixty-nine percent of the non-profit organizations provide food to up to 100 families, and six percent of the organizations provide food to more than one thousand families! (See Table 37.) Ninety-eight percent of the organizations do not limit the duration of their assistance in advance, but in practice, the organizations noted that the duration of aid varies, without naming the time period (see Table 38).

**Table 37: The number of families that receive prepared meals at home**

Number of Families	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families (N=35)
Up to 50	23%
50–100	46%
100–500	14%
500–1000	11%
More than 1000 (between 3000 and 4000)	6%



**Table 38: The average length of time an individual or family receives assistance**

Average Duration of Assistance	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families (N=27)
Up to three months	11%
7–18 months	11%
24 months	7%
Varies	70%

(Note: No non-profit organization noted that its assistance lasts between four and seven months.)

Thirteen non-profit organizations said that they have a waiting list, but only eight of them could give the number of people or families on the list (see Table 39). Twenty-two organizations answered that they do not have waiting lists, because of one of two reasons: Either they do not expect to have enough funds to assist additional families in the foreseeable future, or they accept all who approach them. The average cost of a prepared meal ranges between NIS 10 and NIS 250 (see Table 40). It is not clear whether the non-profit organizations calculated the cost of the meal per individual or per family, so it is difficult to know the cost of the meals from this information.

The source of the prepared meals varies. Fifty-nine percent of the non-profit organizations cook the food that is served themselves. Some of them receive food surpluses from various sources, mainly from wedding halls and Israel Defense Forces events (see Table 41).

**Table 39: Waiting lists to receive assistance from non-profit organizations, among organizations that distribute prepared meals to families**

	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families			
	(N=35)		N=8	Response
There is a waiting list	37%	How many <i>individuals</i> are waiting for assistance today?	1	80
		How many <i>families</i> are waiting for assistance today?	3	Up to 20
	2		20–50	
	2		50–100	
		N=22		
There is no waiting list	63%	Because the organization has no funds	1	4%
		Because the organization helps everyone who contacts it	21	96%

**Table 40: The average cost of preparing a meal**

Average Cost of Preparing a Meal	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families (N=22)
Up to NIS 10	32%
NIS 10–20	41%
NIS 20–80	23%
NIS 250	4%

**Table 41: Sources of the food that is served**

Source of Food	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families (N=41)
Wedding halls	46%
Surplus from Israel Defense Forces kitchens	17%
Surplus from workplaces	2%
The non-profit organization cooks in its own kitchen	59%
Other	20%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

Only five non-profit organizations that send meals to homes have a business license. Forty-four have refrigerators, but only seven have refrigeration rooms, only eight have refrigeration trucks or a vehicle with a refrigeration compartment, and only eleven have a vehicle with a heating compartment. It appears that most of the non-profit organizations lack basic conditions for safe preparation and transportation of food.

### **3.28 Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages**

Eighty-two of the 109 non-profit organizations that distribute food packages to families responded to the special questionnaire dealing with distribution of food packages. Fifty-nine percent of the families receive food once a week; 23% receive food once every two weeks (see Table 42). Non-profit organizations that have several branches distribute depending on their ability to do so and according to the number of families in each branch.

Some organizations add one-time assistance to families for holidays

**Table 42: The frequency with which families receive food packages**

<b>Number of Times</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages (N=82)</b>
Once per week	74%
Once every two weeks	27%
Once per month	22%
For holidays	18%
Once every three weeks	3%
Once per five weeks or less often	1%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

Apparently, the number of packages and their frequency of distribution are related. The greater the number of families served, the lower the frequency of package distribution (see Table 43). Forty percent of the non-profit organizations that distribute food packages to fewer than 100 families distribute them once per week, and 60% of them do so once every two weeks. Ten percent of the organizations that distribute food packages to more than 1,000 families do so once per week, while 24% of them distribute the packages only once per month.

Fifty-three percent of the non-profit organizations prefer to deliver the food to the family’s home, while only 13% ask the families to pick up the parcel. The rest of the organizations use either method in accordance with the volunteers’ and the organization’s convenience (see Table 44).

**Table 43: The frequency with which families receive food packages**

<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Once per Week (N=48)</b>	<b>Every Two Weeks (N=18)</b>	<b>Number of Families</b>	<b>Once per month (N=13)</b>	<b>For holidays/less than once a month (N=15)</b>
Up to 50	17%	28%	Up to 100	23%	33%
50–100	23%	32%	100-150	37%	7%
100–200	25%	22%	150-300	16%	27%
200–500	15%	6%	300-1000		19%
500–1000	10%	6%	More than 1000	24%	14%
More than 1000	10%	6%			

**Table 44: Food-package distribution method**

<b>Method of Distribution</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages (N=91)</b>
Deliver the packages to families	53%
The families come to pick up the packages	13%
Deliver to most of the families and only a few pick up the packages	15%
Most of the families come to pick up the packages and we deliver to only a few	17%

Ninety-three percent of the non-profit organizations distribute non-perishable products and 55% of them add vegetables. Fifty percent also add fruit, 47% distribute meat, 28% also give out fish, 23% also distribute baked goods, 16% add cleaning products, and 38% distribute items for babies such as food, diapers, and other products (see Table 45). Non-perishable products include canned foods, pasta, oil, sugar, legumes, etc. As can be seen, no more than 50% of the non-profit organizations succeed in distributing various kinds of food.

**Table 45: The ingredients of an ordinary food package (not a package distributed before an event such as a holiday)**

<b>Contents of Food Package</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages (N=86)</b>
Non-perishable products	93%
Vegetables	55%
Fruit	50%
Meat	47%
Baked goods	23%
Baby products	38%
Fish	28%
Household cleaning products	16%
Other	9%

(Note: The total is more than 100% because multiple answers could be given.)

In 44% of the non-profit organizations distributing food packages, all of the clients receive packages regularly, and in 28% of the organizations, 75-90% of clients receive packages regularly (see Table 46).

As in non-profit organizations of the previous kind, 85% of the non-profit organizations that distribute food packages do not limit the duration of assistance in advance (see Table 47). However, in 35% of the organizations, the assistance lasts no longer than four years, and in the rest, the duration of assistance varies (see Table 48). Therefore it is not clear whether the duration of the assistance is limited in

practice or whether the assistance continues until the family decides to discontinue it.

Fifty percent of the non-profit organizations have waiting lists, and the other 50% do not. Of 34 organizations having waiting lists, 17 could give the number of people or families on the list. In nine percent of the non-profit organizations that do not have waiting lists, the reason is budgetary shortfall. The reason for the other 91% is that they accept all who approach them (see Table 49).

**Table 46: The percentage of clients of the non-profit organizations who are regular clients**

<b>% of Clients Who Receive Packages Regularly</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages (N=50)</b>
Up to 40%	10%
40%–75%	18%
75%–90%	28%
100%	44%

**Table 47: Advance restriction on the duration of assistance**

<b>Duration of Assistance</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages (N=85)</b>
Unlimited	85%
Up to half a year	8%
A year to a year and a half	6%
Varies	1%

**Table 48: The average length of time that an individual/family receives assistance from the non-profit organization**

<b>Duration of Assistance</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages (N=57)</b>
Up to three months	5%
6–12 months	20%
18–24 months	7%
36–48 months	3%
Varies	65%

**Table 49: Waiting lists to receive assistance from non-profit organizations, among organizations that distribute food packages**

Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Food Packages				
	(N=76)			Response
	N=34		N=17	
Yes	50%	How many <i>individuals</i> are waiting for aid today?	1	17
			1	60
		How many <i>families</i> are waiting for aid today?	6	Up to 20
			2	20–50
			4	50–100
			3	100–1000
No	50%	Because the organization has no funds	N=34	9%
		Because the organization helps everyone who contacts it		91%

Approximately 58% of the non-profit organizations that distribute food packages agreed to disclose the monetary value of the package. Approximately two-thirds of the organizations distribute food packages worth NIS 200 or less (see Table 50).

**Table 50: The monetary value of food packages**

Monetary Value of a Package	Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Food to Families (N=63)
NIS 45–100	27%
NIS 100–200	38%
NIS 200–300	16%
NIS 300–450	8%
NIS 700–900	8%
Over NIS 1000	3%

Approximately two-thirds of the contents of the packages comes from donations, either monetary or of products from various sources (see Table 51). Only two percent of the non-profit organizations reported that none the contents of the packages comes from donations.

**Table 51: The percentage of food-package content that comes from monetary or in-kind donations**

<b>% of Contents that Come from Donations</b>	<b>Among Non-Profit Organizations that Distribute Prepared Meals to Families (N=60)</b>
0%	2%
Up to 10%	8%
20%–40%	12%
50%	14%
60%–70%	10%
70%–80%	7%
80%–90%	9%
Over 90%	38%

### **3.29 The Total Amount of Assistance Provided by the Non-Profit Organizations**

One issue we tried to determine based on this study was a comprehensive estimate of the assistance provided by all the non-profit food organizations. Some of the organizations reported about individual people while others reported about families. In order to estimate the assistance given, we multiplied the number of families by the size of the Jewish household—3.13 members—because most of the assistance is provided to Jews.

- According to the reports of the non-profit organizations that participated in the study, 23,900 people eat in soup kitchens throughout the country each day.
- The non-profit organizations send meals to 22,500 families, which total 70,430 people.
- The non-profit organizations distribute 56,107 food packages per week, benefiting 175,615 people.
- Every two weeks the non-profit organizations distribute 19,111 food packages, from which 59,815 people benefit.
- Every month 40,440 food packages are distributed, serving 126,575 people.
- The non-profit organizations distribute 6,480 food packages less often than once per month, from which 20,280 people benefit.

This indicates that the non-profit organizations that participated in the study assist approximately half a million people in Israel, assuming that there is no duplication among those who receive the assistance. It should be noted that this estimate reflects only those non-profit organizations that participated in the study. In addition, there are people who eat in educational and welfare institutions such as day-care centers, schools, schools with enriched school days, clubs for the elderly, etc.

## **PART FOUR: SELECTED ISSUES**

### **4.1 Data About the Non-Profit Organizations**

#### **4.1.1 How Many Non-Profit food Organizations Exist?**

One question that arose at the beginning of the study was, how many non-profit organizations are registered and active? It must be emphasized that the world of non-profit food organizations is dynamic. Non-profit organizations are constantly being established and closed. At present, at the end of this stage of the study, we cannot answer this question with complete certainty. Besides the 136 non-profit food organizations that responded to the questionnaire, we know of the following: ten non-profit food organizations that refused to participate in the survey (seven of these were identified as non-profit food organizations and three were not, but we know they all deal with food); five non-profit food organizations we could not locate, yet we know are active; and twelve non-profit food organizations that appear on the Welfare Ministry's list as a result of a survey conducted by the ministry for its internal needs. In addition, the interviewees mentioned six non-profit organizations that are not in the Welfare Ministry's database. We can therefore name at least 169 active and registered non-profit food organizations.

#### **4.1.2 Connections With the Public**

The non-profit organizations that participated in the survey have varying amounts of contact with different segments of the public.

The non-profit organizations employ 240 workers, Minus the number of employees and volunteers in the Ezer MiTzion organization, which concentrates mostly on work in the health field. Some of the non-profit organizations refused to report how many employees they have, so we believe that employees actually number more than 240.

benefit from the services of approximately 20,000 volunteers, and distribute food to nearly half a million people throughout the country. In addition, the non-profit organizations reach many people in their homes or in stores who donate money or food products. The non-profit organizations work throughout the entire country, from Katzrin and Kiryat Shemonah in the north to Eilat in the south. This information is enough to demonstrate the power inherent in the non-profit food organizations.

#### **4.1.3 Goals of the Non-Profit Organizations**

We did not research as part of the survey the non-profit organizations' formal goals as they appear in the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations, and the connections between these goals and the organizations' actual activities. We are interested in knowing more about this issue, which is characteristic of the non-profit organization sector in general. We found the listings of 74 non-profit organizations, from which we ascertained that the common denominator among the goals of the non-profit organizations is relating to distressed populations of various kinds. The listings variously include the following: people of limited financial means, large families, widows, orphans, disabled people, people who are ill, senior citizens, the forsaken, yeshiva students, etc. Some organizations are intended to assist new



immigrants from certain countries or new immigrants in general. The non-profit organizations list diverse goals. Sometimes food is mentioned openly, sometimes it is hinted at, and sometimes it is not listed at all as part of the non-profit organization's goals; this demonstrates that at its inception, the non-profit organization did not intend to deal with food. Most of the non-profit organizations listed many goals, not necessarily connected with each other. Following are several examples of organizations' goals:

- A non-profit organization that listed many goals, including food: "The promotion of Torah study; assistance in purchasing religious articles; assistance in preparing religious celebrations; assistance with medical equipment and in obtaining medical assistance; grants, loans, and food packages for the needy. Various kinds of charitable activity." Or, for example, "Assistance for the victims of hostile acts and road accidents, and for the needy."
- A non-profit organization that concentrated solely on food: "Distributing food items to the needy."
- A non-profit organization that did not intend to deal with food at all, but has been doing so for several years alongside religious educational activity: "Establishing a study hall for Bible and religious law, including on Fridays. A bar-mitzvah institute for members of all ethnic communities. Spreading Torah to men and women by means of night classes."

Some non-profit organizations indicated the locations of their activity in their goals. A few organizations wrote that they plan to operate throughout the country, but most did not describe future locations in their goals. For example:

- A non-profit organization that described where it is active: "Support and assistance for needy families in Hod HaSharon."
- A nationwide organization: "Establishing and running soup kitchens throughout the country. Providing food and nutrition to the needy—new immigrants and families in distress—in an honorable manner. Operating volunteer organizations for the distribution of food to needy people in their homes. A Passover food fund."
- A non-profit organization without a defined locale: "To assist needy and elderly people, sick people, and lonely people."

It is apparent that some non-profit organizations determined their methods of assistance at the start (e.g., "soup kitchens"), while others provided no details about their methods of assistance.

## **4.2 The Mutual Relationship Between the Local Authorities and the Non-Profit Food Organizations**

### **4.2.1 Background**

Our survey of non-profit organizations illustrates three aspects of the connection between the non-profit organizations and local government: referrals of clients to the non-profit organizations, mutual support, and consultation. Within the framework of the study, we wanted to examine in depth the following aspects of the mutual relationship between the local authorities and the non-profit organizations:

- The municipalities' positions regarding the establishment of non-profit food organizations

- Cooperation between the non-profit organizations and the municipalities
- Mutual influences on work methods
- Development of the organizations and coordination between them

We interviewed social workers in 23 municipalities, including eleven large cities with populations greater than 100,000 and twelve small cities with 5,000 to 69,000 residents, of which five were run by Arab local authorities (see Table 52).

We asked each local authority interviewed for a list of non-profit food organizations that operate in its region. We found that some of the authorities were not aware of the existence of non-profit food organizations, others were familiar with the non-profit organizations but had no list of them, and still others had lists of the organizations. In most of the authorities, the respondents were able to distinguish between a registered organization and an unregistered one. Some of the authorities reported that their lists were only partial because not every organization was interested in contact with the local authorities.

**Table 52: Local authorities we interviewed**

Size of Authority	Districts		
	Haifa and North	South	Jerusalem, Center, Tel Aviv
Large: more than 100,000 inhabitants	Haifa	Ashdod	Bat Yam
		Ashkelon	Holon
		Beer Sheva	Jerusalem
			Petah Tikvah
			Rishon LeZion
			Ramat Gan
			Tel Aviv
Medium and small: fewer than 70,000 inhabitants	Bet She'an	Dimona	
	Tiberias	Kiryat Gat	
	Tirat HaCarmel		
	Nesher		
	Kiryat Ata		
	Umm el-Fahm		
	Baka el-Gharbiyya		
	Nazareth		
	Fureidis		
	Shefar'am		
Total	11	5	7

#### 4.2.2 Attitudes of the Local Authorities Regarding the Establishment of Food Non-Profit Organizations

Some of the local authorities interviewed were active in establishing food non-profit organizations. There were two types of activity:

Type 1: Non-profit organizations established by city council members during their term or before their

election, for example, Ohavim in Bat Yam, established by the current mayor before he was elected; The Food Store for Needy Residents of Ramat Gan with Love, which was created due to the initiative of Mayor Tzvi Bar; and Give a Hand to a Friend, which was started by Holon city council member Amos Yerushalmi.

Type 2: Non-profit organizations established by municipality professionals, for example, Warm Heart, which was founded by municipality employees in Dimona.

The Jewish local authorities reported a sense of saturation regarding food non-profit organizations, and it is their position that the current need is to unite the organizations' forces and work together rather than to establish new non-profit organizations. Likewise, most of the authorities interviewed took a dim view of the establishment of soup kitchens in the cities. Municipalities holding this position can delay the opening of a soup kitchen by providing an inappropriate building or by withholding support in general.

#### **4.2.3 Cooperation Between the Local Authorities and the Non-Profit Organizations**

The authorities cooperate with the non-profit organizations in three areas: mutual consultation, support, and client referrals.

Consultation: Most of the founders of the non-profit organizations do not have contact with the municipalities, nor do they usually consult with them regarding the needs and location of their activity. This results in competition among the organizations themselves or competition between the organizations and the municipal services. For example, there might be competition between a soup kitchen that provides free food and a club for the elderly that provides a hot meal for a symbolic fee.

Support: Twenty-two percent of the non-profit organizations that participated in the study reported receiving some sort of support from municipalities. It should be noted that some of the authorities prefer to support local non-profit organizations rather than regional or national ones.

Client referrals: Of the non-profit organizations interviewed in the telephone survey, 68% to 77% reported that they receive client referrals from the welfare bureaus. In other words, the municipality is the major referrer of clients to the non-profit food organizations. Approximately 30% of the non-profit organizations trust such referrals and do not conduct their own tests regarding client eligibility.

We asked the authorities about tracking individuals who contact the non-profit organizations. Yet no one is certain who is responsible for supervising the treatment and service that the client receives once the contact is made. Most municipalities interviewed do not keep centralized lists of individuals referred to the non-profit organizations, nor do the organizations provide feedback. The Holon municipality is unusual in that it keeps a list of individuals who have been referred to non-profit organizations. Only when the municipalities participate in specific projects do they keep lists and supervise. For example, Dimona has limited-time assistance programs in partnership with the welfare bureau; in the case of these programs there is supervision. Non-profit organizations that distribute food packages will usually note the date the package was provided, but the municipality will not be aware of this.

When clients receive assistance, is it necessary to continue supervising and to check from time to time whether they are still in need? According to the study, 28% of the non-profit organizations do not conduct eligibility tests, and the rest check at various intervals. At this stage the municipality is out of the picture.

#### **4.2.4 Influence of the Non-Profit Organizations on the Municipalities' Work**

Because the non-profit organizations require that clients be referred by the welfare bureau, the social workers must decide whom to refer. Yet they have no criteria for this. Most social workers content themselves with the belief that if individuals request such a referral, they evidently need it.

Some welfare bureaus want to create assistance plans according to people's actual needs. But what are actual needs? What are the eligibility criteria for food? These issues have not yet been clarified.

Given the organizations' activity, some welfare workers and public representatives feel helpless ("We rely on the non-profit organizations"). Municipality officials are frustrated at their lack of ability to help citizens in distress: The non-profit organizations are able to help, while at the same time the municipality has almost no control over assistance activity.

The work of the non-profit organizations has underlined the gaps between the political outlook of elected officials and the professional outlook of the social workers. In at least two communities, we encountered a situation in which the public sector agreed to the presence of a soup kitchen in the city, while the professional sector opposed this method of assistance. The public sector won.

Some of the respondents spoke of the links among charity, wealth, and power. Some food organizations become connected with commercial entities. The municipalities fear, or think, that those same commercial entities are beginning to expect breaks from the municipality.

#### **4.2.5 Influence of the Municipality on the Non-Profit Organizations' Work Methods**

As stated above, most municipalities do not want soup kitchens, preferring the distribution of foodstuffs. In some cases, municipalities have tried to influence the location of the food distribution, whether out of respect for the needy people, out of discomfort regarding the general public, or out of regard for the city's image. An example of this is the municipality of Rishon LeZion, which moved the distribution point from the main pedestrian mall in the city to another location. The Dimona municipality prefers that the non-profit organizations deliver the packages to the families.

#### **4.2.6 Development of the Organizations and Coordination Among Them**

The municipality, as a governing body that is in contact with the non-profit organizations (68% to 77% of the non-profit organizations receive referrals from the authorities), could do a great deal to coordinate among the organizations and work to develop them. In actual practice, the following levels of municipality involvement exist:

1. A forum, for food organizations only, that meets from time to time for purposes of coordination and cooperation. This exists, for example, in Holon, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

2. A conference of food organizations before the holidays. This is done, for example, in Rishon LeZion and Dimona.
3. No forum or coordination at all

#### **4.2.7 Summary**

The considerations involved in referring clients and providing support are unclear, other than a definite preference for municipal non-profit organizations. The municipalities lack reliable information regarding the existence and activity of the non-profit organizations, some of which are unknown not only to the municipalities but also to the public that needs them. Although the municipalities could fill a significant role by providing inter-organizational coordination and by developing the non-profit organizations, most of the municipalities interviewed preferred not to enter that arena, even though empowering the non-profit organizations could contribute a great deal to community services.

### **4.3 Non-Profit Food Organizations in Arab Communities**

#### **4.3.1 Background**

The study's findings indicate the absence of non-profit food organizations in Arab communities, except for one in Rahat and another in Daliyyat el-Karmel. In order to complete the picture in the Arab communities, we interviewed social workers in welfare bureaus in five Arab local authorities: Umm el-Fahm, Baka el-Gharbiyya, Nazareth, Fureidis and Shefar'am. We also interviewed the directors of the branches of the Yadid organization in Nazareth and in Rahat and the person responsible for information and planning in the regional council of the non-recognized villages in the Negev.

#### **4.3.2 Reasons for the Lack of Non-Profit Organizations**

The respondents reported that no food non-profit organizations exist in Arab communities despite the need for this kind of assistance.

The respondents gave several explanations for the lack of initiative in establishing non-profit organizations that specialize in providing food.

Lack of encouragement from local governments: The local authorities encourage and even initiate the establishment of non-profit organizations to provide education and welfare services, but do not encourage the establishment of food organizations.

Shame: Most families are ashamed of their situation and fear that receiving assistance from a non-profit organization might lead to exposure of their situation. For example, the residents of Rahat who need material assistance prefer to receive it in Beer Sheva rather than in their own community. It is difficult for people to ask for subsistence-level help because doing so harms human beings' basic dignity. Hence the lack of initiative in establishing non-profit food organizations.

Solidarity: Solidarity and mutual help still exist in extended families. In addition, religion commands human beings to care for the poor. Therefore, a family will care for a poor relative rather than for a stranger.

Lack of donors: Most of the residents in Arab cities cannot donate large amounts; they donate during the holiday season. Young people organize to collect donations before Christian or Muslim festivals. Other than at holiday times, people may donate because of a vow or other reason.

Difficulty dealing with the requirements of the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations: In Baka, Nazareth, and Fureidis, social workers reported initiatives and organizations that did not succeed in registering in the Registrar of Non-Profit Organizations. These efforts failed because the standards that the non-profit organizations must uphold are daunting to the initiators, who fear they will not meet them.

### **4.3.3 Patterns of Assistance in Arab Communities**

Most food assistance that exists today is organized by the Islamic Movement, a multidisciplinary non-profit organization that is involved in various spheres. During the holiday season, as part of the religious observances of the holiday, this non-profit organization solicits monetary donations which it then uses to buy food for the poor. In some cases, the movement reaches an agreement with food store owners who sell food to families worth up to a certain sum of money that is provided by the movement. Assistance is also provided when needy people approach the imam of the mosque, or when others approach him in the family's name, and the imam requests the worshippers to donate money; the imam then distributes the donations to the needy families. Some individuals donate directly to the poor people, either members of their family or strangers. The social workers believe that sometimes, one family receives aid from several sources while another receives no aid at all. In Nazareth, the needy are sent to a non-profit organization in Karmiel. The welfare bureau does not know whether this organization actually assists those who approach it.

## **4.4 Non-Profit Organizations in the Center and on the Periphery**

### **4.4.1 Background**

The peripheral communities in the northern and southern districts fall conspicuously low on Israel's socioeconomic scale. Therefore we might have expected more intensive non-profit organization activity in these areas. When we analyzed the results of the non-profit organization survey by district, we found differences between the center and the periphery, which we will present in this section.

### **4.4.2 Period When the Organizations Were Founded**

non-profit food organizations were first established on the periphery during the first half of the 1990s, while similar organizations were founded in the center as early as the 1980s.

### **4.4.3 Registration of the Organizations**

The central districts contain more registered non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents than the peripheral districts. The northern district stands out, having the lowest number of non-profit organizations.

#### 4.4.4 Number of Active Organizations

The Haifa and northern districts are conspicuous in their especially low numbers of active non-profit organizations per 100,000 residents.

#### 4.4.5 Scope of Activity by District

The nationwide non-profit organizations did not provide details of their activity by community, choosing instead to report a global number. This made it difficult for us to estimate the scope of their activity by community and region. Taking into account these limitations and leaving out the assistance defined as “nationwide,” it appears that the largest amount of assistance was given in the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv districts (see Table 53). Calculating the number of recipients per 100,000 residents in each district still leaves the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv districts with especially large amounts of aid, while the northern and southern districts receive the smallest amount of aid. We may assume that the reason for this is the difference in the number of non-profit organizations in each area.

Why are there so few non-profit organizations in the periphery, leading to sparse food-assistance activity? One explanation is the location of the Arab population, which does not tend to establish non-profit organizations. Another reason has to do with the character of the population in these districts, which is generally on a low socioeconomic level and either does not appear to be aware of the ability to engage in organizational activity, or has no resources to invest in it (information, time, funds, etc.). Another likely reason is the scarcity of donors in peripheral communities and the difficulty in raising funds, collecting food, and obtaining resources.

*Table 53: Scope of assistance by district*

District	Soup kitchens	Prepared meals	Food packages				Total food packages
			Once per week	Once every two weeks	Once per month	Once every five weeks or less	
Entire country	5,425	0	16,820	5,000	13,570	2,000	37,390
Jerusalem	3,730	6,390	6,740	5,380	11,630	1,200	24,950
Tel Aviv	7,379	7,775	13,836	6,455	12,000	1,600	33,891
Haifa	1,980	940	10,050	0	0	350	10,400
Center	3,000	5,442	3,241	1,706	3,000	580	8,527
North	1,850	795	2,420	0	200	300	2,920
South	400	1,005	2,130	370	0	450	2,950
Territories	140	155	870	200	40	0	1,110
Total	23,904	22,502	56,107	19,111	40,440	6,480	122,138

## PART FIVE: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The non-profit organizations that aim to improve food security are unable to provide, nor do they pretend to provide, all the nutritional needs of those who need their services. Rather, they aim to improve the menus of those who receive assistance from them. The non-profit organizations that participated in the survey assist approximately 474,800 people in Israel, most of them Jews, from Katzrin and Kiryat Shemonah in the north to Eilat in the south.

Eighty-six percent of the non-profit organizations of which we are aware were established in the 1990s or later; 136 of these participated in the survey. Their establishment appears to be a response to the expansion of the scope of poverty and the deepening of socio-economic gaps. Since 2001, the establishment of non-profit food organizations has leveled off, despite the economic difficulties during these years and the cuts in National Insurance Institute allotments.

Seventy-nine percent of the non-profit organizations that participated in the survey were established by people who have some sort of religious connection.. This is evident in the organizations' goals, which combine religious studies with aid to the needy. Most of the non-profit organizations' activity takes place in the following districts: Jerusalem, the center, Tel Aviv, and the territories. There is less activity in the north and the south even though the resident population of these areas has characteristics that indicate food insecurity. One explanation for this is that the population on the periphery lacks the knowledge, resources, and ability to establish non-profit organizations; this typically characterizes the Arab population, most of which lives on the periphery.

Ninety-eight percent of the non-profit organizations rely on volunteer work; approximately 30% of them also have paid employees. Most of the non-profit organizations have staff members in positions such as director, accountant, and treasurer. Most of the non-profit organizations do not make use of the services of a nutritionist, even though they deal with food. Sixty percent of them operate without any supervision whatsoever. Some of them show signs of distress regarding material resources, especially food storage and transportation equipment.

Approximately 81% of the non-profit organizations combine several methods to obtain food and assist people, for example, soup kitchens and the distribution of food packages. The non-profit food organizations deal with additional areas such as providing clothing and legal advice. From the stated goals of the non-profit organizations, it appears that they intend to be involved, and perhaps actually are involved, with several areas that are not necessarily connected; the same non-profit organization may have goals such as promoting Bible study, providing medical equipment, and distributing food to the needy. Some of the non-profit organizations did not intend to deal with food but were compelled by circumstances to enter the field.

The non-profit organizations obtain food by buying products and through donations. Most of the non-profit organizations do not collect any payment, however symbolic, from their clients. In 2003, the non-profit organizations had difficulty raising money from donors in Israel and abroad and in obtaining food donations from companies, supermarket chains, and families.



Because the non-profit organizations do not limit in advance the duration of the assistance they provide, families can receive assistance from the non-profit organizations for up to several years. The non-profit organizations' client lists do not change much, and clients' eligibility is checked only occasionally; it is likely that this makes it difficult to absorb new clients who need the non-profit organizations' services. In this context it should be noted that the non-profit organizations tend not to check whether their clients receive assistance from similar non-profit organizations, on the assumption that no non-profit organization can supply all the nutritional needs of a person or family.

The methods of work between the welfare bureaus and the non-profit organizations were determined as the work was being done, and are still in formation.

Work methods between the welfare bureaus and the non-profit organizations are still being determined as activity occurs. The non-profit organizations seek referrals from the welfare bureaus, but there is no clarity regarding who is eligible for a referral and who keeps track of families and their nutritional needs. Likewise, the non-profit organizations tend not to contact each other to pool resources and coordinate activity.

Regarding the future, it appears that the non-profit organizations would like to expand their current activity rather than draw up new solutions or methods of assistance.

The overall picture that emerges is one of organizations that arose with a great deal of enthusiasm and good will, but without the founders checking actual circumstances. The non-profit organizations did not consult with the local authorities regarding assistance programs and the population's needs. Their occupation with various subjects and with various target populations raises questions regarding the focus of their efforts and their expertise in providing food.

This survey indicates that improvement is needed in the activity of the food non-profit organizations in the following areas:

- Strict standards of food quality and safety, as with any business that manufactures and transports food
- Study and segmentation of the needs of the varied population that requires the non-profit organizations' assistance. For example, a family with adolescent children requires a different food package than an elderly couple.
- More precise examination of the geographical spread of the activity as compared with where activity is needed.
- Development of new programs appropriate to the characteristics of the non-profit organizations' target communities
- Presentation of the non-profit organizations' criteria to individuals, families, and institutions needing assistance
- Transparency in providing support to the food non-profit organizations, and equal opportunity for all in dealing with the authorities, whether local government or government ministries
- Coordination between non-profit organizations that will enable them to take advantage of opportunities and more efficiently use resources

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## I n t e r n e t   S i t e s

A community vegetable garden in Australia:

<http://www.rosneath.com.au/ipc6/ch06/bodel/>

The website of the Israeli Ministry of the Interior: <http://www.moin.gov.il/>

## APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE

### Survey of Non-Profit Organizations That Address Food Insecurity

1. Name of non-profit organization: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2–3. Name of Respondent: First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is your position in the organization?
  - a. General manager   b. Secretary   c. Coordinator of volunteers   d. Chairperson
  - b. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the non-profit organization's areas of activity? What does the organization do? (open question)
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
6. (*For the interviewer: If the respondent did not mention food, please ask the following:*) Does the non-profit organization deal at present with food?
  1. If yes, proceed to Question 10
  2. If no, proceed to Question 7
7. Has the non-profit organization ever dealt with food?
  1. If yes—proceed to Question 8
  2. No, the non-profit organization dealt with food in the past but does not do so today
  3. No, the non-profit organization has never dealt with food (thank the respondent and conclude the interview)
8. In which year did the non-profit organization stop dealing with food assistance? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What are the reasons that the non-profit organization stopped dealing with food assistance?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
10. In what year did the non-profit organization begin providing food assistance? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How does the non-profit organization assist people with food? (Read answers aloud; more than one may be marked.)
  1. Soup kitchen
  2. School lunch program
  3. Distribution of non-perishable or other foodstuffs or prepared meals to institutions (dormitories, day-care centers, etc.)
  4. Distribution of prepared meals to families
  5. Distribution of non-perishables to families

5. Distribution of non-perishables to families
6. Distribution of fruits and vegetables to families
7. Distribution of meat and/or fish to families
8. Distribution of food to soup kitchens and assistance organizations (food bank)
9. Distribution of vouchers for purchase of food at a discount
10. Vouchers for food at no cost
11. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

12. In which communities does the non-profit organization operate? (More than one answer may be marked.) And what kind of activity does it carry out in each community? (More than one answer may be marked.)

*List of communities*

.....

*Type of activity*

1. Soup kitchen
2. School-lunch program
3. Distribution of non-perishable or other foodstuffs or prepared meals to institutions (dormitories, day-care centers, etc.)
4. Distribution of prepared food to families
5. Distribution of non-perishables to families
6. Distribution of fruits and vegetables to families
7. Distribution of meat and/or fish to families
8. Distribution of food to soup kitchens and assistance organizations (food bank)
9. Distribution of vouchers for purchase of food at a discount
10. Vouchers for food at no cost
11. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

13. Does the non-profit organization collect payment from clients in exchange for assistance?

1. Yes
2. No (proceed to Question 15)

14. What is the charge for each of the following kinds of assistance provided by the non-profit organization?

1. Soup kitchen: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
2. School-lunch program: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
3. Distribution of non-perishable or other foodstuffs or prepared meals to institutions (dormitories, day-care centers, etc.): NIS \_\_\_\_\_
4. Distribution of prepared food to family: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
5. Distribution of non-perishables to family: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
6. Distribution of fruits and vegetables to family: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
7. Distribution of meat and/or fish to family: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
8. Distribution of food to soup kitchens and assistance organizations (food bank): NIS \_\_\_\_\_
9. Distribution of vouchers for purchase of food at a discount: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
10. Vouchers for food at no cost: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
11. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_: NIS \_\_\_\_\_
12. The non-profit organization does not collect payment for services in the area of food

15. Does the non-profit organization assist one or more of the following age groups? (More than one answer may be marked.)
  1. Babies (provision of formula, such as Materna, or training diapers, or any other product intended for babies)
  2. Children (provision of food to kindergartens, schools, youth clubs)
  3. The elderly (provision of food to senior citizens' clubs, senior citizens' homes or soup kitchens for the elderly)
  4. The non-profit organization assists all age groups
  5. The non-profit organization does not specialize in any particular age group
  
16. Does the non-profit organization assist one or more of the following societal groups? (More than one answer may be marked.)
  1. Youth at risk (assistance for day-care centers, children removed from their homes, etc.)
  2. Families of yeshiva students
  3. Recent immigrants
  4. The disabled
  5. The ultra-orthodox
  6. Women
  7. Foreign workers
  8. Arabs
  9. The non-profit organization assists all societal groups
  10. The non-profit organization does not specialize in any particular societal group
  11. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  
17. Who refers the people to the non-profit organization? (More than one answer may be marked.)
  1. Self-referral
  2. Welfare bureaus
  3. Rabbis
  4. Schools
  5. Neighbors
  6. Relatives
  7. Family physician
  8. Family health clinic, well-baby clinic
  9. Other (specify)
  
18. Does the non-profit organization itself check the eligibility of those who contact it? If so, how? (Read answers aloud; more than one answer may be marked.)
  1. Home visit
  2. Questioning of neighbors
  3. Questioning of reliable sources
  4. Pay slips
  5. Confirmation of income (such as National Insurance Institute allotments)
  6. No check; non-profit organization relies upon referral from outside source
  7. No check; non-profit organization relies upon the fact that only truly needy people ask for help
  8. Other (specify)

19. How often does the non-profit organization check whether people still need assistance?
  1. Every ---- \_\_\_\_\_ months
  2. It changes/undetermined/unclear
  
20. Does the non-profit organization check whether the client is receiving similar assistance from another source?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  
21. Does the non-profit organization limit in advance the duration of its assistance to the client? If so, what is the duration of the assistance?
  1. Unlimited
  2. The duration of assistance is limited to \_\_\_\_\_ months.
  
22. What is the average period of time that an individual or family receives assistance from your non-profit organization?
 

\_\_\_\_\_ months
  
23. Do you have a waiting list—a list of people or families now awaiting food assistance from the non-profit organization?
  1. Yes (go to Question 24)
  2. No (go to Question 25)
  
24. How many individuals/families are waiting for assistance today?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ people
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ families (in either case, go to Question 26)
  
25. Why is there no waiting list?
  1. Because the non-profit organization has no funds
  2. Because the non-profit organization assists everyone who approaches it
  
26. How many active volunteers (who come at least once a month) does the organization have?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ volunteers
  2. The non-profit organization has no volunteers (go to Question 28)
  
27. What do the volunteers do? (More than one answer may be marked.)
  1. Obtain food contributions from producers such as food companies, bakeries, supermarkets, and stores
  2. Collect food donations from families (foodstuffs such as canned goods)
  3. Raise funds from various sources
  4. Sort and pack the food products and donations
  5. Cook
  6. Clean
  7. Distribute food packages to families
  8. Distribute prepared meals to families
  9. Serve food in soup kitchens
  10. Other (specify)

28. Does the non-profit organization use the services of a nutritional consultant?
1. Yes
  2. No
29. Does the non-profit organization work under any supervision?
1. Yes, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health
  2. Yes, under the supervision of the municipal veterinarian
  3. The non-profit organization does not work under supervision of any kind
  4. Other (specify)
30. Is the non-profit organization in contact with the local authority? What sort of contact? (Read answers aloud; more than one answer may be marked.)
1. The non-profit organization receives referrals of individuals from the local authority (such as social workers)
  2. The non-profit organization reports to the authority regarding new people who receive assistance
  3. The non-profit organization receives funds from the authority
  4. The non-profit organization receives non-monetary help from the authority (exemption from municipal tax, use of a building without cost, etc.)
  5. The non-profit organization consults with local-authority social workers on various matters
  6. The non-profit organization is not in contact with the local authority
  7. Other (specify)
31. On what food sources does the non-profit organization base its food assistance? (Read answers aloud; more than one answer may be marked.)
1. The non-profit organization buys the food
  2. Donations of foodstuffs (such as canned goods) from families
  3. Donations of foodstuffs from food chains (supermarkets)
  4. Donations from farmers
  5. Food donations from manufacturers (companies such as Tnuva, Osem)
  6. Donations of prepared meals from companies such as catering firms and wedding halls
  7. Meal donations from Israel Defense Forces bases
  8. Donations from other food organizations such as Latet, the Food Bank, Table to Table
  9. Other (specify)
32. What *monetary* sources does the non-profit organization make use of? (As opposed to donations of canned goods, meals, and foodstuffs)
1. Donations from people in Israel
  2. Donations from people abroad
  3. Donations from companies
  4. Donations from foundations in Israel
  5. Donations from foundations abroad
  6. Municipal allocations
  7. Government ministry allocations
  8. Other (specify)



33. Does the non-profit organization receive non-monetary donations (such as donations of food, equipment, or services)?
1. Donations from farmers (fruits and vegetables)
  2. Donations of foodstuffs from producers (various companies such as Osem, bakeries)
  3. Donations of foodstuffs from supermarkets and stores
  4. Donations of foodstuffs from families and private individuals
  5. Free maintenance of non-profit organization vehicles (ongoing maintenance)
  6. Donations of consumable equipment (such as office paper)
  7. Free storage (use of storage facilities at no cost)
  8. The non-profit organization does not receive non-monetary donations
  9. Other (specify)
34. Which of the following items does your non-profit organization possess?
1. Offices
  2. Computers
  3. Storage facilities
  4. Refrigerators
  5. Refrigeration rooms
  6. Refrigerated truck or truck with refrigeration compartment
  7. Vehicle with heating compartment
  8. Ordinary trucks
  9. Other (specify)
35. How many salaried workers does your non-profit organization employ?
1. \_\_\_\_\_ salaried workers
  2. The non-profit organization has no salaried workers
36. How many paid positions does your non-profit organization have?
1. \_\_\_\_\_ paid positions
  2. The non-profit organization has no paid positions
37. Does your non-profit organization have any of the following positions (paid or volunteer)?
1. General manager or director
  2. Treasurer
  3. Accountant
  4. Coordinator of volunteers
  5. Coordinator for needy families
  6. Public-relations employees
  7. Fundraisers
  8. Legal advisers
  9. Other (specify):
38. Are you familiar with organizations that are similar to yours?
1. Yes
  2. No (proceed to Question 40)

39. Will you give the names of these organizations? (open question)
40. Is your organization in contact with other organizations?
1. Yes
  2. No (proceed to Question 42)
41. What sort of contact? For each of the following, please state whether such a connection exists: Coordinating activities, such as who does what, or coordinating the location or dates of the activity
1. Sharing large (surplus) food donations
  2. Referring clients to one another
  3. Sharing workers
  4. Sharing information
  5. Sharing volunteers
  6. Speaking with each other from time to time
  7. Meeting at conferences
  8. Encountering each other at meetings with various agencies
  9. Other (specify)
42. During 2003, did your non-profit organization have difficulty obtaining funds and donations? In which of the following areas did it have difficulty?
1. Obtaining funds from donors
  2. Obtaining allocations from the local authority
  3. Obtaining allocations from government ministries
  4. Obtaining food donations from families (clarify that non-monetary donations are meant)
  5. Obtaining food donations from supermarket chains (clarify that non-monetary donations are meant)
  6. Obtaining food donations from manufacturers (clarify that non-monetary donations are meant)
  7. Obtaining food from farmers (clarify that non-monetary donations are meant)
  8. Obtaining food donations from restaurants or catering services (clarify that non-monetary donations are meant)
43. What are the main things that make the day-to-day operations of the non-profit organization difficult? (Do not read answers aloud)
1. Lack of space for a warehouse
  2. Lack of refrigeration room
  3. No vehicles with heating compartments
  4. Not enough volunteers
  5. Lack of an office
  6. Too many contacts for the non-profit organization's capabilities
  7. We would like to expand our activity and cannot
  8. No vehicles with refrigeration compartments
  9. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

44. Do you have an annual work plan?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  
45. What was the non-profit organization's annual budget for 2003?
  1. NIS \_\_\_\_\_ (Interviewer: If the amount is given in dollars, change it to shekels according to an exchange rate of 4.5)
  2. If respondent refuses to answer, proceed to Question 48
  
46. What was the amount of the annual budget directed toward food assistance?
 

NIS \_\_\_\_\_ (Interviewer: if the amount is given in dollars, change it to shekels according to an exchange rate of 4.5)
  
47. What percentage of the annual budget was allocated for food assistance?
 

\_\_\_\_\_ %
  
48. How would you describe the founders of the non-profit organization from a religious point of view?
  1. Religious
  2. National-religious
  3. Traditional
  4. Ultra-orthodox
  5. Secular
  6. Other (specify):
  7. Don't know
  
49. What ideas do you have for improving your services? (open question)
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

**The following questions are to be asked of non-profit organizations that operate soup kitchens.**

50. How many times per week do you serve lunch? (If the organization has more than one branch, give an answer for each branch)
 

\_\_\_\_\_

If multiple branches: Branch 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Branch 3: \_\_\_\_\_
  
51. What percentage of your clients come regularly?
 

\_\_\_\_\_ percent
  
52. How many people come to eat at your soup kitchen, on average? (The number of people, not the number of portions)

53. Do you have a business license?
  1. Yes
  2. No
  
54. Do you have arrangements for disabled people so that they can come in and eat at your location?
  4. Yes
  5. No

**The following questions are to be asked of non-profit organizations that distribute prepared meals to homes:**

55. How many times per week do you distribute meals to families? (If the organization has more than one branch, respond regarding each branch)  
 If multiple branches: Branch 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                   Branch 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                   Branch 3: \_\_\_\_\_
  
56. On average, for how many days does the food donation you supply to each family suffice?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
  
57. On average, to how many families' homes do you send prepared meals per week?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ families (the number of families, not the number of meals)
  
58. What is the average cost for preparing a meal you serve?
  
59. From where do you obtain the prepared meals? (Read the answers. More than one answer may be marked.)
  1. Wedding halls
  2. Army kitchen surplus
  3. Workplace surplus
  4. The meals are cooked in our own kitchen
  5. Other (specify)

**The following questions are to be asked of non-profit organizations that distribute food packages:**

60. How often do families receive food packages (if the organization has more than one branch, please indicate for every branch)
  1. Once a week
  2. Once every two weeks
  3. Once a month
  4. For holidays
  
61. To how many families do you send food packages? Once per week, once every two weeks or month, on average (indicate the frequency):
  1. Once per week, to \_\_\_\_\_ families
  2. Once every two weeks, to \_\_\_\_\_ families
  3. Once per month, to \_\_\_\_\_ families

62. Do you deliver the foodstuffs to the families, or do the families pick up the foodstuffs from your storage facilities?
1. Food is delivered to families
  2. Families pick up the food
  3. Food is delivered to most of the families and only a few pick it up
  4. Most families pick it up and we deliver to only a few families
63. What are the contents of your ordinary food package (this refers to an ordinary one, not one prepared for a special occasions such as a holidays)?
1. Non-perishables
  2. Vegetables
  3. Fruit
  4. Meat
  5. Fish
  6. Baked goods
  7. Baby products
  8. Household cleaning products
  9. Other (specify)
64. What is the monetary value of the food package that you distribute?  
NIS \_\_\_\_\_
65. What percentage of the non-profit organization's clients receive packages regularly?  
\_\_\_\_\_ percent
66. Of the total amount of food you distribute, what percentage comes from financial or in-kind donations?  
\_\_\_\_\_ percent

**The following questions are to be asked of non-profit organizations that serve as food banks.**

67. To how many organizations do you provide food assistance?  
\_\_\_\_\_ organizations
68. What are the criteria for choosing the organizations you assist?
1. Registered non-profit organizations
  2. Appropriate storage facilities
  3. Geographical proximity
  4. Activity in distressed areas
  5. Other (specify)
  6. There are no criteria

*Thank you very much!*