

# Newsletter

ISRAELI CENTER FOR THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH 10

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV



No. 23, July 2006 | P.O.B 653, Beer-Sheva 84105, Israel | Tel: 972-8-6472323 | Fax: 972-8-6477607 | [ictr@bgu.ac.il](mailto:ictr@bgu.ac.il) | <http://w3.bgu.ac.il/ictr>

## The Israeli Center for Third Sector Research Celebrates its First Decade

In the coming academic year, 2006/2007, the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research will be celebrating the first decade since its founding. The Center,

which was established in 1997 to satisfy the ever growing academic and public need for information on the Israeli Third Sector, has for the last decade provided

exclusive data on this sector through its Information Center. Consumers of this information include social organizations, decision makers, researchers, and business organizations. The center has also become a platform for researchers of the third sector, who study and publish, under the auspices of the center, research papers, and other scholarly publications on the third sector and on civil society in Israel. The Center's influence is felt in all areas of decision making of the Israeli Third Sector.

Over the last decade the Center has been active in initiating and compiling research studies that deal with various aspects of the Israeli Third Sector, and expand our knowledge on the totality of factors that make up the third sector: nonprofit

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### The Inauguration of the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev

From left to right: Prof. Carmi President Ben-Gurion University, Ms. Barbara Mandel, MK Prof. Avishai Braverman, former Ben-Gurion University President, Mr. Morton Mandel, Chairman of the Mandel Foundation, standing behind Mr. Mandel is Dr. Varda Shiffer, Director of the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev

#### נחנך מרכז מנדל למנהיגות בנגב

מרכז מנדל למנהיגות בנגב נחנך בטקס חגיגי בהשתתפות יו"ר קרן מנדל, מר מורטון מנדל ורעייתו, מנהיגים ומנהלים של קרנות וארגונים חברתיים, ומנהלי בית הספר לניהול באוניברסיטת בן-גוריון. מימין לשמאל: מר מורטון מנדל, יו"ר קרן מנדל, חה"כ פרופ' אבישי ברורמן נשיא האוניברסיטה לשעבר, גב' ברברה מנדל, פרופ' רבקה כרמי, נשיאת אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון. בתמונה מאחורי מר מנדל, ד"ר ורדה שיפר, מנהלת מרכז מנדל למנהיגות בנגב.

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Save the Date 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

ICTR's international spring conference

# Director's Column

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## Celebrating ICTR's Decade Year

In the coming academic year we will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research, this will definitely be a joyous occasion. We therefore intend to prominently mark this date, by holding an international academic conference, by arranging public events, and by publishing new research. Details of all of these can be found in other articles in this newsletter.

This past decade has from many perspectives been a "formative period" for the third sector in Israel and around the world. While it is true that the major period of growth of third sector activities occurred during the 1980s, over the past decade there has been a rise in consciousness as to the existence of the non profit sector and important breakthroughs have occurred. Many of these processes are far from being completed, and some are still in their infancy stage, but there are very clear signs that these will strengthen in the future.

The activities of the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research fulfill an integral role in this process in Israel: the need to access statistical data when discussing the sector, the various activities directed towards accessing and publicizing this data, the initiative taken in developing policy in this field (the Galnoor Report, 2003), and finally, the development of an innovative curriculum that is based on insights culled from our research work - we have had a hand in all these activities! The onus will be on the future historian to determine the extent to which these activities have contributed to the process of developing this unique sector.

The next decade will undoubtedly be fundamentally different from the past decade, and the Center will need to accommodate itself to the changing reality, which will be even more complex. I have no doubt that the Center will cope successfully with the new challenges that arise and will continue to be the frontrunners in this field of research and intellectual thought as it relates to the Israeli third sector. I have good grounds for holding this belief in light of the fact that as a consequence of the activities we have begun, there is prolific work that is being done by young, talented and enthusiastic people. The challenge for us as we enter the new decade will be the channeling of this immense energy into areas that have not yet been researched, and to deepen our knowledge in those areas that have been mined.

## The Aridor Committee Report

In the coming months the Israeli government will be presented with the Aridor Committee Report, which deals with the government budgetary allocations to the third sector. You can read about this committee's activities in another article in this journal. This is not the place to analyze the content of this report, but it is clear that we are speaking of a very important report, not least because it is the first report to deal with the third sector as a **sector** to be discussed by the government in Israel. We, at ICTR are looking forward to seeing how the Israeli Government will confront the issue of the sector, for the first time, what decisions the government will take with regard to this report and whether they will adopt it in its entirety or only partially will be the subject of much debate; but what cannot be debated is the fact that our Center played a crucial role in initiating the process which witnessed the development of a policy toward the third sector, a process that for all practical purposes began with the publication of the Galnoor Report (2003). While preparing its report

the Aridor Committee made much use of the Center's materials, ICTR was one of the Committee's advisory body, and was requested by the Committee to write a report on the comparison of government policies toward the third sector.

## The Mandel Center for Negev Leadership

I wanted to congratulate Mr. Mort Mandel and his wife Barbara as well as Dr. Varda Shiffer on the occasion of the inauguration of "The Mandel Center for Negev Leadership" earlier this month. This is an important landmark in the process of the Negev's development, which is likely to have national and international implications. From the initial plans of the "Mandel Center" it is clear that it will have an anchor at BGU. Several joint activities are already planned with ICTR and the School of Management. We are looking forward to work together with new Center, which we see as an opportunity for mutual learning and for the development of synergic relationships, which will result in an upgrade of all our programs. Our best wishes for success to all involved.

Benjamin Gidron, Director



ICTR's international  
spring conference

Save the Date  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

# The Aridor Committee

## Examining the relations between the Israeli government and third sector

The Aridor Committee was appointed by the State Ministerial Auditing Committee (No. 1506 dated 26.1.2004) and was assigned the task of reassessing state aid to public institutions. The Committee included representatives of Government ministries and bodies that deal with state aid to public institutions and to nonprofit organizations. The Committee was set up in light of the growth of the third sector and the need to set government policy with regard to state aid that is extended to social organizations. The scope of activity of Israel's third sector, and specifically of the various nonprofit organizations is equivalent to thirteen percent of the Gross Domestic Product, and it employs about ten percent of the workforce, not including the agricultural sector. Out of 22,000 active organizations, about 4,200 have been recognized as public institutions whose contributions are tax deductible in accordance with section 46 of the Income Tax Act. Direct support which takes the form of grants by government ministries, which are given in accordance with section 3a of the Budget Allocations Law, reached NIS 2.1 billion during 2005, not including payments in kind, tax deductions, and other payments that are given in accordance with special laws. An additional reason for the establishment of this committee has to do with the disturbing trends that were examined by the state comptroller and by other research institutes that point to the need for an in-depth investigation, external and internal, into the underlying principles, and procedures of extending governmental support to the various types of nonprofit organizations.

The committee saw great importance in intensifying the ties between the government and the third sector.

Particularly at a time when the government has tried to limit the scope of its involvement in the state's economy, there is great importance to the ever expanding activities of the third sector which fulfils a growing number of functions which in the past would have been the province of the social and economic activities carried out by the public governmental sector. Promoting this type of activity is a direct consequence of the reduction of government participation. It is therefore appropriate that cooperation between the government and the third sector be intensified, and indeed the committee included in its recommendations a proposal in this vein. Nonetheless the Israeli third sector has not yet reached the level of internal and representative management that allows it to rely on independent auditing procedures and supervision without the appropriate participation of the supervisory authorities and the state auditors. The committee expects that over the course of the implementation of its recommendations it is foreseeable that there will be a reduction in external supervision and auditing, and there will be greater reliance on internal auditing from the third sector institutions, as has become the norm in countries in which these institutions have reached a more representative and advanced stage of development.

### **“Policy towards the Third Sector, a Comparative International Perspective”**

Over the course of its decade of activities, ICTR has been invited on numerous occasions to present data and reports related to the activities of the third sector in Israel and internationally, to committees and to decision makers. Within the context

of the Aridor Committee's fact finding mission the Center was invited to present a report dealing with comparative international policy toward the third sector. The report that was written by Prof. Benjamin Gidron and Ms. Michal Bar was discussed by the committee and was included as an annexure to its own report.

This document provides an overview of the different policies that are adopted toward the third sector in six different countries (Ireland, Holland, Sweden, France, Britain, and Canada) and compares them according to various criteria, such as the implementation of a declared formal policy toward the third sector, supervision and auditing mechanism, amongst others.

The report's findings show that the policy adopted toward the third sector is a central factor in the setting of public policy in general in the west. In most of the countries that were surveyed one may observe policy making procedures towards the third sector that are in different stages of development.



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## ICTR Celebrates its First Decade

and public discourse on the policy towards the third sector. The center plays a leading role in the research of the Israeli Third Sector. The Center's aims, as they have been enunciated since its establishment, include:

The expansion of the knowledge base, to be used for setting policy on matters related to the third sector and civil society in Israel; promoting research of the Israeli Third Sector and broadening the disciplines in other areas. Undertaking research and analyzing policy on third sector and civil society issues, and then bringing this research to the public's attention. Establishing and developing a resource center, which gathers information and collates data on the Israeli third sector. The Center makes the information accessible to researchers, policy makers, and nonprofit sector leadership.

## Events to Mark the Center's First Decade

### A Special Session of the Board of Governors

One of the first decisions made by the newly appointed president of Ben Gurion University, Professor Rivka Carmi, was to mark the Center's tenth anniversary at a special session at the 37<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Board of Governors that will take place in May, 2007. Professor Joel Fleishman of Duke University one of the Center's foremost supporters will serve as chairman of the session. Invited to participate in the session will be those involved in the Center's activities over the past decade.

### Publications

As part of the tenth year celebrations new publications will be released. (1) The first edition of the **Journal on Israeli Third Sector and Civil Society** will be

published in autumn, and the second in spring 2007. (2) A series of books that will include a selection of "classic" articles translated into Hebrew, and that deal with specific issues (Global Civil Society, Regulation of Third Sector Organizations, etc.) will be published jointly under Kibbutz Meuhad Publications', *Kav Adom* (Red Line) series.

### ICTR's 2007 International Spring Conference

The Conference will be held over three days and will pose the following questions: Are we headed towards a three-sector society? If so, what then are the special functions of the third sector, and what are the characteristics of the third sector organizations? The conference will feature some of the world's most important researchers of the third sector. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Lester Solomon, from Johns Hopkins University, who heads the Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project and the UN Handbook Project.

## New Publication

### The Institutionalization of Protest: Trends in Social Change Organizations in Israel\*

Dr. Roni Kaufman  
Prof. Benjamin Gidron

This study is meant to promote research and debate on a relatively new but important component of Israeli democracy- Social Change Organizations (SCOs). The findings of the study are also meant to assist those who are interested in promoting these SCOs: foundations that support them, lay leaders that are

active in them and professionals who staff them.

The uniqueness of SCOs rests in their unique mission which is to challenge the institutional, socio- economic and moral/ideological status quo in the community or the society in which they operate. Many of them also see their goal in advocating for disadvantaged or unorganized groups and communities. The study examines the nature of Israeli SCOs which were established between 1981-2000. These organizations have taken central stage in the development of the Israeli third sector and have played an important role in promoting social change and renewal processes in Israeli society. Although SCOs make up only a very small proportion of third sector

organizations (3.5%) - from many perspectives it is they which are the "driving force" of the sector as a whole. More than other third sector organizations, which provide services or fund individuals or organizations, it is these SCOs that regularly deal with the political aspects of this sector. Their importance is measured not only in relation to the third sector but also in their ability to motivate the society to seek new directions and to handle itself differently. SCOs have attracted much academic attention in the past two decades following their ability to influence social processes. In Israel, this group of organizations has not been the subject of macro research. Such research will enable us to trace the

\* The research was supported by The Israel Science Foundation



# Environmental Organizations

Yael Elon\*

Increased industrialization and urbanization have been harming the environment for decades. The citizens' demand to enjoy their environment has only in the last few decades become part of the social agenda. The term "environmental quality" encompasses a whole host of spheres, including: the prevention of the pollution of water resources and the quality of drinking water, the prevention of air pollution; noise prevention; taking care of environmental hazards like cellular phone antennas; recycling; energy conservation; protection of the natural environment; preservation of open spaces; preservation of important historical sites.

In Israel there is a very clear need to protect the environment, since we are speaking about a country that underwent rapid development as part of the Zionist ethos. The country is one of the most densely populated in the world, and has one of the highest population growths. In Israel protection of the environment is considered a "luxury" in a society that must grapple with existential problems and with security and economic threats.

"The awareness of environmental problems in Israel amongst the decision makers and the public at large is very low and the supervision and enforcement mechanisms in environmental matters almost does not exist (Knesset website- The Commissioner for Future Generations" [www.knesset.gov.il/sponsorship/future/heb/Menu.asp?d\\_id=1&s\\_id=1](http://www.knesset.gov.il/sponsorship/future/heb/Menu.asp?d_id=1&s_id=1)).

Under this reality environmental organizations have a very important role

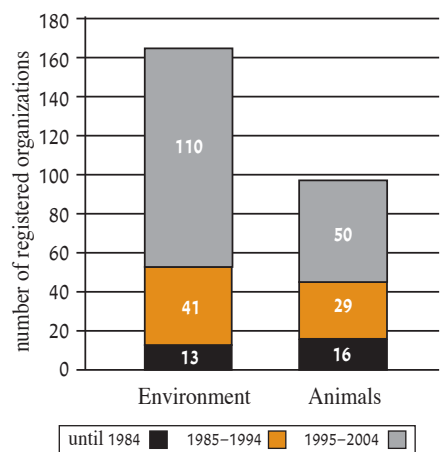
to play in increasing public awareness on environmental issues, by promoting legislation and by waging a public struggle to realize the rights of the citizens to live in an environment that assures them quality of life.

A news item that was recently published (*Ha'aretz*, 22/5/2006) is a good illustration of the authorities' impotency, of the need for the public to stand up for their rights to quality of life, and of the important activities carried out by the environmental organizations: The nonprofit organization *Israel Union for Environmental Defense* (*Adam Teva V'Din*) sued for compensatory damage in the amount of NIS 5.3 million against Haifa Chemicals company which breached its commitment to repair any chemical emissions and to maintain an apparatus that prevents poisonous liquids spilling over into the Kishon brook. This commitment, made in response to a criminal complaint and a legal suit filed by *Israel Union for Environmental Defense* against this factory, was put into writing and the resultant agreement had the legal validity of a court verdict. According to the claims of the nonprofit organization Haifa Chemicals company had not fulfilled its obligations and it therefore requested that it be directed to pay the default amount enumerated in the written agreement.

At the registry office there are 259 registered environmental organizations, of which 154 are active. These organizations make up less than 1% of the entire third sector. In the health field, the next one up in terms of numbers, there are 804 registered organizations. Environmental organizations operate in two subfields: the environment and animal protection. Some of these provide a service (mainly in the area of animal protection), but the overwhelming

majority are advocacy organizations that operate through information campaigns, public struggles, legal struggles, promotion of legislation and increasing knowledge and awareness with regard to environmental issues.

Figure 1: The registration of Environmental Organizations according to the year of their establishment.



Despite the small number of registered organizations in absolute terms, the patterns of registration of new organizations over the long term indicate a rise in awareness of this issue: up until the mid 1980s only 29 organizations had registered in this field (see Figure 1), more than half of which were related to animal protection: including a number of *Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*, that sprouted up in a number of locations and the *The Israeli Society for the Abolition of Vivisection*. From then on we have witnessed a measurable growth in the registration of organizations especially those that deal with the environment, which over the last decade has tripled in number. In addition to these organizations

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Continued on next page

there are foundations that support environmental organizations: *The Green Environment Fund* that dedicates its activities toward this field; the *Bracha Foundation*, and the *Pratt Foundation*, additionally there are foreign foundations that operate in Israel: the *Porter Foundation*, the *Ford Foundation*, and the *Goldman Foundation*.

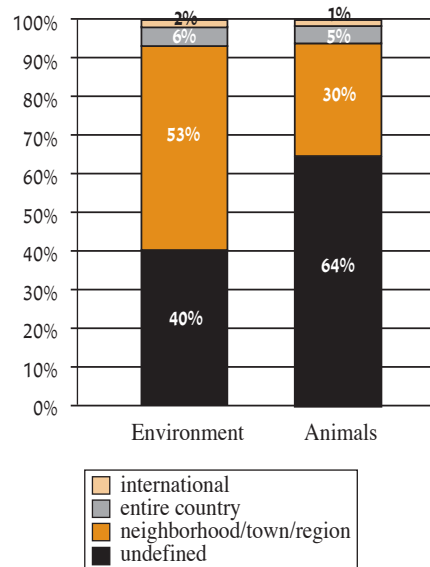
The oldest organization is *The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel* (SPNI) that was established in 1954 against the backdrop of the struggle to save the Hula Reservation, and it is also one of the oldest environmental organizations in the world (see SPNI website). Another veteran organization is the *Council for a Beautiful Israel* that was established in 1968 by the establishment: the Council was established according to a resolution passed by the Knesset's Committee for Internal Affairs with the aim of filtering planning and building procedures through channels which would act to remove environmental hazards. The resolution was passed against the backdrop of criticism over the rapid urban development which occurred during the first decades after the state's establishment and which had not taken into account the harm to the environment (see the Council's website).

### Operational Area

More than half the environmental organizations were originally founded in order to operate in the relevant geographic area where their members conducted their daily lives: the neighborhood, town, or region (see figure 2). They were founded out of a desire to fight for a solution to a specific problem that had arisen, for example: the nonprofit organization to prevent erecting the *Morasha junction*; the *Galilee's Fresh Water* organization founded against the development of an industrial area in the Western Galilee. An additional reason for their founding was an improvement in the living environment of the organizations' founders, for

example: *Green Rahat*. The desire to work for a better living environment is part of the agenda of organizations that have not been included in the group of organizations under this review: about 60 of the local organizations that generally work towards the improvement of quality of life have counted the environment among the other things that they wanted to improve, in addition to more traditional areas such as: education, culture and welfare. Dozens of other organizations have sprung up to protect historical sites in the vicinity in which they live.

Figure 2: Operational area of environmental organizations



Only a few organizations operate across the whole country. We will highlight just a few more organizations that have not been included above: *Green Course*, an organization that includes 5,000 active students on 20 campuses across the country (see organization's website); *Green Wave*, an organization that operates a website that offers information on environmental issues, and *Anonymous* which works in the field of animal protection.

A very small number of these organizations have attempted to join

forces with organizations outside of Israel, since environmental issues often cut across the borders of the countries of the affected region, for example *Eco Med- The Middle East Forum for Ecological Tourism*.

### The Environment and Population Sectors

The desire for a better environment cuts across all sectors of the population. In the Arab Sector the percentage of organizations that are active in environmental issues comprises 6.5% of all organizations active in this field. This figure is 25% higher than the proportion of Arab organizations operating in the third sector (which presently stands at 5.1%). "*Shomera for a Better Environment*," which is active in the Jerusalem area, also runs educational programs for the Chareidi (ultra-Orthodox) sector, implements programs which integrate Jewish values with environmental values.

### Geographic Distribution

The fact that the desire for a better environment is shared by all the public can also be demonstrated in the geographic distribution of these organizations in their respective regions. In all the peripheral areas there is a higher proportion of environmental organizations than there is in the general population. Environmental organizations have been set up to protect the Galilee, for example: "*Citizens for the Environment of the Galilee*", and the Negev, for example: "*A Sustainable Negev*." In Jerusalem the proportion of environmental organizations is considerably lower than average, perhaps because Jerusalem, where the government resides, regards this issue as irrelevant. The same is true for Judea and Samaria where the desire to expand is given priority over the desire for a better environment.

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# Researching the Source

## Volunteerism, resourcefulness and heroism: *The Medical Assistance Committee for Jerusalem's Poor at the end of World War 1\**

Zvi Shilony\*\*

At the eve of the outbreak of World War I, Jerusalem's Jewish community benefited from the services of no less than five hospitals. They also had the Hebrew Health Station founded by the Jewish American philanthropist Nathan Strauss, with departments for hygienic education, for fighting eye diseases, and a bacteriology department - that fought against epidemics; manufactured vaccines against typhus and cholera, and prepared pest control materials to fight harmful field mice. About a year later, adjacent to the Health Station, the Pasteur Institute was founded at the initiative of the Union of Hebrew Doctors in Germany. It specialized in treating victims of rabies; in manufacturing vaccine injections against rabies, and in Serology.

Immediately following the outbreak of war in Europe at the end of August 1914, a serious economic crisis developed in Palestine as a result of serious disruptions in the shipping transportation and in the delivery of mail (including the *Halukah* (lit: allotment, overseas donations from Europe, and other financial contributions). After Turkey entered the war on the side of Germany and Austria in November 1914, it deported thousand of subjects of enemy states from Palestine; consigned all the modes of transportation and

communication to the service of the military; took control of the buildings and institutions of enemy states, and began to confiscate food, water, fuel, and different types of merchandise that was to be used for the war effort. As a result Jerusalem rapidly became beset by famine and disease, in addition to the epidemics that were transmitted by the Turkish soldiers returning from battlefields. Included in the mass deportations of subjects of enemy states were dozens of Jewish doctors and nurses who were Russian, French or British subjects. Doctors who were Turkish subjects, almost all of whom were Jewish, were enlisted for service in the

Turkish army. In addition, the Turkish confiscated most of the hospitals' medical equipment and medicine in favor of the war effort.

In the summer of 1916 the situation of Jerusalem's Jewish population continued to deteriorate. By now it became clear how hopeless the authorities had become regarding the sanitation and preventive medicine, as well as their repeated failure to ensure a minimal supply of food to the city's residents. Masses of people died every day in the city, most of whom fell victim to the inferior sanitation or because their bodies had wasted away as a result of their starvation, with the diseases merely hastening death. The city was full of beggars who went from door to door and slept on the pavements. Most heartrending was the condition of masses of children who were bereaved of their parents, and who converged on the city squares in the hope of finding scraps of food in the rubbish heaps, or to receive the odd donation. This awful situation made the children particularly vulnerable to disease, and they perished in their masses. And alas, it was precisely during this time that public figures and various voluntary bodies arose to face the enormous challenge of saving the Jews of Jerusalem. Quite naturally it was the medical doctors who took the chief role in these activities, that were headed by the principal of Jerusalem's Pasteur Institute, Dr. Adolph Boehm.

On 8 Tishre 5677 (c. October, 1916) Dr. Boehm wrote the following to Jacob Thon, who headed the Palestine Office of the World Zionist Organization, then situated

### An historical look into the origin of the Israeli third sector

As the research of the third sector deepens and expands, so does the need to illuminate its historic roots, as an understanding that things do not happen by chance or accident but have evolved and consolidated over hundreds and thousands of years of human history. This is also the basis of the decision to add an historic feature to the newsletter providing an additional view point of Israeli third sector research.

Third sector researchers and Israeli historians, occasionally stumble upon certificates and stories which describe organizations and civil entrepreneurs which belong in the framework to what we today call the third sector. Many of the stories will one day become part of extensive research, few will be exposed, but those that will, tell the story of the Israeli third sector- its roots and origins, dilemmas, and sources of inspiration. We welcome our readers' participation in the column by sending certificates, stories and even personal memories which we shall do our best to include in this column.

Please communicate directly with  
Dr. Paula Kabalo at: [pkabalo@bgu.ac.il](mailto:pkabalo@bgu.ac.il)

\* The article is based on a former publication by the author, "Health Services in Jerusalem", In: M. Eliav (Ed.), *Siege and Distress: Eretz Israel during the first World War*, Yad Yitzhak Ben Zvi, Jerusalem 1991

\*\* Zvi Shilony is a historical and cultural geographer and a researcher in the Ben-Gurion research center and senior lecturer in the Dept. of Geography and Israel Studies program in the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

in Jaffa, and who coordinated activities to alleviate the crisis caused by the war to the Jewish population:

*"We, the Hebrew (Jewish) doctors of Jerusalem, when we turn our hearts to the terrible condition of Jerusalem's poor, have directed the attention of all the institutions interested in the health situation, as well as the charity associations interested in curing the poor and sick, toward the absolute necessity of arranging aid for the sick who have remained at home, because of lack of space in the hospitals that operate in our city"*

In Tishre 5677 (circa October 1916) the Pasteur Institute, the Bikkur Cholim (Visiting the Sick) hospital and the Hadassah Women's Organization began work towards the establishment of the "Medical Assistance Committee for Jerusalem's Poor" (MACJP). Specific emphasis was placed on nutrition, because they were convinced that "without feeding the heart of the sick with any kind of food, it would be impossible to extend the critical helping hand".

These efforts bore fruit, and at the beginning of Tevet 5677 (circa January 1917) Dr. Boehm had the following to report to Thon:

*"... We are promised by Rabbi Horowitz [Chairman of the Committee for the allotment of monies (collected) from various overseas Ultra- Orthodox fundraising campaigns – Z. S.] that he would provide financial assistance for: 1) five house calls by a doctor per day. 2) Approximately twenty cups of milk for the sick. 3) About forty portions of soup. 4) About two hundred cups of tea ... Ephraim Cohen [Director of the Educational Institutions of the German Jewish Hilfsverein (Assistance Society) - Z. S.] assured us that we would receive 15- 20 Turkish Pounds during the month of January... The Board of Management of the Meir Rothschild hospital [operated by the Hadassah medical staff- Z. S.] has agreed to provide us with any medicine*

*recommended by our doctors at a very nominal fee. Already by this coming Sunday we will begin operations. At a meeting of the Hebrew Doctors an executive committee was chosen, whose membership includes the following physicians: Dr. [Albert] Ticho, Dr. [Helena] Kagan, Dr. [Aryeh] Feigenbaum, Dr. Goldberg, and I, who blesses you with the blessings of Jerusalem, Dr. A. Boehm."*

The Executive Committee of the MACJP prepared a detailed program of action and established "medical stations" (clinics) in three Jewish population centers in the city. Rescue work began immediately, but the final draft of the document coordinating activities between the various bodies was only signed in the middle of Adar 5677 (c. March, 1917):

*"...The above assistance is to be carried out by the following medical institutions: A) The Nathan Strauss Hebrew Health Station. B) The Pasteur Institute associated with the Palestine Hebrew Doctors Union...C) The Hadassah Society. Anything that is done, is done in the name of all the abovementioned institutions. The monies will be divided into three, and all bookkeeping has to be carried out not only in duplicate but in triplicate.*

The doctors and nurses of the MACJP performed their work with extraordinary devotion, and in most cases they did so voluntarily- after they finished their day's work in the medical institutions in which they were employed. This was a tenacious and united effort by a small group of people fighting for the lives of thousands of women, men, the elderly and children who had lived in this town, that was being starved and depleted by three years of recession, and was still under a corrupt and violent authority, which was apathetic to their fate.

An interim report on the work of the "Committee" is indeed very impressive: In the nine months between Tevet and

Elul, 5767 (c. January- September, 1917) 5,062 cases of disease were treated by nurses at the three clinics operated by the MACJP, and on average 140 house calls were made per doctor per month! According to their register, the Rothschild Hospital distributed at no cost 3,121 doses of medicine. This is in addition to the many kilograms of quinine, magnesium, and other medicine that were freely distributed by the Hebrew Health Station and by the Pasteur Institute. On top of this, the sick received more than 3,000 kg of bread, about 21,000 liters of milk, and small amounts of money.

As the days went by the conditions worsened, and the means at the disposal of MACJP began to rapidly decrease. However it would appear that the combined output of this small group of Jewish doctors and nurses that had remained in the city just grew and grew. In the month of Tishre 5678 (c. October 1917) alone the number of sick who received treatment at the clinics rose to 1,054, and the four doctors who remained at the battlefield made 882 house calls - an average of more than 220 by each of them per month!

The Medical Assistance Committee for Jerusalem's Poor continued to operate for the next few weeks while contemporaneously suffering serious blows. No documentation of their work past November 1917 was found by us, and it is doubtful whether it managed to survive the British conquest of Jerusalem on 9 December, 1917; but there is no doubt that its energetic activities succeeded in saving hundreds and thousands of Jewish lives in Jerusalem.

### **For further reading:**

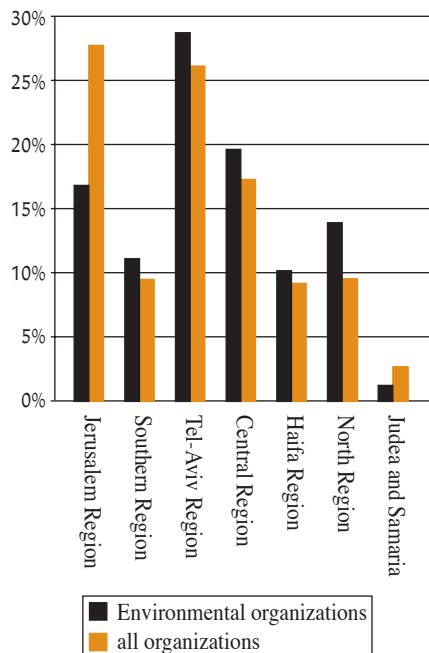
Zvi Shilony, "Health Services in Jerusalem", In: M. Eliav (Ed.), *Siege and Distress: Eretz Israel during the first World War*, Yad Yitzhak Ben Zvi, Jerusalem 1991, pp. 61- 83.





## Environmental Organizations

Figure 3: The Division of environmental organizations into districts in comparison to the general third sector organizations



מנהל המרכז: פרופ' בנימין גדרון  
 עורכת: אילת נבון עיצוב גרפי: ניצה יוגב  
 מוציא לאור: המרכז הישראלי לחקר המגזר השלישי,  
 אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב  
 הודפס ביחידת הדפוס, אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב

ICTR Director: Prof. Benjamin Gidron  
 Editor: Eilat Navon  
 Graphic Design: Nitzza Yogev  
 Published by the ICTR,  
 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



רשמו את תאריך **כנס העשור 15-13 למרץ, 2007**

כנס האביב הבינלאומי של המרכז הישראלי לחקר המגזר השלישי בישראל



ברכות חמות

**לפרופ' רבקה כרמי**

חברת ועדת ההיגוי הראשונה וממייסדות  
 המרכז הישראלי לחקר המגזר השלישי עם  
 היבחרה

לנשיאות

**אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב**



ICTR congratulates  
**Prof. Rivka Carmi**  
 a member of  
 ICTR's first steering committee  
 upon her appointment  
 as  
**President**  
**of Ben-Gurion University in**  
**the Negev**



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## New Publication

circumstances that led to their establishment and to examine variables such as their operational environment and their geographic distribution.

Against the backdrop of this study a new typology has been developed that will allow an in-depth analysis of this very heterogeneous field with all its different dimensions. The former knowledge of Dr. Kaufman, the principal investigator, who worked for many years as organizer with different SCOs contributed to the classification and analysis processes. This study is clearly a pioneering study in this very important field. The findings,

especially the one related to “the institutionalization of protest”, hint at internal processes that these organizations are undergoing - processes that move these organizations in the direction of “efficiency”, but at the price of weakening links between them and their grassroots supporters.

This study, similar to others undertaken by ICTR, presents a preliminary picture of a certain category of organizations, based primarily on statistical data that exists in Israeli database. Our ability as researchers to present a more detailed picture has been somewhat restricted due to the incompleteness of the current data. Any attempt to try and answer the questions that arise, and to understand the more detailed processes that are related to these organizations, will require the development of a different research methods and the utilization of different research tools.