

Publication of the
Alternative Poverty Report
and the Latet Conference for
the Struggle to End Poverty



דו"ח העוני
האלטרנטיבי



ח'ס' 13
ישראל | 2015



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Dear Partners,

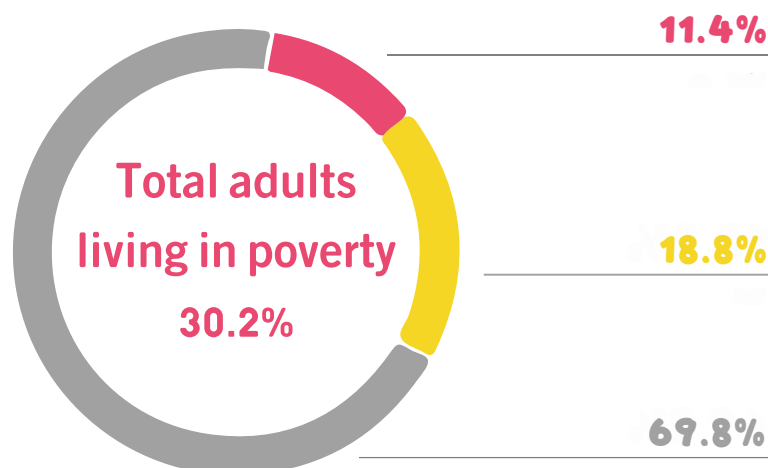
On Dec 15th, Latet organization published the 2015 Alternative Poverty Report, which defines poverty according to data that includes essential elements for living a dignified life, and not only according income data, which is the only parameter used in the National Insurance Poverty Report. In addition, for the first time in Israel, a study was conducted regarding the social return on investment (SROI) resulting from a reduction of poverty, proving that it is economically worthwhile to reduce poverty—with a yield of 64 Billion NIS.

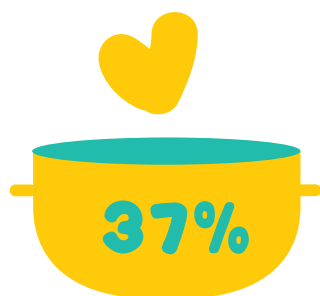
Poverty Report – Main Findings

The Alternative Poverty Report was prepared by Latet for the thirteenth year in a row. The report compiles findings and data collected during the second half of the year and reveals the de facto picture of poverty for 2015.

998,000 **1,626,000**
Children (35.2%) **Adults (30.2%)**

2,624,000
Families living in poverty in Israel (31.9%)





37%

of the children receiving assistance have skipped meals or eaten less due to financial difficulties.

89%

of those receiving assistance have not purchased their medications due to financial difficulties.

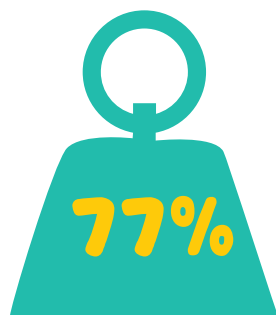


58%

of those receiving assistance faced repossession, legal action or eviction from their home for failing to make payments.

90%

of those receiving assistance did not have a sufficient quantity of food or lack meals of nutritional variety.



77%

of those receiving assistance are in debt.

62.5%

of the public views the issues of poverty and social disparities as the most pressing issue facing Israeli society.



The Report in the Media

Latet says without government intervention, poverty will escalate to the point of slums in Tel Aviv

NGO says 31.9% live below poverty line, compared to gov't figure of 22%

• By LIDAR GRAVE-LAZI

If the government doesn't change its policies in addressing poverty, the situation will escalate to the point of favelas in the heart of the country, Latet executive director Eran Weintraub said on Tuesday.

He made these remarks while presenting the findings of Latet's Alternative Poverty Report at the organization's annual Conference for the War on Poverty at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo.

"Already nine years, five governments and countless promises and commitments have passed and still there is no advancement. Until now we have not been able to deal with poverty. Even in the 2016 budget there is no plan to treat it, there is a beginning but the road is still long. We cannot go on like this," said Weintraub.

"I warn you that if the current policy will continue there will be an escalation here, we can reach the point that in south Tel Aviv there will be favelas [Brazilian slums]," he said.

Latet, an NGO that provides assistance to the needy, recently released its annual report, which indicated that in 2015 there are 2,624,000 poor people in Israel, accounting for 31.9 percent of the population, including 1,626,000 adults (30.2% of the total adult population) and 998,000 children (35.2% of the total child population), living under the poverty line.

The organization's report presented a drastically different picture than last week's National Insurance Institute report, which claimed that 1,709,300 people, some 22% of the population, including 444,900 families and 776,500 children, were living below the poverty line.

Latet has issued the Alternative Poverty Report annually for more than a decade, and says it presents a more insightful picture than the National Insurance Institute's annual survey, as it takes a closer look at the daily struggles of the poor.

"We have to set a government target to reduce poverty," Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon said in



LATET EXECUTIVE director Eran Weintraub speaks at the organization's Conference for the War on Poverty at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo on Tuesday. (Oz Moalem)

State of Israel should establish cooperation with Latet in order to consolidate this goal."

The finance minister said the government has invested a lot of money toward addressing the issue of poverty.

"There are problems that cannot be solved, but

tation, we are dividing the money based on the recommendations of the Alalouf Committee [the Committee to Fight Poverty] and I intend to continue in this," he said.

Kahlon added that he also intends to address the issue of food security.

He concluded by promising that 2016 will see a change in poverty in Israel.

"We promoted the mortgage prices, we committed to 70,000 housing units by the end of next year, on the issue of banking there is an agreement to introduce non-bank credit cards and separation of credit cards from the banks, and in addition there is the cornflakes reform which will create competition and will lead to a reduction in the cost of living," he said.

"I can say and commit that in 2016 we will see a change - we are promoting activities to escape from poverty, encouraging people to go to work, I have no doubt we shall see a positive change," he added.

The conference included participants from all sectors of Israeli society, who gathered together to address new and existing policies for combating poverty.

All these sectors of society must join together in order to effectively combat poverty, Gilles Darnon, chairman of Latet, said at the conference.

"We have always said that what will help in finding a solution to poverty is joining forces with the public sector, the business sector and the private sector. Today it will begin to happen, there is still a long way, but we will conduct this struggle with all the tools available in society," he said. "More than 2.6 million people are calling on us and telling us they cannot go on like this. We are seeking victory, not second place."

Professor Shlomo Biderman, president of the Academic College, noted that the conference's location in the heart of Jaffa symbolized the "presence of academia in the most central issue of Israeli society."

"We are here in Jaffa, in the heart of the periphery, complex and often hostile. Six kilometers from



**The Latet Conference for the Struggle against Poverty:
During the conference, Minister of Finance Moshe Kahlon pledged
that 2016 will see a change in poverty in the State of Israel and has
promised to continue to work towards food security.**

Nov 15th conference on the Struggle to End Poverty held by Latet served as the main stage for a public discourse on the matter of handling poverty, promoting innovative and groundbreaking solutions, and making a change in the national priorities with regards to poverty, inequality and social disparities. Conference participants included organization directors, our central partners in action, specialists, artists and opinion leaders, academics, leaders from the public sector, managers from the Third Sector, spiritual leaders and economists. The annual Alternative Poverty Report was presented during the conference.







Conference participants (in order of appearance): Reshef Levy – playwright, film director and Israeli comedian, Gilles Darmon – Chairman of Latet and member of the Alaluf Committee for the War Against Poverty in Israel, Professor Shlomo Biderman – President of the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Eran Weintraub – CEO of the Latet organization, Gilad Tnai – Director of the ERI Institute, Arad Bitton – Poet and Laureate of the Israel Prize for Literature and Poetry – 2015, Doron Tzabari – Director and Creator, Tali Lipkin-Shahak – Journalist and Media Personality, Uri Regev – Director of the Government Companies Authority, previously Director of the Budget Department, Prof. Asaf Meidani – Attorney; Expert in Public Policy at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Avi Naor – Winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Founder of the Naor Foundation and Chairman and Founder of the Or Yarek Foundation, Sammy Peretz – Editor at The Marker, Ronen Tzor – Media Consultant, Eran Gefen – Director of the “Gefen Team”, Galit Hemi – Editor at Calcalist, Prof. Israel (Izzy) Borovitch – Dean of the School of Economics and Management at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Dr. Yossi Vardi – Hi-tech Entrepreneur, Dan Proper – Director of the Asam Group, Imad Talhami – Director and Founder of Babcom Center, Maor Dagori – Director and Creator in Theater and Television, MK Moshe Kahlon – Minister of Finance, Miki Haimovitch – Media Personality, Itzik Abracohen – CEO of Shufersal, Shai Babed – Director of Ministry of Finance, Anat Gavriel – CEO of Unilever, Itzik Tamir – Director of the Food Industries Association, CEO of Coca-Cola Israel, Ziv Koren – Israeli Photojournalist.

To read the full report and media analysis, please visit our website : www.latet.org.il