



The Alternative Poverty Report

2018

Israel

16th Edition



לָתֵת LATET

Ending Poverty Together



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LATET ORGANIZATION

Mission

The Latet Israeli Humanitarian Aid organization was established in order to reduce poverty for a better and more just society by providing assistance to populations in need on a universal basis, mobilizing Israeli civil society toward mutual responsibility, and leading change in national priorities.

Fields of activity

Latet established and operates programs in various fields:

Nutritional Security – For the past 22 years, Latet has been operating as the leading umbrella organization which remains widely influential and adamantly supported by Israeli civil society. Latet collaborates with a network of 180 food organizations operating in 105 localities nationwide in all sectors of society. Latet and these partner NGOs support and provide ongoing assistance to 60,000 families suffering from severe nutritional insecurity.

Latet Youth – Latet's youth organization, whose goal is to educate youth to volunteer, develop their leadership skills and to encourage them to carry out social initiatives.

Aid for Life – A holistic program offering physical and social aid to impoverished Holocaust survivors.

City Without Hunger – Latet's social laboratory, whose goal is to research the most effective intervention model in the field of nutritional insecurity and to develop an innovative, groundbreaking solution to the problem.

In addition, Latet organizes activities designed to raise social awareness and promote a change in the national priorities, including the publication of the **Alternative Poverty Report**.



ESSENCE AND GOALS OF THE REPORT

This is the 16th edition of the Alternative Poverty Report, which sheds light on the most up-to-date trends in the field of poverty and nutritional insecurity in Israel in 2018. These trends are studied by Latet, which operates nationwide in collaboration with 180 local associations and aid organizations.

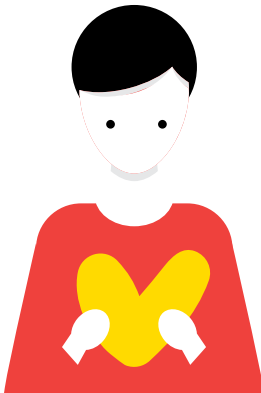
The report serves as an alternative tool to study and understand the poverty phenomenon. As opposed to the official statistical reports, it reflects the human aspect of poverty, offering a broad outlook and in-depth analysis of the trends on the one hand, while giving a voice to the aid recipients and the NGOs that support them, on the other.

The report includes the Multidimensional Alternative Poverty Index, which shows the depth of poverty and its characteristics, by measuring the degree of an individual's deficiency in relation to the most essential needs required to exist.

The Alternative Poverty Report is published by Latet in order to expose Israeli society to the human meaning of living in poverty in a direct and

authentic manner. In general, the public is familiar with poverty from afar, mainly through the media, common perceptions or prejudices. The report is designed to enlighten the public on the causes of poverty, its characteristics and the main obstacles preventing people from escaping it. These hurdles primarily stem from policies that neutralize the ability of people living in poverty to do so. Moreover, the report serves as a means for pressuring decision makers in the government and the Israeli Parliament to take responsibility for the welfare of the country's citizens, by taking consistent steps to solve the problem of poverty and social disparity.

At Latet, we believe that it is the inherent duty of the Israeli government to place social inequalities and poverty issues at the top of the national agenda. This should include the allocation of the necessary resources and the implementation of an inter-ministerial government plan with the goal of reaching the average poverty rates in developed countries within ten years.





METHODOLOGY

The Alternative Poverty Report is a unique document that draws a picture of poverty and social gaps in Israel in 2018. The report refers to the various components of poverty in Israeli society. This report is based on the integration of findings collected through four research studies and questionnaires:

- 1. Study of aid recipients** – an analysis of the characteristics and coping methods of people living in poverty.
- 2. Aid trends among partner NGOs** – a study conducted among aid organizations that operate in collaboration with Latet. The study examines the trends in poverty, needs and processes in the field.
- 3. Survey of public's perceptions** – a study conducted among the general public, designed to examine their perceptions of poverty-related issues and social gaps in Israel.
- 4. The Multidimensional Poverty Index** – a tool used to measure poverty and its extent among the general public.

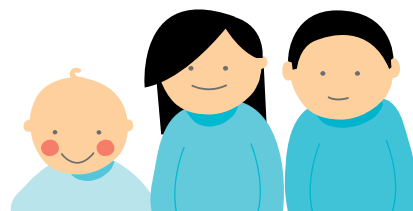
All the studies were conducted between July and October 2018. The preparation of the questionnaires, the data collection, the evaluation of the findings and their analysis were carried out by Latet's research

department, with the support and guidance of leading Israeli professional research institutes:

Rotem ar. Institute – a research and analysis company owned and managed by Dr. Arie Rotem. The research used in this report was spearheaded by Dr. Arie Rotem and Miriam Honen.

Mahshov Institute – one of Israel's veteran research institutes. Since its establishment in 1993, its success has been based on a deep understanding of the target populations, the sampling and segmentation coupled with the vast statistical and business experience of its team.

ERI Institute – a social business that provides research and consultation services, combining expertise from academia and the third sector, as well as an advisory board of senior experts and an extensive pool of researchers from various fields and disciplines. The institute is headed by Gilad Tanay, an expert on poverty and social justice research, formerly the director and member of the founding team of the Academics Stand Against Poverty NGO. He lectures in the Global Justice Program at Yale University.



Profile of people living in poverty

The study of the aid recipients was conducted using a survey administered to 1,004 people in need who receive aid from Latet's partner food NGOs. The interview consisted of a questionnaire completed by the subjects on their own, with help from a Latet representative in cases where it was needed. The data was gathered in July and August 2018.

The maximal sampling error for this sample is $\pm 3.2\%$, in accordance with the accepted levels of significance.

The information collected served as the basis for the study, whose goal is to reflect the daily routine and personal experience of the aid recipients. This routine is generally unknown to the general public or to decision makers and the top echelon of the government.

Demographic distribution of survey's participants

Gender	Male	32.4%
	Female	67.6%
Age	18-24	4.1%
	25-34	16.7%
	35-44	29.2%
	45-54	21.8%
	55-64	13.4%
	65+	14.8%
Number of children ages 18 and under	0	14.1%
	1	12%
	2	17%
	3	19.7%
	4	14.6%
	5	9.2%
	6	5.7%
	7	3.8%
	8	2.1%
	9+	1.8%



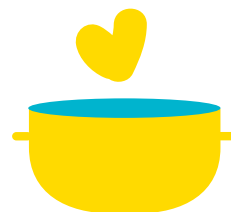
Religion	Jewish	79.5%
	Muslim	15.5%
	Christian	2%
	Druze	1.6%
	Other	1.4%
Levels of religious observance	Secular	27.4%
	Traditional	31.8%
	Religious	23.9%
	Very religious	16.9%

Aid trends among partner NGOs

The study of aid trends among partner NGOs was conducted using a survey administrated to 95 directors of aid organizations and associations (food organizations, social services of the Ministry of Labor, and soup kitchens) who are working on a regular basis and represent all sectors of Israeli society. The data was gathered in July and August 2018.

The maximal sampling error for this sample is +/- 4.9%, in accordance with the accepted levels of significance.

The different organizations giving assistance to populations living in poverty and in nutritional insecurity constitute a unique source of up-to-date and authentic testimony. It directly reflects the complicated reality people in need are coping with, as well as the hard work of the directors of aid organizations. The organizations' point of view is critical in order to assess a comprehensive picture of the poverty trends in Israel.



Survey of public perceptions and the Multidimensional Poverty Index

The study was conducted via a phone and online survey among a representative sample of 501 individuals, ages 18 and older, who include all sectors of Israeli society (Jewish and non-Jewish populations). The data was gathered in the fourth week of August and the third week of October 2018.

The maximal sampling error for this sample is +/- 4.5%, in accordance with

the accepted levels of significance.

The results depict the opinions and perceptions of Israel's citizens in regards to the poverty phenomenon and its scope, and the handling of the issue.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index constitutes a tool to measure poverty and its depth among the general public.

Profile of survey's participants among the general public

Gender	Male	49.3%
	Female	50.7%
Religion	Jewish	80%
	Muslim	15.6%
	Christian	2.6%
	Druze	1.8%
Levels of religious observance	Secular	48.7%
	Traditional	33.1%
	Religious	16%
	Very religious	8%
Residential area	Jerusalem and the surroundings	11.2%
	Tel-Aviv and central region	27.9%
	Haifa and North region	33.5%
	South and Shfela region	22%
	The Sharon plain	5.4%

MAIN FINDINGS

The Multidimensional Poverty Index for 2018 reflects a stark reality:

- 533,000 households in Israel live in poverty (21.2%)
- 2,345,000 people live in poverty (26.5%)
- Of which 1,041,000 are children (35.6%)

1,041,000 + **1,304,000**
Children (35.6%) **Adults (22%)**

2,345,000
People living in poverty in Israel (26.5%)

Poverty is very widespread and affects more than one quarter of the population. Despite a deepening of poverty and the increasing difficulties to extricate oneself from this situation, data indicates a trend towards some stabilization in the poverty rates in Israel.



Children and the Elderly

For **80.2%** of children receiving aid, the main component in their nutrition is bread and spread (36.9%) or carbohydrates (43.3%). During the past three years, there has been an increase in the prevalence of this phenomenon which was 67.7% in 2016.

24% of the children receiving aid frequently or regularly went to school without a sandwich during the past year.

34.5% of the children receiving aid reduced the size of their meals or skipped meals due to financial difficulties.

23.6% of the children receiving aid felt hungry and did not eat because their parents did not have enough money to buy food.

6% of the children receiving aid begged for money during the past year, 5.7% gathered food from the floor or from garbage cans, in comparison to 1.7% last year. Finally, 5.4% were forced to steal food in order to overcome the lack of food, compared to 3.8% last year.

92.4% of the elderly aid recipients state that their pension does not enable them or only partially enables them to meet their basic needs with dignity. This data is similar to last year (92.2%).

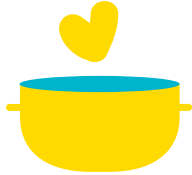
89.8% of the elderly receiving aid would not be able to afford nursing care if they were to need it, similarly to last year.

66.7% of the elderly aid recipients indicate that they cannot maintain a healthy state of being due to their financial situation.

58% of the elderly aid recipients need to renovate their home in order to adapt them to their medical condition.

78.9% of the elderly receiving aid experienced loneliness frequently or occasionally during the past year; 48.4% experienced loneliness frequently.





Nutritional Insecurity

52.9% of the aid recipients indicate that in the past year they did not have enough food in their home frequently or occasionally, in comparison to only 5.8% of the general population.

77.5% of the aid recipients indicated that they did not have enough money to purchase food that would enable them to eat balanced meals, in comparison to 17.4% of the general population.

72% of the aid recipients were worried about finishing the food in their house before having the money to buy more, in comparison to 18.2% of the general population.

9.3% of the aid recipients indicate that they encountered humiliating situations due to a lack of food in their home, such as looking for food in garbage cans, begging for money in order to buy food, and/or eating scraps of food that were thrown out.

47.1% of the parents receiving aid were forced to stop using baby formula for their children or reduce the recommended quantity.

47.6% of the aid recipients indicate that they did not require assistance with food five years ago.

Employment

77.4% of the supported families have at least one employed member; in one fifth (19.7%), there are two or more.

60.4% of the working aid recipients do not receive all of the social benefits and rights that they are entitled to at their workplace, a decrease in comparison to last year (63.8%).

54.9% of the unemployed aid recipients are in this situation due to health issues and/or disabilities.

39.7% of the aid recipients receive allowances from the National Insurance Institute due to their financial situation. This marks a 25.5% decrease in comparison to last year (53.3%).

57.9% of the aid recipients indicate that they did not receive all of the rights they were entitled to from the National Insurance Institute. Over half of them (51.9%) state that the reason is the difficult and complicated bureaucracy.

Cost of Living

70.9% of the aid recipients have fallen into debt, a decrease of 8.4% compared to last year (77.4%), but still 2.1 times more than the general population (34.1%).

48.9% of the aid recipients have had their bank accounts frozen or foreclosed due to debts and have experienced a writ of execution or legal prosecution, in comparison to 8.4% of the general population.

50.7% of the aid recipients indicate that they have no working air-conditioner or heater in their home or that they cannot

afford to use them at all.

52.9% of the aid recipients state that they grew up in a family that lived in scarcity and financial difficulty.

11.5% of the aid recipients attempted or planned to commit suicide in the past year due to financial hardship. This data shows a decrease in the rates of aid recipients who made such a claim during the past four years, as this number was 18% in 2015.

Education

77.2% of the people receiving aid do not possess a high school diploma, as compared to 47.3% of the general population. Half of them (49%) did not complete 12 years of education.

71.8% of the parents receiving aid report that they could not purchase all the basic school supplies and textbooks for their children for the upcoming school year.

79.6% of the parents receiving aid indicate that their children did not attend private tutoring lessons and 81.5% did not participate in extracurricular activities or in a youth organization/movement due to

their financial situation.

82.1% of the parents receiving aid cannot afford to pay all of the school's supplementary fees; and consequently, over half (58.5%) of the children receiving aid did not participate in the school's social activities, such as parties, trips and shows, due to their families' difficult financial situation.

85.8% of the parents receiving aid cannot send their children to summer day camps due to their financial situation.

Health

27.4% of the aid recipients have hypertension and about one quarter (25.4%) have diabetes.

66.3% of the aid recipients only have basic healthcare insurance and 31.4% have complementary or comprehensive health insurance, in comparison to 77% of the general population who have either a complementary or comprehensive health insurance.

68.4% of the aid recipients were forced to forgo essential medication or medical treatments because they could not afford

them; 3.3 times more than the general population (20.4%).

85.7% of the aid recipients forwent dental treatment in the past year because they could not afford to pay for it, 36.1% of them forwent it on a regular basis.

55.3% of the parents receiving aid were forced to give up on essential medication or medical treatments for their children because they could not pay for them; 4.4 times more than the general population (12.4%).



Housing

77.3% of the aid recipients did not repair serious malfunctions in their home for a long time during the past year because of financial reasons, in comparison to 24.3% of the general population.

61.5% of the aid recipients report that their children were embarrassed to invite friends to their home in the past year due to their housing conditions and financial situation.

49% of the aid recipients had their electricity or water cut in the past year because they could not pay the bills and 30.9% of the aid recipients had to purchase electricity using a prepaid meter.

18.6% of the aid recipients indicate that it is probable or highly probable that they

will be forced to leave their home due to their inability to keep up with their rent or mortgage payments.

41.6% of the aid recipients indicate that the infrastructure in their residential area is defective or insufficient, and 38% report that the maintenance of the houses or buildings in their living area is hazardous.

19% of the aid recipients testify that there is physical violence in their residential area and 17.9% indicate that there are people who openly sell or use drugs in their area.



Responsibility for alleviating poverty

66% of the public believe that the problem of poverty and social gaps constitutes the most pressing subject that needs to be addressed by the Israeli government (in the first and second place), a decrease in comparison to last year (70.5%).

75.6% of the public consider the government to be the main factor responsible for reducing poverty. However, only one quarter (24.4%) of the public think that the government is actually handling the poverty issue.

36.9% of the public believe that the government refrains from setting measurable goals to reduce poverty

because long-term results are of no interest to politicians.

72% of the public believe alleviating poverty is a low priority or is not even on the national list of priorities.

59.1% of the public believe that it is probable or highly probable that a child who grows up in a poor family will become a poor adult in the future.

74.7% of the local partner NGOs' managers report that there has been an increase in the demand for food by people in need as compared to last year.





NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY

NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY

Ensuring the nutritional security of Israeli citizens

5 facts about nutritional insecurity and poverty

1. One in every four children in Israel (**25.5%**) suffers from nutritional insecurity. **352,000** children (**14.1%**) suffer from severe nutritional insecurity (the National Insurance Institute, **2018**; data from **2016**).
2. Despite the severity and scope of nutritional insecurity in Israel, the Israeli government does not allocate any money to handling this issue as a part of Israel's state budget.
3. **77.5%** of Latet's aid recipients have reported that they did not have enough money to purchase food that would enable them to eat balanced meals.
4. For **80.2%** of the children receiving aid, the main components of their nutrition are bread and spread (**36.9%**) or carbohydrates (**43.3%**). The past three years, there has been a significant increase in the prevalence of this phenomenon which was **67.7%** in **2016**.
5. Approximately half (**47.6%**) of the aid recipients report that they did not require food aid five years ago.

Nutritional insecurity is the most severe indicator of poverty, which is manifested by a lack of financial ability and regular access to basic nutrition needed for a balanced and proper existence. Nutritional security is defined as the condition in which people, at all times, have regular access, both physically and economically, to sufficient and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences and enables them to live an active and healthy life (UN Food and Agriculture Organization).

Over the years, the problem of nutritional insecurity has remained extensive and

severe, and reflects the many hardships families living in poverty are facing; such as a serious lack of food, which is a basic existential need and a fundamental right. This issue is not on the list of priorities of the government and the Ministry of Welfare, which do not allocate funds in the state budget for tackling this phenomenon. The allocation of resources and the establishment of a national project for nutritional security based on food rescue (which is the most effective solution) and food purchase (which enables a more balanced nutritional basis) are essential in order to alleviate the suffering of hundreds



What does poverty mean for you?
“ When I take bread out of the garbage ”

of thousands of Israeli families living in nutritional insecurity. Currently, the responsibility of assisting these families falls upon hundreds of food-related NGOs across the country, the general public who volunteers to help and the food industry that donates and rescues food. In Israel, 513,000 families (17.8%), 955,000 individuals (18.2%) and 638,000 children (25.5%) live in nutritional insecurity, of which 252,000 families (8.8%), 480,000 individuals (9.1%) and 352,000 children (14.1%) are living in severe nutritional insecurity (the National Insurance Institute, 2018; data from 2016).

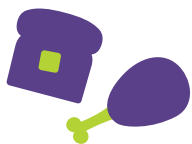
The National Insurance Institute's Nutritional Security Survey reflects an increase in the rate of children living in severe nutritional insecurity and a decrease in the rate of families living in nutritional insecurity as compared to previous surveys. Due the methodological changes in the different surveys, it is not possible to directly compare the results; however, this phenomenon remains extensive and very serious.

The rate of children in single-parent families living in severe nutritional insecurity has increased significantly from 18.5% to 30.1%. The nutritional insecurity of children living in southern Israel has also worsened to 21% from 16.9%. 35.3%

of children in the Arab sector live in severe nutritional insecurity and 13% of elderly families live in severe nutritional insecurity (in comparison to 34.1% and 10.9%, respectively, in past surveys).

There is a very strong correlation between poverty and nutritional insecurity with similarities between the population groups that are characterized by high poverty rates, and those who live in nutritional insecurity, such as Arabs, people with a low educational level and families with no employed members. Among single-parent families and families that receive a disability allowance, the rates of nutritional insecurity are much higher than the poverty rates. In the ultra-orthodox sector, however, the situation is different as the poverty rates are higher than the rates of nutritional insecurity. This can be explained by the mutual responsibility which characterizes this community, and the activity of the charitable funds that distribute food on a regular basis ensuring the nutritional security of the community (the National Insurance Institute, 2018).

Nutritional insecurity often occurs because the expense for food is flexible, unlike fixed costs such as rent or taxes; therefore, families living in poverty are often forced to give up consumption of



33.9% of the aid recipients report that in the past year, the adults in their home were hungry and did not eat because there was not enough money to purchase food

basic food in order to pay for other vital expenses. Nutritional insecurity impairs the daily functioning of these families, the development of children as well as the ability of the families to maintain a decent and dignified standard of living.

The aid recipients spend a monthly average of NIS 1,900 on food for a family of five people. This is the highest expense and constitutes 27% of the average monthly expenses of these families. 75.6% of the families receiving aid estimate that they need an additional NIS 1,000+ a month to purchase food for a proper existence. Half of these families (49%) approximate that this sum is over NIS 1,500.

The “Hunger Threshold” developed by Latet is based on the Ministry of Health’s recommendations regarding the minimal nutrition required for nutritional security. The Hunger Threshold calculates the cost of the food basket that ensures the basic nutrition of a family of five (the average number of people in households receiving aid). Based on Latet’s assessment, the cost of the basic food basket is NIS 3,449 per month, NIS 1,549 more than what families who receive aid currently spend on average. As a result, these families are forced to forgo quantity and quality of food on a daily basis.

Nutritional insecurity among aid recipients

The aid recipients experience a daily reality of hardships and constant lack of vital food necessary to live a balanced and proper life. The families receiving aid live in constant fear that they will run out of food, while being unable to purchase more food and provide their family with regular balanced meals.

More than half (52.9%) of the aid recipients report that in the past year, they did not

have enough food in their home frequently or occasionally, in comparison to only 5.8% of the general population. 77.5% of the aid recipients indicated that they did not have enough money to buy food that would enable them to eat balanced meals, in comparison to only 17.4% of the general population. 72% of the aid recipients were worried about finishing the food in their house before having the money to buy



77.5% of the aid recipients indicated that they did not have enough money to buy food that would enable them to eat balanced meals

more, in comparison to 18.2% of the general population. 71.3% of the aid recipients stated that, in the past year, the food they purchased was insufficient and they did not have the money to buy more, in comparison to 13% of the general population.

9.3% of the aid recipients indicated that due to financial hardship and lack of food at home, they encountered humiliating situations, such as looking for food in garbage cans, begging for money in order to buy food, and/or eating scraps of food that were thrown out. This data is similar to last year's findings (9.2%). 33.9% of the aid recipients report that in the past year, the adults in their home were hungry and did not eat because there was not enough money to purchase food; this was also similar to last year's findings (32.4%). In addition, 22.9% of the aid recipients indicated that the adults in their home lost weight because there was not enough money to purchase food; this is comparable to last year's findings (24.3%).

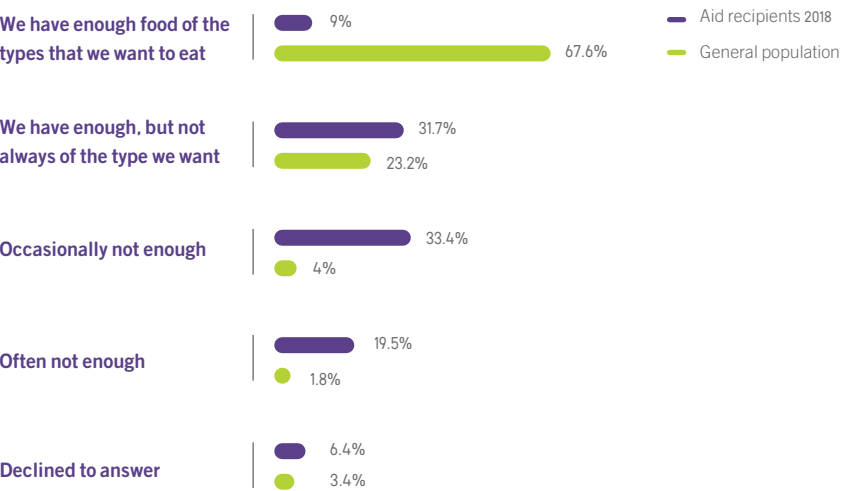
Despite the difficult daily reality that the aid recipients are forced to deal with, and the stability of certain aspects of nutritional insecurity, results have shown gradual improvement in the last three years. 46.5% of the aid recipients reduced the size of their meals or skipped meals

during the past year due to financial hardship, in comparison to 51.8% in 2016.

Another area that indicates improvement was the number of aid recipients who did not eat as much as they wanted due to lack of financial means. There has been a decrease in numbers from 2016 when 64.7% of the aid recipients ate less than they wanted to eat compared to 51.4% in 2018. Furthermore, in 2016, 20.1% of the aid recipients did not eat for an entire day due to financial hardship; this decreased to 17.2% in 2018. Nevertheless, for 41.6% of them, this occurred almost every month for the past year.

Which of the following sentences best describes the food consumed in your home in the past year?

From the aid recipients study and the Multidimensional Poverty Index



In the past year, did you look in garbage cans and/or beg for money to buy food and/or eat scraps of food that were thrown out?

From the aid recipients study

	Aid Recipients 2018	Aid Recipients 2017
Yes	9.3%	9.2%
No	90.7%	90.8%



46.5% of the aid recipients reduced the size of their meals or skipped meals during the past year, due to financial hardship



The percentages presented are of those who answered mostly true or sometimes true in each of the questions

During the past year, did you and/or other adults in your household feel hungry, but did not eat because there was not enough money to buy food?

From the aid recipients study

	Aid Recipients 2018	Aid Recipients 2017
Yes	33.9%	32.4%
No	49.5%	49.4%
Declined to answer	16.6%	18.2%

In the past year, did you and/or other adults in your household lose weight because you did not have enough money to buy food?

From the aid recipients study

	Aid Recipients 2018	Aid Recipients 2017
Yes	22.9%	24.3%
No	61.5%	56.8%
Declined to answer	15.6%	18.9%



What does poverty mean to you?

“Coming home to an empty refrigerator”



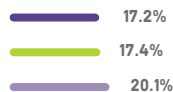
In the past year, did you and/or other adults in your household **reduce the size of meals** or skip meals due to a lack of money to purchase food?



In the past year, did you **eat less than you wanted to** because there was not enough money to buy food?



During the past year, did you and/or other adults in your household **not eat for an entire day** because you didn't have enough money for food?



— Aid recipients 2018

— Aid recipients 2017

— Aid recipients 2016

From the aid recipients study

The percentages presented are of those who answered mostly true or sometimes true in each of the questions

Children suffering from nutritional insecurity

One in every four children in Israel (25.5%) suffers from nutritional insecurity (the National Insurance Institute 2018; data from 2016). There was an increase in the rate of children suffering from severe nutritional insecurity, which constitutes 14.1% of children in Israel, in comparison to 13.3% in the previous survey completed in 2012. Children suffer the most from lack of food, as it has significant consequences on their mental and physical development. Nutritional insecurity among children is manifested by their inability to consume the major food groups vital for their proper development as well as by skipping meals, feeling hungry, and lacking a balanced

diet. These symptoms have far-reaching implications on children's physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

More than one third (34.5%) of the children receiving aid were forced to reduce the size of their meals or skip meals. About one quarter (23.6%) were hungry and did not eat due to financial hardship and inability to purchase food. About one tenth (10.6%) of the children receiving aid spent entire days without food, a decrease in comparison with last year (17.6%). Similar to last year, more than one half (51.7%) of them were forced to do so almost every month during the past year.



34.5% of the children receiving aid were forced to reduce the size of their meals or skip meals

The families receiving aid find it difficult to afford the high prices of baby formula for their children. Although these are essential for the healthy development of babies, about half (47.1%) of the parents receiving aid were forced to stop using baby formula for their children or reduce the recommended quantity (by diluting it with water or skipping meals).

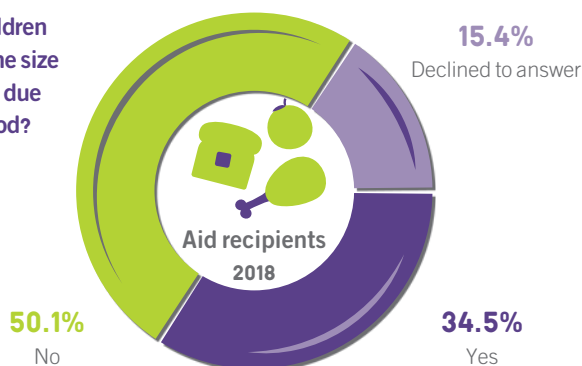
During the past year, the children who received aid were forced to deal with humiliating situations in order to obtain food. 6% begged for money, 5.7% gathered food from the floor or garbage cans (compared to 1.7% last year), and 5.4% were forced to steal food (compared to 3.8% last year).

For 80.2% of the children receiving aid, the main ingredient in their diet is bread and spread (36.9%) or carbohydrates (43.3%). During the past three years, there has been an increase in the prevalence of this phenomenon which was 67.7% in 2016. About one quarter (24%) of the children went to school without a sandwich frequently or regularly during the past year.

The children receiving aid are forced to forgo basic food products on a regular basis. Only 22.1% receive a meal containing meat more than once a week – in comparison with 72% of the general population who eat a meat meal every day or at least once every two or three days.

In the past year, did the children in your household reduce the size of their meals or skip meals due to a lack of money to buy food?

From the aid recipients study

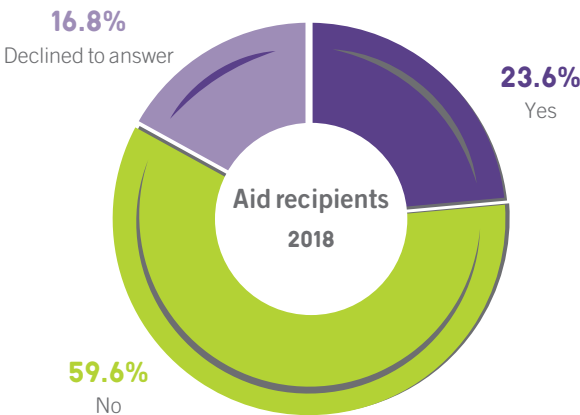




47.1% of the parents receiving aid were forced to stop using baby formula for their children or reduce the recommended quantity

During the past year, did the children in your household feel hungry and not eat because you did not have enough money to buy food?

From the aid recipients study



During the past year, did the children in your household not eat an entire day because there was not enough money to buy food?

From the aid recipients study

	Aid Recipients 2018	Aid Recipients 2017
Yes	10.6%	17.6%
No	74.1%	66.5%
Declined to answer	15.3%	15.9%

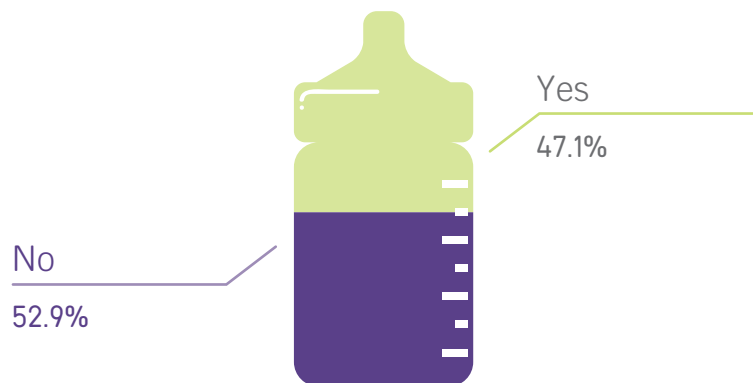


What does poverty mean to you?

“Gathering food from the garbage can”

As a result of your financial situation, did you have to forgo baby formula for your children or reduce the recommended amount (by diluting it with water or skipping meals)?

From the aid recipients study



Which of the following situations did your children experience in the past year?

From the aid recipient study

The total is higher than 100% since it was possible to provide more than one answer

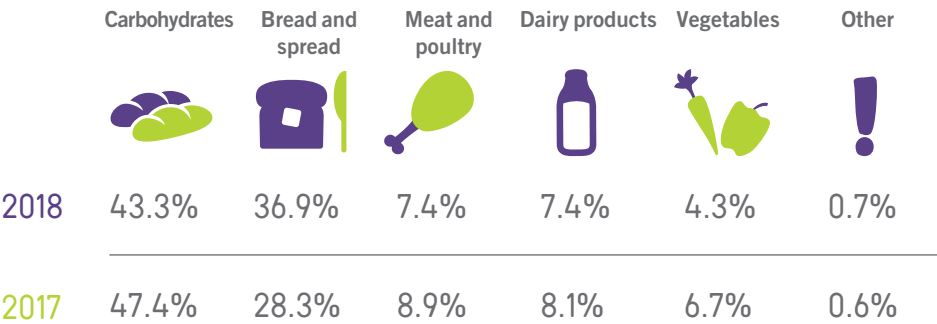
	Aid recipients 2018	Aid recipients 2017
My children begged for money	6%	5.8%
My children gathered food from the floor or garbage cans	5.7%	1.7%
My children were forced to steal food in order to overcome the lack of food	5.4%	3.8%
None of these situations	85.2%	88.9%



For 80.2% of the children receiving aid, the main ingredient in their diet is bread and spread (36.9%) or carbohydrates (43.3%)

What is the main product in your child’s nutrition during the week?

From the aid recipients study



How often do you and your family eat beef/chicken/fish?

From the aid recipients study and the public’s perceptions survey

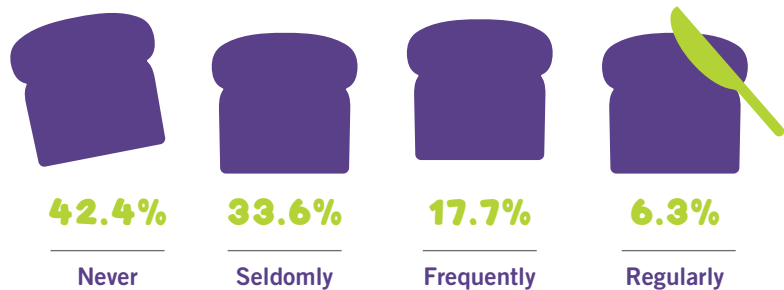
	Aid recipients 2018	General population
Every day	4.4%	29.1%
Every two or three days	17.7%	42.9%
Once a week	50.7%	18.8%
Once a month	17.5%	3.4%
A few times during the year	5.4%	1.2%
We don't eat meat	4.3%	4.6%



47.6% of the aid recipients indicate that they did not require assistance with food five years ago

If your children do not receive a meal at school, in the past year, did they go to school without a sandwich or other type of food for the day?

From the aid recipients study



Receiving aid from NGOs

Over half (54%) of the aid recipients were referred by a municipal social worker to aid organizations to receive food. About a fifth (19.3%) contacted the organizations independently to receive food. Almost half (47.6%) of the aid recipients indicate that they did not require food aid five years ago, meaning that their financial situation severely deteriorated over the past five years.

Over half (56%) of the aid recipients report that the food they receive from the NGO helps them maintain proper basic nutrition to a great extent or to a very great extent; an increase of 20.2% in comparison to last year (46.6%).

The food package the aid recipients receive

from the food NGOs helps them in other ways, beyond the scope of nutritional security. The food package enables the families to redirect resources to other aspects of their lives where they find it difficult to meet some of their basic needs, thus helping reduce the depth of poverty among these families. More than one third (35.3%) of the aid recipients indicate that the food package enables them to allocate funds for medication and medical treatments and 34% of the aid recipients claim it allows them to allocate budget to pay for rent and/or bills. Most of the families who receive aid indicate that they use the money saved due to the food assistance to purchase additional food, in order to reduce the family's nutritional insecurity (61.3%).

Who referred you to the food NGOs to receive aid?

From the aid recipients study

Aid Recipients 2018	
Social worker from the local authority	54%
I contacted the organization on my own	19.3%
Friend/neighbor/family member	15.1%
Rabbi/school principal/significant figure in the community	7.3%
Other	4.3%



35.3% of the aid recipients indicate that the food package enables them to allocate funds for medication and medical treatments

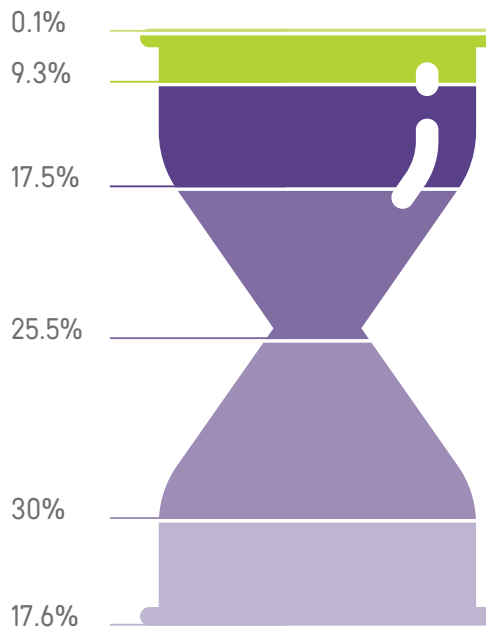


What does poverty mean to you?

“No food, going to sleep hungry and alone”

For how many years have you needed food aid due to your financial situation?

From the aid recipients study



- Other
- My family has always needed food assistance
- I have been in this situation for over 10 years
- My situation deteriorated 5-10 years ago
- My situation deteriorated 2-5 years ago
- My situation deteriorated in the past year-two years

To what extent does the food aid you receive from the NGO help you maintain proper basic nutrition?

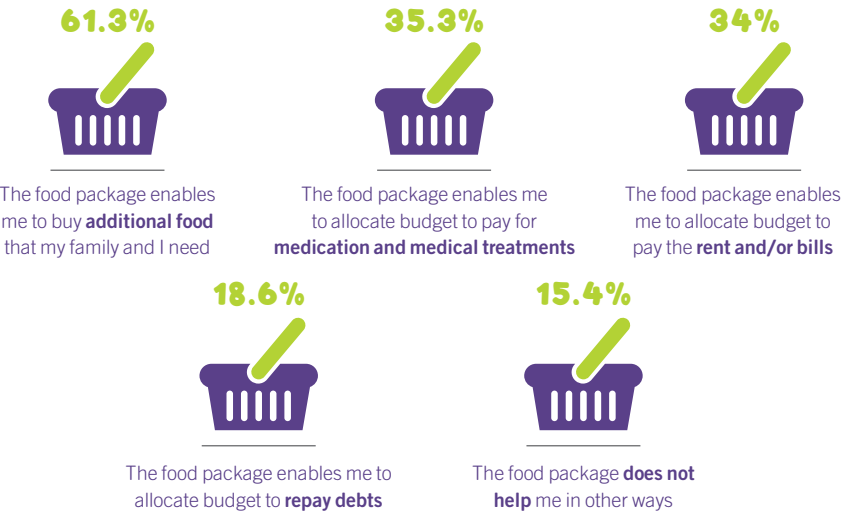
From the aid recipients study

	Aid Recipients 2018	Aid Recipients 2017
Not at all	3.4%	4.5%
To a small extent	11.6%	16%
To a fair extent	29%	32.9%
To a great extent	31.6%	28.2%
To a very great extent	24.4%	18.4%

Does the food package you receive from the NGO help you in other ways?

From the aid recipients study

The total is higher than 100% since it was possible to provide more than one answer



“A country that does not properly ensure the right of its citizens to live with minimum of human dignity breaches its obligation towards the entire society to respect the fundamental rights of each and every person.”

From the State Comptroller's Report – The Government's Steps to Promote Nutritional Security 2014

For the past 20 years, the Latet organization has served as a national food bank and an umbrella organization for 180 local food organizations, operating in 105 localities in all sectors of Israeli society. As part of its activity, nutritionally balanced food is distributed to about 60,000 families through a network of partner organizations, originating from three different sources: food rescue from the food industry (manufacturers and retail chains), purchase of wholesale food and collection of food from the general public. The food distribution is conducted while maintaining the dignity of the recipients, ensuring their nutritional security in terms of the frequency and manner in which the food is distributed, as well as ensuring balanced nutrition that is of high quality and varied, including fresh protein (chicken and dairy products), basic dry goods, etc. Latet's operations are based on a highly efficient economic model that makes the most out of investments made in the aid program. For every shekel invested in infrastructure, operations and logistics, NIS 9 worth of food is distributed. Food originating from food rescue also presents an amazing opportunity to use existing resources (and to protect the environment by reducing landfills and food destruction) and enables Latet to help more families.

For the first time in Israel, Latet has established a social laboratory that serves as an incubator for the development of innovative solutions in the field of poverty and nutritional insecurity. The goal of the lab is to develop the most effective intervention model in the field of nutritional insecurity and to design an innovative and groundbreaking solution

that can be implemented on a large scale. The intervention model that was developed at Latet's social lab combines food package optimization, the development of knowledge and skills to better utilize the package and the extension of the agency component. This is the most effective model developed to reduce severe nutritional insecurity in Israel.

The results of this unique intervention model show that 52% of the participants were alleviated from hunger at the end of one year. This comes in comparison to only 18.6% in the pilot project implemented by the Ministry of Welfare in the past two years (which is supposed to run in 32 localities and assist about 10,000 families), consisting of food vouchers and fruit and vegetable distribution. Latet's social lab also had better results than other studies conducted in the realm of food around the world which found that only about 30% of the participants were alleviated from nutritional insecurity.

According to the National Insurance Institute, 252,000 families in Israel live in severe nutritional insecurity and the budget required to solve this problem is at least NIS 1.5 billion. However, the government does not even allocate one shekel from Israel's state budget to handle this issue, despite the commitment expressed by the current welfare minister and his predecessors. The government's duty is to establish a national nutritional security plan based on food rescue and purchase, to increase the tax deduction rate food companies that donate food are entitled to and to take full responsibility for ensuring access to basic food for Israeli citizens who need it the



COST OF LIVING AMONG THE ELDERLY

COST OF LIVING AMONG THE ELDERLY

Aging Without Dignity

In 2035, the rate of elderly in Israel is expected to reach 13.7% of the population. Aging is characterized by a growing morbidity, increased feelings of loneliness and a decrease in functioning, which is likely to require nursing care. The increase in life expectancy is encouraging; however, it comes with a significant challenge of caring for the aging population who is very vulnerable, primarily due to the dependence on external income sources, such as pensions. The government must prepare for the future aging of the population, spread out a social and financial safety net and ensure the welfare and dignity of its elderly citizens.

The basic old-age pension from the National Insurance Institute is NIS 1,535 per individual and NIS 2,307 per couple, which is a NIS 6 increase from last year. Even in the event that the senior citizen is eligible for an old-age pension income supplement, he will still be below the National Insurance Institute's official poverty line. As in previous years, this year, a bill was proposed to increase the old-age allowance; however, once again, the government did not approve it and nothing has changed.

The general elderly population and more specifically the elderly receiving aid, are struggling in light of the cost of living and the low pensions. Over half (51.9%) of the elderly aid recipients do not receive any pension payments at all and rely solely on the allowances from the National Insurance Institute. 92.4% of the elderly indicate that the old-age pension does not enable or only partially enables them to meet their basic needs necessary to live with dignity. This data is similar to last year (92.2%).

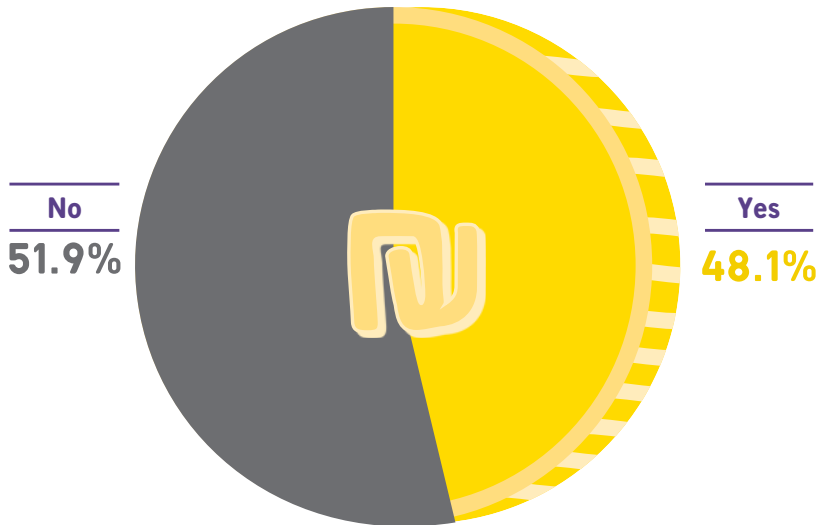
In 2017, the State Comptroller of Israel published a harsh report regarding the care for elderly nursing patients. This report criticized the number of hours of care, which is significantly lower than in OECD countries. The report also published a list of problems in the supervision and inspection of the professional caregivers and their lack of training. 89.8% of the elderly aid recipients report that they would not be able to afford to pay for nursing care if they were to need it; this number is similar to last year (85.7%).



92.4% of the elderly aid recipients indicate that their pension does not enable them or only partially enables them to meet their basic needs with dignity

Do you receive pension payments?

From the aid recipients study



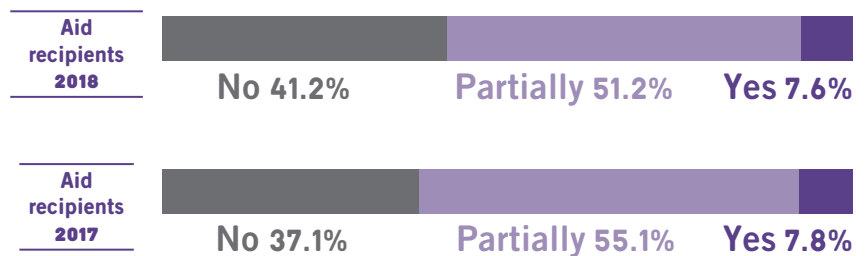
66.7% of the elderly aid recipients indicate that they cannot maintain a healthy state of being due to their financial situation



89.8% of the elderly aid recipients report that they would not be able to afford to pay for nursing care if they were to need it

Does your old-age pension allow you to live with dignity and meet your basic needs – food, health services and bills?

From the aid recipients study



Can you afford to pay for nursing care and/or assistance at home required to maintain your health condition?

From the aid recipients study

	Aid Recipients 2018	Aid Recipients 2017
Yes	10.2%	14.3%
No	89.8%	85.7%

The difficult financial situation of the elderly impacts many aspects of their lives. Approximately two thirds (66.7%) of the elderly aid recipients indicate that they cannot maintain a healthy state of being due to their financial situation. 46.8% indicate that their financial situation is the

reason they do not eat enough nutritious meals; and one third (32.5%) require assistance in daily activities. More than half (58%) of the elderly aid recipients need to renovate their home in order to adapt them to their medical condition.



58% of the elderly aid recipients need to renovate their home in order to adapt them to their medical condition

What is the daily impact on your life that stem from financial hardship?

From the aid recipients study

The total is higher than 100% since it was possible to provide more than one answer



66.7%

**I cannot maintain a
healthy state of being**



46.8%

**I don't have enough
nutritious meals**



32.5%

**I need help with
daily activities**



15.1%

**My home cannot
be considered as a
dignified place to live in**



5.6%

Other

Do you need to renovate your home in order to adapt it to your medical or health situation (accessibility, repairs, cleaning, etc.)?

From the aid recipients study



Did you feel lonely in the past year?

From the Aid Recipients Study



Loneliness is considered as one of the most severe and common issues the elderly population faces. Studies have indicated that loneliness has a negative impact on a person's physical and emotional health condition and even constitutes a risk factor for mortality among the elderly. In the UK, the severity of this phenomenon was recognized and a minister was appointed to handle the problem.

31% of the elderly, ages 65-74, report

frequent or occasional loneliness. This phenomenon occurs among 43% of people who are 75 years old and older (The Knesset Center for Information and Research, 2016).

One of the risk factors for loneliness is socioeconomic status; 78.9% of the elderly aid recipients experienced loneliness frequently or occasionally during the past year. For 48.4% of them, it happened frequently, a percentage much higher than the one in the general elderly population.



78.9% of the elderly aid recipients experienced loneliness frequently or occasionally during the past year



THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX

This is the fifth consecutive year that the findings of the Multidimensional Poverty Index, developed by the ERI Institute for Latet, have been published. As opposed to the official poverty line, which defines and subsequently measures poverty solely on the basis of households' income, the Multidimensional Poverty Index relies upon a completely different approach to the meaning of poverty.

According to the index guiding principle, in order to assess whether a household¹ is in a state of poverty, three fundamental questions must be answered:

1. What are a person's basic needs in order to live with dignity in Israel?
2. How does one evaluate the extent of the household members' deficiency in relation to these needs?
3. At what rate of deficiency in the various aspects of life should a household (with all of its family members) be defined as living in poverty?
4. In other words, the Multidimensional

Poverty Index defines poverty as a state of extreme deficiency in relation to the needs and conditions vital for maintaining a dignified life. More specifically, the index defines the degree of a household's deficiency in relation to 5 components which constitute, in our opinion, a person's welfare: housing, education, health, nutritional security and the ability to cope with the cost of living.

As a result of the experience accumulated from previous years, this year, the index underwent two significant methodological updates. The first one is a transition from an index examining poverty of adults in the population to an index examining poverty of households, which directly measures the manifestations of deficiency in the various fields of life both among children and adults in the household and their respective weight. The second change is the expansion of the indicators identifying real deficiency to meet basic needs, while reducing at the same time the reliance on the indirect indicator of the household's available income.

¹ A household consists of one person or a number of people who form together one financial unit – generally members of one nuclear family.

The transition to measuring poverty on a household level allows for a better understanding of the way people deal with reality from an economic point of view, and of the mutual dependence between the members of the same household. Additionally, it enables us to share a uniform language with the official institutions responsible for dealing with poverty in Israel. Concurrently, reducing the reliance on the income indicator strengthens the unique approach of the Multidimensional Index to poverty, which takes into account the adjusted weight of tangible manifestations of deficiency in various fields of life as opposed

to the official poverty line which defines and measures poverty based solely on a household's income.

Using a representative sample of Israeli households, we measured this year's economic poverty rates in Israeli society. As in previous years, the poverty rates found by the Multidimensional Index are significantly higher than the National Insurance Institute's index. The fact that this finding has been found again this year, while using a new and updated methodology, strengthens its validity.²

How to read the Index?

The Multidimensional Poverty Index presents two types of data:

1. Data about the rates of deficiency in each one of the five components mentioned earlier:
 - The index awards each household a score indicating its deficiency rate in relation to a specific component. The deficiency score ranges on a scale from 1 to 5, according to the following classification:
 - 1 = Very severe deficiency
 - 2 = Severe deficiency
 - 3 = Deficiency
 - 4 = Slight deficiency
 - 5 = Lack of deficiency
 - In the following findings, we will present the rate of households and individuals living in deficiency in relation to

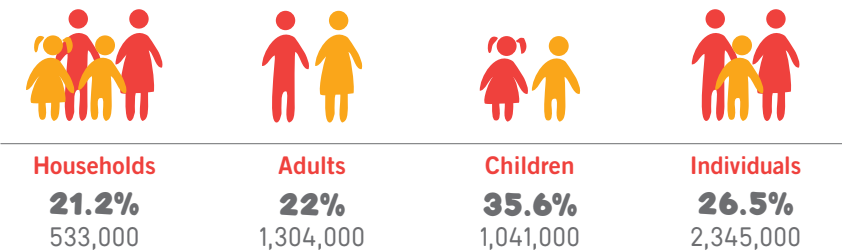
each of the components based on the aforementioned scale. This rate constitutes an assessment of the real deficiency rates within Israeli society.

2. Data about the rate and number of those living in poverty:
 - The index gives each of the surveyed households a combined score, which determines whether they are living in severe poverty, poverty or lack of poverty based on the rate of deficiency they experience in each of the five components.
 - In the findings presented below, we will present the rate and number of households, adults, children and individuals (adults and children) who are living in poverty. This rate constitutes an assessment of the real poverty rates within Israeli society.

² The full explanation regarding the scientific methodology of the Index and the updates that were made to it appear in the Hebrew report in the link latet.org.il

The Multidimensional Poverty Rates in Israel, 2018

We obtained the 2018 poverty rates by calculating the poverty rates in the sample and adjusting them to the most up-to-date statistics of Israeli demography ^{3,4}



There were no statistically significant differences found between the Multidimensional Poverty Rates of 2018 and 2017. The picture received from analyzing the Multidimensional Index data over the past 5 years shows that the magnitude of the problem of poverty, when measured using a multidimensional method, is consistently higher than the official poverty rates of the National Insurance Institute.

³ Based on the most up-to-date statistics of the National Bureau of Statistics:
a. The Israeli Population in April 2018 from “The State of Israel in Numbers in Honor of 70 Years Since its Establishment” – National Bureau of Statistics 2018
b. Israeli population division by age (children 0-17, adults 18-95+), from table 2.3 in the Israel Statistical Annual Report – National Bureau of Statistics 2018
c. Israeli households division in 2017 by population groups, from table 5.1 in the Israel Statistical Annual Report – National Bureau of Statistics 2018
⁴ The poverty rates presented here for households, children and individuals are estimates based on the index findings, after correcting a missing sampling of households with children within the Arab sector. Explanation on this subject can be found in the methodology chapter in the Hebrew report.

Deficiency rates in relation to the five components⁵

Housing

The housing score is calculated based on five indicators:

1. Basic situation: do the household members have a permanent roof over their heads?
2. Density: the average number of persons per room and the existence of separate rooms for parents and children (over the age of 3).
3. Quality: the existence of severe defects

in the house that are not repaired due to economic reasons.

4. Accessibility: the absence of financial ability to make the house accessible for a household member who requires it (for example: lack of wheelchair access, lack of adapted shower stall, etc.).

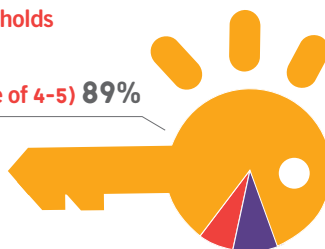
5. Vulnerability: the degree to which household members are at risk of losing their home for financial reasons.

Deficiency rates of households

Lack of deficiency (score of 4-5) 89%

Deficiency (score of 3) 6%

Severe deficiency (score of 1-2) 5%



Total of households living in deficiency – 11%

Total of individuals living in deficiency⁶ – 17.6%

⁵ Pursuant to the previous comment, in the deficiency rates we could not correct the missing sampling of households with children in the Arab sector; and consequently, we estimate that they approximate rates that are smaller than the real rates deficiency in the general population. Explanation on this subject can be found in the methodology chapter in the Hebrew report on Latet's website.

⁶ Here and later, when the rate of individuals in deficiency is greater than the rate of households living in deficiency, it indicates that the households living in deficiency tend to be large (with a large number of members).

Education

The education component is based on weighing two factors:

1. The adult education factor, which includes two indicators (weighted according to the adult with the lowest level of education in the household):

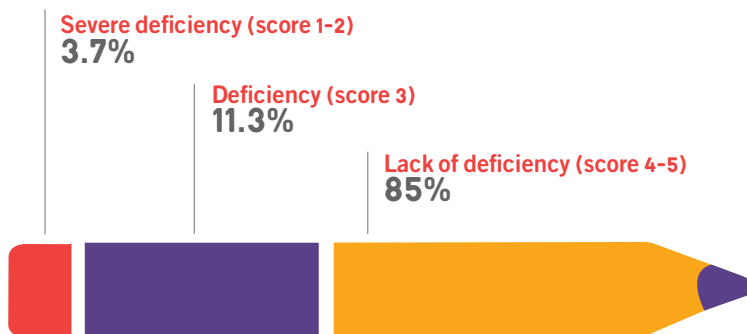
- The level of formal high school education among adults (over the age of 18) in the household; and the extent to which they are currently giving up on completing their education due to financial reasons.

- The extent to which young adults in the household (ages 18-44) are giving up on higher education due to financial reasons.

2. The children's education factor, which includes two main indicators:

- Children's absence from school due to the financial situation.
- Forfeiting essential educational needs based on the children's age, due to financial reasons, such as extracurricular activities, trips, private tutoring lessons, basic school supplies, etc.

Deficiency rates of households



Total of households living in deficiency – 15%

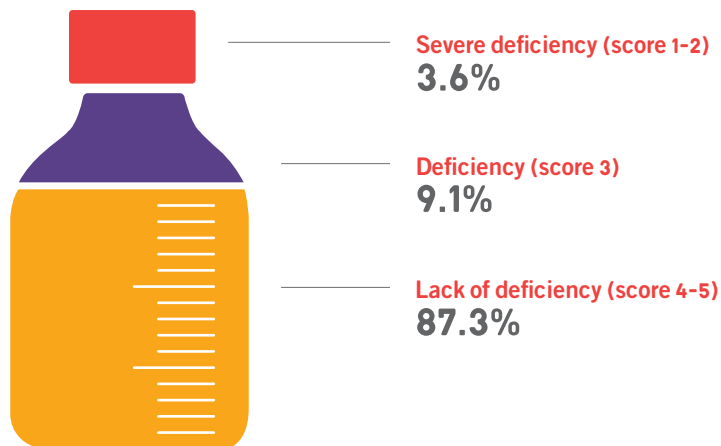
Total of individuals living in deficiency – 20.5%

Health

The health component is based on four indicators:

1. The financial ability to purchase complementary or private insurance for household members who need it.
2. The financial ability to pay for medical services necessary to the functioning of the household members.
3. Frequency to which the household members give up on medical services essential to their functioning, due to a lack of access to the treatment (such as long wait lists and distance).
4. Functioning of the household members was impaired due to their inability to pay for nursing care or essential medical equipment.

Deficiency rates of households



Total of households living in deficiency – 12.7%

Total of individuals living in deficiency – 13.1%

Nutritional Security

The deficiency rates in this component are based on the questionnaire developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture⁷ and adopted by the National Insurance Institute of Israel⁸. The questionnaire assesses the level of households' nutritional security, using 18 questions that examine the accessibility to an adequate quality and quantity of food. The questionnaire assigns each household a score that is divided into 4 ranges, which indicate 4 categories of nutritional security:

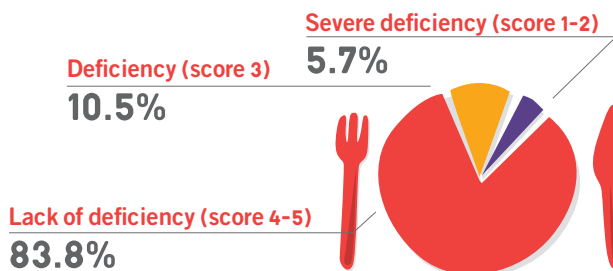
For households without children under the age of 18 (10 questions) – nutritional security (0-2), nutritional insecurity without hunger (3-5), nutritional insecurity with moderate hunger (6-8), and nutritional insecurity with

hunger (9-10).

For households with children under the age of 18 (18 questions) – nutritional security (0-2), nutritional insecurity without hunger (3-7), nutritional insecurity with moderate hunger (8-12), and nutritional insecurity with hunger (13-18).

We translated the different categories into the terms of the Multidimensional Poverty Index, as follows: nutritional security = lack of deficiency, nutritional insecurity without hunger = deficiency, nutritional insecurity with moderate hunger = severe deficiency, nutritional insecurity with hunger = very severe deficiency.

Deficiency rates of households



Total of households living in deficiency – 16.2%

Total of individuals living in deficiency – 18.8%

⁷ Guide to Measuring Household Food Security – Revised 2000 – Bickel et al., USDA

⁸ For example: The Nutritional Security Survey – Endeweld et al., 2016, National Insurance Institute

Cost of living

In order to estimate deficiency in relation to this component, we relate to two types of indicators, based on the severity of inability to cope with the cost of living and meet the basic living conditions:

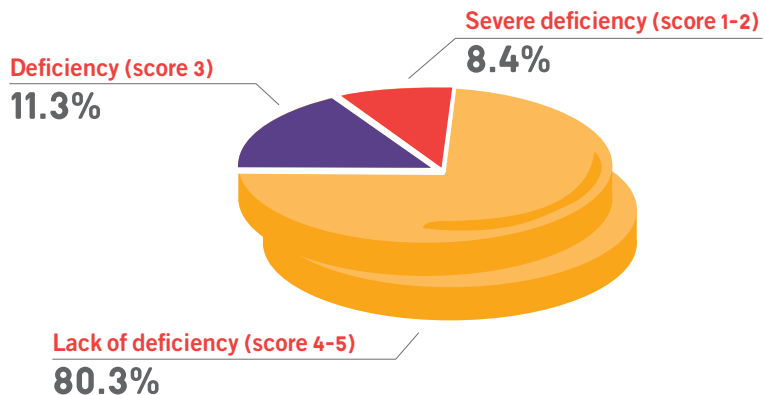
1. "Hard" indicators:

- Lack of financial ability to heat the house
- Late payment of bills
- Electricity/water cut off due to failure to pay bills
- Late payments of debts
- Eviction from home, foreclosures or existence of legal procedures due to arrears
- Lack of clothes and shoes in right size and proper condition

2. "Soft" Indicators:

- Lack of financial ability to cool the house with air conditioner
- Lack of financial ability to go out for entertainment (movie, sporting event, etc.) at least once every three months

Deficiency rates of households



Total of households living in deficiency – 19.7%

Total of individuals living in deficiency – 25.1%

THANK YOU :)

Latet would like to express its deep appreciation to all who supported and worked for the success of the study and the production of the 2018 Alternative Poverty Report.

We would like to thank MAZON: a Jewish response to hunger, for supporting our advocacy efforts and the publication of the Alternative Poverty Report.

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And above all, thank you to the people and to the brave families who, despite the difficulty, agreed to expose their complex conditions and ways of life, in order to testify about the face of poverty in Israel in 2018, and by doing so, became partners in the civil effort to make a difference and change the social reality in Israel.

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

The Universal Declaration of Humans Rights, 1948



"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the action of human beings."

(Nelson Mandela)



לַתֵּת LATET