

**PRIMARY DATA SUMMARY FROM THE 2020 FOOD WASTE AND RESCUE IN ISRAEL REPORT**

**HOW MUCH FOOD IS WASTED IN ISRAEL?**



**2.5 Million Tons** The amount of food wasted in Israel in 2020

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND COST OF FOOD WASTE/LOSS**

**USD \$ 1.0 Billion** total environmental cost of food waste in Israel

**USD \$ 0.4 Billion** Wasted Natural Resources (Land & water)

**USD \$ 0.4 Billion** Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Pollution

**USD \$ 0.2 Billion** Waste Collection & Processing (direct cost)

**IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

**150 Thousand People** became food insecure

The crisis exacerbated the problem of food insecurity in Israel, highlighted the importance of food rescue as a central policy tool, and showed that it was possible to reduce food waste by changing consumption patterns and habits

**50 Thousand Ton**

**Reduction in waste** Due to changes in consumption habits resulting from an increase in online shopping, a decrease in open-market shopping, and a shift from institutional consumption to household consumption

**Institutional Sector**

A decrease in food waste in restaurants, hotels, events halls, catering halls, workplaces and educational institutions.

**46%** reduction in food waste

**USD \$ 0.5 Billion** value of food wasted in the sector

**Agricultural Sector**

An increase in waste due to a shortage of working hands during the lockdowns, the restrictions on export, and the shutting down of the institutional sector

**20 Thousand Ton** increase in food waste in the sector

**Household Sector**

The restrictions and lockdowns led to people spending more time at home, which diverted consumption so that a substantial share of the food basket was consumed at home instead of being purchased outside the home or in the institutional sector

**USD \$ 1,045** The value of food wasted per household. An additional USD \$ 87 on average compared to 2019

**Retail Sector**

A decrease in food waste due to open markets being closed and an increase in purchases from supermarkets and online shopping

**17 Thousand Ton** decrease in food waste

**USD \$ 1.25 Billion** worth of food wasted in the retail sector

**HOW MUCH FOOD CAN BE RESCUED?**

**1.1 Million Tons** of the wasted food is rescuable and fit for human consumption

**50%** of food waste is rescuable  
**USD \$ 1.85 Billion** Value of Rescuable Food Waste

**VALUE OF RESCUABLE FOOD WASTE**

**USD \$ 495 M** Agriculture

**USD \$ 130 M** Sorting & Packaging

**USD \$ 64 M** Industry

**USD \$ 1,000 M** Retail & Distribution

**USD \$ 160 M** Institutional

# THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FOOD RESCUE

» **Food rescue** is clearly preferable to alternative methods of bridging the food insecurity gap; allocations, donations, subsidies or support for the needy.

» **USD \$1.1 billion** annually is what it would cost to bridge the entire gap between the food consumption expenditure of food insecure populations and normative food expenditure levels.

» It would cost **USD \$0.3 billion** to rescue food worth **USD \$1.1 billion**, which is the value of the entire food consumption gap suffered by the food insecure population.

**USD \$ 1.1 Billion**  
in annual savings to the economy at a cost of only **USD \$0.3 billion**

## WHY RESCUE FOOD ?

Food rescue is a winning formula for preventing unnecessary waste. It makes it possible to produce food without using additional natural resources such as land and water, prevents the creation of waste, and contributes to reducing pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions.

### 1. ECONOMIC BENEFIT

Food rescue is an alternative method of food production that prevents the need to use most of the resources and saves most of the costs associated with food production.

### 2. SOCIAL BENEFIT

Food rescue reduces social gaps and prevents food insecurity among the weaker population groups.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

Food rescue reduces pollutants and emissions while saving land and water resources.

**USD \$ 1 = USD \$ 3.6**

Every Dollar invested in food rescue enables the recovery of NIS 3.6 worth of food

**USD \$ 1 = USD \$ 4.2**

When taking into account greenhouse gases, air pollutants, and waste treatment, every Dollar invested in food rescue generates a direct economic value of USD \$ \$ 4.2

## RECOMMENDATION FOR POLICIES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND ENCOURAGE FOOD RESCUE



**Formulating a national plan for reducing food waste and promoting food rescue** - The plan should address food waste and food rescue throughout the entire value chain and cover all conditions required for gradually achieving the food waste reduction and food rescue goal. Implementing the plan would require the involvement of most of the government ministries and this would be coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office. For example:

- **The Ministry of Environmental Protection** would examine and promote, among other things, policy tools for reducing food waste and promoting food rescue as a means for meeting emission targets in the fields of waste, industry, and agriculture, as determined by the Ministry's waste strategy.
- **The Ministry of Agriculture** would examine an incentive and reimbursement policy for compensating farmers who donate food instead of destroying it. In addition, it would examine policy tools and technologies for turning food intended for disposal into a resource.
- **The Ministry of Economy** would review an incentive and reimbursement policy for compensating manufacturers who donate healthy food instead of disposing it. The Ministry would also look into how dynamic pricing could be implemented in supermarket chains to reduce food waste caused by pending expiration dates.
- **The Ministry of Welfare and Social Security** would examine the possibility of financially supporting projects and activities for rescuing food and distributing it to the needy.
- **The Procurement Administration** would examine the possibility of obligating private entities participating in government tenders to provide services to the state (not only in the food industry), that have rescuable food sources, to engage with recognized food rescue nonprofit organization as a prerequisite for entering into contract. The possibility of obligating state-funded bodies to connect with a recognized food rescue NPO as a condition for receiving a budget from the government should also be examined (together with the Government Companies Authority).



**Addressing food rescue and food security in preparing the economy for emergencies, crises, and pandemics** - As part of the conclusions derived from the Covid-19 crisis, the integration of a food rescue policy as part of a national emergency plan should be examined. This should include a consideration of how best to use the abilities, infrastructures, knowledge, and experience of the public, private, and third sectors.



**Examining how the current regulation contributes to food waste** - A comprehensive review and amendment of the existing laws in Israel is required in order to prevent food waste and encourage food rescue by using a system of incentives that would cause these surpluses to be rescued and provided to the needy.