

Primary Data Summary from the 2021 Food Waste and Rescue in Israel Report

HOW MUCH FOOD IS WASTED IN ISRAEL?



5.7 Billion LBS. The amount of food wasted in Israel in 2021

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND COST OF FOOD WASTE/LOSS

USD \$1 Billion Total environmental cost of food waste in Israel

- USD \$0.4 Billion** Wasted Natural Resources
- USD \$0.4 Billion** GHG Emissions and Air Pollution
- USD \$0.2 Billion** Waste Collection & Processing

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, it also prevents the creation of waste, and contributes to reducing pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions.

- 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.
- SOCIAL BENEFIT** - Food rescue reduces social gaps and prevents food insecurity among the vulnerable populations.
- ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT** - Food rescue reduces pollutants and emissions whilst saving land and water resources.

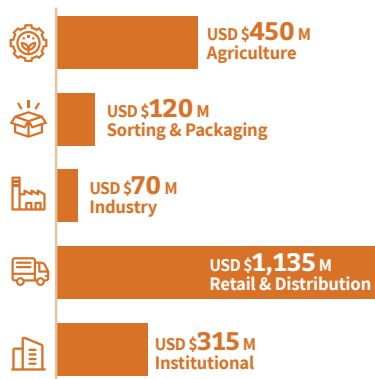
HOW MUCH FOOD CAN BE RESCUED?

2.4 Billion LBS. of the wasted food is rescuable & fit for human consumption

Approx. **50%** of food waste is rescuable

USD \$2.1 Billion Value of Rescuable Food Waste

VALUE OF RESCUABLE FOOD WASTE



USD \$1 = USD \$3.6

Every dollar invested in food rescue enables the recovery of at USD \$3.6 worth of food

USD \$1 = USD \$4.3

When taking into account greenhouse gases, air pollutants, and waste treatment, every dollar invested in food rescue generates a direct economic value of USD \$4.3

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF FOOD RESCUE

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

» **USD \$0.9 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 \$0.26 billion** to rescue food worth **USD \$0.9 billion**, which is the value of the entire food consumption gap suffered by the food insecure population.

USD \$1.4 Billion

in annual savings to the economy at a cost of only **USD \$0.26 billion**

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

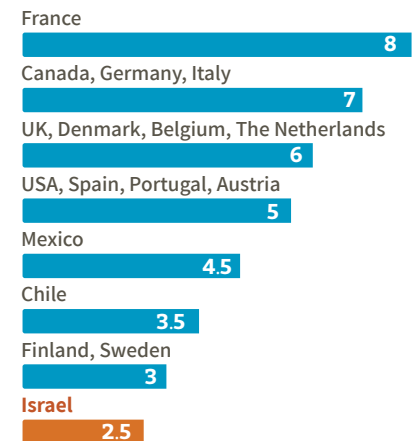
- 1 Set a National Goal** of a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030, in accordance with UN's SDG.
- 2 Develop a National Plan for Food Rescue** led by the Prime Minister's Office. The plan should address food waste and rescue at all stages of the value chain and include the necessary operational, budgetary, and regulatory conditions and incentives for gradually achieving the national food waste reduction and rescue goal.
- 3 Update Expiration Date Labels**
 - Establish two types of labels for food products:
 1. **Safety-based date:** Consuming food after this date might be dangerous.
 2. **Quality-based label:** Consuming food after this date is still safe.
 - Promote legislation that allows selling and donating food after the date on quality-based labels.
 - Launch a campaign to educate consumers, to prevent confusion regarding expiration date labels.
- 4 Tax Benefits** - Promote increasing the tax credit for food donations, as an incentive to encourage manufacturers, importers, and others working in the food industry, as well as, growers of agricultural produce and animal-based food products to donate surplus food and engage with NPOs that distribute food free of charge to at-risk populations experiencing food insecurity.
- 5 Mandatory Food Donations**
 - Promote legislation for the compulsory donation of surplus food.
 - The legislation must make it a requirement for all manufacturers, suppliers, and marketers of food, including institutional caterers, to donate unsold food that is fit for human consumption or alternately donate it for animal feed or to the general industry to reduce food waste.
 - The legislation must regulate the transfer of surplus food to its destination.
- 6 Examine a Ban on Transferring Organic Waste to Landfill** - Forbid manufacturers through legislation from sending more than a certain amount of organic waste to landfill each month, and require them to either compost, use anaerobic digestion or donate the remainder.
Alternatively, **examine payment options for commercial waste.** Currently practiced as a voluntary mechanism whereby local authorities can charge businesses a special fee for commercial waste collection. It is recommended to make this binding on all Israeli municipalities and regulate the criteria for payment. Any business that is responsible for the organic waste will be required to pay for it, creating an incentive for businesses in the food industry to donate rather than discard their surplus food.
- 7 Ongoing Government Support**
 - Allocate a budget for ongoing efforts and initiatives for reducing food waste and encouraging food rescue.
 - Allocate funding for food rescue and food security as part of economic preparations for emergencies, crises, and pandemics.
- 8 Remove Obstacles for Reducing Food Waste** - Advance a comprehensive examination of existing Israeli law and amend it to prevent food waste and encourage food rescue.

KEY POLICY TOOLS AROUND THE GLOBE, TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND INCREASE FOOD RESCUE

According to the Global Donation Policy Atlas and the European Union

-  **Protection from legal liability for food donations**
-  **A legal framework for clear food safety guidelines**
-  **Government grants and incentives**
-  **Prohibition/ taxation for sending organic waste to landfill**
-  **A national goal for reducing food waste by 50% by 2030**
-  **Tax incentives to encourage the donation of surplus food**
-  **Adopting a national strategy for reducing food waste**
-  **Marking expiration dates as either safety-based or quality-based labels** (enabling the donation of food after quality-based expiration date)

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY TOOLS in Selected Countries



 **Financial policies have the widest influence on reducing food waste among the policy tools surveyed.**

 **The lack of organized government policy leaves Israel far from being able to realize its potential to reduce food waste.**