

Foreword - Gidi Kroch, CEO of Leket Israel

A decade ago, the State Control Committee of the Knesset, chaired by MK Karine Elharrar, convened to address the issue of food loss and rescue in Israel. Its conclusion revealed a critical gap: there was no data on how much food was being lost, how much could be rescued, or the economic, health, social, and environmental implications of the issue.

It became clear that without data, there could be no informed policy, no strategic planning, and no meaningful change. That's why we at Leket Israel decided to step in and fill the gap.

This is how the National Food Waste and Rescue Report was born, the first report in Israel to provide a comprehensive, data-driven, and methodologically sound overview of food waste, rescue potential, and the significant cost to the state.

Since then, we have published the report annually for ten consecutive years, and it has become a central tool in shaping food rescue policy in Israel. The data and models developed in collaboration with BDO now serve as a foundation for the work of government agencies, academia, the business sector, and civil society. Over time, these tools have helped shape the national conversation, positioning food loss reduction as a key element of sustainability policy, corporate responsibility, and food security.

The ten-year anniversary of the National Food Waste and Rescue Report marks a significant milestone in a journey that began with isolated food rescue efforts and led to national leadership in the field.

Leket Israel is not only the national food rescue organization; it is a driving force for systemic change. We lead the conversation, research, and policymaking, working in close partnership with government ministries, the Knesset, and the business sector to advance legislation, regulations, and long-

term solutions. The recommendations we have published over the years have led to meaningful change, improving the lives of hundreds of thousands across the country.

Our long-standing partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection laid the groundwork for a national food loss reduction policy and key legislative progress. At the same time, collaboration with the Ministry of Health is driving strategic programs to improve nutrition and health among vulnerable populations, including schoolchildren.

Yet the road ahead is still long. The challenges we face - economic, health-related, environmental, and social - demand stronger action, dedicated funding, and deeper, broader collaboration.

Data alone is not enough - what's needed is bold policy and swift action. Every day of delay means good food goes to waste and families go hungry.

This Report marks ten years of knowledge, action, and impact, and serves as a clear call to continue the journey:

To make food rescue a national norm and a shared goal, until we achieve our ultimate vision:

An Israel without food waste.

On behalf of Leket Israel, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our many partners in government, academia, the business sector, and civil society for their support, trust, and commitment. Most of all, I wish to thank the dedicated staff of Leket Israel and the hundreds of thousands of volunteers, without whom none of this would have been possible. Together, we will continue driving meaningful change toward a more just, healthy, and resilient society.