

# FOOD WASTE AND RESCUE IN ISRAEL

Key Data from the 2024 Food Waste and Rescue Report in Israel

10th  
Annual  
Report

## HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS:

Poor nutrition and food insecurity are linked to increased healthcare costs, both for the healthcare system and the general public. Food insecurity negatively affects both physical and mental health.



THE ADDITIONAL ANNUAL HEALTH COST PER PERSON LIVING WITH FOOD INSECURITY IS ESTIMATED AT **NIS 3,850 (USD \$1,040)**



In Israel, approximately **1.5 MILLION PEOPLE (485,000 HOUSEHOLDS)** suffer from food insecurity

The total additional national healthcare cost due to food insecurity, per year, is approximately

**NIS 5.8 BILLION (USD \$1.6 B)** REPRESENTING ABOUT **4%** OF TOTAL NATIONAL HEALTH EXPENDITURES

## FOOD RESCUE: COMBINED ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

Food rescue offers a win-win solution: it prevents unnecessary loss, enables the production of food without additional use of natural resources, e.g. land and water, avoids waste generation, and helps reduce emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases.



### ECONOMIC BENEFIT

Food rescue serves as an alternative to food production, avoiding much of the resource use and costs involved in producing new food.



### SOCIAL BENEFIT

Food rescue helps reduce inequality by alleviating food insecurity among vulnerable populations.



### HEALTH BENEFIT

By ensuring access to nutritious food, food rescue contributes to better health outcomes for underserved groups and reduces healthcare expenses.



### ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT

Food rescue reduces pollution and emissions while conserving land and water resources.



**EVERY SHEKEL INVESTED IN FOOD RESCUE, IS EQUAL TO =**

**NIS 3.6**

Every shekel invested in food rescue **directly recovers food worth NIS 3.6**

**NIS 4.2**

When accounting for avoided emissions, air pollution, and waste treatment, each shekel invested in food rescue **generates NIS 4.2 in value to the national economy.**

**NIS 10.7**

When health benefits from reducing food insecurity are included, **the total value to the national economy rises to NIS 10.7 for every shekel invested in food rescue.**

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1



Adopt, fund, and implement the National Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste, led by the Ministry of Environmental Protection in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture.

2



Develop a dedicated plan for reducing food loss during emergencies.

3



Advance legislation and regulatory frameworks to prevent food loss and waste.

Writing and Editing:



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## 2024 IN NUMBERS:

around  
1.3%  
of the  
national  
GDP



**2.6 MILLION TONS OF  
FOOD WERE LOST**



**VALUED AT NIS 26.2  
BILLION (USD \$7B)**



**6.7 MILLION TONS**

the decline in agricultural  
production volume in 2024 due to  
the Swords of Iron War



**NIS 9.9 BILLION** (USD \$2.7b)  
the value of  
rescuable food

**39%**

of all food produced in  
Israel was lost or wasted

## A DECADE OF MEASURING FOOD WASTE AND RESCUE:



**NIS 211 BILLION (USD \$57B)**  
the cumulative cost of food loss and  
waste over the past decade



**13.3%** decrease in per capita  
food waste over the decade

## FOOD LOSS AND RESCUE ALONG THE VALUE CHAIN:

The overall impact of food loss on the cost of living is  
estimated at an additional, per household:

**NIS 10,785** (USD \$2,900), per year



Agriculture

**696,000 tons lost**

valued at approximately  
**NIS 3.8 billion** (USD \$1b)



Institutional consumption

**230,000 tons wasted**

valued at approximately  
**NIS 4 billion** (USD \$1b)



Household consumption

**966,000 tons wasted**

valued at approximately  
**NIS 10 billion** (USD \$2.7b)



Retail and distribution

**455,000 tons of food lost**

valued at approximately  
**NIS 6.7 billion** (USD \$1.8b)

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND COSTS:



waste management  
costs

**NIS 1 BILLION**  
(USD \$270m)



greenhouse gas emissions  
and air pollution

**NIS 1.6 BILLION**  
(USD \$432m)



loss of natural  
resources

**NIS 1.6 BILLION**  
(USD \$432m)

**NIS 4.2 BILLION**

total environmental cost of food loss  
and waste in Israel (USD \$1.1b)

Writing and Editing: