



Donating and Volunteering Patterns in Israel

May 2013

Israel's voluntary sector has taken on new prominence in recent years. There is evidence of increasing volunteerism and philanthropy, as well as a growing role of the non-profit sector. There is also evidence, however, that Israel's rates of philanthropy and volunteerism are lower than in most western countries, while the size of the non-profit sector in the economy is relatively large. This MJB Fact Sheet provides a brief overview of current patterns.

Do Israelis donate?

Data from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics and a recent international survey provide insight into the extent to which Israelis donate.

A significant percent of Israelis have donated in the last 12 months to institutions or individuals beyond friends and family

- ◆ 68% of people age 20 or older reported donating.
- ◆ 72% of the 50-54 age group reported donating, making them the age group in which donations are most common. At least 52% of all other groups over age 20 reported making donations.

A majority of respondents in all income levels reported donating, although the percentage and amounts increase with income

- ◆ The percentage of people who donate rises with income from 64% in the lowest income level to 85% in the highest income level.

Rate of donors varies among social groups

- ◆ Rates of donation are somewhat lower among immigrants born in the former Soviet Union, and even more so among Arab-Israelis.

Donation amounts vary widely

- ◆ 68% of donors reported donating up to 500 NIS, while 17% reported donating above 1,000 NIS.
- ◆ 56% of donors in lower-income levels (income up to 2,000 NIS per month) reported donating up to 100 NIS a year.
- ◆ 34% of donors in higher-income levels (income above 21,000 NIS per month) reported donating over 1,000 NIS a year.

Donations are important for non-profit organizations

- ◆ In 2009, 17% of the income of non-profit organizations came from donations from households and corporations.

Recent international comparative survey

- ◆ According to the 2012 World Giving Index survey, 52% of Israelis donated in the last month, ranking Israel in the 19th place among 146 countries included in the index (UK is ranked 4 and the US 13).

Policy framework

- ◆ Israel's income tax regulations for individuals include a 35% tax credit on donations to recognized public charitable institutions, for donations between 180 NIS and 9 million NIS or 30% of the taxable income, the lower of the two.
- ◆ Tax benefits are relatively new and are relatively small.
- ◆ There is no legal framework to support the development of charitable foundations.

Do Israelis volunteer?

Data from Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics and a recent international survey provide insight into the extent to which Israelis volunteer.

Many people volunteer

- ◆ 19% of people age 20 or older reported volunteering at least once during the previous 3 months.
- ◆ 23% of the 45-49 age group reported volunteering, compared with 17% of all other age groups.

Rate of volunteering varies among social groups

- ◆ Rates of volunteering are somewhat lower among immigrants born in the former Soviet Union, and even more so among Arab-Israelis.

Israelis volunteer in a range of settings

- ◆ 51% of volunteers reported volunteering in an organizational setting, 37% in private settings, and 12% in both settings.
- ◆ The most common volunteer setting (35% of volunteers) was with people in need, such as elderly, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. 25% of volunteers reported volunteering in educational settings, and 10% volunteers were in culture, health, religious work, nature, and other fields.

The time commitment of the volunteers is significant

- ◆ 75% of volunteers reported volunteering on a weekly basis.
- ◆ Of these, 80% reported volunteering for 5 or more hours per week and a significant group volunteer for over 20 hours.

Israel offers a number of unique volunteer opportunities

In Israel, there are a number of large-scale volunteer frameworks for youth and young adults. Some examples include:

- ◆ A Ministry of Education **10th-Grade Community Service Project** requires all 10th grade students to volunteer at least 60 hours to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.
- ◆ High school graduates can serve a “**Volunteer Year in the Community**” before entering the army, volunteering with youth movements, social organizations, and other groups.
- ◆ **Young Communities** can be established in neighborhoods or other settings to foster relationships with local residents and to build community capacity.
- ◆ **National Service** provides a full-time volunteer experience for those exempt from military service.

Recent international comparative survey

- ◆ According to the 2012 World Giving Index survey, 14% of Israelis age 15 and older volunteered in the last month, ranking Israel in the 84th place among 146 countries included in the index (US is ranked 7 and the UK 35).

Israel's Voluntary and Non-Profit Sector in International Comparison

- ◆ An international study by Johns Hopkins University's Center for Civil Society Studies found that Israel's non-profit sector is larger than those in Australia, United States, France, Norway, the Czech Republic and more.
- ◆ While Israel's non-profit sector is larger than other countries, the percentage of volunteers working in the sector is lower in comparison to other countries.

