



Mapping of Arab Food Aid Organizations in Israel

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The study was funded with the assistance of
the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel,
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Executive Summary

Background

The net income of over half the Arab households in Israel (51%), after National Insurance Institute (NII) payments and taxes, falls below the poverty line; this is more than three times greater than the percentage among Jewish households (15%). One of the repercussions of poverty is food insecurity, defined in the literature as the uncertain ability to obtain adequate food in socially acceptable ways over time. Arab households are indeed more vulnerable than Jewish households to situations of food insecurity (Nirel et al., 2005).

A broad diversity of policy mechanisms are designed to prevent food insecurity, one of the main strategies being the direct provision of food. In recent years, food aid has expanded in Israel, in particular through voluntary organizations (Nirel et al., 2005). However, little is known about the extent of this form of activity in Arab localities, particularly since much of it is conducted through unofficial channels.

Given the lack of this vital information, the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel asked the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute and the Massar Institute for Research, Planning, and Social Consultation to conduct a comprehensive study of Arab food aid organizations.

Study Goals

1. To identify the Arab organizations that distribute food aid
2. To examine their characteristics, their deployment and the extent of their operation
3. To document their operating methods
4. To identify their unmet needs
5. To provide information that can serve as the foundation for the development of cooperation between the Arab aid organizations and a national food bank as well as other national food aid organizations.

Study Method

The study was based on face-to-face interviews with representatives of the organizations providing food to needy Arab families. In the course of the fieldwork, which was conducted from June through August 2008, the interviewers identified 190 food aid organizations, which we estimate to account for approximately 80% of the Arab organizations active in the field. Among those identified, 176 (92%) responded positively and were interviewed. The study examined officially registered organizations as well as those that are not known to the authorities. The study did not however examine informal assistance provided within the extended family.

Main Findings

1. There is a broad and diverse network of food aid organizations in Arab society and an extensive infrastructure that can be strengthened and built upon.
2. A small minority (11%) of the organizations have both religious and political affiliations, while about half (52%) have a religious affiliation, but are not politically affiliated. Approximately one-third of the organizations (36%) have no religious affiliation and almost none of those have political affiliations.
3. About 55% of the organizations are relatively new (i.e., have begun to provide food aid since 2000). About half of the organizations are not formally registered. Most are locally based and are relatively small with regard to the number of recipients, material resources and staff.
4. The organizations operate in various ways, many of them proactively going to the families' homes to distribute the food. The organizations do not only distribute food; they also proactively seek out the families in need. Families are also referred to the organizations by relatives and acquaintances and by the local social service departments, which play a significant role in referring families and with which most of the organizations enjoy cooperation. Generally speaking, the food is allocated as a function of the extent of the families' need.
5. The packages distributed include varieties of fresh and dried foodstuffs, particularly canned foods, grains, meat and fish. The types of assistance are also varied and many organizations distribute school supplies, clothing and financial assistance as well as food.
6. The organizations employ very few paid workers.
7. Most of the organizations work with other agencies, such as the *Zakat* committees (the Islamic commandment of *al-zakat* – almsgiving – requires every competent adult Muslim to donate a certain proportion of his assets to the poor) and other food aid organizations. However, most of the organizations reported that they would like greater cooperation with other food aid organizations.
8. The organizations receive funding and food donations from various sources, chiefly private donors, funds raised at religious functions, food collected at the entrances to supermarkets and donations from businessmen. Very few organizations receive funding from local authorities or government ministries.
9. Most organizations report unmet needs. Most report the need and wish to expand their activities and reach a greater number of needy families, but also report difficulties and obstacles. Many organizations report insufficient resources. With regard to organizational infrastructure, the lack of refrigeration and heating equipment and means of transporting the food are felt particularly keenly.
10. The organizations were asked about the possibility of help from a national food bank after they had been informed about such a bank's goals and operating methods. The organizations showed great interest in receiving assistance from a food bank, particularly with regard to food supply, organizational consultancy and nutritional advice.

11. Arab food aid organizations tend to be smaller and newer than Jewish food aid organizations and to have fewer resources.

Contributions of the Study

The study findings can be used by public, voluntary and other organizations and agencies interested in strengthening Arab food aid organizations. Given the great interest that the organizations expressed in receiving assistance from a food bank, the findings provide an important basis for discussions about possible cooperation.

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1. Introduction

In recent years, food aid has expanded in Israel, in particular through voluntary organizations. This report examines food aid organizations working primarily with the Arab population.

In 2007, the Arab population of Israel was 1.4 million (some 20% of the total population of 7.2 million), living in 500,000 households (out of 3.8 million households in the country) (Central Bureau of Statistics [CBS], 2008).

The net income of over half (51%) the Arab households in Israel, after taxes and National Insurance Institutions (NII) contributions, is below the poverty line. This percentage is more than three times greater than that among Jewish households (15%). Arab households account for 13% of all households in Israel, but almost a third of them are poor (NII, 2008).¹

One of the repercussions of poverty is food insecurity, defined in the literature as the uncertain ability to obtain adequate food in socially acceptable ways over time. A 2003 national survey found that Arab households were indeed more vulnerable than Jewish households to food insecurity situations (25% vs. 14%, respectively) and to severe food insecurity (11% vs. 8%, respectively) (Nirel, Rosen et al., 2005).

There is public debate in many developed countries about the best ways of coping with food insecurity. The policy measures designed to prevent it are varied and numerous (Nirel, Rosen et al., 2005), one of the main strategies being the direct provision of food. The voluntary sector plays a particularly important role in this area in many countries.

A mapping of registered nonprofit food aid organizations in Israel conducted in 2005 by the Israeli Center for Third-Sector Research found only two Arab food aid organizations out of 129 food aid organizations serving the general population (Levinson, 2005). The authors noted that there were several more Arab food aid organizations, but they were not included in the mapping as they were not registered nonprofit organizations and no comprehensive search had been conducted in the field. It is indeed known that there are several food aid frameworks in Arab localities that were not reflected in the national study. A study conducted by the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in 2005–2006 examined dozens of Arab civil society organizations working in different areas and found an extensive and diverse range of activities. However, the study did not focus on food (Even Chorev, 2008).

Given the lack of this vital information, the Forum to Address Food Insecurity and Poverty in Israel asked the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute and the Massar Institute for Research, Planning, and Social Consultation to conduct a comprehensive study of Arab food aid organizations.

¹ Poverty rates after the deduction of NII contributions and taxes represented the actual poverty rate, based on net income.

Study Goals

- ♦ To identify the Arab organizations that distribute food aid – those working in the field, including those that are not registered as nonprofit organizations, and those working with the Bedouin and in mixed cities
- ♦ To examine their characteristics, their deployment and the extent of their operation
- ♦ To document their operating methods
- ♦ To identify their unmet needs
- ♦ To provide information to serve as the foundation for the development of cooperation between the Arab aid organizations and national food banks as well as other food aid organizations.

2. Arab Society: Economic Situation, Nutrition and Third-Sector Organizations

2.1 General Information about the Arab Population of Israel

At the end of 2007, the population of Israel was 7,243,600, including 1,450,300 Arabs (20% of the population), living in 279,000 households (CBS, 2008[2]).

Muslims are the largest group in the Arab population (82%), while the Christians constitute 10% and the Druze, 8%. Most of the Arabs in Israel live in the Northern District (Upper and Lower Galilee – 55%). The remainder of them live in the Triangle area (around Wadi Ara in the center of the country, east of the line connecting Kfar Saba and Hadera and, for the purposes of this report, including Haifa – 31%) and the South (15%).

2.2 Family Size

The Arab population of Israel is characterized by a large number of children relative to the Jewish population. In 2007, the average number of persons per family was 4.9; it was 5.0 in the case of parents with at least one child up to and including age 17, while the corresponding figures in Jewish families were 3.1 and 4.3 (CBS, 2008[2]).

In 2007, approximately 20% of the Arab families comprised seven or more persons, five times greater than the percentage of Jewish families of that size in the Jewish population (4%). Most of the Arab families comprised two parents and at least one child up to age 17 (70%), compared to 47% in the Jewish population. The average number of children up to age 17 in a family was 2.2 in the Jewish population and 3 in the Arab population. The relative prevalence of Arab families with 4 or more children up to age 17 was almost three times higher than the relative prevalence in the Jewish population (CBS, 2008[2]).

2.3 Age Composition

The Arab population is relatively young. Children aged 0–15 constitute 27% of the Jewish population, compared with 42% of the Arab population (44% among the Muslims, 35% among the Druze and 28% among the Christians). In contrast, adults aged 65+ constitute 11.5% of the Jewish population, compared with 3% of the Arab population (9% among the Christians, 4% among the Druze and 3% among the Muslims) (CBS, 2008[2], Table 2.19). These data imply that a high proportion of Arabs in Israel are too young to be in the labor force.

2.4 Labor Force and Employment

Participation in the Labor Force

In 2007, the participation rate in the labor force for individuals aged 15+ was 41% in the Arab population compared with 59% in the Jewish population (CBS, 2008[2], Table 12.1).

Employment Rates

In 2007, the unemployment rate for individuals aged 15+ was 11% in the Arab population and 7% in the Jewish population (CBS, 2008[2], Table 12.1).

The same year, the percentage of Arab households with employed members was 76%, compared with 74.5% of Jewish households (CBS, 2008[2], Table 5.14).

Approximately 49% of Arab households have only one employed person, compared with 30.5% of Jewish households (CBS, 2008[2], tables 5.16 and 5.17).

The fact that Arab men and women work for fewer years impairs their ability to support themselves when they reach pension age.

Arab Women in the Labor Force

In 2006, the population of Arab women aged 18–64 was 350,000. Their participation rate in the labor force was only 22.5% – 78,600 women – of whom 65,400 (18.7%) were employed and 13,200 (3.8%) were seeking work. In contrast, 245,000 were not working, not seeking work and not studying. Arab women were over-represented in the population of women who do not participate in the labor market – they constituted 38% of all non-participating women, yet only 17.2% of all women in Israel aged 18–64. Their participation rate has grown negligibly over the years, despite a steady and constant increase in their education and a decline in their fertility rate (King et al., 2009).

Wages

According to the NII (Bendelack, 2005), the average wage of an Arab employee is only 70% of the national average. A 2007 report on average wages and income by locality published by the NII found that in Arab urban localities, the average wage was lower by 35% than that in Jewish urban localities. The report also noted that the lowest average wage was in Jisr az-Zarqa (NIS 4,102) while the highest average wage reported was in Savyon (NIS 24,303). The percentage of

2.5 Extent of Poverty

In line with the low participation rate in the labor market, the relatively large number of children and the low wage levels, poverty rates among the Arab population are high.

In 2007, about one fifth of Arab families and over a third of Arab children in Israel were living below the poverty line. For many of these families, being poor means more than just having a low income; it impinges on other areas of their lives such as housing, health and education (NII, 2008). The NII *Poverty Report* reveals enormous disparities between the Jewish and Arab population: 51% of Arab families in Israel live below the poverty line, compared with 15% of Jewish families.² Arab households account for only 13% of all households in Israel, but almost a third of them are poor.

2.6 Inequality in Income and Standard of Living

The poverty level reflects what is happening in the lowest stratum of society, but it does not necessarily reflect the entire distribution of income.³ Inequality of income in Israel is extensive and has increased in recent years.

Income

The percentage of Arab households headed by wage earners in the lowest three income deciles is high. They account for 43% of households in the lowest decile, 31% in the second lowest and 18% of households in the third lowest income decile. Arab households are not represented in the top three income deciles (CBS, 2008[2], Table 5.32).

Housing Density

Housing conditions are more crowded among the Arab population than the Jewish population. In 2006, the average number of persons per room in Arab households was 1.41 (Muslims: 1.48; Christians: 1.18; Druze: 1.19). In Jewish households, there were 0.84 persons per room on average (CBS, 2007[1]).

Subjective Measures of Standard of Living and Forfeiture of Basic Goods

In 2006, the average monthly household expenditure on goods and services was NIS 9,976, compared with NIS 11,494 per Jewish household (CBS, 2007[2]).

According to the CBS *Social Survey*, in 2007, 46% of Arabs over age 20 were satisfied with their financial situation, compared with 56% of Jews over 20. Twenty-three percent of the Arabs felt

² Based on net income, after the deduction of taxes and NII contributions.

³ The measurement of poverty currently accepted by the NII is a relative measurement of poverty, which is in fact based on the median income distribution.

they were poor in the previous year, compared with 10% of Jews. Sixty-four percent of the Arabs felt unable to cover their household expenses compared with 43% of Jews. Twenty-six percent of the Arabs reported that their financial situation had worsened in the previous five years, which was similar to the 23% rate for the Jewish population (CBS, 2008[1]).

In the same survey, respondents were asked what items they forfeited due to financial considerations. The findings indicate large disparities between the two populations. Forty-eight percent of the Arab population forfeited food, compared with 15% of the Jewish population and 63% of Arabs forfeited heating or cooling systems, compared with 29% of Jews. The percentages of those who forfeited prescription drugs were also found to be higher in the Arab population than in the Jewish population (42% vs. 11%, respectively). The same is true for dental care (66% vs. 34%). In the case of supplementary health insurance, only 19% of Jews were found not to have such insurance compared with 52% of Arabs.

It was also found that 33% of the Arab population had had their telephone lines or electricity supply disconnected in the previous year, compared with 9% of the Jewish population (CBS, 2008[1]).

2.7 Nutrition

Correct nutrition has a decisive impact on health, on correct physical functioning and on illness prevention throughout life, particularly for children and adolescents (Ministry of Health, 2006). The nutritional practices within Arab society show negative trends.

According to a national health and nutrition survey conducted by the Ministry of Health in 1999–2001, daily calorie consumption was found to be higher in the Jewish population: The average daily consumption was 2,121 kcal among Arab men and 1,507 kcal among Arab women, compared with 2,248 and 1,521 among Jewish men and women, respectively. The percentage of persons taking food supplements in the Arab population was also found to be lower than in the Jewish population. One percent of Arab men were found to take food supplements, compared with 15% of Jewish men; 7% of Arab women were found to take supplements compared with 37% of Jewish women (Ministry of Health, 2004).

In contrast, the findings of the most recent HBSC, which was conducted in the summer of 2006 (Harel et al., forthcoming), reveal that the breakfast consumption rates for most weekdays among Arab schoolchildren are higher than among Jewish children (48.3% vs. 43.1%, respectively). Furthermore, Jewish children reported a higher frequency of going without breakfast midweek (29.2%) than Arab children (19.3%). However, the gaps have narrowed. The percentage of children going without breakfast has declined in the Jewish population (from 32.5% in 2002 to 29.2% in 2006), while it has increased among Arab children (from 14.7% in 2002 to 19.3% in 2006).

2.8 Food Insecurity

As noted, the Arab population suffers from relatively high poverty rates. Studies show that poverty measures greatly affect the extent of food security in the population (Nirel, Rosen et al., 2005). Food insecurity is defined as the uncertain ability to obtain adequate food in socially acceptable ways over time. In comparison with all households in Israel, Arab households are more likely to experience mild food insecurity (25% vs. 14% of all households in Israel) and severe food security (11%, vs. 8%, respectively) (Nirel, Rosen et al., 2005).

Studies have shown that the diet of households experiencing food insecurity consists primarily of less healthy foods that contain fewer vitamins and other essential nutrients such as magnesium, calcium, folic acid and iron. As noted, a poor diet is liable to affect the physical and mental health of children and adults. Poor nutrition is also connected with lack of concentration, poor scholastic performance and slow development among children, as well as mental problems such as depression and suicidal thoughts.

2.9 Historical Development of Philanthropy in Arab Society

Philanthropy is an important value in most societies and religions. In Arab society, it has historical, cultural and religious roots.

The custom of welcoming guests and extending generosity to the poor and the helpless originates in the moral code of nomadic Bedouin society in the Arabian Peninsula before the rise of Islam in the seventh century (during the Age of Jahiliyah). This ethical code evolved to counter the otherwise helpless situation of individuals in the vastness of the desert and their dependence on others for survival (Almany and Alwan, 1982; Dowiri, 1997).

An important characteristic of Arab society is that it is a collective rather than individualistic society. Members of an individualistic society – one characterized by tenuous social relationships – put their own interests and those of their immediate families first. In a collective society, such as Arab society, individuals are born into one or more collective units (the nuclear family and various degrees of extended family) and generally, they remain part of them throughout their lives. Members of a collective society expect the collective to look after them; in return, the collective expects loyalty from all its members. A large proportion of social activity, including helping others, is conducted within the collective (Al-Jabbari, 1991).

The vast majority of the Arab population in Israel is Muslim. Helping others, particularly orphans, widows, the vulnerable and the homeless, is a paramount value. Indeed, *al-zakat* – almsgiving – is one of the five Pillars of Islam incumbent on every Muslim throughout the world. It is the duty of every competent adult to donate a certain proportion of his assets to help those in need. Al-zakat serves two main goals: it relieves the plight of the poor and redistributes wealth in Islamic society (Alkardawi, 1969; Dean and Khan, 1997). Since the rise of Islam, responsibility for collecting and distributing al-zakat monies has been divided between the state and

organizations, some of which (e.g., the Zakat committees) were established specifically for that purpose, mosques, the Waqf (Muslim religious endowment), and philanthropic organizations.

Philanthropy in the Age of Jahiliyah was informal; Islam has brought informal and formal philanthropy together and these two forms of assistance characterize Arab society to this very day.

As Arab society undergoes the transition from a collective, traditional society to a modern society, its needs change, as does the ability of traditional frameworks to respond to them. One of the changes we are witnessing is the establishment of nonprofit organizations aimed at providing essentials such as food and clothing. The religious movements were the first to set up such organizations – they created national organizations with local chapters in almost every locality. Alongside these religious organizations, we find others that are not religiously affiliated and may or may not have a political affiliation. These are civil organizations, some of which are headed by women. Some provide for a range of needs, while others focus exclusively on food.

2.10 Civil Society and Third Sector Organizations in Arab Localities

In Arab society, the rationale behind civil organization is similar to that in Jewish society, but it is organized in an essentially different way. Jewish civil society organizations are, for the most part, formal institutions with professional management and they keep written and/or electronic records of their activities. They cooperate with the authorities and they are listed in their databases. In contrast, residents of Arab villages are born into an informal organization – their extended family – the framework in which unofficial assistance is given to others, in keeping with the norms and values of Arab society. Records are kept, informally, in the memories of villagers. as shaped by socialization (Ghanem and Zeidan, 2000).

This raises the question, "What constitutes a civil society organization?" If we accept the definition that only formal organizations can belong to civil society, the conclusion is that civil society barely exists in Arab localities. Yet this does not reflect the true situation. In other words, in certain cultural and political contexts, e.g., Arab society in Israel, the definition "overlooks" a fair share of civil society activity (Hofstede, 1980).

A study of patterns of philanthropy and volunteering in Arab society in Israel (Ghanem and Zeidan, 2000) illustrates the differences between the two societies. The findings show that in 1997, only 20% of Arabs made formal donations (i.e., gave donations to formal organizations) compared with 70% of the Jewish population. However, when it comes to informal philanthropy (direct donations to individuals or families unrelated to the respondent), the data for Jews and Arabs were identical (46%). Furthermore, the definition of informal philanthropy and assistance did not include direct help to family members and friends. Had they been included, the percentages for informal philanthropy and voluntarism in the Arab villages – where individuals belong to very large extended families within which a large proportion of benevolent activity is conducted – would have been even higher than the figures presented in the study.

There are relatively few officially registered Arab civil society organizations in Israel. They constitute 5% of all civil society organizations in the country (including religious nonprofit organizations). This is a significantly small percentage in relation to the numerical representation of Israeli Arabs in the population (20%). The percentage of Arab organizations that receive support from government ministries is also very small. In 2000, only a small number of Arab organizations (about 45) had the status of public institution, enabling them to receive donations. In comparison, 3,800 Jewish organizations had this status. Thus, only 0.1% of registered nonprofit organizations were Arab (Ghanem and Zeidan, 2000).

However, since 2000, Arab civil society organizations in Israel and Jewish-Arab organizations have undergone an accelerated process of development (Even-Chorev, 2008).

In this report, we examine the activities of the Arab food aid organizations against the background of the specific cultural factors described in this section and the trends linked to the development of Arab voluntary organizations.

3. Identifying the Organizations, Fieldwork and Study Population

The study is based on face-to-face interviews with representatives of the organizations that distribute food to needy Arab families. The study population included all organizations in every Arab locality in Israel, excluding east Jerusalem and unrecognized localities.

Identifying the Organizations and Method of Collecting Data

Identifying the Arab organizations distributing food to needy Arab families is a complex process because there is no register and no single address from which the information about all the relevant organizations can be obtained. At the outset of the data collection stage, the study coordinator at Massar Institute contacted the heads of social service departments in Arab localities and asked for their assistance in identifying the relevant organizations. Approximately 80% of the department heads provided the names of representatives or nonprofit food aid organizations in the locality. Muslim clerics (imams) in the localities were also contacted and the Internet was surfed in search of relevant websites (e.g., Ittijah, an umbrella organization of Arab nonprofit organizations). The identification process lasted some six weeks.

These sources of information were very useful in the identification process, but more was needed. It was therefore decided to visit every recognized Arab locality, including those where organizations had already been identified. Consequently, in some cases the interviewers went into the field with no prior information and had to conduct a survey and search in order to identify the organizations working in each locality. Some localities were found not to have any relevant organizations. The fieldwork was conducted only in recognized Arab localities.

The next stage was to recruit and train eleven interviewers and to divide them up by geographical area according to their own place of residence. In some cases, the interviewers knew local people who were able to help find more organizations. The interviewers telephoned representatives of the organizations to arrange to meet and interview them. During the interviews, the representatives were asked about other organizations in the locality; thus, additional organizations were identified in the course of the fieldwork. During this stage, which lasted three months (June through August 2008), the interviewers identified about 190 relevant organizations. Of these, 176 (92%) responded positively and cooperated with the interviewers. Fourteen (8%) refused to cooperate or were unavailable. Figure II-1 in Appendix II illustrates the process of identifying the relevant localities.

The study did not include informal aid provided through nuclear and extended families. However, it did include officially registered organizations as well as those that are not known to the authorities. In this context, interviewees were asked, "Is the organization registered with the authorities as a food aid organization?" There is a drawback to questions of this kind, in that some organizations belonging to a larger association (e.g., local Zakat committees) are not registered as independent food aid organizations, even though they are part of one that is. Furthermore, some organizations are officially registered, but not as food aid organizations. Fifty-three percent of the organizations reported they were registered.

We estimate that altogether the interviewers identified approximately 80% of the Arab food aid organizations that are active in the field.

Background on the Localities in which the Organizations Operate

- ♦ As noted, altogether 176 organizations were interviewed. The organizations that were interviewed work in 100 Arab localities throughout Israel and all of them are officially recognized (some belong to regional councils). After the organizations had been identified, we interviewed representatives of organizations in 79 localities (see Table II-1 in Appendix II).
- ♦ Characteristics of the localities in the sample:
 - Size: 20% of the 79 localities are small villages (up to 5,000 residents), 48% are medium-sized villages (5,000–15,000 residents) and 32% are large localities (over 15,000 residents) (CBS, 2007[3]).
 - Socioeconomic status: 74% have low socioeconomic status (clusters 1–3); 23% have medium status (4–7); and 4% have high socioeconomic status (8–10) (CBS, 2003, Table 2).

- ♦ In each locality, all the organizations identified were interviewed.⁴ The number of organizations interviewed per locality was divided on average as follows:
 - Large localities: 3 organizations
 - Medium villages: 2 organizations
 - Small villages: 1 organization.

4. Study Findings

4.1 Main Characteristics of Arab Food Aid Organizations

This section presents the main geographic, religious, political and social characteristics of the 176 food aid organizations we examined.

Table 1 presents the distribution of the organizations by their main characteristics:

- ♦ Geographic distribution: Over 85% of the organizations work at the local level only. The regional organizations (9% of all organizations interviewed) provide services mainly to unrecognized villages in the southern region.
- ♦ Geographic location: 58% of the organizations are in northern Israel, 24% in the south and 19% in the Triangle (including Haifa and the center). For the sake of comparison, 55% of Arab Israelis (excluding Jerusalem residents) live in the north of Israel, 14% in the south and 31% in the Triangle (CBS, 2008[2]).⁵ This comparison reveals that the organizations are over-represented in the south and under-represented in the Triangle. This could be connected with the socioeconomic characteristics of localities in the south, which tend to be in the lower clusters (CBS, 2003, Table 2). In this context, obviously, the size of the organization must be considered and this is indeed discussed below.
- ♦ Religious character and political affiliation: 63% of the organizations declared themselves religious and 15% reported affiliation with a political party. Cross-tabulation of the data reveals that a small proportion of the organizations (11%) are both religiously and politically affiliated, while about half of them (52%) are religious, but unaffiliated politically. About a third of the organizations (36%) are not religious and almost none of these are politically affiliated.

⁴ However, in some cases – when there was more than one chapter of the *Zakat* Committees in the locality – a sampling was conducted. In such cases, representatives of both the Southern Islamic Movement and the Northern Islamic Movement were interviewed.

⁵ In order to compare the percentages of organizations with the Arab population, the Upper and Lower Galilee were compared to the Northern District, the Triangle to the Central and Haifa districts, and the southern region to the Southern District. The Jerusalem District was not included in the study and therefore the percentages are calculated on the basis of the population excluding this district.

- ◆ Official registration: About half of the organizations are officially registered as food aid organizations.⁶ However, about 75% of those that are not registered reported that they belonged to a larger organization. It may be therefore that in some cases the larger organization is registered even if the local chapter is not, but we do not have this information. We can however, state that at least 12.5% of the organizations are not registered in any way.
- ◆ Women's organizations: About 20% of the organizations are women's organizations. Cross-tabulation of this variable with political affiliation/religious character reveals that about half the women's organizations are religious and about 16% are politically affiliated.
- ◆ First year of food aid activity: On average, the organizations began their food aid activity in 1998. A substantial percentage of the organizations have been in operation for more than 18 years (about 20%). However, there are signs of rapid development in the past decade: About 55% of the organizations were founded after 2000 and about 25% after 2004.
- ◆ Size of locality: This variable was only examined in the case of local organizations (those working in a single locality). It was found that 14% of the local organizations work in small villages (up to 5,000 residents), 42% in medium-sized villages (5,000–15,000 residents) and 44% operate in large localities (over 15,000 residents).
- ◆ Sole organization in a locality: Of the locally based organizations, about 25% are the only one in their locality.
- ◆ Socioeconomic ranking of the locality: This variable was examined only in the case of local organizations. It was found that some 80% of the organizations were working in low-ranking socioeconomic localities (clusters 1–3). For comparison, out of all localities included in the study, 70% had low socioeconomic ranking, whereas in the total population, only 35% of all localities are in the lowest clusters (CBS, 2003).

⁶ The apparent contradiction between this finding and the figures given in Section 2.10 ("only 0.1% of registered nonprofit organizations were Arab") is explained by the fact that the latter reflect the situation in 2000 since when, as noted, there has been a significant increase in the number of Arab civil society organizations.

Table 1: Main Characteristics of the Organizations (Number and Percent)

	Number of Organizations	Percentage of Total Organizations**
	176	100
Geographic distribution		
Locality only	153	87
Regional	16	9
National	7	3
Geographic regions where organization works		
Upper Galilee	38	22
Lower Galilee	63	36
Triangle***	33	19
South	42	24
Religious character		
Religious	111	63
Not religious	64	36
Political character		
Affiliated	26	15
Not affiliated	149	85
Organization is/is not officially registered as a food aid organization		
Registered	92	53
Not registered	81	47
Women's organization		
Yes	31	18
No	142	82
Year the organization began to distribute food		
1958–1970	1	1
1971–1980	6	4
1981–1990	22	14
1991–2000	43	27
2001–2008	90	56
Size of locality* (CBS, 2007[3])		
Small (up to 5,000 residents)	21	14
Medium-sized (5,000–15,000 residents)	64	42
Large (over 15,000 residents)	68	44
Sole organization in locality*		
Sole organization	36	24
Not the sole organization	117	76
Socioeconomic ranking of locality* (CBS, 2003, Table 2)		
Low (1–3)	116	78
Medium (4–7)	30	21
High (8–10)	1	1

* Local organizations only

** In the case of organizations that are locally based only, the percentage is out of all local organizations

*** Includes the Central District and Haifa

4.2 Patterns of Aid Provided

This section presents the findings about patterns of aid provided to the Arab population – the type of food, the method of distribution, additional activities of the organizations and the way that families are referred to them.

It was found that in general the organizations use a variety of methods concurrently.

Type of Food

Table 2 presents the types of food distributed by the organizations:

- ◆ The organizations distribute a comprehensive assortment of foods, including a diversity of fresh and dry products.
- ◆ Most common are packaged and dried foods: Canned foods (95%), grains and uncooked dry food (90%).
- ◆ Nevertheless, fresh foods also feature prominently: 54% of the organizations distribute meat and fish; 37% distribute bread and baked goods; and 31% distribute fruit and vegetables.
- ◆ Refrigeration equipment: 38% of the organizations have cooling equipment (a refrigerator, cold storage room, or refrigerated truck). Table I-1 (Appendix I) sets out the types of food distributed, by refrigeration equipment available to the organization. The table reveals that organizations that have cooling equipment are more likely to distribute fresh or cooked food.

Table 2: Types of Food Distributed to Families (Percentage of Organizations)

Type of Food Distributed to Families: Percentage of Organizations	
Distributing Food Type in Package	Percent
Dried food	
Canned foods	95
Grains and uncooked dried food (rice, pasta)	90
Fresh food	
Meat and fish	54
Bread and baked goods (cakes, etc.)	37
Fruit and vegetables	31
Charitable tithe from agriculture and animal farming (milk, cheese)	29
Cooked foods	19
Other	1

Distribution Methods

Table 3 presents the way the organizations distribute the food.

- ◆ Most of the organizations use more than one method of distribution.
- ◆ In about 90% of the organizations, a representative proactively goes to the families to distribute the food.

- ◆ About 90% of the organizations use a third party, such as the social services department or local stores, to distribute the food.
- ◆ About a third of the organizations reported that the families come to them to receive the food.

Table 3: Methods of Distribution (Percentage of Organizations)

Method of Distribution	Percent
Representative of the organization goes to the families	88
Distribution via a third party	88
Of these:	
- Social service department	24
- Local stores	75
- Volunteers	1
Families come to the organizations	31

Other Forms of Aid Provided by the Organizations

Table 4 sets out additional activities conducted by the organizations:

- ◆ In addition to food aid, the organizations engage in many other activities.
- ◆ The main areas of activity are provision of: school equipment (71%), clothing (70%), financial assistance and loans (66%) and voluntary activity in the locality (62%).
- ◆ Only four organizations reported that food aid was their sole activity (2% of the organizations).

Table 4: Additional Activities (Percentage of Organizations)

Additional Activities	Percent
Provision of school equipment	71
Clothing	70
Financial assistance and loans	66
Voluntary activity in the locality	62
Referral to various counseling agencies	51
Equipment for the home	39
Scholarships for needy students	34
Business advice, vocational training, job placement, etc.	34
Medical equipment/assistance	33
Other	6
Do not conduct any other form of activity	2

Method of Referral

Table 5 presents data on the way families are referred to the organization (how people reach the organization):

- ◆ Referrals are made in a broad range of ways.

- ◆ The main forms of referral are by means of neighbors and acquaintances (87%), direct application (84%), relatives of the needy family (83%), proactive identification of needy families by organization staff (80%).

Table 5: Methods of Referral to the Organization (Percentage of Organizations)

Method of Referral to the Organization	Percent
Neighbors and acquaintances	87
Direct application	84
Relatives of the needy family	83
Organization staff	80
Clerics and charitable committees	74
Social services department	64
School principal or staff	47
Other voluntary organizations	44
Family physician or staff at the health plan clinic	19
Mother and child clinic (Tipat Chalav)	19
Other	3

Table 6 presents additional patterns of aid that were noted in the interviews:

- ◆ Related food aid activities: 15%–20% of the organizations engage in other forms of food aid in addition to distribution of food, e.g., providing cooked meals and school meals.
- ◆ Activities for special populations: Approximately 40% of the organizations conduct food aid activities for special populations such as toddlers, nursing mothers and the elderly.
- ◆ Seasonal activity: 83% of the organizations provide greater assistance at certain times of the year, chiefly at festivals (97% of those who provide greater assistance) and the start of the school year (58%).
- ◆ Eligibility: The main criterion for families to receive aid is financial need (98%). Twenty-eight percent of the organizations reported that they assisted all who requested aid.⁷

⁷ Some of the organizations that distribute food to all who ask base the quantity of aid on financial difficulty, which accounts for the overlap in the figures.

Table 6: Additional Patterns of Aid (Percentage of Organizations)

Patterns of Aid	Percent
Additional types of aid:	
Distribution of cooked meals	16
Distribution of school meals	5
Other	5
Activities for special populations:	
Yes	42
No	58
Seasonal aid:	
Provision of special assistance	83
Of these:	
- For festivals (Ramadan)	97
- Start of school year	58
- Onset of winter	16
- Onset of summer	5
- Other	1
Eligibility criteria	
Financial difficulties	98
All who request aid	28
Political or religious affiliation	6

4.3 Financial Sources

In this section, which focuses on the organizations' procurement of resources, we present patterns of obtaining financial contributions and food.

Financial Contributions

Table 7 itemizes the sources from which the organizations receive financial contributions and their significance to the organizations – the percentage of organizations for which the donation from a particular source constitutes over half their income.

- ◆ Seventy-six percent of the organizations receive donations from private sources in Israel (individuals, organizations and foundations). Fifty-two percent reported that these donations account for over half their income.
- ◆ Seventy-one percent of the organizations receive financial donations at religious functions. Fifty-one percent of them reported that these donations account for over half their income.
- ◆ Forty percent of the organizations receive donations from a political party, but none reported that the donation constituted over half of its income. The reason may be that most of these donations are nominal.
- ◆ Only 4% of the organizations receive government allocations and only 3% receive funding from local authorities.

Table 7: Financial Donations

Source	Percent of Organizations Receiving Funding from this Source	Percent of Organizations for Which the Donation Constitutes over Half Their Income	
		Among Recipients of this Type of Funding	Among All Organizations
Private sources in Israel (individuals, organizations, foundations)	76	52	37
Donations raised at religious functions	71	51	33
Political party	40	0	0
Businesses	24	3	0
Charity (al-zakat)	14	50	7
Private sources abroad (individuals, organizations, foundations)	6	36	2
Government allocations	4	0	0
Local authority allocations	3	0	0

Food Contributions

Table 8 sets out the sources of food contributions to the organizations in general. The information is presented in greater detail (size of locality, region and other characteristics of the organization) in Table I-2 in Appendix I. The tables reveal:

- ◆ The sources are highly diverse and a large proportion of the organizations receive contributions from more than one of them.
- ◆ Seventy-five percent of the organizations receive food contributions from private sources. This happens less in small localities (57%). In the south, 95% of the organizations reported that they received food contributions from private sources.
- ◆ Fifty-eight percent of the organizations collect food contributions outside the entrances to supermarkets.
- ◆ Fifty-three percent of the organizations receive food contributions from food supply chains and businesses. This is more common in the larger localities (72%).
- ◆ Twenty percent of the organizations receive food contributions from other food aid organizations. This is quite rare in the small localities (5%). In the south, it is relatively frequent (40%).
- ◆ Organizations in the Lower Galilee area receive fewer contributions from all sources. This could be due to the large percentage of small villages in that area (26% compared with an average of 6% everywhere else), since the small villages tend to receive fewer contributions from any source.

Table 8: Food Contributions (Percentage of Organizations)

Type of Source	Percent
Private donors	75
Food collected outside entrances to supermarkets	58
Food supply chains and businesses	53
Agricultural sources	27
Food manufacturers	23
Catering companies and banqueting halls	21
Other aid organizations	20
Education system	10

Table 9 shows the sources of funding for the food distributed.

- ◆ Thirty-eight percent of the organizations reported that they themselves purchased the food they distributed.

Table 9: Sources of the Food Distributed (Percentage of Organizations)

The Organization Itself Purchases the Food It Distributes	Percent
Yes	38
No	62

4.4 Extent of Activity and Inputs

This section describes the extent of the organizations' activity and the resources at their disposal, by geographic area. The "extent of activity" refers to the number of families that each organization assists every month and the value of the aid per family per month. The resources available to the organizations are staffing and equipment.

Extent of Activity

Table 10 presents the extent of activity by geographical area.

- ◆ Families: On average, 90 families receive food aid every month from each organization. Most of the organizations (60%) distribute food to fewer than 40 families per month. In the south, most of the organizations (62%) distribute food to over 40 families a month.
- ◆ Monetary value of the aid: About half of the organizations estimate that, on average, the food distributed to each family each month is worth less than NIS 250. Twenty percent of the organizations value it at over NIS 500. In the Upper Galilee, about 62% of the organizations estimate that the food is worth less than NIS 250.
- ◆ Number of times families receive food per month: 83% of the organizations distribute food to every family once a month.
- ◆ In the Lower Galilee, the average number of families receiving food aid each month is the highest (133 families compared with the general average of 90 families).

- ◆ In the Triangle area, the average value of the aid each family receives each month is the highest (NIS 530, compared with an average of NIS 398).

Table 10: Extent of Aid, by Geographic Area (Percentage of Organizations)

	Percentage of Organizations in the Area				
	Total	Upper Galilee	Lower Galilee	Triangle	South
Number of families receiving food aid per month					
0–40	59	72	66	61	38
41–100	26	22	11	20	55
101+	15	6	23	19	7
Average number of families	90	46	133	107	49
Value of food aid (value of average package per family per month, NIS)					
0–250	51	62	53	57	52
251–500	29	19	32	23	29
501+	19	19	14	20	19
Average value of aid	398	381	342	530	400

Inputs

Table 11 presents the organizations' key inputs (staffing and equipment), by geographical area. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the number of volunteers and Figure 2 shows the distribution of the number of employees.

- ◆ **Volunteers:** Half of the organizations (56%) have up to 10 volunteers. In the Lower Galilee, there are fewer volunteers. About 70% have no more than 10 volunteers, while in the south, there are more: 67% of the organizations have more than 10 volunteers.
- ◆ **Paid staff:** Most of the organizations (75%) have no paid workers.⁸ Those that do have paid staff employ only a small number: 15% of the organizations employ one or two workers. Only 10% employ three or more workers.
- ◆ **Equipment:** Most of the organizations have an office (64%) and a storeroom for the food (57%). Only about 40% have a refrigerator and only about 20% have a vehicle.

Table I-3 in Appendix I, which cross-tabulates the organizations' resources with the size of the locality in which they operate (only for locality-based organizations), reveals that:

- ◆ In every type of locality, most of the organizations have fewer than 10 volunteers.
- ◆ Organizations in medium-sized and large localities make greater use of volunteers. About 45% have more than 10 volunteers, compared with 14% in small villages.

⁸ In response to another question on the subject, 80% of the organizations reported that all the work was done by volunteers. It is possible that some of the organizations did not include the paid director in their count, which is why the percentages do not tally.

- ◆ In all sizes of locality, most of the organizations have no paid staff.
- ◆ In the medium-sized and large localities, there are more paid workers. Some 20% of the organizations have at least one paid worker.
- ◆ Across the board, organizations in medium-sized and large localities have more equipment.
- ◆ Not a single locality-based organization has either a vehicle or a kitchen.

**Table 11: Resources Available to the Organizations, by Geographic Area
(Percentage of Organizations)**

	Percentage of Organizations in the Area				
	Percent of Total	Upper Galilee	Lower Galilee	Triangle	South
Staffing					
Number of volunteers at the organization					
0–10	56	54	69	61	33
11–20	26	30	23	18	36
21+	18	16	8	21	31
Number of employees					
0	75	82	91	73	48
1–2	15	3	3	3	52
3–9	7	16	3	15	0
10+	3	0	3	9	0
Equipment available to organization					
Office	64	60	52	64	86
Storeroom for food	57	68	43	42	81
Computer	47	47	32	58	62
Refrigerator	38	26	33	44	50
Standard vehicle owned by the organization	19	5	6	23	50
Kitchen/s	18	10	5	33	31
Cold storage room	5	5	5	7	5
Standard truck owned by the organization	3	0	0	3	2
Refrigerated truck owned by the organization	1	0	0	3	2
Other	2				

Figure 1: Number of Volunteers at the Organizations (Percent)

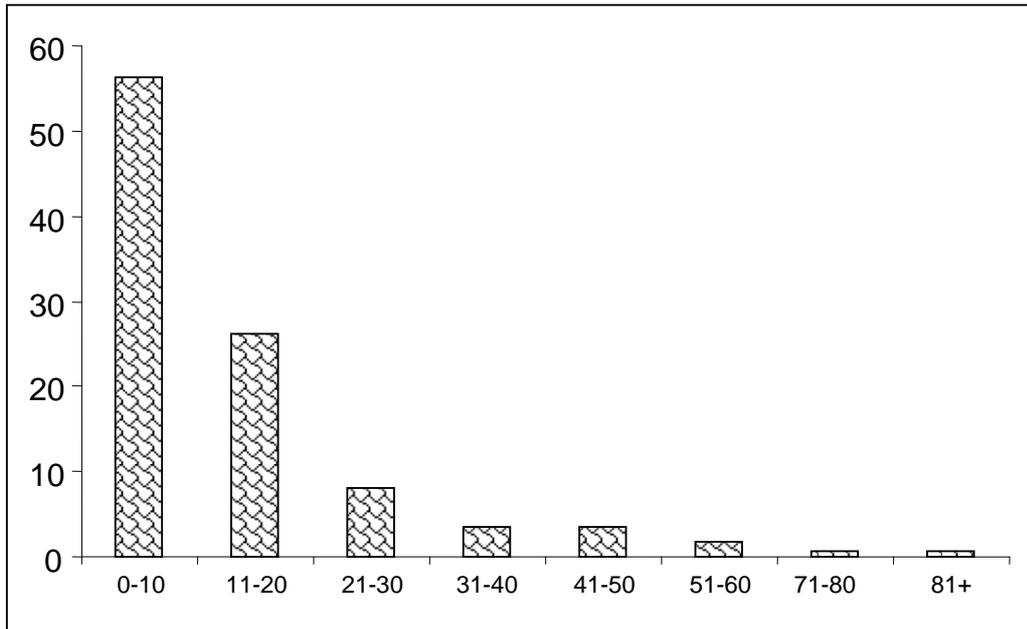
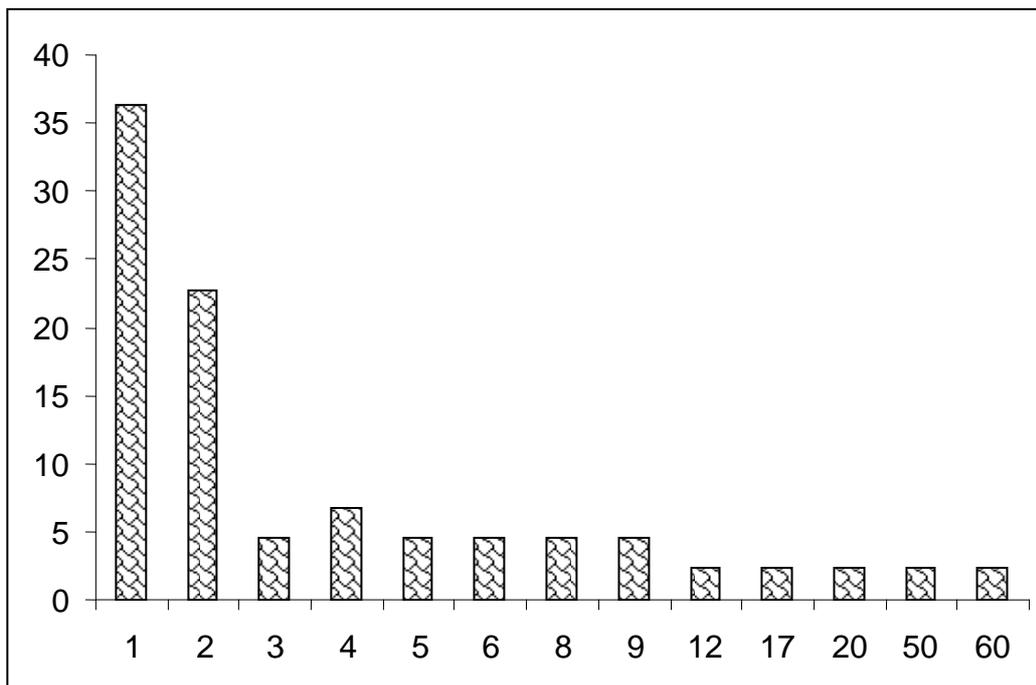


Figure 2: Number of Paid Workers at the Organizations (Percent)



4.5 Unmet Needs

This section itemizes the unmet needs reported by the organizations. The subject can be examined at two levels: (1) The consumer level and (2) Inputs required by the organization in order to respond to the consumers' needs. In the first case, it is possible to examine the extent to

which the families are in need of aid and are not receiving it and the amount of aid given to a family and the extent to which it responds to the family's needs.

In the second case, several categories may be examined: Lack of equipment needed by the organization; staffing; the ability to raise funds and obtain food contributions. The organization's statements about its main challenges and its plans for the future are another expression of its perception of its needs.

The analysis is presented as follows:

Table 12 presents the main difficulties facing the organizations, e.g., downsizing activities and fundraising difficulties.

Table 13 presents the factors hindering the organizations' activity, by geographical area.

Table 14 presents the organizations' plans for the future (open question).

Table 15 presents the main challenges that the organizations expect to face in the coming year (open question).

Unmet Consumer Needs

- ◆ Number of families in need of aid: Approximately 60% of the organizations reported that less than half of the needy families in their locality were receiving aid from the organization itself or from other organizations (Table 12).
- ◆ Food package: Over 65% of the organizations consider that the package they provide to the average family meets their needs "slightly" or "very slightly." Ten percent believe the package responds to families' needs "to a great extent." Eighty-three percent of the organizations distribute food to each family once a month only (not in table).
- ◆ Changes in extent of activity: 33% of the organizations reported that they had reduced the extent of their activities this year (Table 12). Forty percent noted that they had expanded their activities (not in table).
- ◆ Changes in volume of applications and need to expand activities: Approximately 80% of the organizations reported that received more applications than they could handle. Approximately 70% reported that they would like to expand their service but were unable to do so (Table 13).
- ◆ Plans for the future: 43% of the organizations reported that future plans included expanding their activities; 31% plan to reach more families in need; 15% reported that they planned to broaden the diversity of services for needy families (Table 14).

Inputs Required by the Organization in Order to Respond to the Consumers' Needs

The organizations were asked about the factors that hindered their daily activities. Table 12 presents their responses, which reflect their unmet needs. Since it was an open question, it is possible the organizations suffer from additional deficiencies or problems that were not noted in their responses. However, we believe that the data reflect the main difficulties.

Equipment

- ◆ Vehicles: 50% of the organization reported a lack of vehicles.
- ◆ Refrigeration/heating equipment: 40% reported a lack of refrigeration equipment; 32% reported a lack of equipment for heating the food.
- ◆ Kitchens: 33% reported they lacked kitchens.
- ◆ Offices and storage space: 36% noted a lack of storage space; 32% reported a lack of office space.

Staffing

- ◆ Thirty-three percent reported an insufficiency of professional staff.
- ◆ Twenty-eight percent noted a shortage of volunteers. The main difficulty the organizations noted in regard to their work with volunteers was the lack of time and knowledge (not in table).

Fundraising and Donations

- ◆ Eighty-three percent of the organizations reported that budget and income problems were among the factors impeding their work (Table 13).
- ◆ Fifty-six percent of the organizations reported that it was more difficult to raise funds during the current year than it had been in the previous year⁹ (Table 12).

Table 12: Main Current Difficulties (Percentage of Organizations)

Difficulties Facing the Organization	Percent
Less than half the needy families in the locality receive aid from the organization itself or another organization	58
Fundraising is a greater challenge for the organizations this year	56
Activities have to be downscaled this year	33

⁹ The study was conducted before the global financial crisis in 2008.

Table 13: Factors Hindering Ongoing Operations (Percentage of Organizations)

Factors Hindering Daily Activity	Percent of Total	Upper Galilee	Lower Galilee	Triangle	South
Budget and income problems	83	82	89	87	71
Too many applications for the organization to handle	78	87	65	91	81
Want to expand activities but unable to do so	69	68	56	81	81
Organization has no vehicle	50	66	27	39	79
No refrigeration equipment	40	68	19	26	55
Lack of storage space	36	40	18	29	64
Lack of professional staff	33	60	19	16	43
Lack of kitchens	33	66	19	26	31
No heating equipment	32	68	16	16	36
Lack of office space	32	50	13	23	50
Insufficient number of volunteers	28	13	30	27	38
Problems with suppliers	23	22	18	29	29
Other	2				

Table 14: Plans for the Future (Percentage of Organizations)

Plans for the Future*	Percent
To expand the organization's activity	43
To reach a greater number of needy families	31
To develop a range of services for needy families	15
To provide aid to special populations	13
To recruit new volunteers and employees, to develop the ability to work with them and to enhance general organization	9
To acquire new funding sources	8

*Open question: "What are your plans for the future?" Percentage of respondents: Responses from 159 organizations (90%).

Table 15: Main Challenges Facing the Organization (Percentage of Organizations)

Main Challenges*	Percent
To expand food aid in general	62
To offer alternatives to needy families	4
To expand the organization's activities beyond food aid	12
To obtain assistance and cooperation from other food aid organizations	16
To provide assistance to specific populations	3
Other	4

*Open question: "What, specifically, is the main challenge facing the organization in the coming year?" Percentage of respondents: Responses from 165 organizations (93%).

4.6 Cooperation between Food Aid Organizations and Other Organizations and Agencies

In this section, we present the findings about cooperation between the organizations and outside agencies including other aid organizations, the Zakat committees and the local authorities. We also note those with which the organizations would like to have greater cooperation.

The respondents were asked several open questions about various types of cooperation.

Table 16 presents the other aid organizations with which they cooperate.

- ◆ Most of the organizations (63%) reported cooperation with other organizations.
- ◆ Twenty-six percent of the respondents reported cooperation with local and national Zakat committees. Note that 37% of all the organizations participating in the study are themselves Zakat committees and of all the organizations reporting cooperation with Zakat committees, 65% are themselves Zakat committees.
- ◆ Fourteen percent of the organizations work with food aid organizations and associations. Of these, some 60% (i.e., 10% of all the organizations) reported cooperation with Latet (a large Israeli humanitarian aid organization).
- ◆ Fifty-seven percent of the organization reported cooperation with local social service departments that went beyond donations and referral of families (not in table).
- ◆ Twenty-four percent reported cooperation with businesses and 4% reported cooperation with government agencies that went beyond donations and referral of families (not in table).

**Table 16: Current Cooperation with Other Aid Organizations
(Number and Percentage of the Organizations)**

Name of Organization*	Current Cooperation	
	Number of Organizations	Percent
Do not cooperate with other agencies	46	37
Local and national Zakat committees	32	26
Other food aid organizations (Latet, Table to Table, Al Thuraya, etc.)	18	14
Unofficial (unregistered) organizations	15	12
Other organizations (not providing food aid)	14	11
Religious and/or political movements	11	9
Local authorities, public institutions and government ministries	5	4
Foundations	3	2
Food companies and chains	2	2
Clerics	0	0
Other	5	4

*Open question: "What other food aid organizations do you work with?" Percentage of respondents: Responses from 125 organizations (71%).

In an open question, the organizations were asked which other organizations they would like to work with. Table 17 presents the agencies with which the organizations would most like to work.

- ◆ Half the organizations would most like to work with other food aid organizations.
- ◆ Twenty-three percent would most like to work with food chains and commercial companies.
- ◆ Nineteen percent expressed interest in working with a food bank.

Table 17: Preferred Forms of Cooperation with Aid Organizations (Percent and Number)

Type of Organization*	Would Like Greater Cooperation	
	Number	Percent
Food aid organization	63	50
Food chains and commercial companies	29	23
Food bank	24	19
Local authority, public institution, or government office	14	11
Foundations and donors	6	5
Local and national Zakat committees	5	4
Other nonprofit organizations that do not distribute food aid	4	3
Other	2	2

*Open question: "Would you be most interested in cooperating with other food aid organizations? If so, with which one and what sort of cooperation would you want?" Percentage of respondents: Responses from 136 organizations (71%).

4.7 Attitudes towards Cooperation with National or Regional Food Banks

This section describes the organizations' attitudes to food banks, the amount of interest in them, and related issues that were noted, which are cross-tabulated with the organizations' characteristics.

The organizations were asked a series of questions about food banks. Before asking the questions, the interviewers provided the following background information about the goals of food banks and their methods of working:

"A food bank is an independent, nonprofit institution. Its main goal is to collect contributions from food companies and distribute them to food aid organizations so that they can assist those in need in a more intelligent and thorough way. Food banks also provide organizational consultancy and staff development for the food aid organizations. Their aim is to help the organizations learn how to maximize their use of resources efficiently, to reduce the costs of purchasing food significantly, to improve the quality of the food and make it suitable for the population in need, and to strengthen and empower the food aid organization. Another goal is to produce a representative, strong and united voice to raise awareness about food insecurity in Israel."

Table 18 presents the degree of interest in help from food banks by the organizations' main characteristics:

- ◆ There is a high degree of interest in food banks: 78% of the organizations responded that they would be interested "to some extent" and "to a great extent" to examine the possibility of being helped by an agency such as a food bank now or in the future.
- ◆ Cross-tabulation with the organizations' characteristics shows that in general most of the organizations of all kinds were interested in a food bank.

- ♦ Organizations in the south expressed less interest in contact with a food bank: 43% of the organizations in that region replied that they were not interested in being helped by a food bank.
- ♦ Non-religious organizations expressed greater interest in food banks: 81% of the non-religious organizations reported that they would be interested in help from a food bank, compared with 63% of the religious organizations.
- ♦ Officially registered organizations expressed greater interest in food banks: 86% of the organizations reported that they would be interested in help from a food bank, compared with 49% of the organizations that are not registered.

Table 18: Degree of Interest in Help from a Food Organization, by Organization's Main Characteristics (Percentage of Organizations)

	Total	To a Great Extent	To Some Extent	Slightly	Not at All
Total	100	69	9	7	15
Geographic distribution					
Local	87	70	8	7	15
Regional	9	73	9	9	9
National	3	46	18	0	37
Geographic area					
Upper Galilee	22	87	11	3	0
Lower Galilee	36	70	11	10	10
Triangle	19	74	6	10	10
South	24	48	5	5	43
Religious affiliation					
Religious	63	63	11	9	17
Not religious	36	81	5	2	13
Officially registered					
Registered	53	86	6	2	7
Not registered	47	49	13	11	27
Size of locality					
Small (less than 5,000)	14	71	14	14	0
Medium (5,000–15,000)	42	69	8	7	16
Large (over 15,000)	44	70	6	6	18
Only organization in the locality?					
Yes, the only one	24	64	14	14	8
No, not the only one	76	72	6	5	17
Socioeconomic ranking of the locality					
Low (1–3)	78	70	7	8	15
Medium (4–7)	21	80	20	0	0
High (8–10)	1	67	33	0	0

In the case of organizations that are locality-based only, the percentage is out of the locality-based organizations.

* Locality-based organizations only

Table 19 presents the type of assistance from a food bank that the organizations reported would be useful to them.

- ◆ The organizations expressed great interest in the various forms of assistance offered by food banks.
- ◆ Eighty-five percent of the organizations reported that they would use a food bank as a food source.
- ◆ About half of the organizations would use a food bank for organizational consultancy.
- ◆ Altogether, 59% of the organizations reported that they would use a food bank for at least one form of assistance in addition to food supply.

Table 19: Types of Assistance from Food Banks that the Organizations Reported they Could Use (Percentage of Organizations)

Type of Assistance	Percent
Food	85
Organizational consultancy	48
Staff development	42
Learning how to improve quality of food, storage, delivery and safety (food technology)	43
Enhance the nutritional standards provided by the organization	41
Other	3

Other findings about attitudes to food banks:

- ◆ When asked about the main challenges facing the organization, 45% of the organizations reported that one of them was establishing contact with a food bank in Israel.
- ◆ In an open question about the wish to cooperate with other aid organizations (Table 17), 17% of all the organizations that responded noted that they would be most interested in cooperating with a food bank. Note that in response to a question about current cooperation, not a single organization mentioned a food bank.
- ◆ In an open question, the organizations were asked about other issues that would like to raise about food banks. Fifty-four organizations responded to the question (30%). Thirty-seven percent of the respondents noted that they lack knowledge about food banks and 11% reported that they had tried to contact a food bank but there had been no reply.

5. Summary of Findings and a Comparison with Studies of Jewish Food Aid Organizations

5.1 Summary of Findings

- ◆ There is a broad and diverse network of food aid organizations in Arab localities and there is an extensive infrastructure, which can be strengthened and built upon.
- ◆ A small minority (11%) of the organizations have both religious and political affiliations, while about half (52%) have a religious affiliation but are not politically affiliated.

Approximately one-third of the organizations (36%) have no religious affiliation and almost none of those have political affiliations.

- ◆ About 55% of the organizations are relatively new (i.e., began to provide food aid after 2000). About half of the organizations are not formally registered. Most are locally based and are relatively small with regard to the number of recipients, material resources and staff.
- ◆ With regard to geographic distribution in the country, the organizations have significant representation in every region. They are over-represented in the south, when the recognized villages only are included, but not when the entire population is taken into account, and under-represented in the Triangle.
- ◆ Various disparities were found among the various regions, but no significant, consistent pattern was found. Appendix III presents the findings specific to each region.
- ◆ The organizations operate in various ways, many of them proactively going to the families' homes to distribute the food. The organizations do not only distribute food; they also proactively seek out the families in need. The families are also referred to the organizations by relatives and acquaintances and by the local social service departments, which play a significant role in referring families and with which most of the organizations enjoy cooperation. Generally speaking, the food is allocated as a function of the extent of the families' need.
- ◆ The packages distributed include varieties of fresh and dried foodstuffs, particularly canned foods, grains, meat and fish. The types of assistance are also varied and many organizations distribute school supplies, clothing and financial assistance as well as food.
- ◆ The organizations employ very few paid workers.
- ◆ Most of the organizations work with other agencies, such as the Zakat committees and other food aid organizations. However, most of the organizations reported that they would like greater cooperation with other food aid organizations.
- ◆ The organizations receive funding and food donations from various sources, chiefly private donors, funds raised at religious functions, food collected at the entrances to supermarkets and donations from businessmen. Very few organizations receive funding from local authorities or government ministries.
- ◆ Most organizations report unmet needs. Most report the need and wish to expand their activities and reach a greater number of needy families, but also report difficulties and obstacles. Many organizations report insufficient resources. With regard to organizational infrastructure, the lack of refrigeration and heating equipment and means of transporting the food are felt particularly keenly.
- ◆ The organizations were asked about the possibility of help from a national food bank after they had been informed about such a bank's goals and operating methods. The organizations

showed great interest in receiving assistance from a food bank, particularly with regard to food supply, organizational consultancy and nutritional advice.¹⁰

5.2 Comparison with Studies of Jewish Food Aid Organizations

We compared the findings of this study, which focused on Arab organizations, with two equivalent studies conducted in 2004, which focused on Jewish organizations (Nirel and Erez, 2005; Levinson, 2005). There are several similarities, but there are also differences:

- ◆ Fewer of the organizations are national (3% vs. 24%).
- ◆ Fewer organizations are officially registered.
- ◆ The organizations are newer (about half have been established since 2000, compared with 25% of the Jewish organizations).
- ◆ Less cooked food is distributed.
- ◆ There is less of a tendency for families to come to collect food from the organization rather than have it delivered to their homes.
- ◆ A larger proportion of the organizations provide other forms of assistance in addition to food.
- ◆ The organizations distribute the food less frequently.
- ◆ The organizations are smaller and tend to serve fewer families.
- ◆ They own fewer kitchens, refrigerators, cooling equipment and vehicles.
- ◆ Donations from abroad constitute a smaller percentage of their funding.
- ◆ They make greater use of collections at supermarket entrances and receive fewer contributions from food manufacturers.
- ◆ They work less with other food aid organizations.

A detailed comparison has been published in a separate report (in Hebrew), which is available from the authors. Importantly, the studies on Jewish organizations did not have data on all of the issues examined in this study.

* * * *

The study findings can be used by public, voluntary and other organizations and agencies interested in strengthening Arab food aid organizations. Given the great interest that the organizations expressed in receiving assistance from a food bank, the findings provide an important basis for discussions about possible cooperation.

¹⁰ Further information about food bank activities can be found on the website of Leket-Israel Food Bank: <http://www.leket.org.il>

It is important to remember that food aid organizations are only one mechanism to help the needy cope with food insecurity. There are other ways to help extract them from this situation, such as providing fair income support, strengthening the families' ability to use their budget for healthy nutrition, providing emergency assistance for exceptional needs, and direct action by providing meals (e.g., through educational or social service frameworks). Since these are all complementary to one another, it is important to implement all of them in tandem.

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Appendices

Appendix I: Detailed Tables

Table I-1: Types of Food Distributed to Families, by Availability of Refrigeration Equipment (Percentage of Organizations)*

Type of food distributed to families	Percent of Organizations Distributing This Food Type in the Package	Of which:	
		Organization has Refrigeration Equipment	Organization does not have Refrigeration Equipment
Canned foods	95	98	2
Grains and uncooked dry foods (rice, pasta)	90	95	5
Meat and fish	54	69	31
Bread and baked goods (cakes, etc.)	37		
Fruit and vegetables	31	45	55
Charitable tithe from agriculture and animal farming (milk, cheese)	29	50	50
Cooked food	19	21	79
Other	1		

*Thirty-eight percent of the organizations have refrigeration equipment. Of these, 100% have a refrigerator, 13% have a cold storage room and 3% have a refrigerated truck. Sixty-two percent of the organizations have no cooling equipment

**Table I-2: Sources of Food Contributions, by Main Characteristics of the Organization
(Percentage of Organizations)**

	Private Donors (People)	Collection at Super-market Entrances	Food Chains and Business-people	Agri-culture	Food Manufac-turers	Catering and Banqueting Halls	Other Food Aid Organi-zations	Collections from Educa-tion System	Total (Percent)
Total	75	58	53	27	23	21	20	10	
Total percent of those receiving contributions from this donor of out:									
Geographical distribution:									
Locality only	73	60	52	26	20	19	18	10	87
Regional	81	50	69	44	44	38	37	13	9
National	100	43	57	14	29	14	17	14	3
Geographic area of activity									
Upper Galilee	82	61	32	13	11	0	16	5	22
Lower Galilee	54	44	54	25	16	13	13	3	36
Triangle	81	65	68	31	35	41	10	23	19
South	95	71	62	41	36	36	40	17	24
Religious affiliation									
Religious	77	57	48	28	22	16	16	8	63
Not religious	73	60	52	27	25	29	27	14	36
Official registration									
Registered	72	63	55	30	24	23	23	13	53
Not registered	73	54	49	25	23	19	15	8	47
Size of locality									
Small (fewer than 5,000 residents)	57	48	29	10	5	5	5	0	14
Medium (5,000–15,000)	75	56	38	25	19	13	21	8	42
Large (over 15,000)	77	67	72	32	27	29	20	15	44
Sole organization in locality*									
Sole organization	67	53	42	36	14	8	8	8	24
Not the sole organization	75	62	55	23	23	22	21	11	76
Socioeconomic ranking of locality*									
Low (1–3)	74	62	52	27	21	20	18	10	95
Medium (4–7)	80	40	40	20	20	0	20	20	3
High (8–10)	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	2

In the case of organizations that are locally based only, the percentage is out of all local organizations.

* Local organizations only

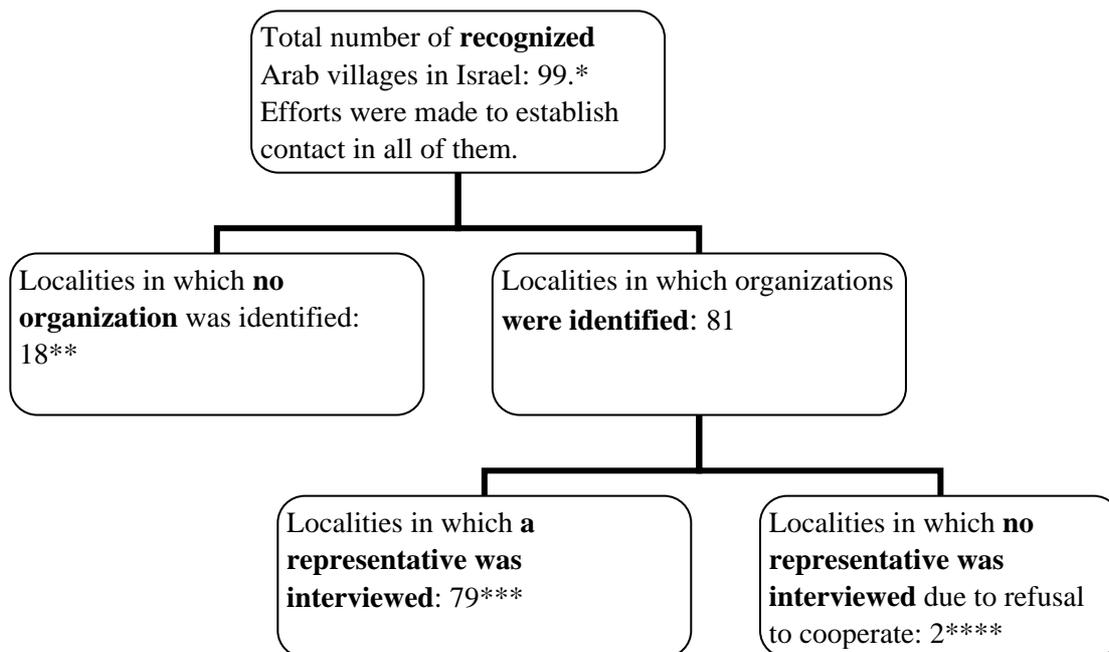
Table I-3: Organizational Resources by Size of Locality (Percentage of Organizations)

	Percentage of Organizations in Size Range*			
	Percent of Total	Small	Medium-Sized	Large
Staffing				
Number of volunteers at the organization				
0–10	56	86	56	55
11–20	26	14	22	28
21+	18	0	22	16
Number of employees				
0	75	100	78	82
1–2	15	0	14	10
3–9	7	0	5	6
10+	3	0	3	2
Equipment available to organization				
Office	64	29	52	75
Storeroom for food	57	43	54	55
Computer	47	10	41	49
Refrigerator	38	19	33	42
Standard vehicle owned by the organization	19	0	14	18
Kitchen/s	18	0	13	19
Cold storage room	5	0	3	6
Standard truck owned by the organization	3	0	2	3
Refrigeration truck owned by the organization	1	0	0	1
Other	2			

* Locality-based organizations only. Small locality: Fewer than 5,000 residents; Medium-sized: 5,000–15,000; Large: Over 15,000 residents

Appendix II: List of Arab Localities in which Food Aid Organizations were Identified and Interviewed

Figure II-1: Number of Localities in Israel, Those in Which Organizations were Identified and Those in which Organizations were Interviewed (Number)



* The localities included in the study are all recognized. We did not include localities in the Golan Heights and east Jerusalem, Abu Ghosh, or the two Circassian villages. The figure includes Druze localities and mixed towns and cities. According to the CBS, there are 123 non-Jewish localities in Israel. The reason for the disparity is that there are 20 Arab localities in regional councils that the CBS relates to as separate entities, while we considered them a single entity. Further, six Arab localities were united in 2003 and we relate to them as a single entity.

** For example, Peqi'in, Beit Jann, Kisra Sumei, Ein al-Asad, Kafar Bara, Eilabun and Wadi Sallama.

***Five of these organizations reported additional activities in five different **unrecognized** villages, all of which are in the south.

**** Ein Mahel and Tur'an.

Table II-1: List of Arab Localities in Which Organizations were Identified and Interviewed, and Their Population, Region and Socioeconomic Ranking

No.	Name of Locality	Population (Thousands)*	Region**	Socio-Economic Ranking***
1	Kafar Yasif	12	Upper Galilee	4
2	Abu Sinan	12	Upper Galilee	3
3	Iblin	10	Upper Galilee	3
4	Bu'eine-Nujeidat	5	Upper Galilee	2
5	Judeide-Maker	14	Upper Galilee	2
6	Jish (Gush Halav)	8	Upper Galilee	5
7	Deir Hanna	10	Upper Galilee	2
8	Tuba-Zangariyye	6	Upper Galilee	2
9	Tamra	30	Upper Galilee	2
10	Kabul	10	Upper Galilee	2
11	Kaokab Abu al-Hija	8	Upper Galilee	3
12	Kafar Manda	15	Upper Galilee	2
13	Maj'd el-Krum	15	Upper Galilee	2
14	Deir el-Assad	10	Upper Galilee	2
15	Mi'elya	8	Upper Galilee	6
16	Meshhed	10	Upper Galilee	2
17	Nahaf	10	Upper Galilee	2
18	Sakhnin	30	Upper Galilee	2
19	Arabe	20	Upper Galilee	2
20	Sha'ab	8	Upper Galilee	2
21	Al-Mazra'a	5	Upper Galilee	3
22	Azir	3	Upper Galilee	2
23	Rummane (Batof Regional Council)	3	Upper Galilee	1
24	Ka'abiyye	3	Upper Galilee	2
25	Julis	10	Upper Galilee	4
26	Hurfeish	10	Upper Galilee	4
27	Jatt-Yanuh	10	Upper Galilee	4
28	Yirka	15	Upper Galilee	3
29	Acre	15	Upper Galilee	4
30	Danun (Matte Asher Regional Council)	2	Upper Galilee	5
31	Tarshiha	21	Upper Galilee	4
32	Basmat Tabun	5	Lower Galilee	2

No.	Name of Locality	Population (Thousands)*	Region**	Socio-Economic Ranking***
33	Iksal	12	Lower Galilee	3
34	Daburiyya	12	Lower Galilee	4
35	Yafi	12	Lower Galilee	3
36	Kafar Kana	20	Lower Galilee	2
37	Rina	10	Lower Galilee	3
38	Shefaram	35	Lower Galilee	3
39	Nazareth	60	Lower Galilee	4
40	Bir el-Maksur	10	Lower Galilee	2
41	Ilut	8	Lower Galilee	2
42	Zarazir	5	Lower Galilee	2
43	Mughar	15	Lower Galilee	3
44	Daliyat el-Carmel	18	Lower Galilee	4
45	Usfiyya	12	Lower Galilee	4
46	Khawaled	Fewer than 1	Lower Galilee	5
47	Ibtin	2	Lower Galilee	5
48	Regional Council in the North	Fewer than 5 (assumption)	Lower Galilee	-
49	Manshiyyet Zabda (Jezreel Valley Regional Council)****	1	Lower Galilee	7
50	Sulam	2	Lower Galilee	2
51	Shibli	6	Lower Galilee	3
52	Rahat	30	South	1
53	Segev Shalom	12	South	1
54	Hura	12	South	1
55	Kuseife	15	South	1
56	Laqye	10	South	1
57	Arara (Negev)	15	South	1
58	Tel Sheva	14	South	1
59	Mushreife (Ma'ale Iron Regional Council)	5	Triangle	2
60	Umm el-Fahm	40	Triangle	2
61	Mu'awiya (Basma Local Council)	5	Triangle	2
62	A'ara (Arara-Galilee Local Council)	10	Triangle	3
63	Arara	15	Triangle	3
64	Kafar Qara	15	Triangle	4

No.	Name of Locality	Population (Thousands)*	Region**	Socio-Economic Ranking***
65	Baqa al-Gharbiyye	20	Triangle	3
66	Jatt	10	Triangle	3
67	Zemer	8	Triangle	3
68	Qalansawe	20	Triangle	2
69	Taibe	30	Triangle	3
70	Tira	25	Triangle	4
71	Jaljulye	10	Triangle	3
72	Kafar Qasem	20	Triangle	3
73	Jisr az-Zarqa	12	Triangle	2
74	Fureidis	10	Triangle	3
75	Haifa	30	Triangle	7
76	Ramle	8	Triangle	4
77	Lod	12	Triangle	4
78	Jaffa	20	Triangle	8
79	Unregistered village	-	-	-

*CBS, List of localities, by code of locality http://www.cbs.gov.il/ishuvim/ishuvim_main.htm

** Triangle area includes localities in the center of the country.

*** CBS. 2003. *Characterization and Classification of Local Authorities by the Socio-Economic Level of the Population 2003*, Table 2: Local Councils and Municipalities, by Socio-Economic Index, Ranking and Cluster Membership

**** Belongs to the Jezreel Valley Regional Council, which has a high socioeconomic ranking.

Appendix III: Findings by Geographical Area

This appendix sets out findings relating to specific geographical areas.

Main Findings

- ◆ Upper Galilee: Less expensive packages; fewer refrigerators and kitchens.
- ◆ Lower Galilee: Food distributed to a relatively large number of families; little use of volunteers; fewer kitchens.
- ◆ Triangle: Under-representation of organizations; More expensive packages.
- ◆ South: Over-representation of organization; great use of volunteers; more of every type of equipment,

Details

Upper Galilee

- ◆ Most of the organizations (58%) are in the north of Israel (Upper and Lower Galilee). Fifty-five percent of Israeli Arabs live in the Northern District. (The population calculation does not include the Jerusalem District).
- ◆ Most of the organizations estimate that the package they provide to each family for a month is worth less than NIS 250 (62% vs. 50% nationally).
- ◆ Less cooling equipment (26% have a refrigerator compared with an average of 38%).
- ◆ Fewer kitchens (10% have kitchens compared with an average of 18%).

Lower Galilee

- ◆ Less use of financial donations and food contributions relative than elsewhere. Note that most of the localities in the Lower Galilee are small.
- ◆ Highest number of families receiving aid (133 per organization compared with an average of 90).
- ◆ Relatively little use of volunteers (30% of have more than 10 volunteers compared with an average of 44%).
- ◆ Fewer kitchens (5% have a kitchen compared with an average of 18%).

Triangle

- ◆ Nineteen percent of the organizations work in the Triangle. Thirty-one percent of Israeli Arabs live in this area, i.e., the organizations are under-represented.
- ◆ The value of the food aid given to each family per month is the highest (NIS 530, compared with an average of NIS 398).

South

- ♦ Twenty-four percent of the organizations work in the south. Fourteen percent of Arab Israelis live here, i.e., the organizations are over-represented.
- ♦ Relatively extensive use of private donations (95% compared with an average of 75%).
- ♦ Relatively extensive use of food contributions from other food aid organizations (40% compared with an average of 20%).
- ♦ Organizations distribute aid to a relatively large number of families (62% distributed aid to more than 40 families per month compared with an average of 41%).
- ♦ Relatively extensive use of volunteers (67% have more than 10 volunteers, compared with an average of 44%).
- ♦ The organizations in the south appear to be better equipped than other areas. They were above the average in all equipment categories.
- ♦ Less interest in a food bank (43% responded that they were not at all interested in such cooperation now or in the future, compared with an average of 15%).