



Annual Report

# 2015

Adva Center

What we do

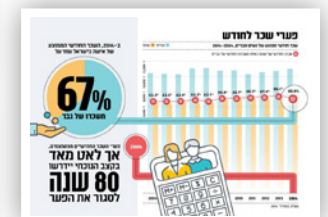
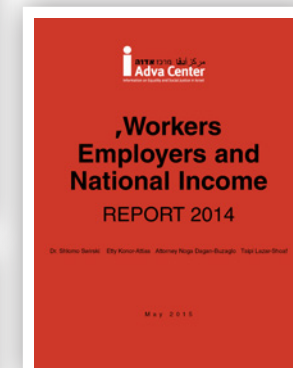
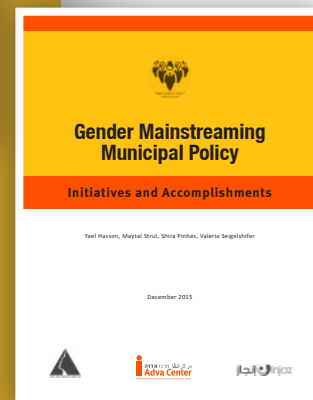
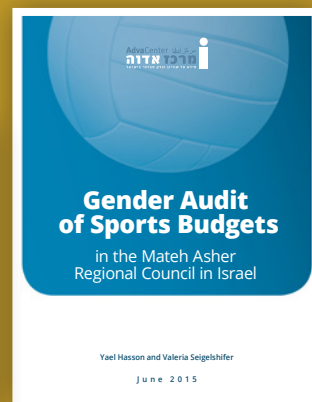
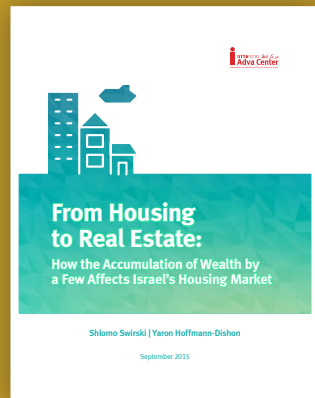
Where we work

How much:  
Adva Center in Figures

# What Adva Center Does

**The Adva Center** was founded in 1991 for the purpose of providing independent monitoring of social and economic developments in Israel. It is still one of the few non-governmental sources of such information. In some areas, like the monitoring of budgetary policy, it is the only source of information and analysis that is completely independent and non-partisan.

In recent years, Adva has developed an additional line of action: community work designed to motivate citizens to become involved in the setting of local priorities. At any given point in time, Adva is involved in dozens of communities, many in the geographic and socio-economic periphery of Israel.



**Adva Center reports** have gained wide recognition as “top-of-the-news” essential information, and their findings and conclusions are broadcast over the radio and discussed on TV programs with the highest ratings. The information and analysis in Adva reports are sought after by politicians, policy makers, NGOs, academic teachers and researchers, and municipal authorities. Adva is routinely approached by all of the foregoing for information, consultations and second opinions. Adva Center position papers may elicit disagreements, as policy papers are bound to do, but the academic standards to which they adhere are universally acknowledged to be of the highest level.

Independent monitoring of policies and policy outcomes is a long-range, multi-annual unglorious undertaking requiring persistence, perseverance, and consistency. In this sense, it is neither fashionable nor sexy. But it is an essential component of the democratic process.







**Adva Center community action work** is making a difference for thousands of ordinary citizens. This work includes conducting popular education courses on social justice issues and democratic processes and mentoring local groups to engage for social change.

The beneficiaries of Adva Center's community action work include women and men, Arabs and Jews, low and middle-income persons, old timers and new immigrants, migrant workers and Israeli workers.

The target groups of Adva Center include informal local groups, local and national decision makers, non-profit leaders, media people, teachers and researchers.

## The work that the Adva Center does centers on matters like:

- The degree of in/equality in public education, public health, the housing market, the public transportation system, employment practices, and more;
- Gender justice, especially regarding women and the economy;
- The social implications of the national budget;
- Citizen participation in local programming and budgeting;
- How macro-economic decisions affect ordinary citizens.

## 100 Influentials 2015



Bottom left: Barbara Swirski, Executive Director

Together with several other civil society organizations, the Adva Center was ranked 5th in influence on policy making by *The Marker*, the financial magazine of the *Haaretz* newspaper.

## The Adva Center is known for its ability to motivate citizens to act to improve their community and society:

"Following what I learned I began to show interest in what is happening in my town: the local council, the institutions, the status of women. It brought me to another level also in terms of action. Suddenly I started to participate in different groups in town: I started volunteering on committees, and I have become more active socially. All this was thanks to Adva Center."

"The importance lies first and foremost in the fact that we are now a consolidated group, and it doesn't matter how many projects we carry out, our goal is to advance women in our community. There's a high motivation among the women, and this is the most important achievement of all the projects together. Without this, we can't promote any issue."

"The most important result is the fact that we actually have representation in the local council."

"The project was very relevant and helped us tremendously. Most of us didn't know anything about what is going on in the local council. The course meetings were rich in knowledge. We learned a lot."

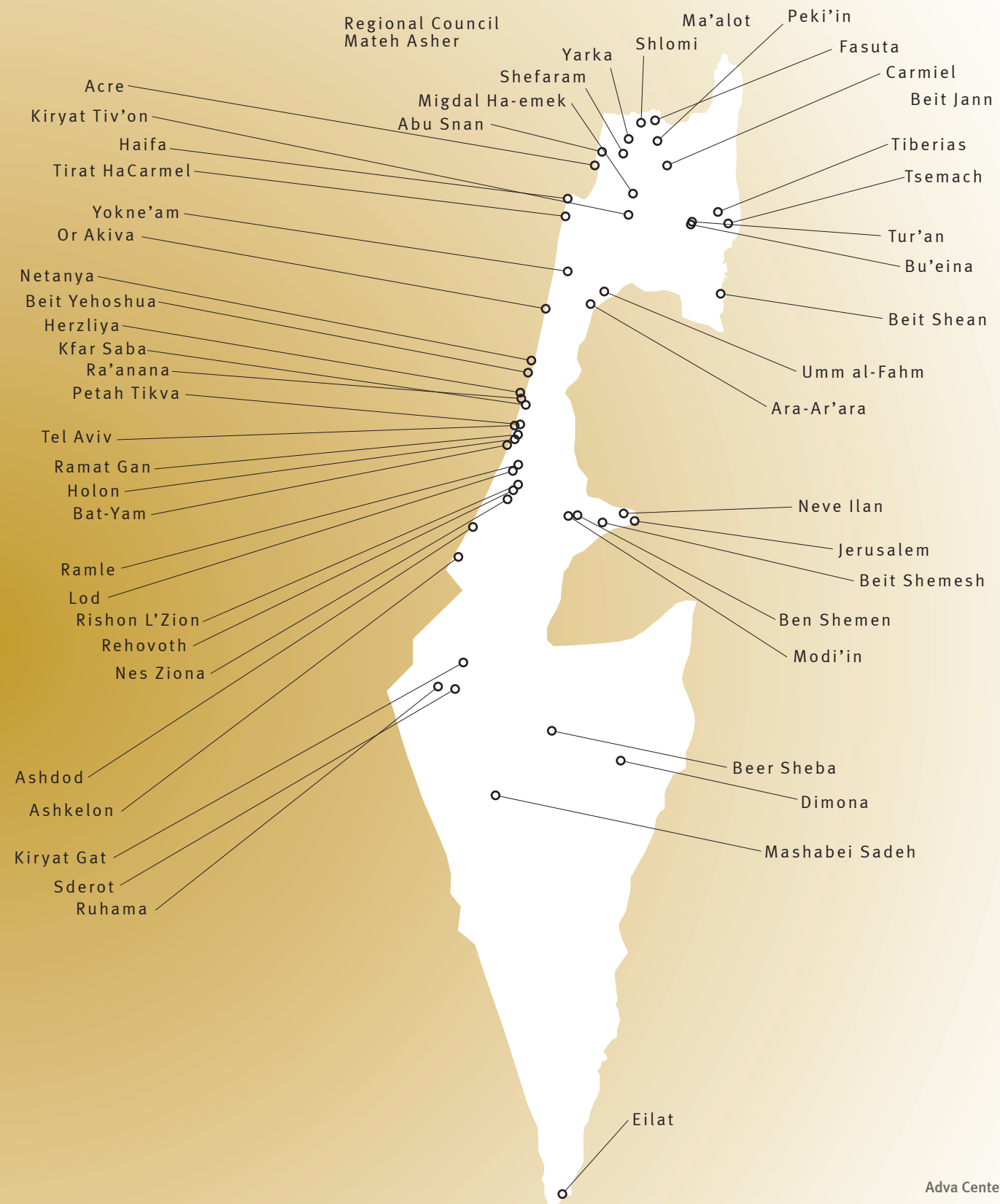
"The meetings with the other groups were good. It gave us motivation and the feeling that we are not alone in the process, in addition to the positive competitiveness because we also want achievements. To hear from them, to learn, maybe even carry out joint activities in the future."

"The knowledge we gained in the course helped us understand that we have to act in order to make changes. Now that we have the knowledge we have to take it to the next level."

"Today I see things differently. If you're close to decision-makers, you feel more confident, because they can open doors for you."

"We now have the feeling that 'we can' and that we have a right to examine the budget issue [of the local authority]."

# Where did the Adva Center work in 2015?





## The work in 53 localities in Israel included:

- A well-attended conference about the upheaval in the Israeli economy wrought by the policy changes initiated in 1985. The result: the student audience was offered insights into why Israel is now the modern country with the second highest degree of inequality;
- 15 workshops on Israel's system of saving for retirement. The result: 300 people gained knowledge about a topic considered esoteric and learned how to improve their own assets;
- 20 local women's groups learned about social economics, their local authorities and municipal budgeting and acted to make changes in their communities. The result: 400 women became more active civically and succeeded in bringing about four kinds of changes: increased political representation for women, increased economic opportunities for women, new services for women and girls, and more accessible services for all persons in the community;
- 40 local activists, in two different communities, learned how to influence municipal policy. Result: knowledge-based civic activism in two localities and a demand for Adva Center services in 5 additional localities;
- 200 municipal officials received training in how to examine social policy and budgeting with a gender lens. Result: 30 officials began to work for greater gender equality and improved services in their communities.



# How Much?

## Adva Center in Figures

### **In 2015, Adva published 28 reports and position papers, among them:**

- Annual report on socio-economic trends:  
*Israel: A Social Report – 2015*;
  - Annual report on labor trends;
  - In-depth report on the effect of new wealth on Israel's highly inflated housing prices;
  - 8 budget reports;
  - 16 reports on gender issues.
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### **In 2015, Adva Center posted 18 video films connected with its projects and reports.**

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### **In 2015, Adva counted 312 media exposures, of these:**

- 37 on Radio;
  - 19 on TV;
  - 119 in the printed media;
  - 142 in internet media.
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### **Adva Center's reports and media exposures resulted in decision makers contacting Adva staff members for consultations or testimonies:**

- Cabinet members and legislators: 18 contacts;
- National executive officials: 12 contacts;
- Municipal officials: 45 contacts.



## Half of Adva's outreach and advocacy activities center on gender equality issues; these involve work at the national, regional and local levels.

In 2015, the Adva Center played the leading role in 4 gender equality projects, and it was a partner in a 5th gender equality project.

- At the local level: a community action project involving 20 women's groups;
- At the regional level: mentoring the newly created Negev Forum of Mayoral Advisors on the Status of Women;
- At the national level: creating a blueprint for examining the budgets of all government ministries with a gender lens, in order to ensure women's fair share of allocations and services;
- Nationwide: the provision of research reports for a project working to close gender salary gaps;
- Nationwide: the provision of gender services to local authorities in Israel.

## Cherchez la Femme in the National Budget of Israel

For the first time, the books that comprised the proposed budget of the State of Israel for fiscal 2015-16 included the beginnings of a gender analysis of the budgets of Israel's government ministries and agencies.

These were the first fruits of the work led by the Adva Center for more than a decade.

"Gender budgeting" or "gender auditing" is a strategy for increasing gender equality recommended by the United Nations and the European Union. Gender budgeting has additional advantages. One is increasing budget transparency. Another is increasing the fit between the differential needs of women and men and girls and boys and the services financed by local and national governments.



## More Adva Center figures

Adva Center is in its 25th year.

Adva Center has a modest budget, which it utilizes efficiently: \$600,000 in 2015.

Adva Center has a dedicated staff of 12.

Adva Center has several volunteers who enrich its work with their professional skills

Adva Center has a teaching staff of 6 regular staff members and 10 external lecturers and facilitators

Adva Center has a stable, dedicated Board of Directors and Audit Committee

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## Adva Center is supported by individuals, foundations, and income-producing activities:

The New Israel Fund

CORDAID

Dafna Fund

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Hadassah Foundation

Israel Delegation of the European Commission

Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago/United Israel Appeal

Kathryn Ames Foundation

Rosa Luxemburg Foundation

Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation

Women's Amutot of Greater Miami Jewish Federation/United Israel Appeal

Zabar Family Foundation

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## Contributions can be made, donor-advised, to

The New Israel Fund,  
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Tel. 202-842-0900

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