

Executive Summary

Gender Analysis of the Social Safety Net

Disability Benefits

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This report is the first in a series of new Adva Center reports examining the gender aspects of the social safety net in Israel.

The regulations of the National Insurance Institute are universal in nature, which would lead one to expect no differences between men and women with regard to the benefits they receive. However, a closer look does reveal differences. These are due to socio-economic factors unconnected with the safety net itself as well as to the National Insurance Law and how it is actually implemented.

The report reveals large disparities between the number of women and the number of men receiving various kinds of disability benefits. Not in every case are we able to offer a reasonable explanation for the difference.

Another prominent finding is that housewives are discriminated against when it comes to disability benefits. The biggest losers are Arab women, a large majority of whom are housewives.

If National Insurance Institute data allowed disaggregation by ethnic group and we were able to examine women from different social groups, we would no doubt have found significant differences in the extent to which women from various backgrounds receive disability benefits.

Percentage of Women Among Disability Benefit Recipients

Home care services -- 47%
General disability allowance -- 43%
Vocational rehabilitation services -- 36%
Mobility allowance -- 33%
Work injury allowance -- 26%
One-time disability grant -- 17%
Work disability allowance -- 10%