
THE ADVA CENTER

Annual Report

2010



THE ADVA CENTER

The **Adva Center** is a think tank that analyzes social and economic trends and measures public policy in Israel against the yardsticks of equality and social justice. Adva makes policy recommendations and engages in advocacy work and public education to increase the chances that its recommendations will be adopted. Adva also conducts projects designed to empower disadvantaged groups.

Strategies of the Adva Center

- Publishing information on economic and social policy, and disseminating it to social change organizations, government officials and the general public.
- Articulating alternatives regarding the national budget, as well as education, welfare and housing policy.
- Writing and initiating articles and op-eds on social issues in the written media and promoting coverage of social issues in the electronic media.
- Carrying out direct advocacy with government ministers, executive officials, Knesset committee chairs and Knesset members.
- Organizing conferences to stimulate public debate on issues like Israel's education system and government policy towards Bedouin citizens.
- Building and joining coalitions with relevant non-profit organizations to advocate for specific changes.
- Providing consultations for senior government ministry officials, politicians from the coalition and the opposition and the general public.
- Disseminating ideas for social change through lectures, seminars, workshops and training courses for everyone from senior public officials to students and members of youth movements.
- Conducting courses in socio-economic literacy, how to understand and influence the national budget, and how to mainstream gender into local budgeting – for social activists and women active in their local communities.
- Disseminating information via the Adva Center website in Hebrew, Arabic and English.
- Initiating projects to empower disadvantaged groups.

THE ADVA CENTER AND SOCIAL EQUALITY

POLICY ANALYSIS

Israel: A Social Report, by Dr. Shlomo Swirski, Ety Konor-Attias and Hala Abu-Khala. December 2010.

The report shows that 2009 was characterized by an increase in inequality in salaries, household income, and educational achievements. High levels of inequality were also found in accessibility to health care and in retirement savings. Israel's middle class lost out in numbers as well as in its share of the national income.

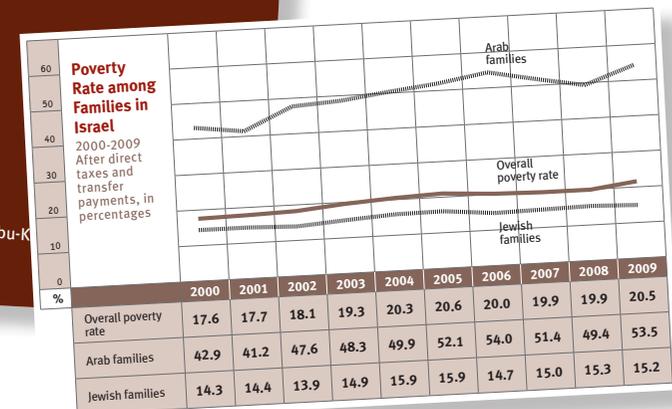
The report contends that economic growth alone will probably not decrease the level of inequality in Israeli society; rather, social policies need to be designed not only to stimulate economic growth but also to decrease the growing level of inequality in Israeli society.

IMPACT OF REPORTS

- Adva's **Social Report** was covered in all the Israeli media: printed and internet newspapers, radio and television.
- Decision-makers began to consider a number of issues not previously on their agenda. Among those issues: the fact that the fruits of economic growth benefit high-income persons far more than they benefit the majority of citizens, the need to channel investments to parts of the country besides the center and to sectors of the economy besides hi-tech, the growing inequality in educational achievements between children from different social groups, and the increasing household costs of health care.
- The high level of inequality in Israeli society became a frequent topic of discussion in the Israeli media.
- The size, income and expenditures of Israel's middle class began to be discussed in the Israeli media as well as in the corridors of power.



Excerpt from the report:
"In 2009, the poverty rate increased to 20.5% - three percentage points higher than it was at the start of the decade . . . Among Jews, the highest poverty rate is among ultra-Orthodox Jews; their poverty rate is similar to that of the Arab population of Israel."



THE ADVA CENTER, THE ECONOMY AND THE NATIONAL BUDGET

POLICY ANALYSIS

Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 Tight-Fisted on Civilian Allocations
November 3, 2010

Adva Center's annual Powerpoint Presentation on the National Budget proposal, posted on the Adva Center website and sent to all legislators and Cabinet members, argued that two changes presented by the Cabinet as innovations — the fact that the draft budget is for two years and a new fiscal rule — are simply new ways of implementing a tight-fisted budget. While civilian allocations will be reduced, the defense budget will not experience any adverse effects.

PUBLIC LECTURES

Lectures were presented to a variety of groups on subjects such as "Understanding the National Budget," "How to Analyze the Local Budget from a Gender Perspective," "The Structure of Israel's Public Education System," "The Right to Health," "The Segmented Labor Market in Israel," and "What Everyone Ought to Know about Retirement Savings."

IMPACT

Adva Center's reports on the economy and the national budget are read regularly by executive and legislative officials and are utilized in Knesset committees and plenary debates. They are reported extensively by the mass media and they are utilized by social advocacy organizations. They provide the impetus for changes in legislation, regulations and government planning.



THE ADVA CENTER, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY

POLICY ANALYSIS

Workers, Employers and the Distribution of Israel's National Income: Labor Report – 2009, by Dr. Shlomo Swirski, Ety Konor-Attias and Hala Abu-Khala. May 2010.

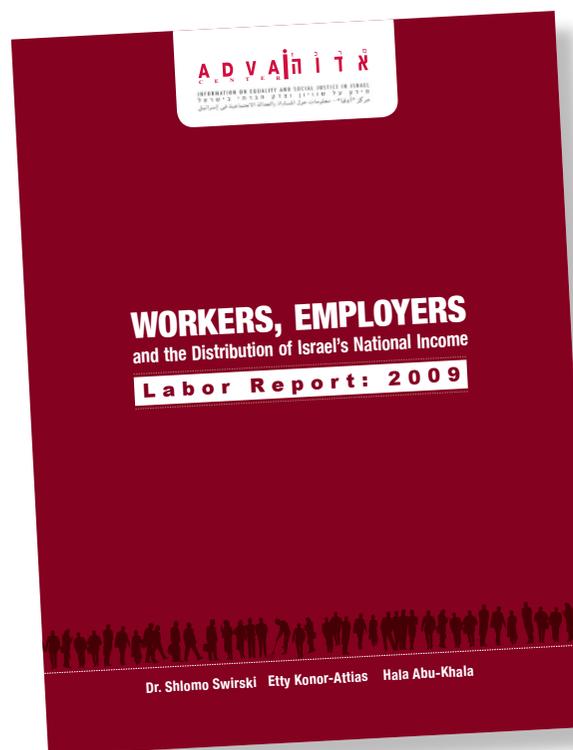
This annual report monitors labor market developments in Israel, including employees' and employers' share of the national income, salary trends and fringe benefits in different sectors of the economy, high and low salaried persons by gender and ethnic group, the kinds of new jobs being created, unemployment rates, and more.

PUBLIC LECTURES

The **Adva Center** receives frequent requests for lectures and workshops on topics like "The Rights of Employed Persons," "Women's Employment Patterns," "Recent Changes in Social Security in Israel," "Changes in the System of Retirement Savings in Israel," and "What Everyone Needs to Know about Saving for Retirement," from voluntary organizations, youth movements, women's organizations, government agencies, and labor unions.

IMPACT

- Thousands of employed women and men have learned about their workplace and social security rights.
- Taking their cue from the reports of the **Adva Center**, business sections of written and internet newspapers began to write about the high management fees of retirement savings plans.
- The government reduced the management fees of some, but not all, of the programs.



Excerpt from the report:

"Another indicator of the growing income inequality in Israel is the difference between the increase in national income and the increase in the share of employers and employees. Between 2000 and 2009, the national income grew by 30%; while the share of employees grew by only 17%, the share of employers grew by 59%."

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Ministers to vote on bill limiting salaries of public company heads

April 25, 2010
By Dan Izenberg

... The lawmakers pointed out that between 2000 and 2006, productivity in the business sector increased by 9.1 percent, while salaries went up by 1.8%. They quoted additional figures from the **Adva Center**, an economic and research center

THE ADVA CENTER AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

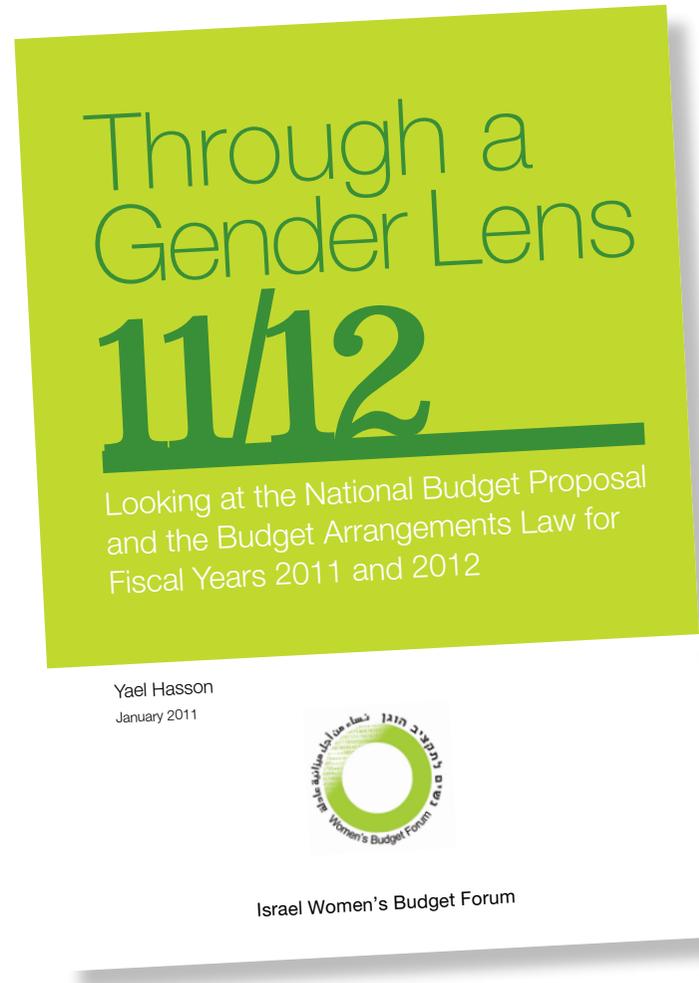
POLICY ANALYSIS

Through a Gender Lens: Looking at the National Budget Proposal and the Budget Arrangements Law for Fiscal Years 2011/2012, by Yael Hasson, January 2011.

The "gender lens" publication is an annual report that analyzes the national budget according to its implications for gender equality in Israel. The paper touches upon both revenue and expenditures streams, that is, changes in the tax system and in selected budget lines in the Ministries of Health, Education, Industry-Trade-Employment, and Welfare and Social Services that are especially relevant to women.

IMPACT

The position papers and the advocacy work of the Women's Budget Forum, a coalition of over 30 feminist and human rights organizations led by the **Adva Center**, have led to changes in government programs, new legislation, and new regulations that are more women- and minority- friendly.



Excerpt from the report:

"Reductions in social service allocations are fraught with gender implications, as women constitute nearly 70 percent of public service employees:

- 76 % of education service employees;
- 72% of health service employees;
- 85% of welfare and social service employees.



80% of women won't benefit from tax cuts

*Adrian Filut
May 25, 2010*

The Women's Budget Forum:

The tax cut plan will damage the government's ability to fund essential services, including childcare, thereby hurting women.

THE ADVA CENTER AND GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

TRAINING COURSES FOR WOMEN

In 2010, the Women's Budget Forum conducted nine courses (each consisting of 20-40 hours of training) in social economics (a term coined by the Adva Center) and understanding and influencing the local budget, for groups of women from all around Israel. Several of the courses involved final projects, in which participants applied the principles they learned and the skills they obtained in the course to their own local budgets.

IMPACT

In 2010, the Women's Budget Forum engaged in advocacy work among government officials on the following issues:

- Changing the criteria for receipt of public subsidies for day care so that more localities can take advantage of them, especially those with low budgets: **the criteria were changed.**
- Promoting a longer paid maternal birth leave and a paternal birth leave, to encourage men to become more active in the raising of children: **Several lawmakers drafted proposals.**
- Promoting the enforcement of an amendment to the Statistics Law, an amendment originally formulated and approved following advocacy work done by the Women's Budget Forum. The amendment requires all public agencies that collect statistics to disaggregate them by gender: **More and more groups are turning to public agencies to demand gender statistics.**
- Taking an active part in Knesset committee and government ministry meetings devoted to the employment opportunities of Arab women: **Numerous government and semi-government projects have been set up to encourage the employment of Arab women.**



Participants in a Social Economics Course

CASE STUDY

*Ms. Edna Sabag-Kriboy, advisor to the mayor of Beer Sheba on the status of women, participated in a training course conducted by the **Women's Budget Forum** in 2009. Since that time, she has ordered three more courses for different groups of women in her city. She was the first advisor to the mayor on the status of women in the country to ask her municipality for figures on the salaries of women and men employed by the municipality, and she is now leading a group of women from six additional cities who are bent on examining how much equality women employed by their municipalities really enjoy.*

THE ADVA CENTER AND EDUCATION

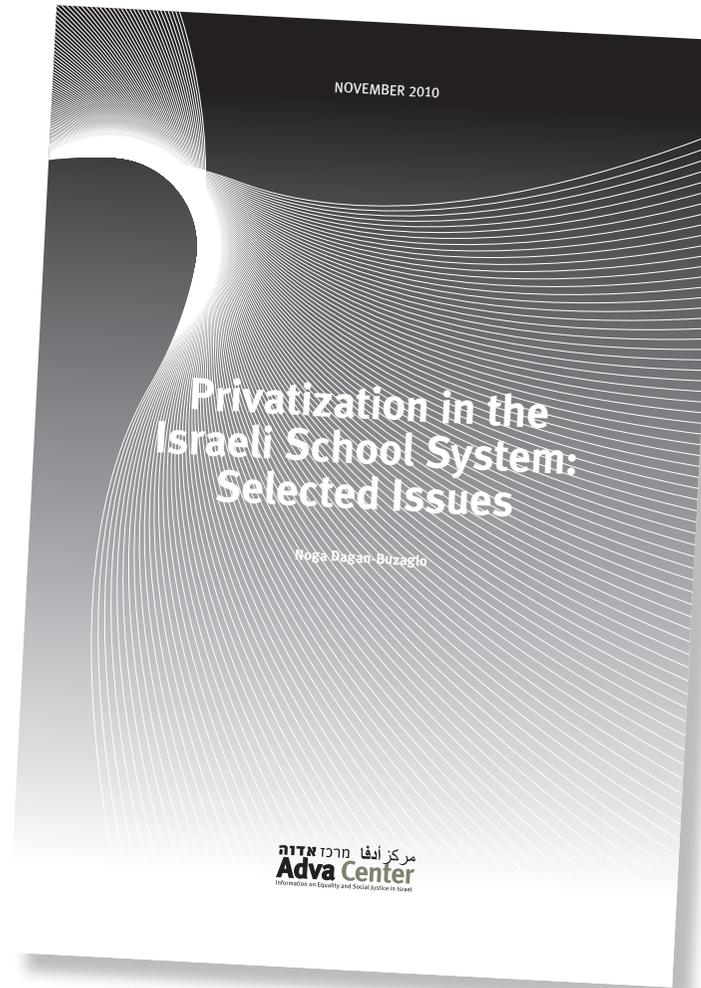
POLICY ANALYSIS

Privatization in the Israeli School System: Selected Issues, by Noga Dagan-Buzaglo, November 2010.

The Israeli school system still has a strong public infrastructure. Most of the teaching hours are financed from the public coffers and most teachers are employees of the Ministry of Education or the local authorities. However, over the past three decades, privatization has made serious inroads, as parents, nonprofits and commercial bodies play a growing role. The report shows that privatization harms the universal infrastructure of public schooling at the same time that it undermines the ability of the Ministry of Education to address the needs of all schoolchildren. It also fosters both ethnic and cultural divisions.

IMPACT

- The issue of privatization in the public school system has become the subject of public debate in Israel, with strong adherents on both sides.
- Teachers' unions have become involved in the issue. Thus "Hed Ha-Hinuch," a teachers' magazine, carried a feature on the Adva Center report and on the public round-table discussion organized by the Adva Center on schools in Israel's socio-economic periphery.



TheMarker

Reforms haven't helped fix social inequality

Higher education is province of well-off Jews, report finds

December 26, 2010

By Lior Dattel

Good high school and higher education are still the province of the country's well-off, and reforms from the 1990s haven't changed this, states the **Adva Center's 2009/2010 report** on Israel's socio-economic situation.

Only one out of four people who were in high school in 2001 went on to college by 2009, found the center's annual report, entitled, "Israel: A Social Report." In addition, Jewish high-schoolers were twice as likely to enroll in college as their Arab counterparts."

THE ADVA CENTER AND HEALTH CARE

POLICY ANALYSIS

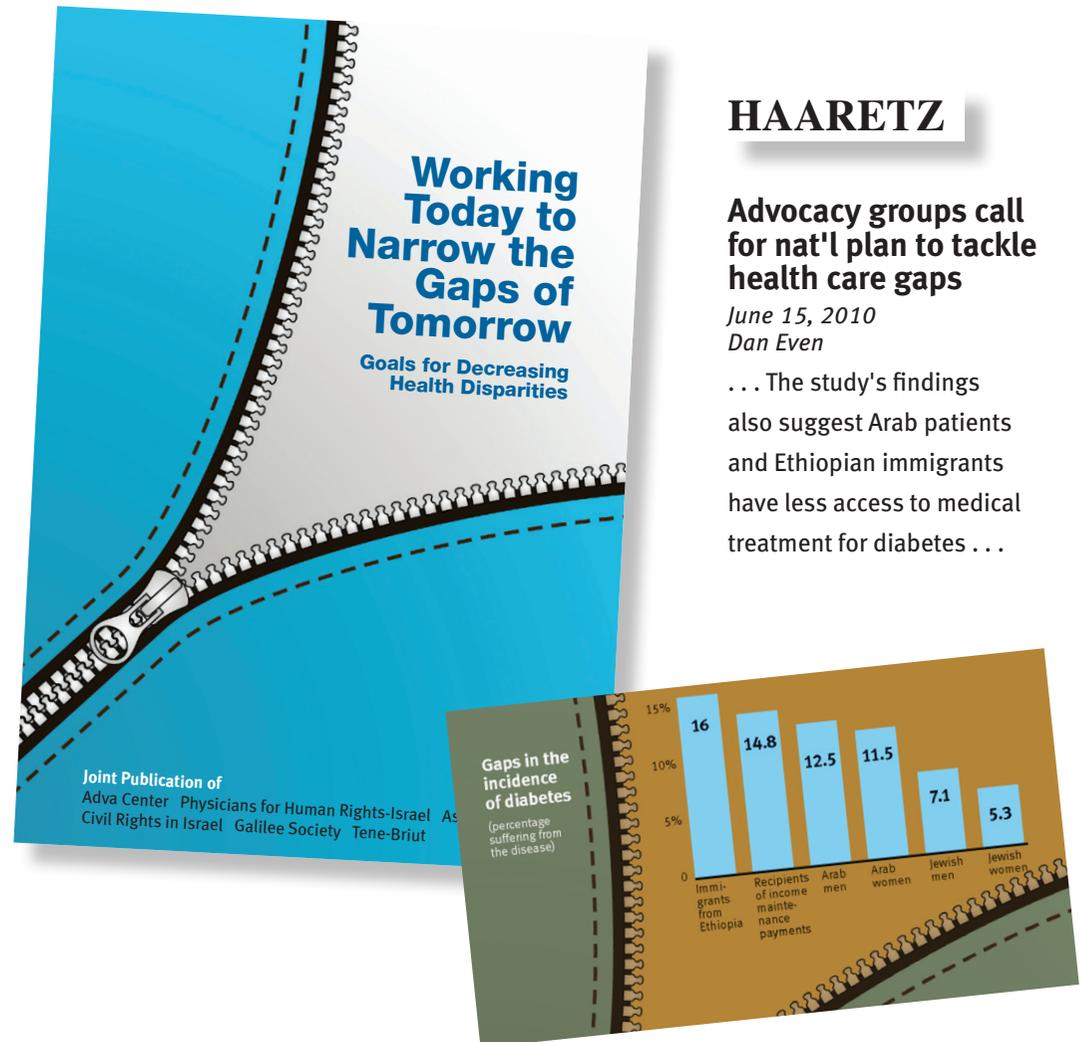
Working Today to Narrow the Gaps of Tomorrow: Goals for Decreasing the Gaps in Health, edited by Barbara Swirski, March 2010.

This position paper, prepared and published in cooperation with four other NGOS (Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, The Galilee Society and Tene-Briut) documents health gaps between Jews and Arabs, between the general population and low-income persons, and between Ethiopian and other Israelis. It calls on the Israeli government to prioritize decreasing inequality in health and set tangible goals to narrow the gaps.

IMPACT

The position paper and advocacy work done by the organizations partnering in its publication resulted in the Knesset Social Affairs, Employment and Health Committee formally recommending that the government embark on a national program designed to decrease inequality in health and health services in Israel. Other recent changes and developments connected with the health work of the Adva Center:

- The present spotlight on inequality in health and health services, following numerous academic and Ministry of Health studies, began with the 1992 and 1998 reports of the Adva Center on inequalities in health in Israel;
- The recent announcement by the Deputy Ministry of Health that he would work to lower co-payments and to include nursing care in the basket of health services to which all residents of Israel are entitled under the National Health Insurance Law followed extensive advocacy work by the Adva Center and its partner organizations;
- The Knesset's rejection of a proposal to impose health taxes on housewives, defined as women who are not gainfully employed, was the result of concerted advocacy work, led by the Adva Center.



HAARETZ

Advocacy groups call for nat'l plan to tackle health care gaps

June 15, 2010

Dan Even

... The study's findings also suggest Arab patients and Ethiopian immigrants have less access to medical treatment for diabetes ...

THE ADVA CENTER AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

POLICY ANALYSIS

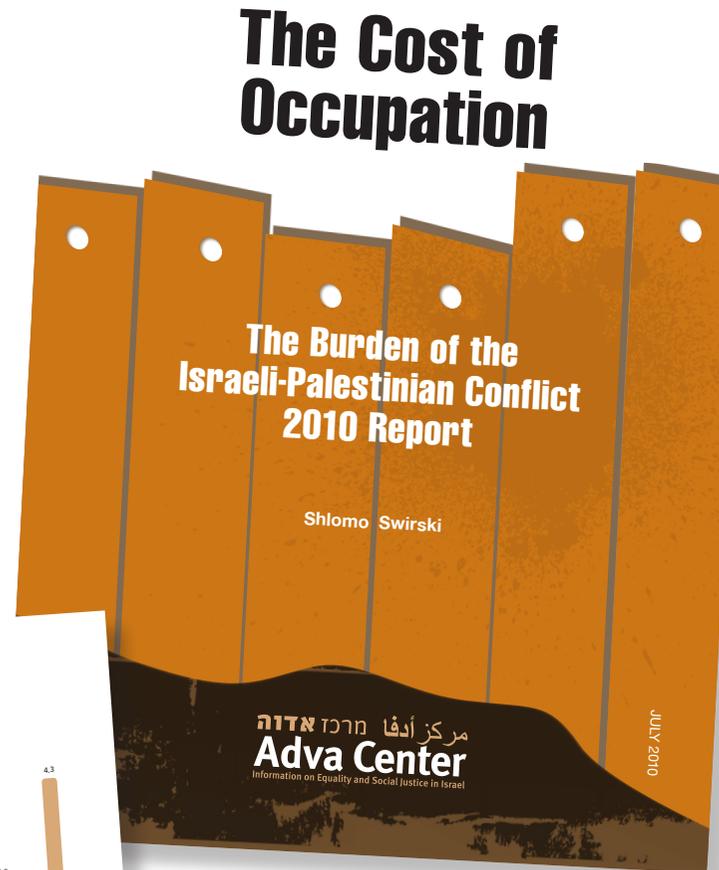
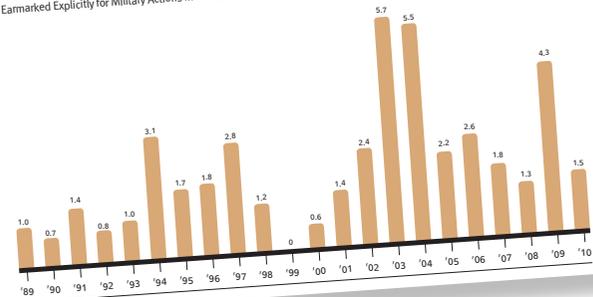
The Burden of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,
by Dr. Shlomo Swirski, July 2010.

This report analyses the extent of the economic, social, military, political and diplomatic burden of the conflict on Israel. It argues that the prolonged conflict with the Palestinians undermines sustainable economic growth, burdens the national budget, limits social development, absorbs most of the energies of the political leadership, calls into question the legitimacy of the actions of the Israeli Defense Forces and isolates Israel internationally.

IMPACT

The 2010 report is the latest update of a report originally published as a book in 2006. With each update (in 2008 and in 2010), the report receives more media attention and provides the impetus for more discussion on the issue of whether or not the absence of a peaceful political solution with the Palestinians is harmful to Israel's society and economy.

Additional Appropriations to the Defense Budget
Stemming from the Palestinian Uprising, 1989-2010
Earmarked Explicitly for Military Actions in the Palestinian Territories in NIS billions 2009 prices



THE JERUSALEM
POST

Conflict Costs far more than many think, report says

Whereas most other Western countries face financial crises or recessions, dispute with Palestinians imposes additional economic risk on Israel, according to recently released Adva Center study

June 13, 2010
By Ron Friedman

... "According to Swirski, Israelis often don't realize the full costs of the conflict and the occupation. The report aims to present decision-makers and the public with the wide picture ..."

THE ADVA CENTER'S PARTNERS

The Adva Center receives no funding from government sources and relies solely upon the support of individuals, organizations and foundations, such as those who made generous contributions to the work of the Adva Center in 2010:

Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
Heinrich Boell Stiftung
Naomi and Nehemia Cohen Foundation
The European Commission
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Ford Foundation
Hadassah Foundation
Mr. Howard Horowitz and Ms. Alisse Waterston
Daphna Izraeli Fund
Jewish Women's Giving Foundation of Baltimore
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Middle East Dialogue: Richard Goodwin
National Council of Jewish Women
New Israel Fund
Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation of Washington, DC

The Adva Center works on a small budget and transforms small investments into the largest possible impact on people's lives. **Much more work remains to be done and with greater support we can:**

Strive for increased social justice and equality. We can submit more op-eds on social issues to the written and electronic media, provide more opinion pieces and offer more lectures on social equality issues to government officials, aspiring politicians and members of youth groups.

Work to strengthen the sustainability of the Israeli economy. We can analyze in greater depth the structure and implications of current economic policy and present our recommendations for more effective policies more often and to more government forums and officials.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Contributions are tax-deductible in Israel and the United States. They can be made directly, by check or bank transfer, or to The New Israel Fund, with a recommendation that they be used for the Adva Center.

Train more women and men to make national and local budgets more gender-responsive, that is, more reflective of the differential needs of women and girls and men and boys. We can provide more training courses on how to understand the budget to women and men in communities throughout Israel and actively work with national and local governments to make budgets more transparent and more equitable.

Advocate for improved national health care. We can conduct more research on the access of health care for all segments of the population, analyze where gaps or shortfalls in service exist and recommend changes.

CONTACT US

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and discuss how you can become more involved. To learn more, please contact Barbara Swirski, Executive Director, at 972-(0)3-5608871
Fax: 972-(0)3-5602205
Email: advainfo@bezeqint.net

THE PEOPLE AT THE ADVA CENTER

The Adva Center has a stable Board of Directors whose members are highly committed and who make significant contributions to the work of the Center by giving freely of their time and expertise.

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Phone: 972-(0)3-5608871 Fax: 972-(0)3-5602205 advainfo@bezeqint.net adva.org