

Research Report Abstract:

# Mapping of Teen and Young People (ages 13-25) At Risk<sup>1</sup> NPOs

Submitted to the Ministry of Labor, Welfare and Social Services, Israel

December 2017

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## 1. Background

Following the rapid development of the field of NGOs for teens and young people at risk<sup>2</sup>, the Ministry of Social Affairs request to expend knowledge regard theirs activity and target audiences.

The aims of the study are:

- **Mapping** TYPAR`s NGOs: Number of organizations, there target audiences main characteristic , estimate there size and range of influence, geographical distribution and main areas of activity
- **Analysis** the organizations' activity patterns, work methods, methods of locating and contacting their target audience, NGOs resources, organizational characteristics, and relations with the official welfare systems.
- **Recommended** for further learning and means of coordination between TYPAR and the Ministry of Social Affairs

## 2. Methodology

The study was built in two stages. The goal of the first stage was to locate TYPAR NGOs, in order to establish a relevant list, full as possible. 113 TYPAR NGOs were listed.

The purpose of the second stage was to characterize the activity patterns of teen and young people at risk NGOs by a research questionnaire that was compiled and sent via Google Forms to the list of 113 NPOs (that identified in the first stage). A 52 NPOs responded to this questionnaire.

## 3. The research findings

### 3.1 Description of organizational characteristics

The first grassroots organization which engage mainly in teen and people at-risk are documented from the 1980s<sup>3</sup>, and today, according to the list collected in this study, there are at least 113 NPOs operate in this field.

NGOs serve tens of thousands of teen and young people at risk. The 42 research NPOs (out of a list of 113 NPOs), are serving about 72,409 teen and young people. 83% of the NPOs are in contact with more than 100 participants in one year.

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<sup>2</sup> The official term in Israel is "Teen, Young Women and Young Men at Risk, Including aged 13 to 18, and aged 19 to 25"

Many years earlier, special frameworks were set up for children and teen that came to Israel from <sup>3</sup> the diaspora, especially following the Holocaust in Europe. See at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth\\_Aliyah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_Aliyah)

The NPOs employ social workers or educators. In addition, these NPOs employ many volunteers. The total number of volunteers counted in the study is 7,482 in 43 NPOs, in a broad range, from 2 to 1,500 volunteers, with 63% of the NPOs having more than 25 volunteers. The amounts of volunteers reflect the desire of many Israeli citizens to volunteer on behalf of teen and young people.

**Most of the funding of TYPAR's NGOs** come from donations and other independent sources. About 33% of the organizations said that most of the funding is from donations and just some of it from government agencies or municipal authorities; another 28% said that their main funding comes from their own resources and fundraising.

### 3.2 Description of The TYPAR NPO's Target audience

**Age range** - Most of the research NPOs serve several age groups. Only 12 NPOs (out of 52 nonprofit organizations) serve one age group. Another age characteristic is the maintaining of continuity between ages, so that the service does not cut at the transition from high school to the military ages and beyond. In addition, 82% of Research organizations serve not only the age groups that are entitled to state's services by law, (such as high school pupils until the 12th grade, or boarding schools) but also pupils who dropped out of the state service systems (62% of the organizations) Young people serving in the army or in the age of army service, and young people after army or national service (52% of the organizations).

**Most of the organizations serve defined social groups** (as opposed to the general population). Only 18 NPOs (36%) responded that they serve the entire population. The largest served social group is "Immigrants and Second Generation for Immigration" (33 NPOs that are 66% of the research's NPOs), followed by the religiosity group (Jewish ultra-Orthodox and religious families; served by 29 NPOs (58%). Among them 21 NPOs are for teen and youth from ultra-Orthodox families), 25% of the NPOs serve the local residents of the neighborhood or the city in which they operate, 20% serve the Arab community and 7% (N14) NPOs serve the LGBT community.

Most of the research's NPOs serving Hebrew speakers, nevertheless 75% of the audience is bilingual.

**The mix of languages amid the NPOs audience** is different from the language's Mixes among children at risk in the general population, as described in Schmid Report<sup>4</sup>. The weight of the defined social groups (especially immigrants or second-generation immigrants) is higher than their weight in the general population

This character emphasizes the uniqueness of the NPOs in the service a defined social audiences, as their ability to locate and approach them.

**The number of risk situations of teen and young people at risk**, as reported by the research's NPOs is ranged from 2 to 7. Approximately 41% of the organizations reported up to four risk characteristics, and 59% between 5 and 7 risk characteristics. This situation is similar to the distribution of risk situations in the general population of children and young people at risk

### 3.3 Treatment methods

**The field of teen and young people at risk organizations is characterized by multiple types of methods**, respectively with the target audience, their special needs and the unique treatment approach of each organization. Only 4 NPOs (8%) responded that they focus on one treatment method. 64% of the organizations operate by five to nine methods. The most comprehensive response is counseling, support, care and personal care (80%). In addition, 69% of the NPOs use methods designed to strengthen social and family affiliation. One of the organizations' main methods is accommodation: 69% of the NPOs operate permanent accommodation over time, and 16% of the NPOs provide temporary accommodation. (45%). Other **Treatment methods** are developing life skills by extreme sports (39%), support frameworks in the community, such as clubs (A meeting place for learning, feeding, and enrichment, after school). (31%). 29% the NPOs give concrete responses, such as financial aid, food, clothing, etc.

**The organizations in the research create the first contact** with the target audience in three ways: The first is by contacts within schools, boarding schools or other organized institutes, and / or by a social worker from the social services department of the local authorities (31 NPOs 62%). The second is Independent applied of the target audience. 34 of the NPOs (68%) said that teen and young people reach by themselves, based on personal information or from friends. 26 NPOs (52%) reported that family members or friends of the teen and young people refer them to the organization. The third method is

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Schmid, H. (2007). Children and youth at risk in Israel: Findings and recommendations <sup>4</sup> to improve their well being. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 29(8), 1114-1128.

to reach the target audience by field work: About 46% of the NPOs are active in the field (in the streets, beaches, clubs other informal meeting places) of young people in distress.

**The organizations' ability to contact teen and young people at risk** is based on creating solutions that are relevant to the unique target audience of each organization.

Eight subjects were found in the NPOs answers: training or special characteristics of the organization's staff (16 organizations, 36%), material or practical assistance (10, 22%), sharing the target audience as partners in the work process (9, 20%), adjustment to the social community of the target audience (4, 9%), creation of a safe environment-physically and emotionally (4.9%), and a holistic approach that include all aspects of life (5, 11%).

**Most of the NPOs, said that they are serving their target audience for long periods of time**, and maintain a continuum, especially at the transition periods, as from the education system, to the army, and later as adult citizens. Moreover, most of the NPOs said that they are in contact with their graduates after the end of the service period.

#### 4. Conclusions

Three unique characteristics the activity of TYPAR's NPOs; organizational characteristics, the extent of their presence and influence among their target audiences, and their areas of activity.

##### 4.1 Organizational characteristics

The spare of TYPAR NPOs include more than 100 NPOs; most of them serve at least 100 teen or young people every year (some in connection with thousands). The majority have more than one branch, which attests to the development of a unique professional approach. Moreover they employ professionals' staff in the fields of social work and education, and document their work.

In addition, the research's NGOs are have unique Characters of civil society organizations. The first is the need to raise finance resources independently. Only 16% of the research's NGOs reported that they work by a tender with the Ministry of Welfare. This means that most of the NPOs activities are not included in the state's services, and are not budgeted by them. Therefore, the nonprofit organizations are obligated to obtain most of their resources by appealing to philanthropists and the

general public. Another civil characteristic is the widespread use of volunteers. The 43 NPOs in the research employ 7,482 volunteers, ranging from two volunteers to 1,500 volunteers. The extent of reliance on philanthropic sources and the extensive use of volunteers reflect a strong mobilization of the Israeli public to support teen and young people at risk.

#### 4.2 The extent and influence of TYPAR NPOs among their target audiences

The 42 research's NPOs (out of about 113), serve about 72,409 teen and youth at risk, while various official estimates the total number of teen and young people in Israel as 400,000 (200,000 teen and 200,000 youth).

The mixture of the target groups different from its mix in the general population. According the Schmid program - the National Program for the Treatment of Children and Young people at Risk and in Distress - the group of children at risk is divided as follows: 29% veteran Jews, 46% Arabs, 10% immigrants, 15% Haredim (Ultra-Orthodox Jews). In contrast to this division, among the nonprofit organizations in the research there is a higher ratio of "immigrants and second generation immigrants." For example, 44% of the research's NPOs serve Amharic (Ethiopian community) speakers and 44% of the organizations serve Russian-speaking. And most of the target audience of most of the non-profit organizations speaks a foreign language. The second characteristic is the high proportion of defined social groups: the religious group (29 organizations), the ultra-Orthodox (21, 42%), the Arab (20 and 40%) and the LGBT (14%). Of the research organizations are designated for one social group.

It is important to note the very low ratio between the number of teen and young Arab at risk and the number of Arab NPOs that serve them. While nearly 50% of the young people at risk in Israel are Arabs, only 20% of the all the NPOs in the research serve Arab young teen and youth , since most of Israel's largest NPOs for teen and young people at risk serve Arab young people . However, there are no Arab NPOs involved in this field. (NPOs established by Arabs for Arab young people).

The research's NPOS serve the entire age range, from the middle and high school (13-17), the army (18-21) and after the army- (Exit to citizenship) (22-25). Including those in organized institutions and those discharged from the education system or from the army. The uniqueness of the NGOs is that they can maintain continuity. As opposed to

state services that cease at the age of 18 or change in the transition from or dropout from the education system (in which the responsibility varies among different governments organizations).

#### 4.3 The unique treatment methods of the NPOs in the research

There are two unique characteristics of the treatment methods. The first is the use of innovative methods or methods that are usually operated at low frequency (in the government services). The second is a comprehensive response, including continuity in the transition from the age of adulthood to maturity, and by comprehensive areas of treatments, including strengthening family ties, employment, studies, psychosocial care and more.

The NPOs in the research, as opposed to governmental services, have a variety of unique treatment methods that use special skills and conditions (such as extreme sports), geographical conditions (desert, agricultural farms). Others NPOs use private infrastructures such as people who open their homes to youth in distress, and innovative treatment approaches and personal virtue of the founders of the organizations and their employees. Moreover, some of the organizations build their treatment program by trial and error method accordingly the circumstances in the field; their financial and human resources and the unique distress of their target audience, in ongoing learning process.

Most organizations use a number of methods to reach their target audience, including outreach to target audiences in field work, marketing among professionals in institutions. This mix of methods enables them to locate young people who are not in formal settings or those who were not diagnosed as youth at risk.

### 5. Recommendations

The uniqueness of TYPAR's NPOs and other welfare NPOs is that they are established as a social initiative of a citizen who have identified a need, or an injustice, according their worldview. The variety of the research's organizations in terms of subjects, audiences, treatment methods and spheres of influence, indicates on an active and professional field. This picture reflects a culture of high involvement of Israeli citizens, which reflected in the amount of social initiatives, the many volunteers and the philanthropic resources that support them.

The recommendations here engage in four areas: 1. the need to gather innovative knowledge that created in the field work of the NPOs; 2. Define a services basket for TYPAR. 3. Developing an economic model to support the organizations' work over time,

and integrating them into the public services basket. 4. Establishing a mechanism for coordination and cooperation between civil society organizations and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, for the welfare of TYPAR.

### 5.1 Innovative knowledge pooling

Many of the Youth and young people at risk NPOs use an innovative methods. However, despite the success of their activities, or part of them, most of the knowledge that is developed in the field is not researched and documented in a manner that could serve additional audiences in the civil service or in civil society.

Due to the importance of knowledge accumulated by the NPOs, it is proposed to promote a common mechanism for the mutual learning of innovative models that will be used by service providers in the third sector and in government ministries. Documentation of the model of the NGOs' work, through evaluation studies, which will be published within the framework of a dedicated website that will serve anyone who wishes to work in the field. The presentation of innovative knowledge is important because of the many voluntarist and philanthropic initiatives that are motivated by goodwill, but lack experience and professional knowledge in this field of work.

### 5.2 Cooperation in definition a basket or a reference bar of services for TYPAR

One of the unique characteristics of TYPAR's NPOs is a development of comprehensive solutions, based on continuum of service throughout life spam, in a variety of areas.

The scope of knowledge and accumulated experience of the organizations can serve as a basis for an up-to-date definition of a universal basket of services for Teen and young people at risk. This issue is also important for the social groups that the organizations specialize in (immigrant, religious, LGBT, etc.) Moreover, it as special importance since the expansion of the risk group to those aged 18 to 25 is new and there is need to build an innovative basket of services for them, Personal care, education and employment.

Therefore, it is proposed to create a definition of a basket of services for teen and young people, at risk, that will serve them from adolescence to the age of 25, in a continuous process, including the period of military service or national service. The definition of a basket of needs will first and foremost be used to define areas of cooperation with the government systems (eg, access to health services for young women, support for young people who require completion of studies, the process of deleting criminal records and more). Additionally the basket of services will serve Social organizations and new entrepreneurs in this field, as a reference bar to development and provision of services for teen and at risk.

### 5.3 Development of an economic model for budgeting unique NPOs solutions

Many organizations succeed in creating a real change in the lives of teens and youth at risk. Some of them operate in a large geographic range and with quantities of teen and young people or they are advancing an innovative treatment services. Despite the proven success, they are required to finance most of their activities by themselves, by raising funds. Although some of the organizations manage to raise funds from the public or from philanthropic foundations its limits the number of teen and young people who receive their services, and of course it is an unstable economic base that does not allow a long-term professional solution.

Therefore, it is necessary to create an economic model for the budgeting of NPOs services that were proven effective, and which are irreplaceable in government services. The aim is not to privatize an existing government service, but rather to "adopt" services provided by NPOs into the government services basket in a manner that will enable the assimilation of innovative solutions in the service continuum, and to bring it to all the teen and young people who need it, rather than according the temporary amount of philanthropic funding.

### 5.4 Establishment of a voluntary database Website of programs and NPOs for TYPAR

The purpose of the voluntary database is to be use as an infrastructure for coordination and cooperation between TYPAR NPOs and the relevant government institutes (Ministry of Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, National Insurance, municipal authorities, and other state agencies). The voluntary database will be compound by the NGOs information. Each relevant NGO will submit its data voluntarily. For example: descriptions of target audiences, practices, places of activity, and more.

The information that will be raised by the organizations themselves will be used to construct a comprehensive and updated map of their activities, according to places and audiences, in a way that will create a self-regulation of the organization`s resources, for example, to create a balanced distribution of resources between locations or target audiences. In addition, the information will enable the Ministry of Social Affairs to build its relations with the NPOs base on an updated data.

### 5.5 Mechanisms for coordination and cooperation between NGOs and the Ministry of Welfare

Most of the NPOs in the field of teen and young people at risk are not supervised by the Ministry of Social Affairs but operate autonomously. Therefore, it is suggested to create coordination mechanism between the NGOs and the Ministry of Social Affairs: an

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initiative to motivate the process (as "round tables" or "Collective Impact") and on-going mechanisms.

It is recommended that the Ministry of Social Affairs will lead a process of dialogue with the various NPOs. The purpose of the process is to create familiarity and build trust between the parties, to pool all efforts.