

# Energy poverty in Israel: policy, implementation, gaps

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**Energy poverty & climate change in the ME**

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## Policy

### Indirect

- Building standards
  - #1045 for thermal isolation of buildings (renewed 2011)
  - #5281/2 but relevant only to new buildings (3/2022)
- Energy efficiency strategic plan 2030 MoE: hardly relevant to the energy poor (transportation & housing)
- Small scale (pilot projects) in social housing – PV installations

### Direct

- Heating allowance special groups (*Bituach Leumi*)
- Reduced electricity prices (307,000 consumers)
- Pre-paid electricity meters
- Pre and post-disconnections procedures (notice, delays, quick reconnection)

### COVID-19

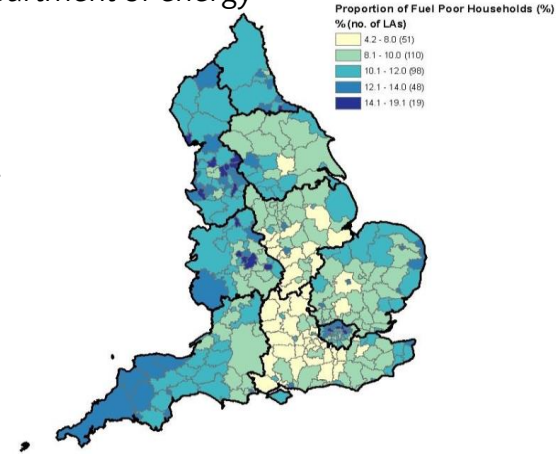
- Temporary (no disconnections in Apr.-May 2020)



# Gaps

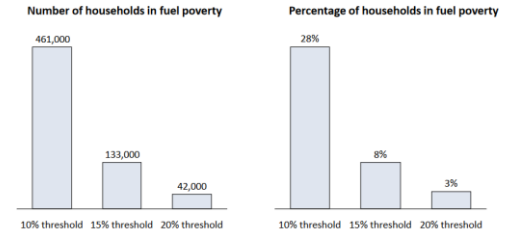
- No official definition of 'energy poverty'
- No defined measurement tool
- No data
- No systematic municipal framework

## UK department of energy



## Ireland department of energy

### Overall results for Ireland: prevalence of fuel poverty using different thresholds



- Using the 10% threshold, more than one-fourth of Irish households are in fuel poverty.
- The next slides show how this number varies with the six core variables introduced earlier.

## US department of energy

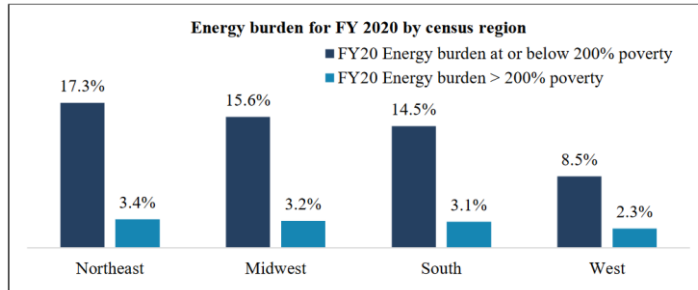


Figure 15. Energy burden for FY 2020 by census region.



There is no escape but to conclude that in some contexts **a stable power supply** is part of the fundamentals required for human for the purpose of their basic and day-to-day existence and is therefore worthy of protection under the established **right to human dignity** (Judge D. Barak-Erez, Supreme Court, Jan., 2022).



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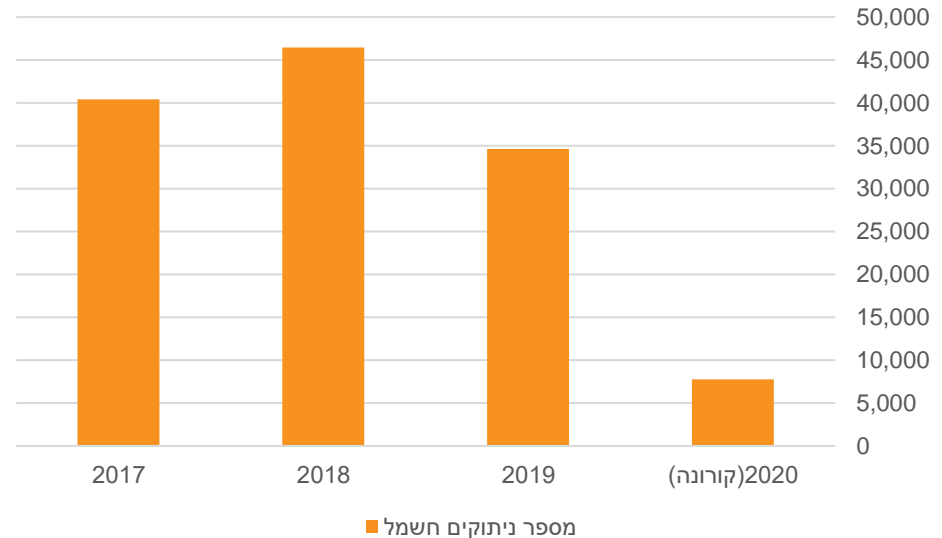
## Brakethough 1: Recent court rulling

### Disconnections & procedure:

1. Current **criteria for 'protected groups'** do not require the Electricity Company (EC) to define and evaluate economic and health statues of consumers in debt.
2. EC is not required to **approach consumers** before disconnections
3. There is no **hearing procedure** before disconnections

→ Ban on disconnections until June 2022

*Data does not include pre-paid meters households that run out of money!*





## Brakethough 2? the Electricity Law

### The Law:

- Connecting houses without building permit – to water, electricity and phoneline

### Limitations:

- Requires a detailed plan (approved/submitted)
- To begin with, accounted buildings are underestimation of the real numbers



שכונות שלמות לא מחוברות. רחובות באום אל-פחם (צילום: מקבולה נסאר)

<https://www.mekomit.co.il>



## Brakethough 2? The new Electricity Law

### The Law:

- Connecting houses without building permit – to water, electricity and phoneline

### Limitations:

- Requires a detailed plan (approved/submitted)
- To begin with, accounted buildings are underestimation of the real numbers

להלן טבלה המפרטת את מספר המבנים הלא מוסדרים לפי סטטוס תכנית מפורטת ותכנית מתאר כוללנית, בכל הרשויות הערביות במחוזות: צפון, חיפה, מרכז, ירושלים (לא כולל את מחוז דרום). הנתונים מבוססים על בדיקה שנעשתה לתצלום אוויר משנת 2018):

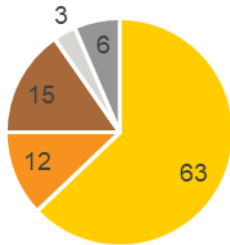
אין תכנית מפורטת	מפורטת בתהליך	מפורטת מופקדת	
2,750 (20%)	1,050 (8%)	1,570 (11%)	כוללנית מאושרת
5,265 (38%)	1,450 (10%)		כוללנית בתהליך
1,835 (13%)	0		מחוץ לתכנית כוללנית

Data: Sikkuy NGO

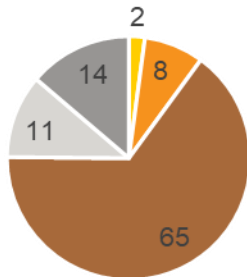


## Energy poverty and informalities

Primary source of energy in townships (%)



Primary source of energy in unrecognized villages (%)



- Power grid - direct connection
- Power grid - connected via other client
- Solar panels and self-made batteries
- Generator
- Wood and combustion materials



Shapira, S., Shibli, H., & Teschner, N. (2021). Energy insecurity and community resilience: The experiences of Bedouins in Southern Israel. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 124, 135-143.





## Energy poverty and informalities



Obda, Ramat Ziporim עבדה

*“...the solar panels – it is not official yet, but a solution for the new neighborhoods, a transition solution for at least 5 years, until land disputes are solved, and electricity can come and connect” (Planning Authority Southern District, interview, November 2018)*

Teschner, N., Sinea, A., Vornicu, A., Abu-Hamed, T., & Negev, M. (2020). Extreme energy poverty in the urban peripheries of Romania and Israel: Policy, planning and infrastructure. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 66, 101502.