



Striving Towards Accessibility

In 2012, the Ruderman Family Foundation, the Ted Arison Family Foundation, The Fishman Group, the "Bizchut" Israel Human Rights Center for People with Disabilities and JFN collaborated to examine the level of acceptance and quality of life of people with disabilities in Israeli cities. The goal was simple: raise awareness about the needs of people with disabilities and determine how to improve their quality of life.

The collaboration, known as the Disabilities Roundtable, set the stage for a thorough study in 20 Israeli cities and local councils, and was based on research by Prof. Arik Rimmerman of Haifa University in 2005 and 2012, with joint funding from the National Insurance Institute. It was coupled with additional study teams headed by Das Research Center Manager Dr. Avi Griffel, who conducted interviews and observations.

The study evaluated several key parameters, including outdoor and indoor accessibility, accessibility to municipal services, social involvement and satisfaction. As a result of the study, the Positive Approach Index was created to evaluate cities. The index was published in May 2013 in Globes, one of Israel's leading financial newspapers, as part of a partnership with the initiative. The most accessible and inclusive city was found to be Holon (a total score of 7.6 out of 10), followed by Rishon Lezion and Shoham.

In 2013, the partners began a process of collaboration with the local authorities' umbrella organizations in Israel to use the index as a learning and engagement tool for the 25 largest cities in Israel.