

Israel: Migration Policy and Practice

Mary Kay Hazel

University of Michigan School of Social Work



Location

- **Israel**
 - Founded 1948; territory expanded 1967
 - Controls West Bank and Gaza (Palestinian Territories); Golan Heights (also claimed by Syria)
 - World's only majority Jewish country
- **Haifa**
 - Third largest city in Israel (pop. 283,640)
 - Largest "mixed" Jewish-Arab city in Israel
 - 23.4 percent of residents are new immigrants (arrived since 1990)
 - Ancient port city: working-class reputation

Placement: Municipality of Haifa

- New mayor in late 2018
- Accountable to national legislative and executive bodies
- **Department of Community Social Work**
 - Works directly with citizens to address specific needs
 - Supports residents in organizing to improve their neighborhoods
 - Major work areas: community, employment, volunteers

Connections

- **Classroom**
 - Evaluation: needs assessments, monitoring, logic models
 - Research: context and policy research
- **Career**
 - Policy: how policy is translated into real-world impacts on vulnerable communities
 - Global context: firsthand knowledge of a region of the world with massive historical, cultural, and political importance

Community	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
Eritrean asylum seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organizing • Collaborative program design and implementation • Education capacity building and connection to resources • Outreach and relationship-building between city officials and community leaders • Follow-on planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six community meetings • Two-week education program for 39 children, ages 4-8 • School readiness program for 10 children entering first grade • Recruitment and management of 65 Israeli volunteers • 86 hours of educational activities • Debrief meeting with city leaders to plan next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built trust with community: delivered program of value • Fostered relationships between children, families, and community volunteers • Convinced city leaders of need for future tailored programming • Identified specific cases needing intervention
Migrant caregivers for the elderly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Needs assessment • Policy research • Program design and implementation • Follow-on planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four focus groups • Six-week empowerment program for group of 10 participants, customized to support individual and collective goals • Four stress-relieving activities and outings for caregivers • Collaborative road map for future engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened community ties between migrant workers • Built trust between caregivers and staff • Increased caregiver perceptions of control and decreased feelings of stress • Generated data and strategy for future programming to improve caregivers' working lives
Refugee-serving nonprofit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs assessment • Volunteer supervision • Strategy development • Fundraising research • Capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of four volunteer interns over six weeks • Foundational documents, including needs assessment, strengths map, and organizational profile • Grants database • Fundraising strategy and timeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved organization's ability to identify and apply for funding • Increased efficiency of internal management processes • Clarified organization's goals • Built leadership's capacity to manage an independent nonprofit



Takeaways

- **Skills**
 - Engaging, assessing, collaborating with communities
 - Fostering trust between government and communities
- **Lessons Learned**
 - Interactions between national and local policy
 - Gaps between policy and practice
 - Crucial importance of framing work and presenting to the right people
 - Power of creativity and resourcefulness in government work



Advice

- Do as much research as possible in advance
- Don't leave any money on the table: apply for all possible sources of funding
- Explore the city and meet people early in the placement: it will go quicker than you think!

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