



Jerusalem - West Bank - Gaza

Annual Report

2023



Contents

Early Childhood Development

03

Education in Emergencies

09

Child Protection

12

Child and Youth Resilience and Life Skills

16

Emergency Responses

20

Climate Change Adaptation and Protection of the Environment

23



Strategic Priorities

For over 48 years, World Vision International has worked to nurture Palestinian children, improve their resilience and bring them hope. Combining development, relief and advocacy, our programmes aim to ensure that children, especially the most vulnerable, are protected in their families and communities, and that they develop the skills and resilience they need for healthy lives.



Early Childhood Development



Education in Emergencies



Child Protection



Child and Youth Resilience and Life Skills

Key Facts about World Vision International in 2023



150
villages supported



US\$ 11 million
budget



330
community volun-
teers and local
facilitators

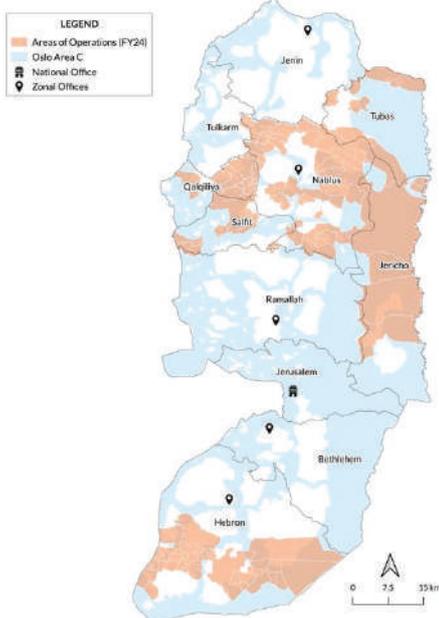


Donors:
World Vision
International,
ECHO (European
Union), BMZ
(Germany),
Global Affairs
Canada



85
dedicated staff

Key achievements in 2023



136,000
individual
participants in our
programmes
including 95,000
children



87%
of the children reached
are very vulnerable



183
schools and
kindergartens
supported



93
health clinics
supported

World Vision International's area of operations (2024)

World Vision International has one of the largest community-based presence of any organisation operating in the West Bank with programmes in six governorates out of 11.



Early Childhood Development



93
health clinics
supported



26,000
children reached



2,200
caregivers
supported



US\$2.3M
budget



124
community Health
Workers trained,
equipped and
supported



37
kindergartens
and pre-school
classes supported



75
teachers of
kindergartens
trained and
supported

The Issue

Early childhood experiences have a profound impact on brain development, which serves as the foundation for all subsequent learning, behaviour, and health outcomes. But this development can be interrupted if a child is poorly nourished and nurtured, if she/he isn't stimulated properly, or if she/he isn't protected from violence. At the contrary, Early Childhood Development programmes provide the nurturing care that children's bodies and brains require



for optimal growth and development, allowing children the best start in life. Several studies have found that high quality Early Childhood Development programmes can yield a \$4 – \$9 dollar return per \$1 invested. Unfortunately, access to early childhood education programmes remains difficult in the occupied Palestinian territory. A UNICEF's report from 2022 found that only 25% of Palestinian children aged three to six years take part in some of them. A 2020 baseline study conducted by World Vision International also revealed that merely 62% of all Palestinian children under six years of age are on track developmentally in all domains.

Our Approach

World Vision International's Early Childhood (ECD) programme aims to support mothers during pregnancy and continue to support children (along with their caregivers) until they reach the age of six, so they achieve their full potential. The programme's goal is to promote children's development and improve their early learning abilities in secure and stimulating environments. This holistic ECD approach, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, encompasses two project models that serve children of varying age groups. Moreover, World Vision International assists these ministries in developing pertinent national policies and technical tools.

The First 1,000+ Days

Our model, Go Baby Go, aims to build a strong foundation for children during their first 1,000+ days of life. It emphasizes enhancing knowledge, skills, and resilience-promoting parenting behaviours to aid caregivers in fulfilling their roles as primary educators and protectors. Go Baby Go also provides caregivers with planning and self-care strategies to promote autonomy and well-being at the family and community levels.



This model is implemented at 3 levels:



Household

Community Health Workers provide support to caregivers and families through home visits, which includes providing psychological first aid to caregivers and offering guidance to mothers, fathers, and other family members to encourage age-appropriate development of young children through home-based activities.



Community

Close to 1,400 primary caregivers participate in skill-based learning sessions that concentrate on introducing and identifying their role as caregivers, along with developing active skills for promoting holistic child development. 91% of them showed an increased knowledge on child development.



Health System

Our approach focuses on supporting the sustainable provision of high-quality ECD services by providing Maternal and Child Health clinics with the essential tools to enhance service quality and establish a more child-friendly environment, especially in relation to breastfeeding.



The Baby Friendly Health Clinic Initiative

World Vision International is supporting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to implement the Child Friendly Health Clinics Initiative. This initiative aims to ensure that mothers receive immediate, high-quality support for successful breastfeeding after giving birth. The focus is to improve the quality of services related to breastfeeding in MoH Primary Health Care clinics, particularly the information and support provided to mothers before and during the crucial first hours after delivery. The initiative will also monitor the quality of services provided by clinics and grant a certification of Child Friendly Clinics to those meeting the required standards. Three clinics are piloting the initiative and are in the process of being certified. More clinics will start in 2024.



Early Childhood Education

Our project model, Learning Roots, is a play-based learning approach that fosters the comprehensive development of children aged three to five years. It establishes the groundwork for successful transitions to primary school and lifelong learning. This evidence-based model promotes a curriculum that focuses on developmental domains such as motor skills, literacy, numeracy, life skills, and others. Through this project model, World Vision International supports 50% of all public kindergartens and pre-school classes in the West Bank so they can meet quality learning standards.



Our approach works at three levels:

Kindergartens

To strengthen the quality of teaching at the local ECD centres and creating safe, playful learning environments, by:

- Training teachers and supervisors on the evidence-based curriculum
- Rehabilitating classrooms, health units, and safe play areas.
- Providing furniture and learning materials.
- Supporting the establishment of new kindergartens.

Community

To engage parents and caregivers and strengthen their capacity to provide nurturing care, by:

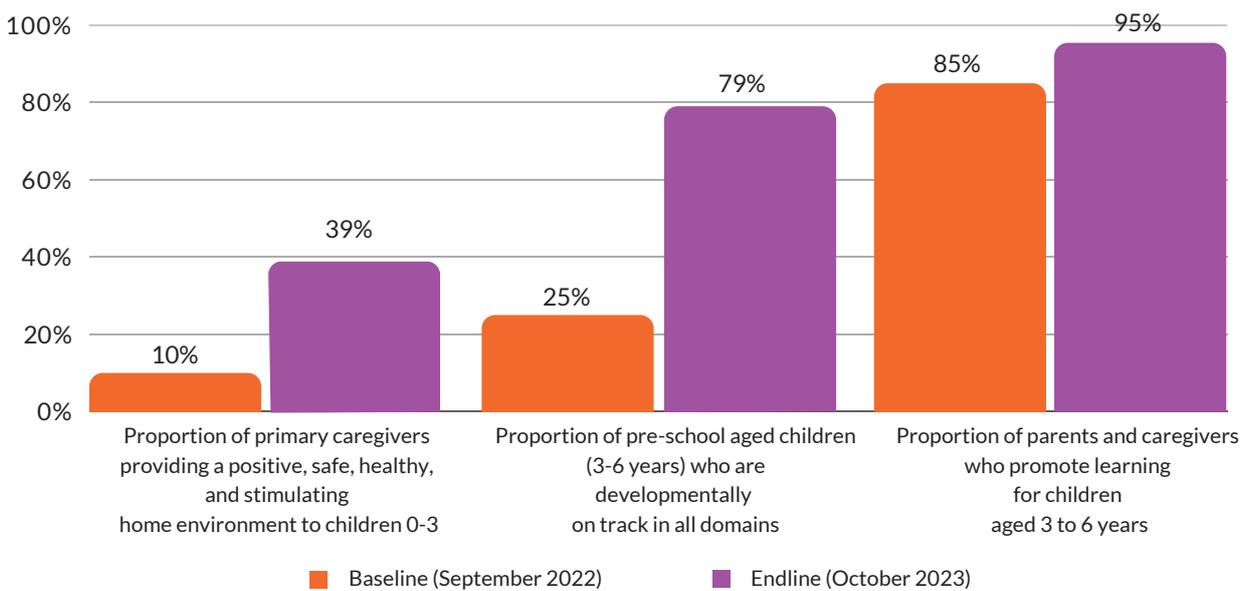
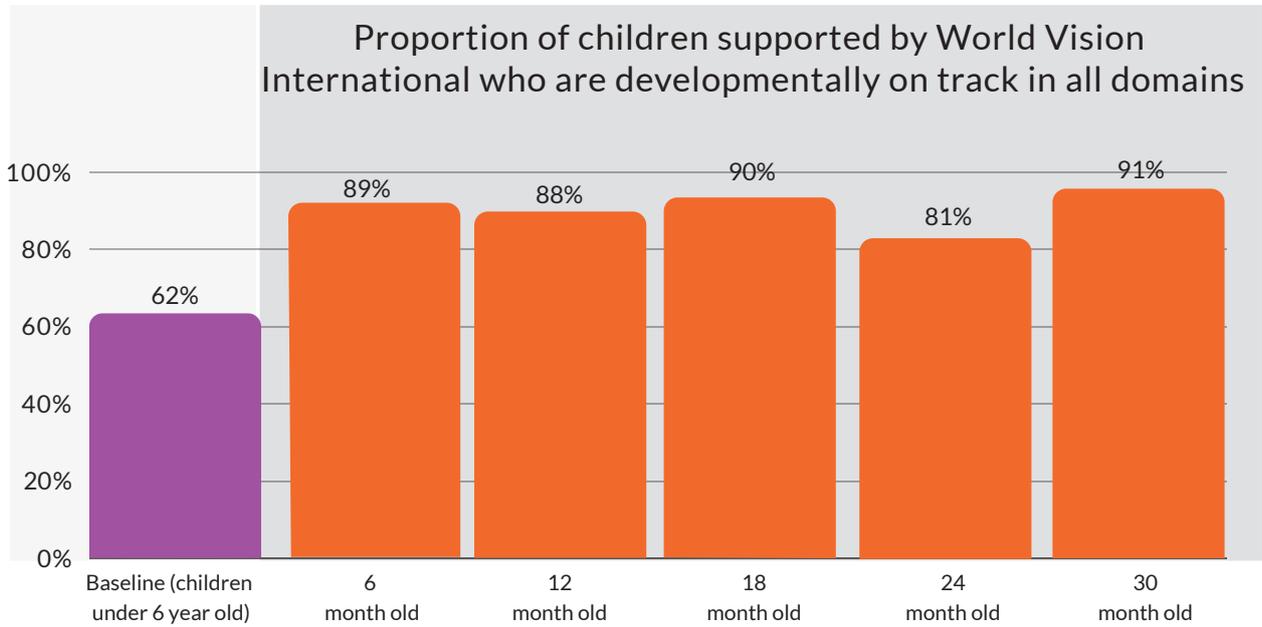
- Raising their awareness about the importance of ECD.
- Enhancing their competencies to support the social and emotional development of their young children, as well as early reading and numeracy skills, through play.

Education System

To develop systems to foster sustainable support for children by collaborating with local and national networks, by:

- 14 Kindergarten Supervisors became experts and trainers of Learning Root pedagogy.
- Development of a Memorandum of Understanding between World Vision International and the Ministry of Education.
- Advocacy and technical support to the Ministry of Education to strengthen and improve the national policy framework.

Our Impact





Education in Emergencies



24,000 students
and 2,000 educational staff
supported



US\$2.5M
budget



146 schools
rehabilitated or refurbished
and supported

The Issue

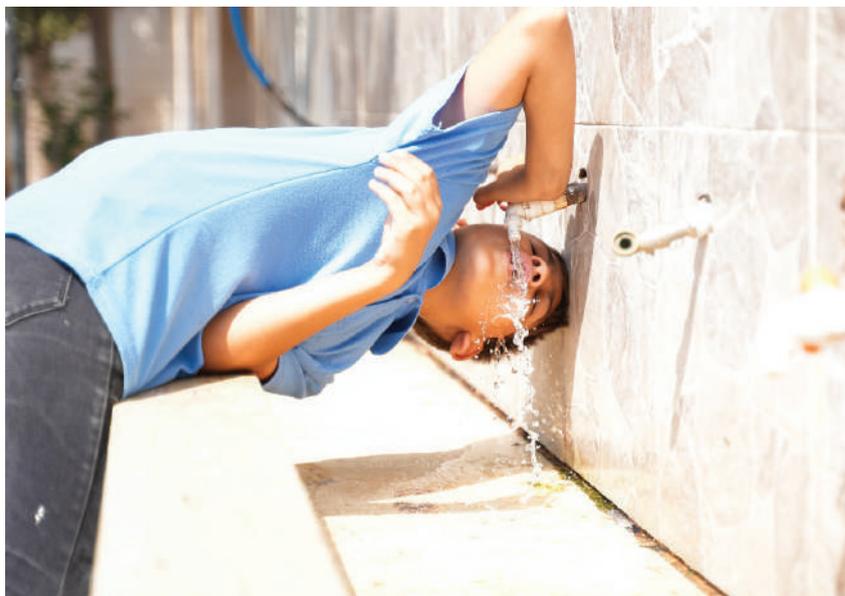
Many communities in the occupied Palestinian territory endure violence, forced displacement, and fragility. Within these communities, children encounter significant obstacles in their pursuit of a consistent and secure education of high quality.

Our Approach

World Vision International works at several levels to ensure access to safe quality education for all children.

Rehabilitation of Schools and WASH in Schools

The World Vision International approach ensures that all children in these communities have access to schools that prioritize safety, even in the face of disasters or emergencies. These schools are designed to be child-friendly and equipped with learning materials, water, and sanitation facilities. Furthermore, our programmes strive to ensure inclusivity by providing educational children with disabilities.



How poor maintenance and dirtiness of the toilets in schools lead to absenteeism

In 2023, World Vision International conducted a Knowledge Attitude and Practice Survey around WASH in Schools (see full report here). The survey found that a third of the students are avoiding using the toilets or drinking from the faucets at their schools due to maintenance and cleanliness issues. The survey also shows that two thirds of girls 13 and older do not feel comfortable using the toilets at their schools during menstruation, leading to absenteeism for 22% of them.

This survey was conducted as part of the project Building Resilience and Ensuring Protective Hygiene in WASH and DRR Systems at School-Level in Area C - West Bank, implemented by World Vision International and the Palestinian Hydrology Group, in partnership with Ministry of Education, is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It aims to improve students access to enhanced Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) facilities, promote hygiene practices, and increase the readiness of students and schools to respond to disasters. For more information, visit the project webpage here.

Disaster Risk Reduction

To ensure the safety of children in schools and their ability to continue learning during times of disaster or emergency, World Vision International implements programmes to reduce risk and enhance preparedness. Our approach involves updating the safety plan of the targeted schools and providing disaster risk reduction and safety equipment to equip both schools and their laboratories. These initiatives are carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Civil Defence, the Palestine Red Crescent Society, the Palestinian police, village councils, and local communities.

Strengthening access to safe education in the West Bank

Through the project “Safe Access to inclusive and dignified education in Areas B and C- West Bank”, implemented in partnership with War Child Holland and funded by the European Union, World Vision International supported 68 schools attended by 18,000 students and 1,300 school staff with emergency preparedness kits, first aid supplies, and life-saving equipment. 21 school buildings were also rehabilitated to deal with both natural and man-made risks, improving the safety of 17,000 students and staff. 14 more school buildings will be rehabilitated in 2024. The project is now preparing the provision of psychosocial support through sports and art in 69 schools attended by 17,000 students. For more information, visit the project webpage [here](#).

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

World Vision International implements activities focused on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to assist children and educational staff in managing stress, coping with trauma, and preventing behavioural issues, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Our interventions utilize various approaches such as psychodrama and psychological first aid. We work across the three levels of the MHPSS Intervention Pyramid, with particular emphasis on Level Two community based MHPSS providing support to children and families, as well as Level Three, offering focused nonspecialized support. In 2023, World Vision International also conducted a major survey to understand mental health and psychosocial needs of children and caregivers in the West Bank. See the full report [here](#).



Child Protection



34,000
children
reached



1,350
parents and caregivers
positive parenting skills
strengthened



9
Child Protection and
Advocacy Groups formu-
lated with 152 members in
4 governorates



US\$2.1M
budget

The Issue

Palestinian children are subjected to alarming levels of violence within their communities, manifesting in various forms. Both at home and in schools, they endure domestic violence, harsh corporal punishment, sexual abuse, early marriage, and child labour. Moreover, due to the occupation and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, they face the constant threat of severe violence. These abuses can lead to

Our Approach

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Public Prosecution Office - Child Justice Division, World Vision International implements a comprehensive child protection programme. Employing a system-based approach, or child-centred approach aims to strengthen the protective environment across four domains of change (social-ecological framework), establishing circles of care and protection.

World vision's approach works at four levels:



Children

Through its child and youth clubs, World Vision International strengthen the capacities of 18,100 children to protect themselves and others and empower them so they become agents of change in their communities.



Legal and policy framework

World Vision International advocates to improve policies, especially regarding child marriage, online child safety and referrals, and increase accountability toward their full implementation.



Caregivers and communities

World vision International is targeting caregivers and schools teachers to change attitudes and behaviours addressing the root causes of violence against children and rights violation, including the harmful social norms, through the model Positive Discipline for Everyday Parenting. Our organization also works with 12 faith leaders and 1,100 other caregivers to change attitude on child protection issues and ensure that families enjoy positive and loving relationships through the model Celebrating Families. Our models also include a psychosocial support component to help caregivers to manage their stress and trauma.



Community

Through nine Child Protection groups counting 192 members, World Vision empowers local communities and strengthen the community-based mechanisms to protect children through the mobilization of joint coordinated actions between formal and informal actors. analyse the risks and threats to children's safety, and work effectively together, using local solutions and evidence-based approaches focuses on strengthening collaboration and interconnections between the, while building their capacity to address the root causes of violence against children and child protection risks.

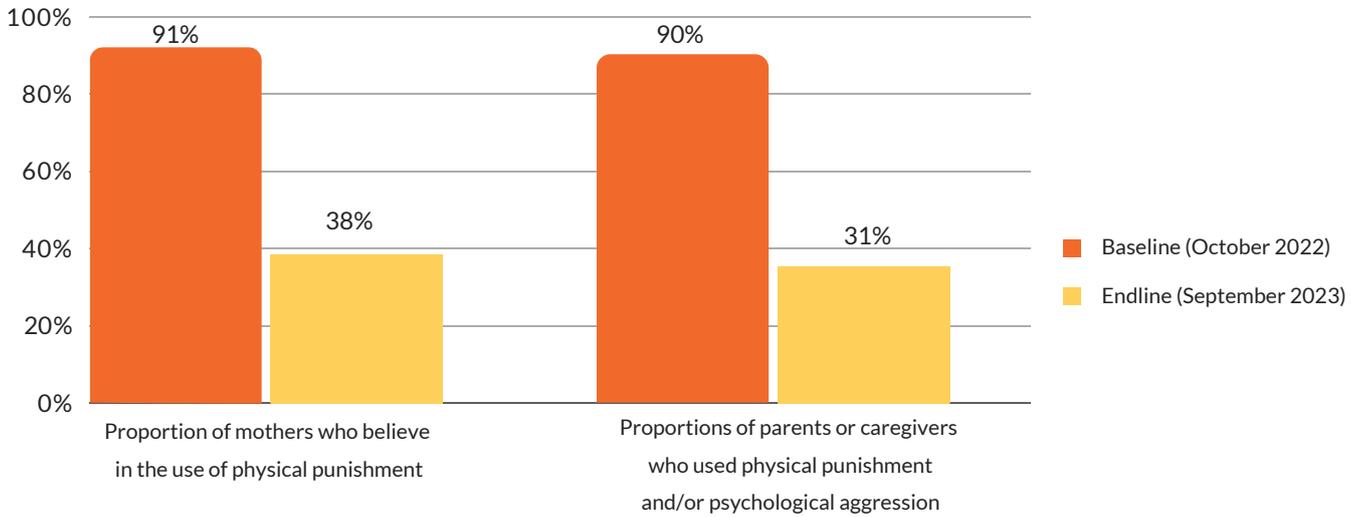
Our organization also support the referral and response system in all the villages where we work and all projects we implement.



Keeping Palestinian Children Safe Online

On the 8th of February 2023, a group of eight children met with Dr. Ishaq Seder, the Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology, for Safer Internet Day to discuss the dangers Palestinian children face while online. The children also shared with the Minister a series of recommendations on the measures that could be taken to better regulate the internet for a safer and more enjoyable experience for all Palestinian children. The children developed the recommendations based on the findings of a survey the children conducted earlier this year with World Vision International's support in partnership with the Directorate for Education of Tubas and the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology. The survey included 258 children and 81 caregivers and parents. The Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology welcomed the initiative and discussions are currently ongoing to prepare a national online safety policy in coordination with the Ministry of Social development, the Ministry of Education, the Public Prosecution Office, and the Cyber Crime Unit of the Palestinian Police.

Our Impact



Promoting Positive Discipline in Schools

World Vision International has implemented for many years positive parenting programmes to change attitudes and behaviours addressing the root causes of violence against children including the harmful social norms, among caregivers in the West Bank. In 2023, this programme was adapted to teachers to promote the use of Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching, targeting the schools teachers. Two trainers supported 174 teachers in 12 villages supporting teachers in managing the classrooms employing non-violent discipline practices.



Child and Youth Resilience and Life Skills



18,100 children
and youth participating



US\$ 2.9M
budget



200
child and youth clubs

The Issue

Palestinian children, especially in Area C, have many reasons to worry about their future due to poverty, high unemployment, restrictions on their freedom of movement and violence. These concerns often lead them to feel hopelessness which may trigger antisocial behaviours, encourage school dropout and contribute to child marriage.

Our Approach

To address these issues, World Vision International's programmes strengthen youth resilience and build life skills through two main approaches.

Children Clubs (6- to 14-year-old)

Under the project model Makani Clubs, World Vision International supports 150 after-school clubs in 138 villages, benefiting over 17,000 children. These clubs focus on Life Skills Learning, utilizing the Lions Quest curriculum to teach children vital skills. Through these clubs, children acquire and effectively apply knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to set and achieve goals, show empathy towards others, establish positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. The curriculum of the Makani clubs also includes sessions on child rights, protection against abuses, what to do in case of emergencies or disasters, mental health and psychosocial support and about safe play.



Fun and Life Skills Learning: Welcome to World Vision International's Summer Camps!

Over the summer 2023, more than 12,500 children, aged 6 to 14, took part in summer camps in 100 villages of the West Bank organized by World Vision International in partnership with village councils and local schools of the Ministry of Education. Over 3 to 5 days, children took part in fun activities in a safe environment, free to enjoy childhood. They also learned and practiced critical Life Skills such as self-management or how to make responsible decisions. They also mapped their communities and their services to learn how they can play a role through volunteering.



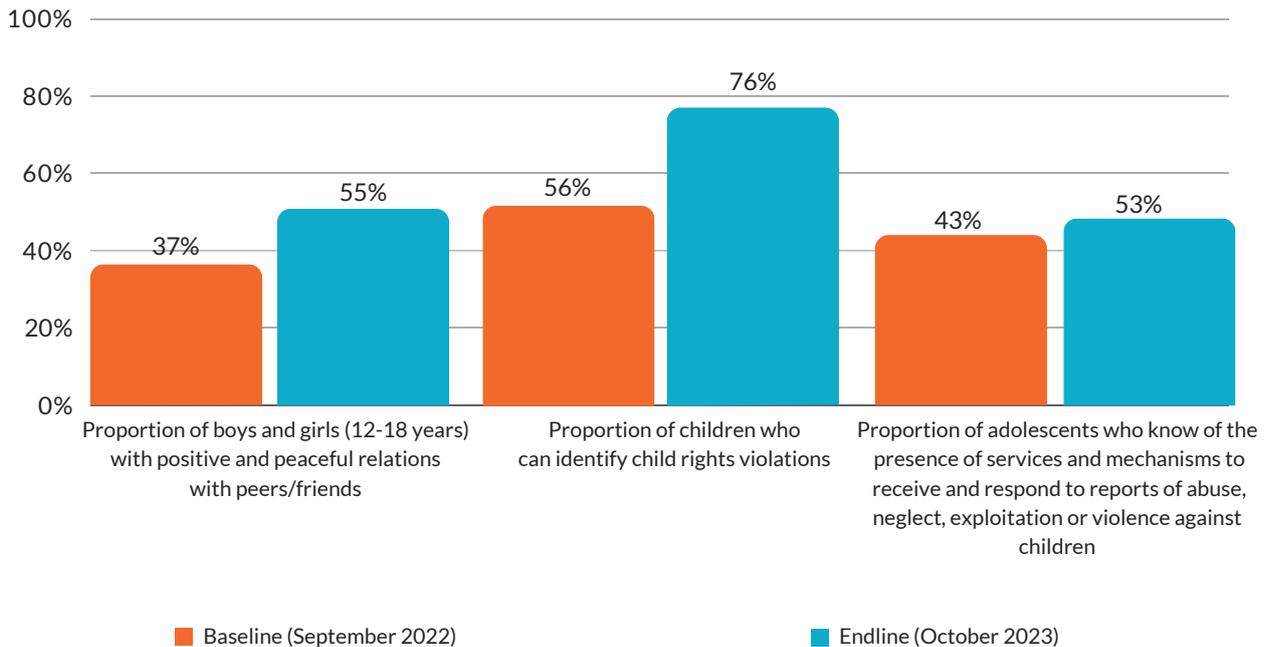
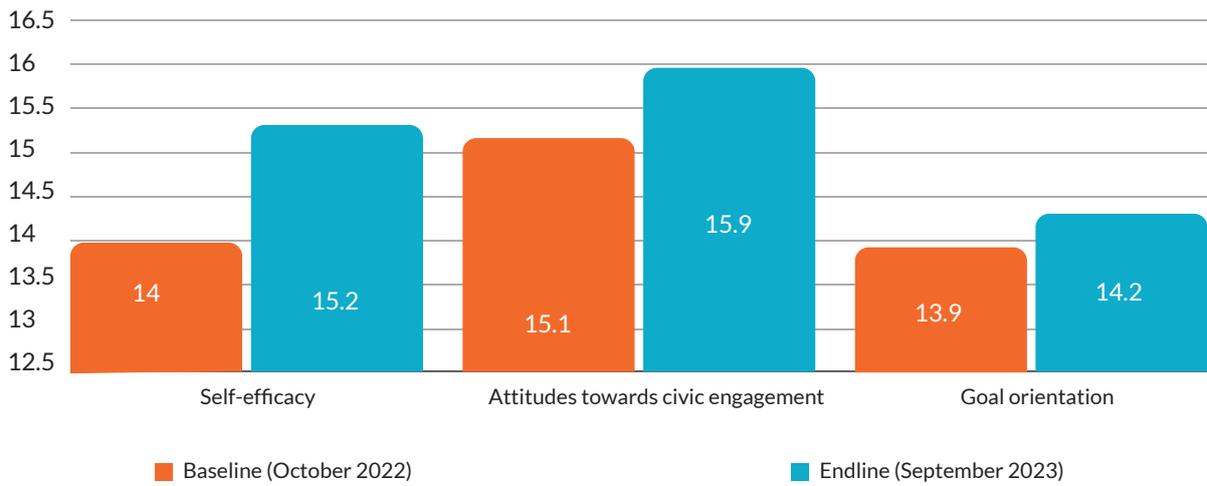


Adolescent Clubs (12- to 18-year-old)

World Vision International's approach, IMPACT+, aims to build the resilience of adolescents through 46 clubs, with 1,150 youth participating. IMPACT+ is an evidence-based model that can significantly influence the outlook on life for young individuals. It empowers adolescents to become active citizens, equipped with competencies, confidence, and social connectedness. The curriculum of IMPACT+ emphasizes active citizenship, employability, social entrepreneurship, and leadership. The adolescents are also trained and supported to identify and lead projects responding to the needs of their communities such as the environment protection, child protection or road safety for examples.

Our Impact in 2023

Average scores (out of 20) of the adolescents participating in Impact +

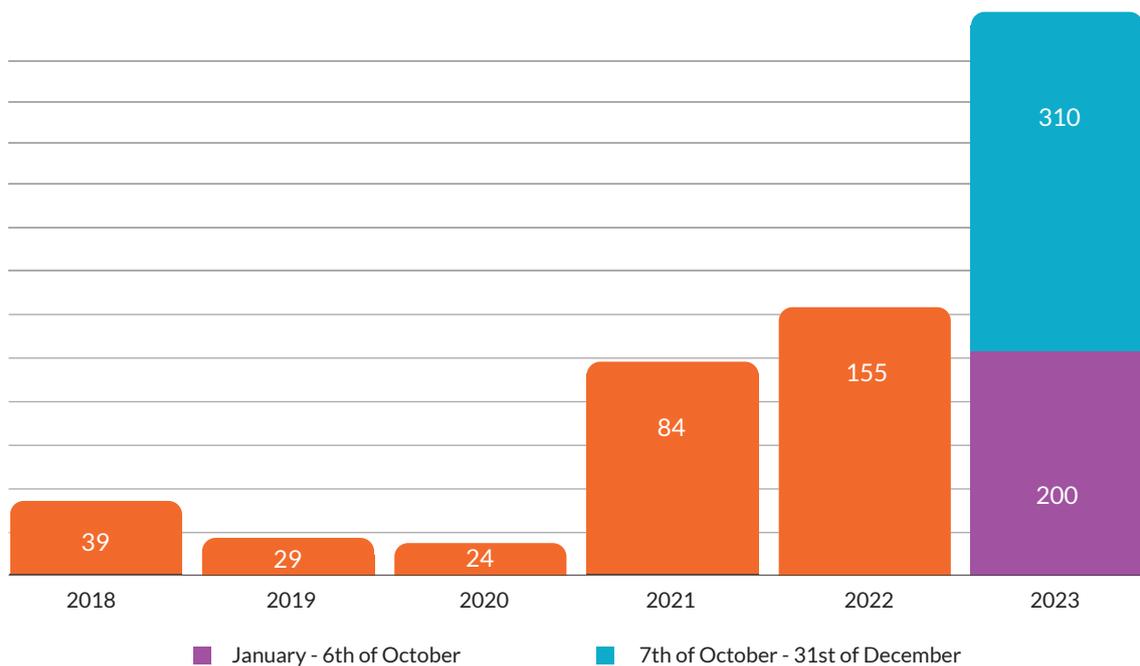




Emergency Response

The year 2023 was the deadliest year in the West Bank on record according to OCHA. From April 2022, military operations in the north of the West Bank intensified with almost daily raids affecting Nablus and Jenin areas over 2022 and 2023. Following the horrific attacks of the 7th of October 2023, the violence escalated to unprecedented levels, affecting nearly every part of the West Bank. Over the year, World Vision International implemented several emergency responses to support children and their families.

Number of Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank (2018 - 2023)





Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Emergency Response (October 2022 to November 2023)



30,000
children
supported



486
schools in the directorates
of Jenin, Qabatya, Nablus
and South Nablus supported



900
caregivers
supported



US\$ 350,00
funded by World
Vision International

As a result of military operations, a substantial number of children from the Jenin and Nablus areas were directly exposed to violence. The impact of this exposure on their mental health can be significant. Children who are exposed to violence, trauma, and displacement are at risk of developing a range of mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other psychological disorders. The severe and prolonged stress caused by violence can also have a detrimental effect on their brain development at a young age, leading to long-term consequences such as disrupted development and learning. This can increase the risk of physical health problems, including diabetes, heart disorders, and mental health conditions, in later life.

To address these needs, World Vision International implemented emergency response programming from September 2023. Through this response, World Vision International provided several sessions of Psychosocial Support through art and sports to 17,000 children. The response also provided Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting to 600 mothers to prevent domestic violence and help caregivers to release some of their stress through fun learning approaches.



Humanitarian Response Since the 7th of October (ongoing)



222,500
people reached



1,400
internally Displaced People (IDPs)
directly supported



91
villages equipped with protective
equipment (such as fire extinguishers,
first aid kits and stretchers).



33
primary health clinics provided with
first aid kits and protective
equipment



4
community centres hosting IDPs were
provided with NFIs in Jenin and Tubas.



4
civil Defence centres provided with
protective equipment

Following the attacks on Israel on the 7th of October 2023, many areas of the West Bank have been affected by high levels of violence. Our monitoring of the situation shows that 93% of the villages supported by World Vision were affected by at least one episode of violence in the 6 weeks following the 7th of October, 48% of them were affected by more than 10 episodes of violence. Hundreds of obstacles to movements (checkpoints, barriers, gates and other earth mounds) were erected preventing access to health services and education and seriously affecting the lives of millions of Palestinians.

World Vision International response is currently ongoing and target 350,000 people in the West Bank. It aims to provide holistic life-saving assistance, including conditional vouchers for vulnerable and conflict-affected households, protective equipment and emergency medical kits for frontline responders and primary healthcare centres, and mental health and psychosocial support to children and their caregivers in affected areas. The response will also support the rehabilitation of community space for children in several villages targeted.



Climate Change Adaptation and Protection of the Environment



28,000
people targeted



US\$550K
budget

The Issue

The delicate environmental resources of the West Bank are extremely vulnerable to climate change and unsustainable use. Using different approaches, World Vision International is building the resilience of communities towards climate change and environmental hazards while changing attitudes and behaviours toward the protection of the environment.

Our Approach

Our approach includes:



The creation of
community-based green-
environment committees



The rehabilitation of
schools and health centers
to reduce their carbon
footprints



The implementation of
awareness raising
campaigns



The implementation of
innovative community-led
environmental protection
initiatives

We implement this approach in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority and the Environment Quality Authority.



World Vision International is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision International serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. World Vision International started to work in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza in 1975.

Contacts

Kristen Phelps
National Director

 kristen_phelps@wvi.org



wvi.org/jerusalem-west-bank-gaza



[WV_JWG](https://www.instagram.com/WV_JWG)



[World Vision Jerusalem - West Bank - Gaza](https://www.facebook.com/WorldVisionJerusalem-WestBank-Gaza)



[world-vision-jerusalem-west-bank-gaza](https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-vision-jerusalem-west-bank-gaza)