

# Advocating for a Just Peace in the Holy Land



World Vision desires that all children experience life in all its fullness. Many children in the Holy Land experience hardship, fear, and violence on a daily basis.

## WE BELIEVE:

- World Vision believes that the military occupation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and the de facto control of Gaza, is a root cause of the conflict, a major contributor to the poverty experienced by the Palestinians, and it is a violation of international law.
- The current impasse is a result of a combination of factors including an extreme power imbalance, weak Palestinian governance, an increasingly unilateral approach by the Israeli government, and inconsistent international engagement.
- We affirm that a fair and even-handed peace process must be pursued. Any lasting peace in the Middle East must recognize the fundamental human rights of Israelis and Palestinians to be secure within their borders.
- Strategic, well-informed advocacy rooted in programming is crucial for World Vision to properly address the underlying causes of poverty in this situation.

## WHAT WE DO

We stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed in a common search for justice, working alongside them towards fullness of life. We seek to facilitate an engagement between the Palestinians and the Israelis that opens both to transformation and bridge building.

We strive to address international engagement- urging a fair-minded approach, grounded in international law and the protection of human rights as well as the safeguarding of the humanitarian space to allow for transformational development.



A young boy sitting on top of the rubble of his house in Beit Hanoun North of Gaza, after it was demolished during the recent war in 2014. Photo by Muhammed Awad, World Vision.

## OUR APPROACH

World Vision's advocacy takes two forms; a high-level behind closed doors interventions with policy makers, and a public and communication driven advocacy to influence change. Often, we will seek policy change in collaboration with trusted partners such as Churches, Christian organisation, Human Rights agencies and other NGOs and networks from the region and from our national context.

While World Vision does not propose political solutions, we do feel called to speak truth on issues impacting children and the poor. We are guided by several foundational principles:

- All children – be they Palestinian or Israeli – have the right to live in safety, free from violence, fear and want;
- We reject the notion that we must choose between polarized sides. We challenge all arguments that place narratives unavoidably and inalterably in opposition to one another. We seek to tread a different path, and pray that our humanitarian work will help create an atmosphere for a future solution where the legitimate, holistic needs of both Palestinians and Israelis are met.
- We join with and where necessary to help ignite a global movement of civil society groups and leaders, particularly among WV supporters and supporting churches, that will promote justice, peace and reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis.
- We advocate with key governmental and UN actors for policy and practice that is committed to justice, peace and reconciliation for Palestinians and Israelis, and grounded in international law and human rights

## OUR PARTNERS

World Vision has been working with a number of local Israeli and Palestinian partners along with international partners on advocacy campaigns that focus on issues affecting the wellbeing of children in the Holy Land. Some of our partners are:



The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, works on documenting and educating the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories.



An organization of Israeli military veteran combatants who work on exposing the Israeli public to the reality of everyday life in the Occupied Territories.



An Israeli human rights organization that focuses on human rights violations in the oPt due to Israel's policies, such as detention of minors and their rights.



The Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions; advocating and campaigning in support of a just resolution to the conflict and particularly resisting the demolition of Palestinian homes.



An organization that aims to inform the Israeli public about human rights violations, and to pressure the State institutions to redress these injustices.

We also work with local advocacy partners in Palestine, such as the Defence for Children International-Palestine Section, especially on issues related to Child Detentions, Ma'an Development Center and Grassroots Jerusalem on youth empowerment to advocate for their rights.

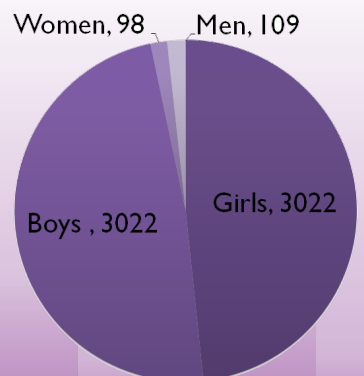
WV is committed to supporting initiatives, whether exclusively Palestinian, Israeli, or joint operating from a framework of 'co-resistance'. We welcome Israeli actions that resist the occupation and work towards restoring rights for Palestinians living in Israel and the oPt.



## OUR ADVOCACY PROJECTS

- Empowering Palestinian and Israeli voices that call for peace and justice, through activities that provide versatile tools such as photography, creative writing, video, and poster production to create opportunities for children and youth to explore, study, and communicate issues.
- Developing a strong community based advocacy platform in the marginalized Palestinian communities of North and South Jerusalem, through which community leaders will constructively demand justice in their communities, in order to prevent Israeli government demolition or displacement plans.
- Training volunteers to document, monitor and report cases of child rights violations.

**The numbers of direct participants in our Advocacy projects last year (Total of 6251)**



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