Education is one of the main priorities of World Vision Jerusalem – West Bank – Gaza. Over the last four years, through a partnership with the Ministry of Education, our approach focuses on Early Childhood Development and Education in Emergencies.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 217,000 unique students reached
- US$5.1M invested over four years
- 1,300 teachers supported
- 400 schools and kindergartens supported

World Vision has one of the largest community-based presence of any organisation operating in the West Bank with programmes in 9 out of 11 governorates.

**IMPACT**

- Proportion of pre-school aged children (3-6 years) who are developmentally on track in all domains (Baseline: 30% to Endline: 95%)
- Proportion of parents and caregivers who promote learning for children aged 3 to 6 years (Baseline: 83% to Endline: 91%)
- Proportion of Early Childhood Development centres meeting quality learning standards (Baseline: 4% to Endline: 64%)
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

THE ISSUE

Early childhood experiences affect the development of the brain, which provides the foundation for all future learning, behaviour and health. However, only 25% of Palestinian children aged three-to-six-year attend organized early childhood education programmes (UNICEF, 2022). A 2020 World Vision baseline found that only 62% of all Palestinian children 0-6 are developmentally on track in all domains.

OUR APPROACH

Our approach to Early Childhood Development (ECD) targets children from ages three to six year to support the emergence of literacy, numeracy and life skills that will form the foundation for numerous aspects of a child’s future.

World Vision supports 50% of all public kindergartens in the West Bank using a comprehensive and evidence-based approach called “Learning Roots”.

Our approach is implemented at two levels:

> In kindergartens, World Vision worked to ensure access to quality learning through:
  - The training of teachers and supervisors
  - The rehabilitation of classrooms, health units and safe play areas
  - Providing furniture and learning material
  - Supporting the creation of new kindergartens

> In the community, World Vision supports parents and caregivers so they promote learning at home.

4,150 children and caregivers reached

US$1.9M invested over four years

159 public kindergartens and pre-school classes supported
EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

The issue
Many communities in the occupied Palestinian Territory are affected by violence, forced displacement and fragility. In these communities, children face huge barriers to access a quality education.

Our approach
World Vision approach ensures that all children in these communities have access to schools that are safe, child-friendly and equipped with learning material and water and sanitation facilities. World Vision also supports children to develop the skills needed to cope with stress and trauma. We also work with the Ministry of Education to reduce the risk of disaster.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
World Vision implements Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities to support children to reduce stress and deal with trauma to prevent behavioural issues as well as depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Our interventions use different approaches like psychodrama and psychological first aid. We work at all levels of the MHPSS Intervention Pyramid with particular emphasis on Level two Children and family support and Level three Focused person-to-person nonspecialized support.

Disaster Risk Reduction
To ensure that children are safe in schools and that they can continue learning even in case of disaster or emergency, World Vision implements programmes to reduce risk and strengthens preparedness in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Civil Defence, the Palestine Red Crescent Society, the Palestinian police, village councils and local communities.

Our approach involves:
- Training of the members of the Emergency Committees
- Supporting the development and implementation of emergency plans
- The implementation of simulations of emergencies and disasters
- The rehabilitation of buildings (electricity and flood protection)
**EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES**

**Rehabilitation of schools**

World Vision rehabilitates schools to ensure that:

- They are safe and that children are protected (in case of disaster or emergency)
- They are accessible for all children, including for children with disabilities
- They are child-friendly and provide a quality education

This involves:

- Rehabilitation of school buildings, safe places to play and health units
- Installation of sunshades
- Providing schools with smart screens, computers and routers

100 schools and kindergartens rehabilitated

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools**

World Vision supports schools to ensure access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

This involves:

- Rehabilitation of WASH facilities (toilets, water fountains and handwashing stations)
- Awareness raising workshops and campaigns on clean water hygiene and sanitation
- Provision of tools and material for personal hygiene

**THEMATIC FOCUS**

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**

- **110,000 students reached**
- **400 schools supported**

*The issue*

In the occupied Palestinian Territory, the COVID-19 pandemic forced to close schools, fully or partially, for close to 10 months in 2020 and 2021, interrupting learning for more than a million children.

*Our response*

World Vision supported the Ministry of Education to safely reopen schools and to ensure a continuous safe learning during the pandemic. This involved providing schools with the necessary equipment, tools and sterilizers to prevent contamination and to train education staff on prevention measures.
**THEMATIC FOCUS**

**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION**

- 100 schools rehabilitated
- 12 resource rooms created
- 29 shadow teachers trained and deployed

**The issue**

One third (33%) of the six-to-nine-year-old children with disabilities are out of school compared to less than 1% of their peers without disabilities (UNICEF, 2018). As a result, 21% of (10 years+) people with disability are illiterate compared with 2% among the Palestinian population (15 years and above) (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

**Our approach**

World Vision implements a comprehensive and integrated approach addressing the multiple challenges that prevent Palestinian children with disabilities to access a quality education.

- Rehabilitation of schools and kindergartens to ensure accessibility for children with disabilities including to the toilet facilities.
- Supporting the creation of resource rooms.
- With a partner, training and deployment of shadow teachers supporting children with special needs or with disability.
- Supporting the adoption and implementation of the 2020 School Violence Reduction Policy to prevent bullying.
- Changing perception and attitudes on disability working with families and children to address stigma and discriminations.
- Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial support to children with disabilities and their families.
- Support the development of inclusive emergency preparedness plans for schools.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 22 schools equipped with solar systems
- 169 teachers and MoE staff trained

**The issue**

Many schools, especially in area C, were constructed without taking into consideration environmental sustainability. Overall, the green culture is missing among students, and schools and communities do not invest in the environment, mainly due to the political context and a lack of financial capability.

**Our approach**

World Vision approach focus on electrical networks, isolation of buildings, heating systems, connection to sewage networks and solid waste management to improve the environmental sustainability of schools.

This includes:

- The installation of solar systems in schools
- The training of teachers and employees in the Ministry of Education on the operation and maintenance of the solar energy system
- Supporting environment clubs to implement environmental protection actions (training of trainers and members, support to the development and implementation of their action plans)
- The capacity building of village council members on green school practices and renewable energy.
- Development of an educational guide on the concept of green schools.
World Vision 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 serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

World Vision started to work in the Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza (JWG) in 1975. Since then, World Vision has worked to nurture Palestinian children, improve their resilience and bring them hope. Combining development, relief and advocacy programmes,

World Vision ensures 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.

With 91 dedicated staff and a total annual budget of $11 million for 2023, World Vision JWG has developed one of the largest community-based presence of any organisation operating in the West Bank. In 2021, our programmes benefited directly more than 455,000 people, including 282,000 children in 150 villages in the West Bank.

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