

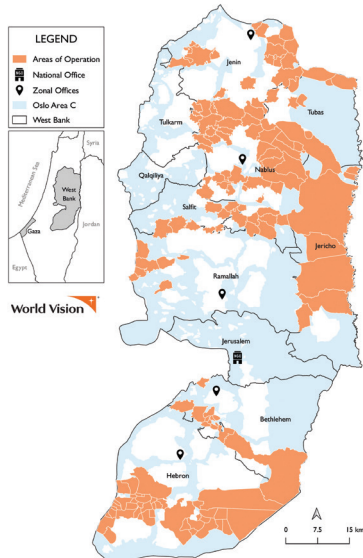
World Vision International

Child Protection

Jerusalem - West Bank - Gaza, 2024

The Issue

Palestinian children are subjected to alarming levels of violence within their communities, manifesting in various forms. Due to the escalation of the crisis in the West Bank, they face the constant threat of severe violence. Both at home and in schools, they also endure bullying, domestic violence, harsh corporal punishments, sexual abuse, early marriage, and child labour. These abuses can lead to physical injuries, anxiety, depression, poor academic achievements and long-term consequences that can shape their entire lives.



Our Reach in 2023



34,000
children reached



9
Child Protection and
Advocacy Groups
comprising 152 members
supported



1,350
parents and caregivers positive
parenting skills strengthened



ECD programmes
implemented in 6 out
of 11 governorates of
the West Bank



US\$2.1M
budget (funded
by World Vision
International)

The Case for Investing in Child Protection

There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that child protection programmes generate a significant return on investment. Violence against children often has lifelong consequences, creating huge costs for society and leading to significant unrealised economic potential for affected boys and girls. World Vision International's [analysis](#) estimates the current cost to society of failing to protect children to US\$ 8.9 trillion worldwide every year, more than the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the entire Middle East region. Against this huge cost, Child Protection programmes offer cost effective solutions that have proven impact. A [study from The Lancet](#) found that programmes to reduce child marriage cost about US\$ 3.80 per person and can bring an almost sixfold return on investment while cutting child marriage by around a third. Similarly, a 2023



[analysis](#) of World Vision International's Positive Parenting approach deployed in 67 projects across 24 countries indicates that for every US Dollar 1 invested, US\$ 4.36 had been generated in social benefits. The analysis also found that the programmes saved an estimated 16 lives and averted 2,842 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).

A Systems 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 approach](#) to prevent violence against children. This approach empowers and collaborates with whole communities and different parts of the child protection system to create a safe, supportive atmosphere for all children, particularly the most vulnerable, at home, in schools and in their communities

World Vision International's approach works at multiple levels:



Empower Boys And Girls



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



Strengthen Families



World Vision International is supporting 250 caregivers to change attitudes and behaviours regarding humiliating and physical punishments through the model [Positive Discipline for Everyday Parenting](#).



Catalyse Faith Communities



Our organisation also works with 12 faith communities through their leaders and 1,100 caregivers to change attitudes on child protection issues and ensure that families enjoy positive and loving relationships through the model [Celebrating Families](#).



Promote Positive Discipline in Schools



In 2023, World Vision International started implementing the Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching model. 174 teachers in 12 villages were trained to strengthen their capacities to manage the classrooms employing non-violent discipline practices.



Partnering With Communities



Through nine Child Protection groups comprising of 192 members, World Vision empowers local communities and strengthens the community-based mechanisms to protect children through the mobilisation of joint coordinated actions between formal and informal actors committed to children's protection and promotion of child rights. These groups analyse the risks and threats to children's safety, and work effectively together, using local solutions and evidence-based approaches, to mitigate these risks. CPA group members have also been trained on psychological first aid and unstructured approaches to psychosocial support, allowing members to offer basic responsive support and facilitate referral to specialised services.



Strengthen the Legal and Policy Framework and its Implementation



World Vision International advocates to improve policies, especially regarding child marriage, online child safety, and increased accountability toward the full implementation of existing protective laws and policies for girls and boys. Our organisation also supports child protection reporting and referral, in collaboration with the local Child Protection Network, in all the villages where we work and all projects we implement.

A Comprehensive Response to Protection Risks, Psychological Distress and Mental Health Needs

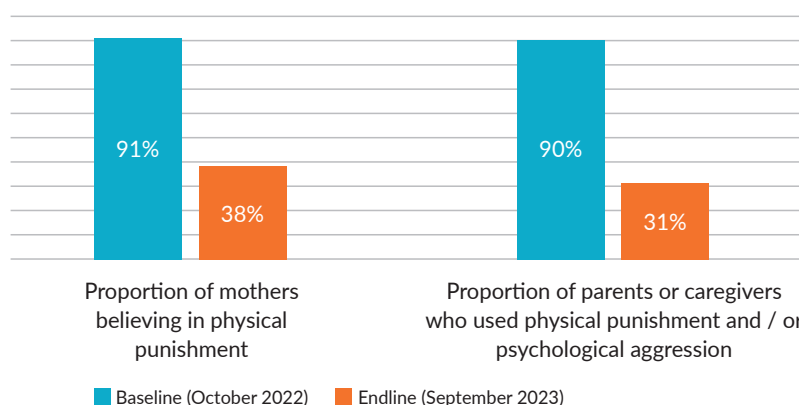


According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), more people have been killed in the West Bank since April 2022 (when violence started to escalate), than in the 14 years before. This unprecedented level of violence, combined with drastic restrictions on movements and a severe economic crisis, is contributing to high levels of stress and anxiety among children and their caregivers, significantly increasing the risks of psychological distress and mental health issues that are often associated with risk of violence.

To respond to this situation, World Vision implements a system approach that strengthens multi-sector referral systems and pathways to promote both child protection and access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support. Our approach involves:

- Strengthening the detection system through strong capacities at the field level across all programmes and activities.
- Establishing a clear Reporting and Referral system covering both child protection and mental health cases
- Strengthening the availability of age-adapted MHPSS services, particularly child-sensitive MHPSS approaches
- Supporting the local Child Protection system
- Ensuring a follow up during and after the referrals and healthy reintegration in their community for both child protection and mental health cases.

Our Impact



Keeping Palestinian Children Safe Online



In 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 their recommendations based on the findings of a survey the children themselves 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.

About

World Vision International

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 operating in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza in 1975. Since then, the organisation has been devoted to supporting Palestinian children by nurturing them, building their resilience, and instilling hope. By integrating development, relief, and advocacy programs, World Vision ensures that children, especially the most vulnerable, are protected within their families and communities. The organisation also focuses on equipping them with the necessary skills and resilience to lead healthy lives.

World Vision JWG has developed one of the most extensive community-based presences among organisations operating in the West Bank, with 85 dedicated staff, more than 300 volunteers and an annual budget of \$11 million for 2024. In 2023, our programmes directly benefited over 136,000 individuals, including 95,000 children residing in 150 villages across the West Bank.



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