



Faith in Development in the Holy Land

Equipping and mobilizing the Christian communities of the Holy Land to bring peace and positive change

Our call and inspiration:

“The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it.” (John 1:5)

“So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)



Christians in the Holy Land: fast facts

1.37% of the total population in Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza
1.66% Palestinian Christians in Israel
1300 Christians left in Gaza

- Lack of freedom and security, deteriorating economic situation, religious extremism and political instability are pushing Christians to emigrate
- High rates of unemployment among Christian Youth, especially in villages
- 93% of the Christians think that the church has an important role to play in the society
- 80% believes that Christian-Muslim as well as ecumenical dialogues are extremely required
- Very high school fees for private Christian schools



About World Vision Jerusalem West Bank Gaza

World Vision’s ministry demonstrates God’s profound love for children through its relationships and actions, as it strives to achieve life in all its fullness for all of God’s children. We seek to partner with local churches and to strengthen the Christian communities in the Holy Land, through walking with them, side by side, learning from each other, and working together for an improved well-being of children.

Working in the Holy Land as a Christian organization brings a unique dimension and extra responsibility to care for the most vulnerable and marginalized. Especially caring for the Christian community, who are now a minority in the land of early Christianity is an important part of our mission. WV walks literally and figuratively in the footsteps of Jesus by following his example to care for the poor and oppressed, seeking justice and reconciliation and bearing witness to the good news of the kingdom of God.



Context of Christians in the Holy Land

Christians in Palestine and Israel constitute one of the oldest Christian communities in the world, and their presence dates back to the Roman Era. In modern times, they have been instrumental in building bridges, promoting peace and developing the country. Unfortunately, their survival as a community is threatened, so there are fears that places like Bethlehem and Jerusalem may have very few Christians left in the near future.

“A strong Palestinian Church is the best chance for future reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis”.

Palestinian Former Prime Minister, Dr. Salaam Fayyad

Our Work:

World Vision prides itself for having built strong relationships with churches and church related organizations in the Holy Land. Through these partnership, World Vision invested in projects to nurture church- and community leaders, support interfaith dialogue, promote vocational- and life skills training, train teachers and parents and support youth camps and scouting activities that also integrate the disabled.

On the International level, World Vision works to raise awareness on the situation of Palestinian Christians and reality of the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. International church groups are hosted on Vision Trips in the Holy Land where they can experience the realities of the conflict first hand, through site visits and meeting with the local communities and listening to their stories. This has given the participants a deeper passion for justice, peacebuilding and holistic development, and inspired them to explore new ways to be involved in driving change and transformation.



As a result of World Vision's interventions:

- Thousands of children were engaged in summer camps, recreational and sport activities.
- Interfaith dialogue, prayers and reflection between Muslim Imams and Christian pastors and priests was made possible.
- Youth were offered with vocational training and capacity building to raise their confidence and self-esteem, which facilitated more job opportunities.
- Ties between local and international churches have been fostered and awareness increased among churches in the West on the realities and struggles of Palestinian Christians.



Our partners:

- **Bethlehem Bible College:** A Christian college located in Bethlehem, that seeks to offer high-quality theological education and train Christian leaders for service in the local church and the local community. It aims to strengthen and revive the Christian church and support the local Christians in the Holy land, in order to combat the growing Christian exodus.
- **Bible Society:** A faith-based organization that is a part of the global United Bible Societies (UBS). The Bible Society in Israel and Palestine seeks to walk in accordance to the Word of God and to create awareness for the Bible message.
- **Al-liqa:** A group of Christians and Muslims who come together to raise awareness of the citizens and to alert them to dedicate their time to solving their political, social and economic issues.
- **Holy Land Trust:** A leading organization in creating an environment that fosters understanding, healing, transformation, and empowerment of individuals and communities, to address core challenges that are preventing the achievement of a true and just peace in the Holy Land.
- **Musalaha:** An organization that seeks to promote reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians as demonstrated in the life and teaching of Jesus, endeavoring to encourage and advocate of reconciliation, first among Palestinian and Israeli believers and then beyond to the communities. Musalaha also aims at facilitating bridge building among different segments of Israeli and Palestinian societies according to biblical reconciliation principles.
- **Tent of Nations:** An organization that works to build bridges between people, and between people and the land. Tent of nations brings different cultures together to develop understanding and promote respect for each other and our shared environment.

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