



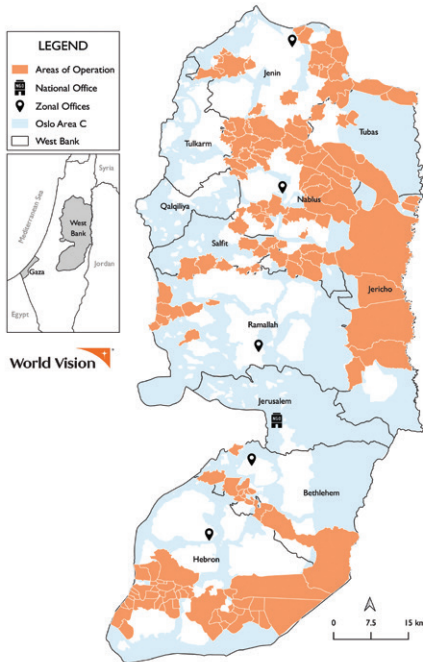
World Vision International

Early Childhood Development

Jerusalem - West Bank - Gaza, 2024

World Vision International's Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme aims to support mothers during pregnancy and continues to provide support to children (along with their caregivers) until they reach the age of six, to provide them with the best start in life 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 government ministries in developing and strengthening national ECD policies and technical tools.



Our Reach in 2023



15,000
children reached
(2023)



124
Community Health
Workers equipped and
supported



49
kindergartens and
pre-school classes
supported



93
health clinics supported



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



US\$2.3M
funded by World Vision
International



A Critical Window of Opportunity

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 they aren't protected from violence. As a critical package of interventions in the early years, Early Childhood Development programmes provide the nurturing care that children's bodies and brains require for optimal growth and development, allowing children to have the best start in life. Several studies have found that high quality Early Childhood Development programmes can yield a US\$4 to US\$9 dollar return per every US\$1 invested.

Go Baby Go

Building a Strong Foundation for Children During Their First 1,000+ Days of Life

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.



Our approach is implemented at three levels:

Household Level



Through home visits, 124 Community Health Workers support caregivers, which includes providing psychological first aid and offering guidance to mothers, fathers, and other family members to encourage age-appropriate development of young children through home-based activities.

Community Level



In 2023, close to 1,400 primary caregivers participated in skill-based learning sessions that focus on introducing and identifying their role as caregivers, along with developing active skills for promoting holistic child development. 91% of parents and caregivers showed an increased knowledge of child development by the end of the programme.

Health Clinic Level



To support home and community based ECD, complementary support that is accessible at facility level is also critical. Our approach focuses on supporting the sustainable provision of high-quality ECD services by providing local Maternal and Child Health Clinics with the essential tools needed to enhance the quality of health services, promote health-seeking behaviour, 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 also monitors the quality of services provided by clinics and provides a certification for being a Child Friendly Clinic to those facilities meeting the required standards. Three clinics are currently piloting the initiative and are in the process of being certified. More clinics will join the process in 2024.

Go Baby Go is built on evidence-based parenting programme approaches and content, using behaviour change communication, appreciative inquiry and positive deviance approaches so that caregivers learn to build on existing knowledge about child-rearing and can leverage their strengths and assets as a community to enable their children to have the best possible start in life.



Learning Roots

Preparing Young Children to the Transition to School

The Learning Roots model is built on prevailing peer-reviewed evidence from research and best practice. It draws on the recommendations from the Lancet series (2007 and 2011) on ECD, as well as from best practices identified through World Vision Field Offices and peer agencies.

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 transition to primary school and to encourage 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 49 public and private kindergartens and pre-school classes in the West Bank so they can meet quality learning standards.

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Our approach has three objectives:

To strengthen the quality of teaching at the local **kindergartens** and create 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, including for children with disabilities.
- Supporting the establishment of new kindergartens.

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.
- Promote the integration of children living with disabilities.

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

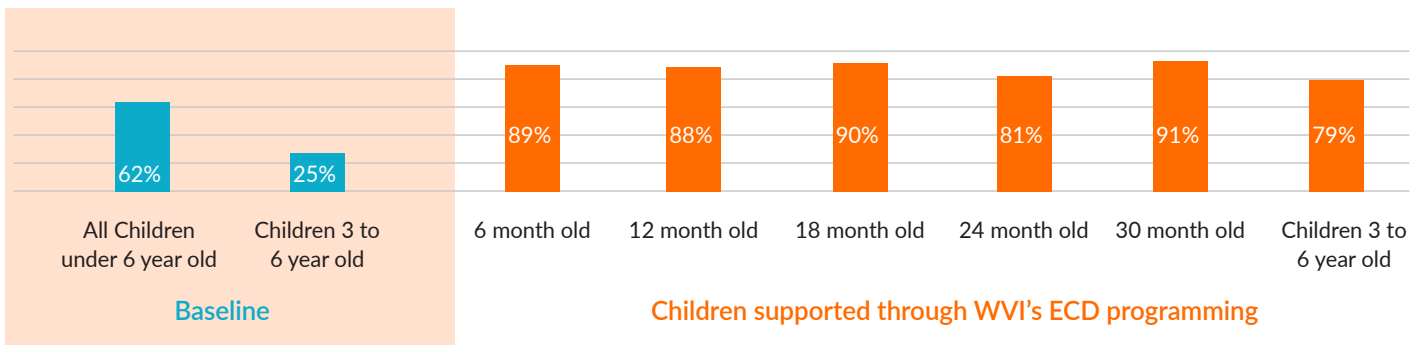
- Training kindergarten supervisors so they became experts and trainers of the Learning Roots pedagogy.
- Advocating and providing technical support to the Ministry of Education to strengthen and improve the national policy framework.
- Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education to provide long term technical support.



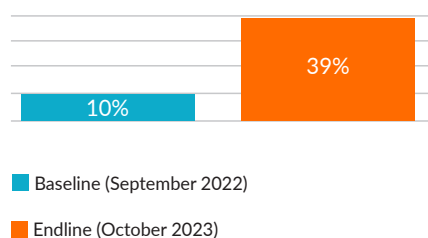
Results and Impact



Proportion of children developmentally on track in all domains



Proportion of primary caregivers providing a positive, safe, healthy, and stimulating home environment to children aged 0 to 3 years old



Psychosocial Support to Reduce the Risk of Violence Against Children in the Home

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, increasing significantly the risks of mental health issues and domestic violence. To respond to this situation, World Vision adapted its approach to strengthen the psychosocial support provided to affected communities. In 2023 and 2024, more than 20,000 caregivers and children have participated in sessions using different evidence-based methodologies adapted to their ages to help them to manage their stress and trauma.

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 organization 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 organization 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 organizations 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.



Kristen Phelps
National Director
kristen_phelps@wvi.org

Dr. Salem Jaraiseh
Health & ECD Technical Lead
Salem_Jaraiseh@wvi.org

Iman Nijem
Education Technical Lead
iman_nijem@wvi.org



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