

Emergency Response in the West Bank

Situation Report – October 2024

Situation Overview

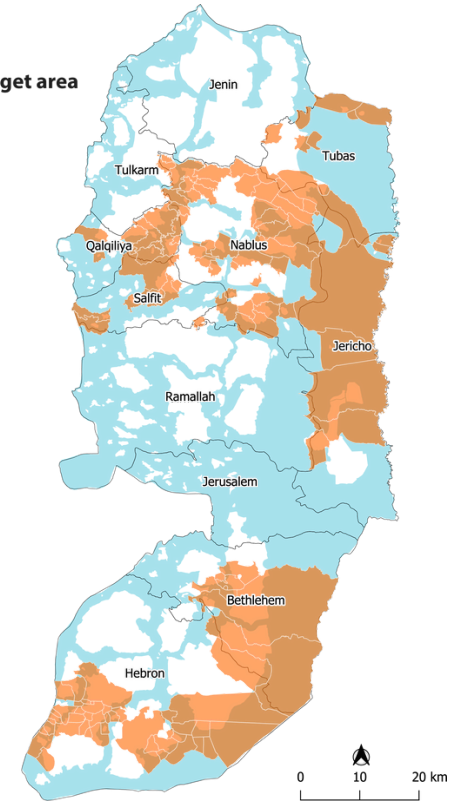
The month of October saw a marked rise in violence against farmers during the olive harvest—a vital livelihood for 15% of the West Bank’s population. According to OCHA, there was an average of five harvest-related violent incidents daily throughout October. Many villages supported by World Vision, particularly in Qalqilya, Nablus, and Salfit governorates, were heavily affected. Additionally, movement restrictions were severe; the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that two-thirds of farmers were unable to access their fields. A survey by World Vision revealed that farmers in 80% of the 45 monitored villages anticipate losing part of their harvest, with one-quarter expecting to lose more than half.

This situation is likely to worsen the West Bank’s already high poverty and food insecurity rates. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reports that the share of the population experiencing multidimensional poverty has tripled since 2017, while the World Food Programme anticipates food insecurity will double this winter to affect 1 in 5 people.

Due to October’s violence and movement restrictions, World Vision was unable to access 8% of the villages where we typically run programmes.



World Vision’s target area
Oslo Area C



World Vision’s
Emergency
Response target
area

People Reached

October 2024

53,000 people reached including **7,500** directly

5,840 children reached directly

35 villages supported

Since October 2023

476,000 people reached including **192,000** directly

110,000 children reached directly

384 villages / communities supported

Response Updates

Strengthening Community Protection

Since 7 October 2023, communities across the West Bank have experienced an unprecedented surge in violence, leading to numerous casualties and widespread destruction. The presence of hundreds of checkpoints, barriers, and obstacles has made movement nearly impossible, even in emergencies. This has hampered the ability of emergency services, including firefighters and ambulances, to respond quickly. In some cases, they have even been targeted themselves.

To enhance community protection, World Vision is equipping first responders and local volunteers with lifesaving tools, emergency preparedness materials and skills.

In October 2024:

- **4 villages** in South Hebron (**31,000 habitants**) were provided with **30 advanced first aid kits**.*
- **Community centres** in **19 villages (75,000 habitants)** were rehabilitated and/or equipped and furnished. These venues provide communities with a place to organise an emergency response in case of violence or other disasters.

Since October 2023

- **US\$1 million** in lifesaving tools, like trailer-mounted firefighting pumps, fire extinguishers and first aid kits, provided to support local first responders in 250 villages to enhance their capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies.
- **63 community centres** built or rehabilitated, and equipped with preparedness material.

*Advanced first aid kits contains basic first aid material (bandages, antiseptics, etc.) as well as a range of supplies and equipment to address more complex medical situations such as open wounds, severe bleeding, broken bones and other traumas.



A community volunteer in the central West Bank is trained to use new fire-fighting equipment provided by World Vision © World Vision



A child takes part in the olive harvest in the south of the West Bank. © World Vision

Emergency Aid

Many families have lost everything due to violence or forced displacement. As the economic crisis deepens, more than 1 in 3 jobs has been lost in the West Bank, leaving countless families without a source of income. More than a year into the crisis, many families are unsure how they will afford their next meal.

In response, World Vision is providing food, cash and other forms of direct assistance to vulnerable households and families affected by food insecurity, violence, and forced displacement

In October 2024:

- To prepare for targeted support to communities, World Vision conducted a **rapid assessment** of the progress of the **olive harvest** in 43 villages in the governorates of Nablus, Salfit and Jericho. The assessment shows that violence and restrictions on movements are widespread and are likely to lead to the loss of a significant part of the harvest for farmers, deepening food insecurity and poverty in these communities.

Since October 2023:

- **14,000 people** supported with over **US\$270,000** in in-kind donations, cash, or vouchers, enabling them to purchase food, hygiene items, warm clothing, and other essential goods.



Mental Health

Since 7 October 2023, many children in the West Bank face a grim reality. Schools frequently close, and the constant threat of violence looms over daily life. Checkpoints have multiplied, and economic hardship has deepened, confining many children to their homes, isolating them from friends, education, and normal routines. The resulting stress, anxiety, and trauma present long-term risks to their mental health and development.

In response, World Vision is delivering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children, parents, and caregivers to address stress and the impact of exposure to conflict and violence.

Children take part in mental health and psychosocial support activities in the West Bank. © World Vision

In October 2024:

- **2,233 people** received mental health and psychosocial support.
- **32 safe spaces** rehabilitated and/or equipped and furnished. These venues provide children with a place to meet and play safely. World Vision and other humanitarian organisations also use these spaces to organise activities, from catch up education to mental health support.
- World Vision initiated a new **training programme** aimed at bolstering mental health support for adolescents in West Bank using the Early Adolescent Skills for Emotions (EASE) approach, an innovative, evidence-based methodology derived from Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

Since October 2023:

- **55,000 people** received mental health and psychosocial support
- **340 people** (teachers, youth club facilitators, and health workers) trained to provide MHPSS services and referrals.
- **10,000 children** participated in World Vision's summer camps where they took part in daily MHPSS activities.

Access to Healthcare

The escalating violence and movement restrictions have isolated many villages from hospitals, leaving local health clinics as the only option for medical emergencies. Pregnant women, in particular, face challenges accessing antenatal and postnatal care due to safety concerns or economic hardship, causing widespread anxiety over the health of their unborn children.

To support communities, World Vision is strengthening primary health centres' capacity to respond to emergencies and provide emergency and obstetric care.

In October 2024:

- **124 Community Health Workers** were trained on counselling to promote health behaviours, nutrition and early childhood development among vulnerable communities affected by restrictions on movements.
- As part of the Ministry of Health's **Stabilization Point Initiative**, 44 health clinics will be upgraded to ensure they can handle emergency trauma and obstetric care in case it is impossible to reach the hospital due to violence or restrictions on movements. World Vision is preparing the training of 200 front line staff (doctors and nurses) and 120 midwives who will manage these stabilisation points.

Since October 2023:

- **91 clinics**, serving 104,000 people, rehabilitated and/or equipped.
- **24 mobile ultrasounds** and obstetric care equipment provided to health clinics.



A doctor conducts a prenatal test using a mobile ultrasound machine provided by World Vision in the south of the West Bank. © World Vision



Access to Safe Education

Schools in the West Bank have not been spared from violence. Hundreds of incidents have affected schools, teachers, and students over the past year. The combination of violence, movement restrictions, and an ongoing fiscal crisis has resulted in schools opening just two days a week, at best, during the 2023–2024 academic year. This has led to significant learning losses, leaving students facing severe barriers as they attempt to return to school.

In response, World Vision is strengthening the protective environment of schools with emergency preparedness, improved safety and integration of MHPSS in education.

Children play in the playground in a school rehabilitated by World Vision in the West Bank. © World Vision

In October 2024:

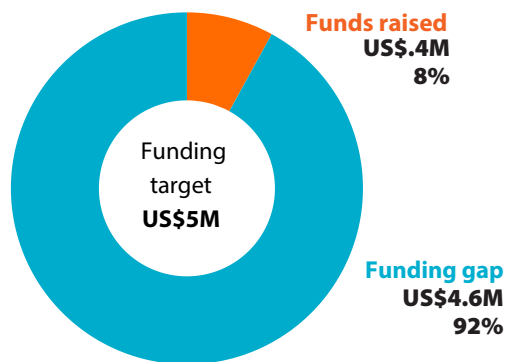
- **31 kindergartens** attended by **2,070 children** in vulnerable communities were rehabilitated and/or equipped with furniture, learning tools and material.

Since October 2023:

- **180 schools and kindergartens** rehabilitated and/or supported to increase preparedness to incidents of violence and disasters.

Funding

September 2024 - March 2025



We would like to thank the hundreds of thousands of generous child sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters whose contributions make this work possible:



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