

# South Hebron Area Development Programme

## Jerusalem West Bank Gaza Strip



### Geographical Location

The **Hebron Governorate** is an administrative district of the Palestinian National Authority in the southern West Bank. The governorate's land area is 1,060 square kilometers and its population according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in mid-year 2006 was 542,593. This makes the Hebron Governorate the largest of 16 governorates in both population and land area in the Palestinian territories.

**The city Hebron** is located some 36 kilometres to the south of Jerusalem and 25 kilometres to the south of Bethlehem. Nestled in the Judean Mountains, it lies 930 metres (3,050 ft) above sea level. It is the largest city in the West Bank and home to around 165,000 Palestinians and over 500 Jewish settlers concentrated in and around the old quarter. The city is most notable for containing the traditional burial site of the biblical Patriarchs and Matriarchs.

### Brief Information

**Land Area:** 103km<sup>2</sup> (South Hebron ADP)

**Climate:** Ranges from arid to semi-arid. Average annual temperature is 18 degrees Celsius and the average annual humidity is 57%

**People group:** Palestinian

**Direct beneficiaries:** 16,947 people

**Project lifespan:** 15 years (2009-2024)

**Indicative budget:** SGD 11,447,662 million

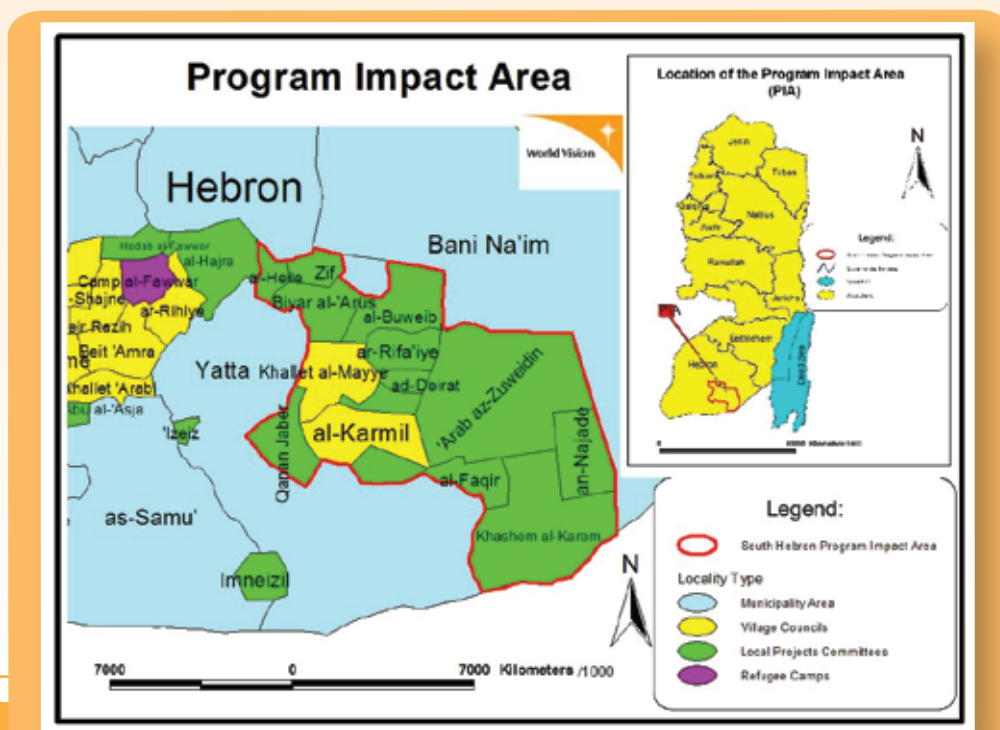
### Project Goals

The overall goal of South Hebron ADP is to enhance livelihood security at the household level through various integrated development interventions.



★ South Hebron Area includes the most vulnerable

Source: Vulnerable communities. (Courtesy: Occupied Palestinian Territories, Consolidated Appeal Process, UN 2009).



Source: Map was prepared at World Vision office based in the published data from the Palestinian Central Committee for Elections and the Palestinian Geographic Center base map.



## Background

World Vision began working in the Holy Land in 1975, serving the poor and marginalised, especially children.

To empower communities for independence from relief and structural aid while building a better understanding of sustainable development, World Vision began providing assistance to Palestinian groups, supporting education and rehabilitation projects.

A significant milestone was reached when World Vision launched its Area Development Programmes (ADPs) in 1999, within a cluster of villages, driven by needs of that specific community.

Basic services and infrastructure are severely lacking in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hebron, the largest city in the West Bank in terms of size and population, was identified as one of the poorest governorates, with the worst water supply situation. Communities are vulnerable to water-related diseases as sewage and sanitation infrastructure is largely not available. Healthcare facilities in most villages are almost non-existent.



Mother and her five children living with all they have in a tent.

The comparatively arid climate in the southern parts of Hebron exerts tremendous stress on the largely agricultural-dependent livelihoods of the people, propounding the communities in the area as most vulnerable.

The educational environment is poor. Furthermore, some children are forced to walk for at least five kilometres just to attend classes because the schools are located very far away from their homes. In some cases, classrooms are composed of tents. The hygiene facilities in most of the schools are very poor, thus placing added pressure on the students' health.

Children in a considerable percentage of poor families are exploited in the labour force especially in livestock rearing. Many children in the area are also exploited by some small businesses to help carpenters and blacksmiths or are made to work in building blocks factories. Children are exposed to violence and abuse within the family, school and community.

In addition to its development work, World Vision advocates for a just and comprehensive peace living condition between Palestinians and Israelis so that all can live in peace and prosperity.

## Key Challenges

- Absence of structures relating to well-being of children: health, education and child protection;
- Lack of food security and livelihood opportunities;
- Lack of capacity and sensitisation of local institutions and community-based organisations regarding critical issues such as child labour and discrimination committed against vulnerable children;
- Environmental degradation resulting in water and soil pollution



## Key Interventions

### Health, Education and Child Protection

Through workshops, participatory activities and dialogues, World Vision seeks to create mutual understanding on child well-being issues amongst different civil society groups and government authorities. To reinforce these efforts, community mobilisation and awareness projects on child well-being will be conducted for the communities. As partnerships are being forged, World Vision will work towards providing the basic health care and education needs that are currently lacking, as elucidated above to children.

### Food Security and Livelihood Opportunities

Rather than relief services which are not sustainable, World Vision seeks to address these problems through developmental income-generating and job creation interventions. Poverty reduction is the overarching objective of all the programme activities that will be implemented.

### Promoting Collaboration and Augmenting Capacities and Coordination of Community-Based Organisations

By assessing and leveraging known strengths, partnership is a powerful approach to adopt in our quest to achieve sustainable well-being of children and alleviating poverty in the communities. To this end, World Vision works towards:

- o augmenting the capabilities of the local community-based organisations and supporting the establishment of other specialised community-based organisations;
- o sensitisation and mobilisation of civil societies and other social solidarities in the communities to increase pro-poor interventions;
- o involving local community-based organisations in public awareness campaigns on critical issues such as violence against children, child labour and early marriages.

### Ecosystem Conservation

Through various programme activities, World Vision seeks to create public awareness concerning the seriousness of environmental problems on livelihoods and health, and also the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene practices. With community sensitisation and mobilisation, World Vision seeks to empower the communities with knowledge and creativity to improve their livelihoods and their environment.

## Conclusion

Through community interventions to help the people, World Vision aims to strengthen the leadership in the community by increasing their self-esteem and developing their potential to manage their own development process, moving them towards making sustainable change and development, and building a better future for their children.

With the support and care of Singapore Child Sponsors, World Vision aims to help the children and families attain self-reliance by September 2024. The children and families in South Hebron ADP can only do this together with your help!

Thank you for walking this journey of faith and transformation with the children, families and World Vision!



Woman making tea in her home made of tent.