



World Vision



**LIVES CHANGED
COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMED**
SOUTH HEBRON, WEST BANK

SOUTH HEBRON **AREA DEVELOPMENT** **PROGRAMME**



37,233

Impact Population

4,293

No. of Families

7,739

Girls

8,454

Boys

10,001

Women

11,039

Men

Project Start: October 2011

Project End: September 2026

BACKGROUND

South Hebron, in the southern West Bank, is a rural poor community often facing frequent exposure to violence due to ongoing regional conflict, alongside limited infrastructure and movement restrictions.

Children faced multiple barriers to education — with schools often far away, under-resourced, and affected by safety risks. Healthcare services were also extremely limited with clinics offering only basic care and operating only a few days each month.

Food insecurity, water shortage, and unstable income created financial and emotional stress within families. Many families lived in large households with limited resources to meet children's basic needs. Harsh discipline and early marriage were thus common with 75% of children marrying before the age of 18.

These challenges highlighted the need for a child-focused development approach that empowers children with the opportunity to live life in all its fullness.



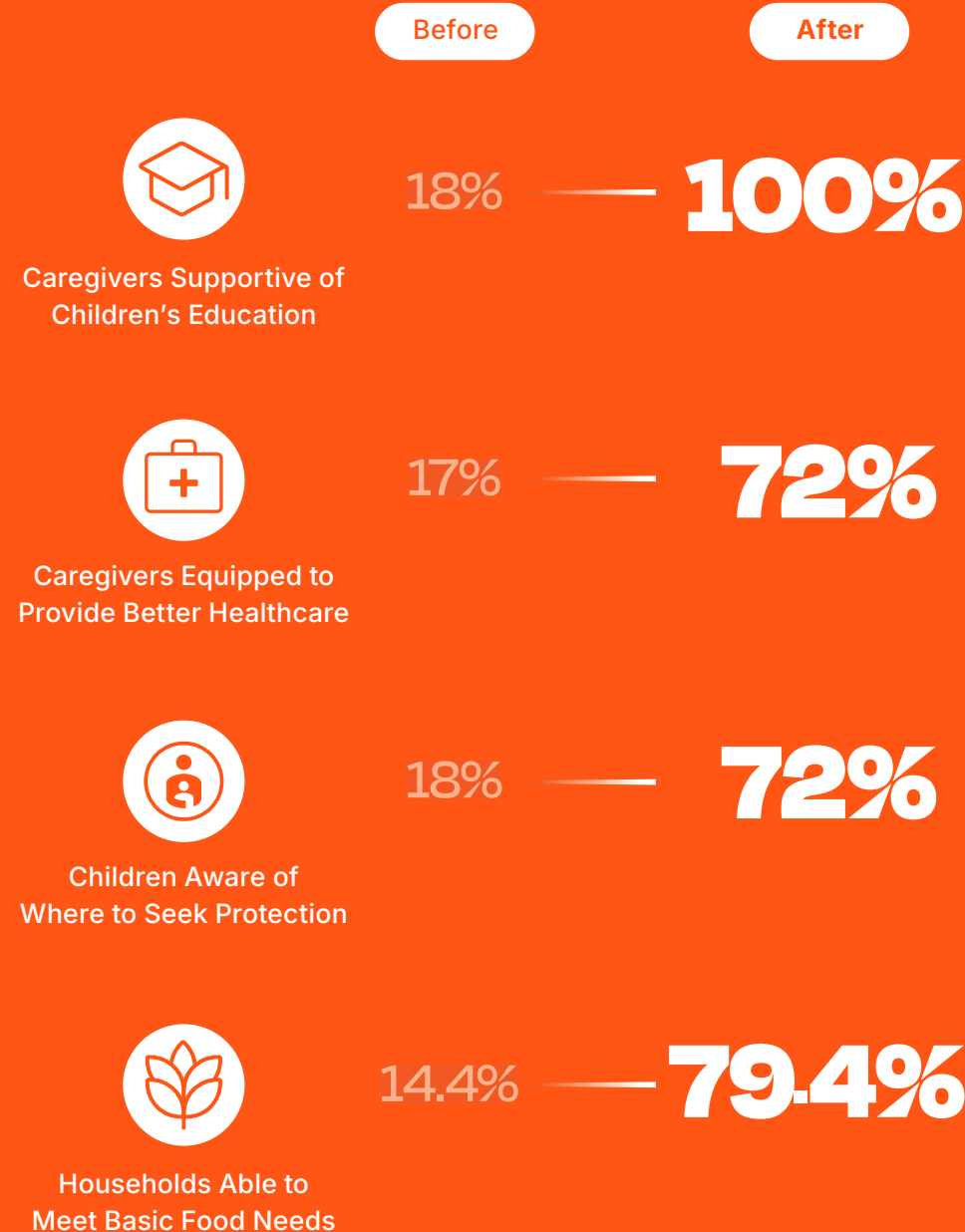
Children now have stronger foundations for healthy growth and learning.

FROM NEED TO HOPE

World Vision's transformational developmental work in South Hebron is designed to be holistic to meet immediate needs and build long-term resilience. Despite ongoing challenges, including political instability, movement restrictions, and periodic outbreaks of violence, World Vision has continuously adapted our transformational programme to sustain and expand our support to vulnerable children and families across the area.

World Vision had to extend our implementation of the intervention programmes for an additional year till 2026 due to heightened needs and disruption from conflict that risked reversing the progress made in earlier phases of the programme. The extension enabled the strengthening of child protection networks, early childhood development, health and education interventions.

Through strong partnerships with governments, schools, and community stakeholders, World Vision strengthens local systems and equips communities to sustain progress after programme completion. By building the capacity of educators, caregivers, Community Health Workers, and Child Protection Networks, communities are empowered to continue supporting children's well-being, learning, protection, and livelihoods for the long term.





Children enjoy a safer learning environment.



EDUCATION

KEY CHALLENGES

At the start of World Vision's developmental work in South Hebron, children had limited access to safe, quality education. Schools were overcrowded and under-resourced, with inadequate classrooms and unsafe water and sanitation facilities. There were no government-run kindergartens, and only 4-5 small private centres with limited capacity, each serving 20-25 children. This left many young children without access to early childhood education.

Ongoing regional conflict exposed children to violence on their journeys to and from school. Only 58% reported feeling safe in school.

OUR IMPACT

3,300 children benefitted from 24 newly built or renovated kindergartens.

Over the years, World Vision worked closely with schools, communities, and the Ministry of Education to improve both learning environments and quality of education.

32,000+ students gained practical skills through disaster risk reduction training to respond to emergencies and manage stress in the face of violence.

1,300 children benefitted from safer learning environments through upgrades to 9 schools, including improved classrooms, playgrounds, and sanitation facilities.

1,800 children who had fallen behind in their learning were given support to help them catch up and regain confidence.



81%

Children
Feeling Safe in School



77%

Preschool Children
on Track in Development



Children enjoy their play time in improved classrooms and playgrounds.



Mohammed is now able to progress to Grade 4 with more confidence in his literacy and numeracy skills with the help of the Learning Roots Programme.

World Vision equipped all kindergartens with essential educational materials and trained teachers on child-centered methodologies. The Ministry of Education also formally adopted World Vision's Learning Roots approach and integrated its children development monitoring tools into the national early learning framework — laying the foundation for the long-term sustainability of the progress made in education.

95 kindergarten teachers and 480 parents were supported to create safe, play-based learning environments through the Learning Roots Programme, that improved children's school readiness, and increased parental involvement.

39 teachers and school leaders were trained to conduct more engaging lessons that support children's learning needs.

682 teachers and counsellors were trained to provide psychosocial support, strengthening students' well-being.



Before, many children struggled to stay in school. One of them was Mohammad, now a fourth grader. When he entered kindergarten, he faced difficulties in early literacy and numeracy. After participating in the programme, he reached fourth grade and was able to read, write, and perform calculations confidently. The programme gave Mohammad and his peers the skills they needed to continue in school. Today, Mohammad dreams of becoming an engineer.

— Reem, 38 years old, a teacher for Grades 1 – 4



The dropout risk has significantly decreased over the past seven years, thanks to World Vision's Learning Roots module and the establishment of new kindergartens in basic schools. Schools reported a reduction in students leaving before completing the academic year. Before the module, many vulnerable children dropped out due to lack of motivation and support, often entering farming or low-wage labor under risky conditions.

— Mr Hani, Head of Planning at the Directorate of Education



Community Health Workers support families with regular growth monitoring and nutrition care.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

KEY CHALLENGES

Mothers and young children in South Hebron faced serious health risks. Access to government healthcare services was extremely limited, with weak clinic coverage and reliance on harmful traditional practices such as putting alcohol on the umbilical cord and giving infants water or sugar for jaundice. Poor hygiene, unsafe water, and inadequate nutrition further increased health risks for mothers and infants. Anaemia was widespread, and exclusive breastfeeding rates were low.

Only 20% of households provided safe and nurturing environments for children aged 0–3.

OUR IMPACT

World Vision worked alongside families, communities, schools, health partners, and the Ministry of Health to improve health, nutrition, and early childhood development.

16,000 children benefitted from the upgrading of 7 Maternal and Child Health clinics with essential equipment, child-friendly furniture, and dedicated child-friendly spaces for counselling and play-based learning. Services expanded beyond vaccinations to include growth monitoring, nutrition support, maternal counselling, and early stimulation. Healthcare staff and Community Health Workers were also trained to improve service delivery in maternal and child health, nutrition, and early childhood development.

270 families were supported by Community Health Workers 8–10 times per year in pregnancy care, breastfeeding, child nutrition, growth monitoring, and responsive parenting through the Go Baby Go model, which focuses on the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

600 caregivers were reached annually through awareness campaigns and Community Action Groups to strengthen caregiving, hygiene, and nutrition practices.

2,350 students were engaged through Health Clubs across 12 schools to build their knowledge and adopt healthy habits related to balanced nutrition, healthy lifestyles, and disease prevention, supporting long-term health outcomes.

60%

Exclusive Breastfeeding
(0–5 months)

92%

Children Receive
Vitamin A & D Supplements



Before joining the Go Baby Go programme, I often didn't know how to respond to my child's needs, especially during stressful times. Through the guidance and support I received, I learned simple ways to communicate better with my child and create a more supportive home environment. I feel much more confident as a mother now, and I can see a real difference in my child's behaviour and emotional well-being.

— Asala Abu Rajab, 26 years old

IMPACT STORY: COMMUNITY LIFELINE: HOW ASALA AND THE WOMEN OF UMM LASAFA STOPPED THE VILLAGE CLINIC'S CLOSURE



Asala facilitating a session to inform mothers about how to best take care of their new-borns.

Since October 2023, escalating violence and movement restrictions have severely disrupted healthcare access across the West Bank. In many villages, medical facilities operate under impossible conditions. Clinics open only a few days a week, often lacking medicine, staff, or even power. Against this backdrop, one small, overstretched clinic in Umm al-Safa, in the south of the West Bank became the focus of a grassroots movement to protect access to care.

At the center of that effort was Asala, a young Community Health Worker from Yatta, who led a community-driven campaign to prevent the closure of the only functioning clinic in the village. "For a village like Umm Lasafa, with no reliable transportation, daily risks of violence, and nearly 3,000 people depending on that clinic, it wasn't just a health issue. It was about survival," said Asala.

The decision to close the clinic came at the end of 2024, when the Ministry of Health announced plans to consolidate services and merge this clinic's services with another facility far from the village.

Asala, who had been trained with World Vision's Go Baby Go health programme, knew how critical maternal and child health services were in underserved areas. With that training, she started organising women from the village, particularly mothers to share their stories, and document how this clinic saves lives to appeal to the authorities.

With dozens of mothers backing her, Asala coordinated a formal outreach to the Department of Health to explain with evidence on how the closure would disproportionately harm women, children, and the elderly.

In early 2025, the Ministry of Health reversed its decision and suspended the closure. For Ahlam, Director of the Nursing Department at the Department of Health in Hebron, it was clear Asala had performed a miracle. "Asala has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and resilience," he said. "Her efforts in mobilising the community and applying consistent, organised pressure were instrumental in the decision to keep the clinic open."

The clinic remains open today and continues to serve the village, particularly mothers, children, and elderly residents who have no safe way to reach other healthcare facilities.

"The entire village depends on it," Asala emphasised. "Every child born here, every elder in need of care, every pregnant woman, they all come here. Without it, many simply would go without care."

For communities like Umm Lasafa, where daily life is marked by instability, healthcare is not a given, it must be defended.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

KEY CHALLENGES

WASH facilities in schools were inadequate, posing significant health and protection risks. Many schools lacked sufficient toilets and handwashing facilities, with as many as 60–100 students sharing a single toilet – far below recommended standards. Facilities were not gender-sensitive, and the lack of menstrual hygiene support made it difficult for adolescent girls to attend and fully participate in school.

OUR IMPACT

World Vision worked with schools, communities, and local partners to upgrade WASH infrastructure and promote positive hygiene practices.

Schools were supported with improved toilets, handwashing stations, better access to water, and gender-sensitive menstrual hygiene facilities, creating safer and more inclusive learning environments. These efforts were reinforced through School Health Clubs and community-based awareness initiatives.



Through School Health Clubs, children were taught positive hygiene practices.

2,789 children gained healthy hygiene habits such as handwashing, safe water use, and kept their surroundings clean through School Health Clubs in 12 schools, spreading these practices to families and communities.

3 schools improved hygiene conditions through the upgrading of WASH facilities to meet gender-specific needs.

55% of students practised proper handwashing, up from 29%.



LIVELIHOOD

KEY CHALLENGES

Families in South Hebron faced significant economic hardship, with limited and unstable sources of income. Most households relied on daily labour, small-scale farming, or livestock, leaving them highly vulnerable to shocks. Only 14.4% of households were able to meet their basic food needs. Opportunities for women and youth to earn an income were especially limited. Geographic isolation, restricted access to land and markets, and weak local economic infrastructure further constrained economic resilience.

OUR IMPACT

World Vision worked with local partners to strengthen livelihoods with a focus on women and youths aged 16–30.

Vocational training programmes equipped participants in 70% of the villages with practical, market-relevant skills such as sewing, food production, graphic design, and construction trades. Entrepreneurship support and mentoring helped participants start small businesses and generate income, while also strengthening confidence, decision-making skills, and community engagement.

IMPACT STORY: MALAK STITCHES A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Malak is now 27 years old. She was 19 when she enrolled in the sewing and fashion design course implemented by World Vision, after she was unable to pass the Tawjihi exams and pursue a university education.



I greatly benefitted from the support provided by World Vision. The tools and equipment we received made it possible for us to learn effectively and gain practical skills.

— Malak, 27 years old

Today, Malak sews clothes for her family and continues to build her skills in fashion design. She hopes to one day open her own business or become a trainer at the vocational training centre.



Children taking part joyfully in the activities of the Makani Club.



CHILD PROTECTION

KEY CHALLENGES

Children were growing up in an environment where violence was common and protection systems were weak. At home, 93% of caregivers relied on physical punishment. In schools, 83% of children experienced bullying or violence. Harmful practices such as early marriage were also widely accepted.

Despite these risks, children had limited awareness of their rights and where to seek help. Only 18% knew how to report abuse, and reporting systems were often inaccessible due to stigma, limited outreach, and weak service coverage, leaving many children without protection or recourse.

OUR IMPACT

World Vision worked closely with families, communities, schools, and government partners to strengthen child protection systems and create safer, more supportive environments for children.

7,511 children participated in life skills sessions through 51 Makani Kids Clubs (community-based after-school programmes), building social and emotional skills, personal safety awareness, and knowledge of where to seek help.

700 caregivers were trained in non-violent parenting approaches, leading to improved relationships with their children and reduced reliance on harsh punishment.

2,500 children were reached by Child Protection Advocacy Groups to provide them with safe platforms to raise concerns and advocate for their rights.

Local systems were also strengthened for long-term impact. Teachers, Community Health Workers, and community facilitators received regular training on safeguarding and how to respond to child protection concerns. Partnerships with government ministries helped embed these practices into existing institutional systems. Schools integrated positive discipline into daily routines, creating safer and more inclusive learning environments.



I love the Makani Club!
I have fun learning about friendship, sharing, and playing with my friends. It makes me happy, and I wish there were more clubs like this.

— Fatima, 6 years old

IMPACT STORY: BASMA'S JOURNEY TO PROTECTING CHILDREN AND LEADING CHANGE



Basma Al-Ghafi with her daughter-in-law, granddaughter, and grandson.

When Basma Al-Ghafi first joined World Vision's Positive Discipline (PD) sessions, she came with more hesitation than confidence. Like many caregivers in her community, she had grown up believing that discipline meant control, raised voices, and punishment.

"In the past, I thought a good mother is the one whose children are afraid of her," Basma admitted. "I believed that fear meant respect."

At the beginning of the PD training, Basma spoke very little. She often described her children as "difficult". At home, conflicts were frequent and communication was tense. Her children avoided speaking openly with her and became quiet whenever problems arose.

Later, Basma reflected: "My children were not bad."

Through group discussions, role-playing, and practical exercises, Basma began to understand how stress, fear, and unmet emotional needs shape children's behaviour. She learnt that connection, empathy, and guidance are more effective than punishment.

Gradually, Basma moved from shouting to listening, from punishment to problem-solving. By the end of the PD cycle, she no longer relied on threats or physical punishment. Instead, she began setting clear boundaries through calm dialogue, empathy, and consistency.

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For the first time, I understood that discipline is not about breaking a child's will. It is about teaching them while protecting their dignity.

— Basma

"Before, we were silent in front of our mother," one of Basma's children shared. "We didn't share anything because we were afraid. But now, we can speak freely. We tell her about our day, our worries, and our feelings. Our home feels calmer, safer, and happier."

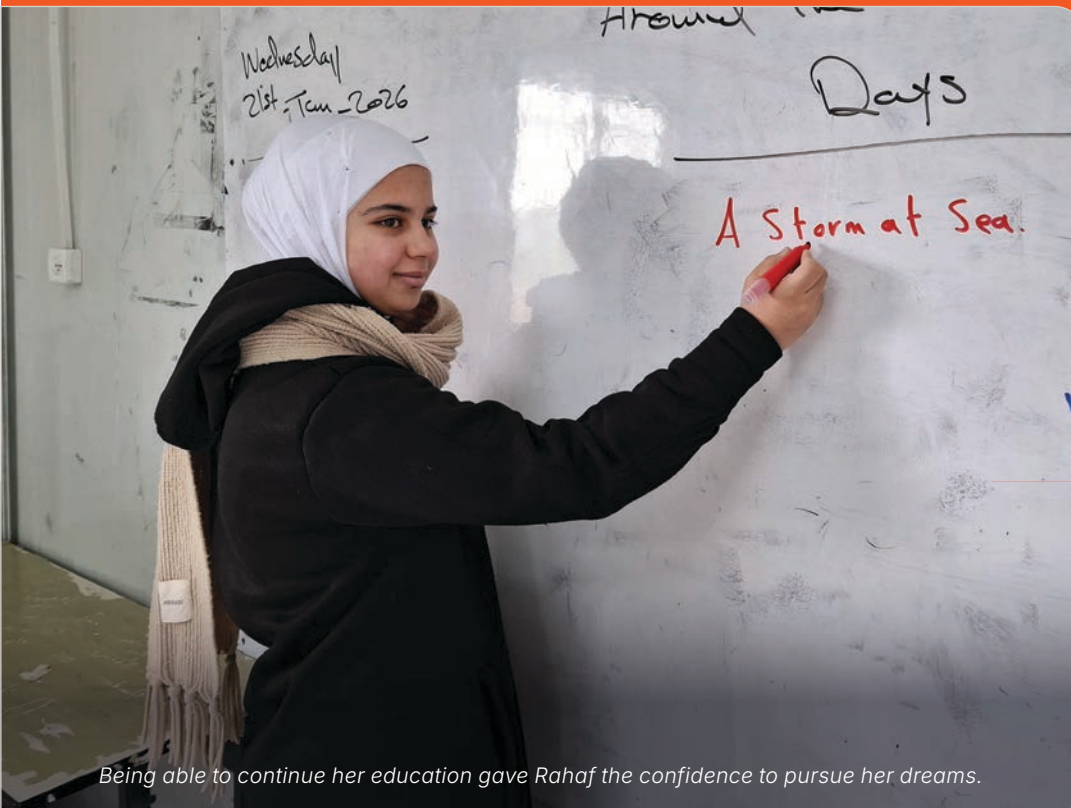
Basma herself noticed the same change. "Our home became quieter, warmer, and full of understanding," she said. "My children are no longer afraid to speak."

Over time, this change extended beyond her relationship with her own children to her grandchildren. Basma said. "I want my grandchildren to grow up without fear, and I want my daughters to feel supported, not overwhelmed like I was."



Basma and her grandchild now has a loving bond with each other.

IMPACT STORY: A DEDICATED GIRLS' SCHOOL GAVE RAHAF HOPE FOR A FUTURE



As a girl growing up in Zeef Village in South Hebron, Rahaf never imagined she would be able to continue her education that could open pathways to new opportunities and a brighter future.

In her village, girls often stopped attending school at a young age. The only option for continuing their education beyond primary level was to attend a mixed-gender school, which was not widely accepted within the community's cultural norms. As a result, many girls leave school between the ages of 10 to 12, limiting their opportunities and future aspirations. Rahaf understood this reality deeply because it was also her mother's experience.



My mother was forced to leave school at the age of 12, and she still regrets it.

— Rahaf, 16 years old

Everything changed when a dedicated girls' school was established in her community through the partnership between World Vision, the village council, and local families. Rahaf was among the first students to enrol when the school opened in 2015.

Now in Grade 10, Rahaf reflects on how the school has transformed her future: "I am fortunate and grateful that I could join this school from Grade 1 until now. Many girls in the village used to drop out because they had to attend mixed schools, which were not accepted here."

For Rahaf, the school became more than a place to study. It became a safe space where she could continue learning, grow in confidence, and pursue dreams that once felt out of reach.



I never imagined my daughter would continue her education after Grade 6. Now she wakes up excited to go to school and pursue her dreams.

— Rahaf's mother, 38 years old

Today, Rahaf continues her education with hope for the future, something many girls in previous generations were denied. Her journey reflects how access to safe and inclusive education can open doors to dignity, opportunity, and lasting transformation for girls and their communities.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY.

BECAUSE OF YOU, HOPE LIVES ON
AND YOUR LOVE CAN CONTINUE TO REACH EVEN MORE CHILDREN.



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World Vision is a global Christian humanitarian organisation devoted to helping the most vulnerable children experience the fullness of life through tackling poverty and injustice. We serve all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or gender.



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