



World Vision has been working in the area since 1975 in various capacities. In 2009, South Hebron was identified as having the most vulnerable communities in the West Bank. We started work in the community with the goal of contributing to the well-being of children in the areas of health, education and protection to enable them to overcome the severe challenges they face. There are two main groups in the population: village dwellers and the Bedouins, who live a semi-nomadic life.

#### BRIEF INFORMATION

IMPACT AREA POPULATION  
21,325 people

PROGRAMME LIFESPAN  
2011

#### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The community is in the south-eastern part of Hebron district of the West Bank and covers 15 villages and hamlets. It is a predominantly rural area with land mainly used for animal herding, a traditional occupation that most of the population still hold.

#### PROGRAMME GOAL

Sustained well-being of children in the programme area.

# SOUTH HEBRON WEST BANK

## REALITIES

### Economic Poverty and Food Insecurity

The unstable situation in the West Bank directly impacts agricultural productivity and livelihood opportunities. Land is of utmost importance to livelihoods in the West Bank as community members are primarily herdsman. But grazing land is restricted due to land use regulations and poor rainfall, thus productivity is low and 13% of people are food insecure. This has a direct impact on the incomes of families. On top of that, work opportunities are limited and the unemployment rate stands at 18%. As a result, 14% of the population in the West Bank still live in poverty.

### Lack of Access to Clean Water

The lack of water is another huge challenge. Community members are unable to drill wells or build cisterns to catch rainwater without government permits. They depend on tank water or unfiltered wells, which are unsafe because of contamination from untreated sewage and waste water. Villages mostly have no connection to a water network and are dependent on rain collection cisterns.

### Healthcare and Sanitation Concerns

In South Hebron, 21% of children under five are anaemic, while almost 1 in 10 children under two are stunted. Sanitation conditions vary, with some communities such as the nomadic Bedouin having no toilet facilities at all. One third of schools have very poor sanitary conditions. Healthcare is in the form of basic mobile health clinics with only one general practitioner each who has to cover several villages.

### Educational Difficulties

One significant issue in the community is lack of access to education and low quality of teaching. Only 36% of teachers are ranked as qualified. Some schools are far from homes and children need to walk at least 5 km to attend classes. Schools are poorly equipped and in some cases, classes are held in tents or rented garages. As hygiene levels in classrooms are low, children face a variety of health problems that make it hard for them to focus in class. Poor nutrition also affects their cognitive development. These factors negatively impact educational performance.

