



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  
2011–2026

#### 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.



**KEY CHALLENGES AND WORLD VISION'S KEY INITIATIVES**



Needy families receive a pair of goats. When they multiply, the offspring can be sold for income.



Young children learn in child-friendly kindergartens.

**CHALLENGE** Lack of livelihood opportunities and food security

**INITIATIVE** Increase diversity of livelihood opportunities to reduce vulnerability of children

Vocational training in work readiness and life skills is provided to prepare young people for vocational job opportunities. Relevant internship programmes are also secured for them in partnership with private, public and NGO sectors. Income generating activities such as livestock rearing are also provided to enhance the economy and food security of poor families.

**CHALLENGE** Lack of health knowledge and facilities, leading to high rates of malnutrition among children

**INITIATIVE** Help mothers and children under five be healthy and well-nourished

To ensure that pregnant women and new mothers are cared for, World Vision provides training for community health workers and health counselling to the community. Health knowledge and awareness are also promoted in schools and communities through campaigns that promote healthier food choices in canteens as well as the introduction of micronutrient supplements (Vitamin A and iron). Partnerships are forged with local organisations to ensure adequate provision of services in civil defence, first aid, primary healthcare services and more. Water cisterns have also been provided to families to increase self-sufficiency in water.

**CHALLENGE** Inadequate access to quality education

**INITIATIVE** Increase access to conducive school environments through construction of schools and capacity-building

World Vision helps to enhance school environments to facilitate effective teaching. This includes providing training for teachers and counsellors, as well as constructing and equipping schools. Parents and community volunteers are encouraged to take part in their children's learning process. Furthermore, parents undergo training that promotes positive raising practices and child rights to minimise violence faced by children at home.

Through all these interventions, World Vision is transforming the lives of children in South Hebron, making a change today as well as giving them hope for the future!

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**Sponsor a child** or give towards a **Gift Catalogue item**, which benefits the community!

Thank you for your heart for the poor, and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in the West Bank. **Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child you help, four more benefit too!**