



Defending dignity.
Fighting poverty.

West Bank Gaza

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Country Snapshot

Population:	4 million
Life expectancy at birth:	73 years
Adult literacy rate:	93%
Access to improved water source:	89%
GNI per capita:	US\$ 1,230
Infant mortality rate:	24 per 1,000 live births

Source: UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2009

Program Overview CARE West Bank and Gaza (WBG) has been active in relief and development since 1948. Throughout the years, CARE's program has evolved from the direct provision of services into a program that meets the humanitarian needs of civilians and builds their capacity to sustain their livelihoods. CARE has field offices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, implementing programs for the Palestinian communities in health, agriculture and livelihoods, water and sanitation, civil society strengthening, and emergency relief. CARE WBG works to ensure that the projects delivered benefit both men and women, particularly those who are poor, vulnerable, marginalized and isolated.

Food Security and Livelihoods

CARE WBG is the leading organization in fresh food distribution and food security in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In 2009, CARE was able to assist more than 300,000 individuals through programs that addressed their immediate and long-term needs. CARE is also providing vulnerable households and individuals living in social/healthcare institutions with fresh vegetables. At the same time we support the Gazan economy by purchasing vegetables from local farmers, whom we also help to rehabilitate their agricultural lands and greenhouses. Other households that lost their main source of income throughout the conflict are being maintained through small income-generating activities. A specific example can be seen in CARE's food security and livelihood recovery project that was launched in 2009. The goal of the project is to reduce food insecurity in Gaza by providing fresh food baskets to food-insecure households, and by supporting farmers and households in sustaining a regular income through providing agricultural inputs and productive assets.

Health

Many communities in the West Bank do not receive the minimum standard in basic health services, including preventative and curative health care, such as antenatal and postnatal care, and health education. This lack of access to health care is mainly due to the Israeli checkpoints, the Separation Wall, and the proximity to settlements, all creating obstacles to the movement

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of communities across the West Bank. CARE helps provide lifesaving equipment and essential pharmaceuticals, works to build local capacity to better cope with health needs, and provides mobile clinics to reach vulnerable and distant populations that would otherwise have severely limited access to health services.

Water and Sanitation

In the Gaza Strip, one of the primary concerns is securing a sufficient quantity of quality water to ensure economic and social development, at a time when population growth is amongst the highest in the world. CARE strives to provide Palestinian communities with improved access to quality water and to adopt a more efficient use of scarce water resources in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. To achieve this objective, CARE assists Palestinian communities through projects that involve digging new water wells, building household water cisterns and small-scale irrigation systems, rehabilitating and building new water systems and pumping stations, constructing sanitation units for village schools, and increasing community awareness of sanitation and water conservation.

Civil Society Strengthening

CARE has a long-term commitment to engage Palestinian communities in development processes that enable them to determine their futures, realize their rights, and live in peace and dignity. CARE empowers Palestinian community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations to become more effective advocates of their own interests and rights. CARE also promotes gender equality as a fundamental element of our work to fight poverty and improve standards of living.

“Empowering Women - Transforming Communities, Bena’a” is a 36-month project currently implemented in Gaza to contribute to poverty eradication and promote gender equality and women’s empowerment. The project is carried out by building the capacity of grassroots community-

based organizations in the Gaza Strip so they can advocate for the interests of women in development strategies, and strengthen the role of women in the social, political and economic spheres of their communities.

In addition, CARE advocates for conflict mitigation. CARE works with various target audiences to create a network of Palestinian women, men, children, and community-based organizations that are skilled in developing conflict mitigation and resolutions.

Emergency Response, Shelter and Rehabilitation

During the 22-day war in December 2008 and January 2009 on Gaza, Palestinian citizens were killed, wounded, displaced, and forced from their homes. CARE responded within hours after the start of the conflict, distributing urgently needed food, medicine, and emergency supplies to families, hospitals and orphanages. We provided basic non-food items such as blankets, personal hygiene kits, and household cleaning supplies to Gazans displaced by the conflict, helping more than 211,894 people. Nearly 14,000 houses and apartments were destroyed. No repairs were made, as construction materials such as cement and glass are not allowed into Gaza under the restrictions of the two-year Israeli blockade. In coordination with other aid agencies and the United Nations, CARE also advocates with the Israeli government to loosen the restrictions and allow construction materials into Gaza so families can rebuild their homes and lives.

Major Donors

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), European Commission’s Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), European Union (EU), Ford Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany (MOFA), UK Department of International Development (DFID), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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