

State of Palestine
Child Protection AoR

Child Protection
Area of Responsibility
Global Protection Cluster

Children in the West Bank: An Escalating Protection Crisis

The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is facing a sharp rise in **child protection risks**, driven by **settler violence, military operations, detention, and forced displacement**.

Between October 2023 and May 2025, **214 children were killed (7 girls, 203 boys), a 169%** increase in child fatalities, **compared to 78 killed (3 girls, 75 boys) in the prior** equivalent timeframe (20 months). Airstrikes, including drone attacks, caused **20% of these deaths**.

The forced displacement of **over 32,000 people** has significantly escalated risks for children, particularly in northern governorates like **Jenin and Tulkarm**.

Children are increasingly affected by **psychological distress**, including symptoms of **anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and withdrawal**, especially among boys aged 7–12 years.

Gaps in Mental Health and Child Protection Services

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) **services remain limited** and cannot meet the scale of needs—particularly for **recently detained or displaced children** and those with **disabilities**.

Lack of specialized mental health professionals for children in conflict settings is a major barrier.

Children in Detention

An average of **230 children were detained** by Israeli authorities in 2024, **up from 158 in 2023**.[1]

At the end of March 2025, atleast 119 children on administrative detention—often without charge.[1]

Children in conflict with the law accounted for 22% of all child protection cases, primarily males aged 13 to 17. [2]

Access to detention facilities has been severely restricted since October 2023.

Displacement, Exploitation and Education Disruption

32,000 people were forcibly displaced in the northern West Bank at the start of 2025**.** Over **14,000 children were affected by home demolitions** from January to April 2025**.**

Ongoing movement restrictions and **intermittent school closures** are disrupting children's education, prompting some families to **withdraw girls from school for safety concerns.**

Families are resorting to **child labor, early marriage, and school dropout** as **harmful coping mechanisms.**

Children with Disabilities: Overlooked and Underserved

Many Children with Disabilities (CwDs) face **exclusion** from emergency response planning, especially during forced evacuations and displacement.

Barriers to safe shelter, education, medical care, and psychosocial support remain persistent, increasing their risk of neglect, exploitation, and long-term developmental harm.

Some injured children have gone without appropriate treatment due to access restrictions and delayes in medical care.

1. *Israeli Prison Service* 2. *CP Case Management Task force*

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Achievements and Response-January - June 2025

As of June 2025, 17 Child Protection partners reached

56,058 children and 12,513 caregivers

in the West Bank including East Jerusalem.

- **Group or individual MHPSS services** reached 45,611 children.
- Caregivers were supported through **psychosocial services and positive parenting** sessions, with 9,657 participating.
- Comprehensive **case management services** were provided to nearly 1,311 children, tailored to their specific protection needs, with an additional 232 children **referred to specialized services**.
- **Legal assistance** has been provided to 339 children.
- **Awareness-raising** efforts reached 9,321 children and caregivers, promoting key protection messages including **Safety from Explosive Ordnance**.
- To strengthen local response capacity, 497 **humanitarian workers** were **trained on child protection** topics.
- **Children with disabilities** were proactively included in the response: more than 1,187 were reached with dedicated services, and among them, 61 children injured in the conflict received **essential assistive devices or rehabilitation support**.

Key Asks For Donors and Decision-Makers

Urgent funding to sustain and expand child protection services in West Bank , with a focus on case management, legal aid, and disability-inclusive programming.

Increased investment in MHPSS, especially for children experiencing trauma, detention, or family separation.

Ensure **access and mobility** for child protection actors to reach vulnerable and remote communities.

Prioritize children with disabilities through inclusive services, assistive devices, and targeted protection.

Demand **protection and accountability for children** impacted by excessive force, detention, and forced displacement.

The total funding required for the Child Protection Response in the West Bank is **4.2million USD**.

Funding shortfalls are limiting the scale and sustainability of child protection services.

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