

Partnership for Change: Christian Aid in the Middle East

Strategy 2013-17



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aid

Contents

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. We urge you to join us.

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Christian Aid is a member of

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Cover: Christian Aid partner Better Life support Nile fishermen to protect their incomes and their rights, in the region of El Minia, Egypt. Christian Aid/Tabitha Ross

Photographs: Christian Aid/Sarah Malian (page 2 and 11), Christian Aid/Antoinette Powell (page 3), Christian Aid/Tom Pilston (page 4, 9), Christian Aid/Ross Hemingway (page 5), Christian Aid/Charlotte Marshall (page 13), Christian Aid/Tabitha Ross (page 10)

Who we are and what we do

Christian Aid is an international organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

We work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality.

We are part of a wider movement for social justice. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

We have an integrated approach to poverty eradication, working worldwide on humanitarian relief, long-term development, specific advocacy issues and campaigns to expose the scandal of poverty by challenging and changing systems and institutions that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

We support work in some of the world's poorest communities, on the basis of need, not religion, ethnicity or nationality

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, Christian Aid works in some of the world's poorest communities, supporting projects on the basis of need, not religion, caste, ethnicity or nationality.

We work with, and through, partners including civil society organisations (CSOs), research institutions, churches, faith groups and social movements, as well as governments, the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

In 2012/13, Christian Aid supported 814 partner organisations across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Our total income was £95.5m, including £27.4m in funding from governments and other institutions.

Our global strategy

At Christian Aid, we believe human action is responsible for the underlying causes of poverty and that when people work together, the world can be changed. This thinking has framed our new global strategy, *Partnership for Change*.

We believe that at the root of poverty is a lack of power – the power to have your say and be heard, or to know your rights and demand them. It is clear to us that poverty can be eradicated only through helping people secure power to help themselves. Christian Aid has identified five areas on which to focus our work:

- 1. Power to change institutions**
We want to see all people having the power to influence institutions – so that the decisions affecting their lives are made responsibly and fairly.
- 2. The right to essential services**
We want to see all people able to fulfil their right to access the services essential for a healthy, secure life.
- 3. Fair shares in a constrained world**
We want to see all people have a fair and sustainable share of the world's resources.
- 4. Equality for all**
We want to see a more inclusive world where identity – gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, class and sexual orientation – is no longer a barrier to equal treatment.
- 5. Tackling violence and building peace**
We want to see vulnerable people protected from violence and living in peace.

The knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt from the Middle East programme contributed to the development of *Partnership for Change*.



Noura Amin Sa'ad (right) and Kiffaya Mohammed Ibrahim Atallah Sa'ad from the women's association in Beit Skariya, which Christian Aid works with through our partner the East Jerusalem YMCA.

Christian Aid in the Middle East

Christian Aid believes poverty and extreme levels of inequality in the Middle East stem from the systematic violations of people’s rights and from unjust, unaccountable power structures. Political and social systems exclude the majority from decision making, while certain groups of people are denied access to the resources, services and the protection they need to build thriving livelihoods.

Discrimination and violation of rights

Discrimination and exclusion take many forms in the Middle East region. Gender discrimination is widespread, rooted in social and culturally defined power relations and demonstrated by the economic and political exclusion of women. National and ethnic discrimination are prevalent, with Palestinians and Kurds both denied statehood and the right to self-determination. Refugees and migrants are particularly vulnerable given their exclusion from protection and many official social provisions.

Unjust power structures and a lack of accountability

In a region where unequal political, social and economic dynamics create the exploitation of resources to maintain power and wealth among a few, unaccountable and unjust structures further reinforce their control and the exclusion of the poorest. Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory is a clear example, but many governments are seen to lack legitimacy and give little attention to accountable approaches, and corruption levels are high.

Increasing economic inequality

Inequality in wealth has increased significantly, with land and assets in the hands of a few, and a growing sense of exclusion among other groups. Food security has deteriorated. Greater access to education has not meant more jobs for youth – in Egypt, more than three quarters of the unemployed are under 30.

The economies where we work are fragile and highly sensitive to economic and political shocks. The occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon are all heavily impacted by political turmoil and conflict. As a result, many governments in the region have faced severe budget crises. Small-scale producers are struggling to compete in markets where costs of inputs are rising but the dwindling purchasing power in domestic and export markets is suppressing prices.

Changing political contexts

The Middle East is going through a period of rapid political change and turmoil. Uprisings across the region have led to the fall or destabilisation of authoritarian regimes. The consequences have been widespread but take very different forms across the region. The uprisings brought increased awareness of rights, new opportunities for political engagement for citizens and potential openings for marginalised groups to demand

their rights. But at the same time, the rising influence of certain political parties highlights the potential for increasingly conservative social and religious attitudes and structures within both community and political spheres.

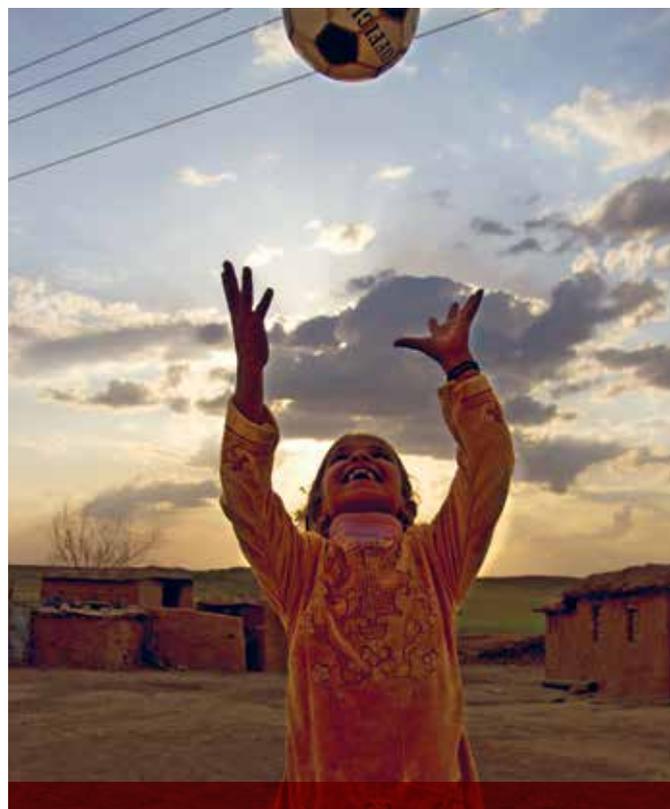
Increased uncertainty around decision making has prevented national governments from setting policy frameworks. In Syria, the regime’s hard-line military response has led to civil war, increasing flows of refugees into Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan, and the potential destabilisation of the region. In the oPt, although political changes emerged from conflict between political elites rather than popular uprisings, the takeover by Hamas in Gaza has led to dual authorities operating in the West Bank and Gaza.

Our work in the region

Christian Aid began working in the Middle East in the 1950s, supporting the Middle East Council of Churches’ assistance to Palestinian refugees. This led to the development of programmes in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel and the oPt.

A programme was set up in Iraq in the early 1990s, initially in response to the impact of the attacks against the Kurdish population in the north and the crisis emerging after the Gulf War.

Today, we work in Egypt, Israel and the oPt, Iraq and Lebanon, and we are responding to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.



Sara Wahid plays outside her home in Zanan Bchuk, northern Iraq. Above Sara are electricity lines that will soon bring mains power to Zanan Bchuk, which the regional government has funded thanks to lobbying by the community supported by Christian Aid partner REACH.

Israel has built a separation barrier largely on occupied Palestinian land, in violation of international law. The barrier affects over half a million Palestinians, many of whom are cut off from healthcare, education and employment opportunities.



Our potential to bring change

There are several critical areas where we have the potential to achieve significant and positive changes in the lives of people in poverty in the Middle East.

Firstly, the lack of fully democratic processes and the poor's exclusion from decision making: our work focuses on empowering poor people, supporting them to have a stronger and more coherent voice and expanding the spaces in which they can be heard. It also focuses on changing the institutions – governments, organisations, attitudes, processes and ways of working – that discriminate and perpetuate inequality and poverty.

Secondly, people living in poverty face deeply entrenched systematic exclusion. Our work targets the most marginalised in specific contexts.

Thirdly, conflict and increasing instability makes the Middle East particularly vulnerable to violence. Christian Aid has a proven track record in protection and accountability work, as well as emerging work on conflict transformation and building peaceful alternatives. While the main focus of this work is in Israel and the oPt, it is also being developed in Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt and Syria.

How we work

Christian Aid's regional approach is key to our distinctive contribution in the Middle East. We are able to bring together partners across the region – increasing opportunities for learning, cooperation and peer support – and to look for areas where regional policy influencing can have a bigger impact. This helps our partners to increase their influence on a national, regional and international scale, and allows the programme to reach key institutions.

Our strategy has a rights-based approach that focuses on real and positive changes for people living in poverty, transforming and holding institutions to account, and changing the policies that keep people poor.

By identifying the critical power relations across the

region we can focus on the groups most affected by inequality. Critically, all our work addresses gender relations and empowers women and men. We also focus on other excluded groups, including those denied the right to self-determination, such as refugees, migrant workers and people living with disabilities.

Humanitarian crises in the region are primarily driven by conflict – although disasters such as earthquakes, drought and flooding are also issues. All the countries where we work have been affected by humanitarian crises in recent times and given the current political instability, vulnerability to such crises remains high. Our response is built around support to our partners in the region, enabling them to provide high standards of humanitarian assistance to those in greatest need and to strengthen communities' resilience.

We advocate for and support the role of civil society in building peaceful solutions, and will demand accountability and provide protection for those affected by conflict. The protracted nature of the Syria conflict means this is likely to play a central part in our humanitarian response.

At the heart of the regional programme are three key themes:

- Economic and social rights – many of the poorest people in the Middle East work in the informal sector, so tackling their exploitation and supporting structures through which they can represent their interests is key to addressing the root causes of poverty.
- Building resilient livelihoods, with a particular focus on conflict and post-conflict contexts – our rights-based focus enables us to place power and voice at the centre of a transformative approach that confronts the root causes of vulnerability.
- A focus on rights for all and working towards a viable solution that will bring peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians.

Our Economic and Social Rights Programme

Christian Aid supports marginalised people in the Middle East to exercise their economic and social rights.

Our goal is for poor and disadvantaged women and men in the region to assert their rights to overcome poverty, by participating equally in the labour force, by being fairly rewarded for their work, and by engaging as employees and citizens in more equitable societies where the social and economic rights of marginalised groups are better upheld.

We want to enable poor and marginalised people to improve their employability and wages, tackle obstacles to and within workplaces, and ensure they have greater participation in decisions that affect them – from macroeconomic policies to the basic right to join a professional association.

We will bring about these changes by supporting them to access labour markets, demand improvements in working conditions for themselves and others, and take part in the political processes that influence the policies affecting their lives. There is an urgent need to

amplify the voices of the poor and marginalised in the Middle East to ensure both employers and governments acknowledge, and act on, their interests.

We want to see irreversible, structural and sustainable change that ensures poor people have the biggest say on issues that affect their lives

Christian Aid’s partners work to influence legal and political structures and processes. We work together to expose the scandalous treatment of many of our target groups and we advocate for the alignment of national legislation and policies with international labour standards.

Our ultimate aim is to reverse negative trends and improve the treatment of the most vulnerable communities. We want to see irreversible, structural and sustainable change that ensures poor people themselves have the biggest say on the most important issues that affect their lives.

Below: Sabah Kamal, a widow with five children in Zawyet El Nawya, Egypt, pictured with her 11-year-old son Mahmoud. Having been introduced to the local farmer’s organisation by a friend, Sabah received advice on making compost and cultivating crops, and has since received a much better price for her produce. She says: ‘The maize was bigger, greener and stronger. It tasted better.’ Sabah also received a loan to support her cattle breeding project.



Economic and Social Rights Programme objectives

Objective 1 – Excluded and marginalised groups are able to access the labour market and participate on an equal basis.

Our actions	What we hope to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vocational training for marginalised groups, including women, refugees and people with disabilities • training of women, men and female entrepreneurs on women's rights and gender equality • providing advice and support for women in developing small businesses • supporting the marketing of products online • financial assistance for women entrepreneurs for innovative business ideas • forging relationships with businesses to establish work placement schemes • supporting families of quarry workers with income-generation projects • career counselling for people with disabilities • vocational assessment and support for people with disabilities • helping vocational training centres to improve levels of support offered to people with disabilities • engaging with the private sector to improve access for people with disabilities seeking employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor and disadvantaged women and men are more employable • poor and marginalised women and men tackle obstacles to and within workplaces, including discrimination, exclusionary legislation and physical access.

Objective 2 – Excluded and marginalised groups ensure the application of labour standards.

Our actions	What we hope to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the establishment of trade unions within quarries and their engagement with quarry owners and government officials • raising quarry workers' awareness of their rights • building the capacity of organisations, institutions and individuals lobbying on behalf of migrant workers • training domestic workers to increase their awareness of their rights • supporting domestic workers to access their labour rights through the provision of legal support • using social media to enable communication between domestic workers and the sharing of experiences • improving diversification of crops for small-scale farmers • research with export companies to improve knowledge of profitable opportunities for farmers in Egypt • training with NGOs promoting decent work for domestic workers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor and disadvantaged women and men have higher earned incomes • poor and disadvantaged women and men have fewer obstacles to and within workplaces • poor and disadvantaged women engage in the application of labour standards • poor and marginalised women and men challenge gaps in the application of labour standards, with evidence of changes in policies and practices that protect the rights of vulnerable workers.



Above: Salah Mohammad Ahmad Al-Halayqua has muscular dystrophy. He works as an accountant in the municipal offices in the El Shyoukh suburb of Hebron. As well as being supported by the YMCA to train as an accountant, he now works with other young people in the West Bank to advocate for the employment rights of people with disabilities.

Objective 3 – Macroeconomic policies reflect the priorities of marginalised groups and are oriented to their social development.

Our actions	What we hope to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researching the barriers to Palestinian refugees accessing the labour market in Lebanon and the West Bank • lobbying governments to promote women’s economic participation • lobbying governments to improve labour conditions in line with international standards • research that informs lobbying and policy making on migrant rights • lobbying governments to improve labour standards for domestic workers • international advocacy to increase support for the International Labour Organisation’s Convention on Domestic Workers • research on the tax systems in Egypt and Iraq, and recommending policy changes that would bring greater equity in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marginalised women and men participate more fully in the decisions affecting their lives • regional and intergovernmental organisations ensure that macroeconomic policies protect and uphold the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalised workers, and that these policies bring real change to workers’ lives • marginalised women and men secure more just and equitable social and economic policies.

Our Rights for All Programme

Christian Aid's Rights for All Programme in the Middle East supports and strengthens civil society in Israel and the oPt to change the systems and structures of power that cause poverty, by protecting human rights and putting an end to inequality and injustice.

We challenge discriminatory policies and practices, protect the space in which civil society operates, and hold Israelis and Palestinians accountable for their actions under international law. Alongside our partners, we challenge the powerful for the rights of the marginalised.

We believe that any process towards a viable solution for Palestinians and Israelis must be impartial, guided by international law and must hold both sides to account, bringing an end to impunity

Poverty in this context is not inevitable; the main causes are discrimination and the unjust Israeli occupation of the oPt, both of which fuel and perpetuate the conflict. Humanitarian assistance and development aid cannot remedy the effects of the occupation and the human rights violations it generates, so Christian Aid's work focuses on mechanisms of accountability to tackle the root causes of this poverty. Christian Aid sees this as a political conflict requiring a long-term, just and peaceful solution. We believe that any process towards a viable solution must be impartial, guided by international

law and it must hold both sides to account, bringing an end to impunity. Viability in this context requires an end to the occupation, as well as the implementation of the right to self-determination and sovereignty for Palestinians, with effective governance and the protection of rights for both Israelis and Palestinians – hence 'Rights for All'.

With our partners, we protect rights in conflict and expand civic empowerment and responsibility by strengthening people's capacity to demand their rights, with a focus on tackling inequality and reforming the institutions and bodies that deny those rights.

The foundations of a viable future lie in the participation of civil society: women and men should feel empowered to play an effective part in their community through the use of their rights, fulfilment of their civic duties and by exercising their democratic citizenship. Our partners demand accountability and advocate for unified representation of the Palestinian people.

We recognise that we need to work at the community and grassroots level and challenge policies internationally – the combination of programme work and strong advocacy brings the legitimacy to tackle the difficult issues many are afraid to broach. This, in turn, allows us to support and encourage policy makers to make accountable decisions rooted in a respect for rights.

Christian Aid focuses on cooperation and unified action, which makes marginalised voices stronger. We believe this will ultimately lead to a better and secure future for all in the region.

Our Rights for All Programme objectives

Objective 1 – Ending discriminatory practices and legislation against Palestinian citizens of Israel.

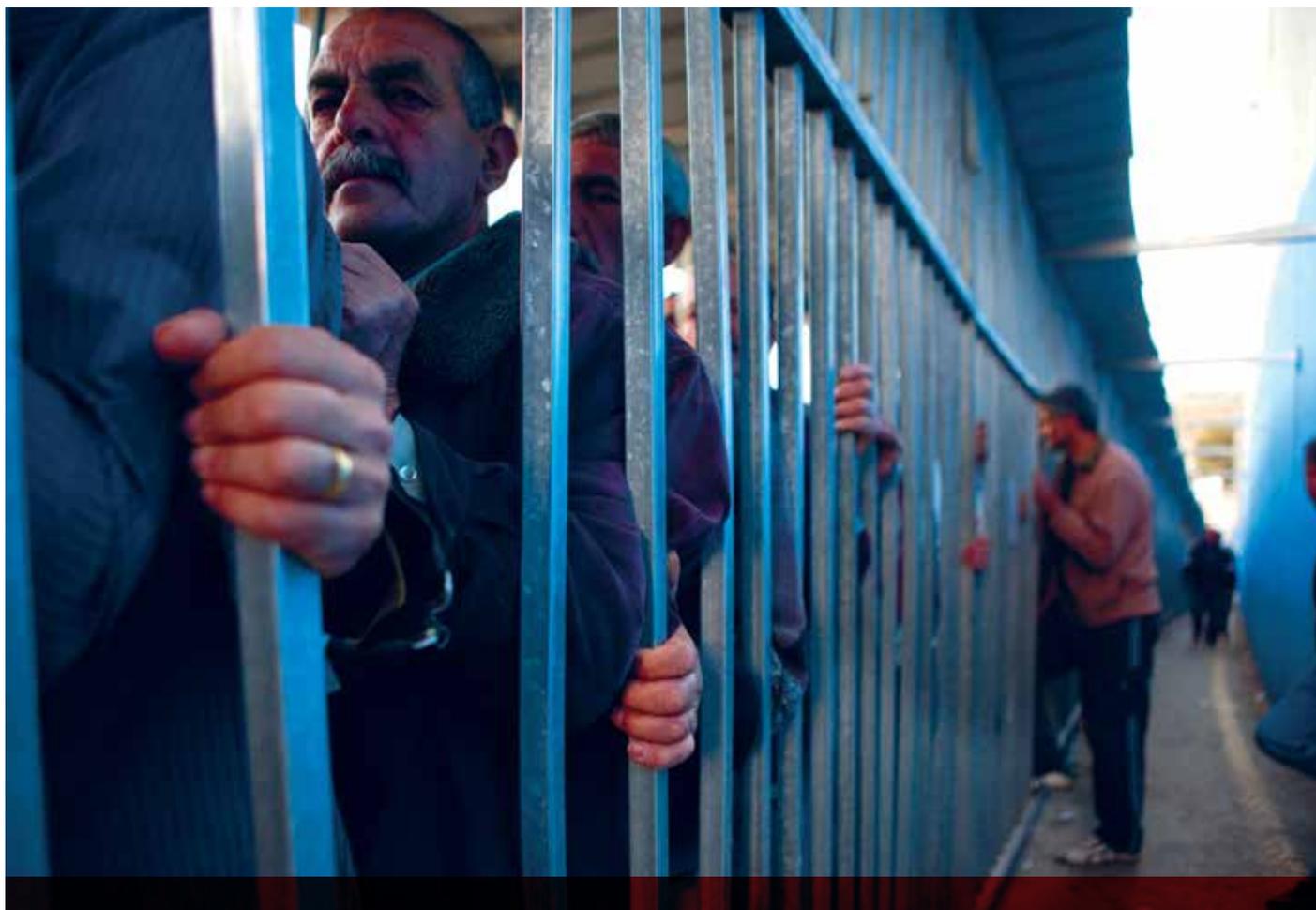
Our actions

- coordinated campaigns to highlight discriminatory policies and inform Jewish and Palestinian citizens of Israel of equality of rights and the legal imperative to protect the rights of all citizens
- mobilising people to campaign for accountability and universal application of human rights in Israel
- international advocacy – including in the UK, Ireland and the European Union – for marginalised communities, including equal access for Palestinian citizens of Israel to land, water, healthcare and education
- challenging discriminatory policies that threaten to violate the rights of some of the most vulnerable communities and groups
- raising awareness of ways Palestinians can challenge discrimination, through training for young people and by creating opportunities for them to become active on human rights issues in their schools, universities and communities
- pursuing litigation before Israeli courts against discriminatory governmental decisions, practices, laws and proposed legislation, and lobbying parliament and government officials
- documenting discriminatory practices and policies, and publishing reports for public education and for submission to UN bodies that monitor Israel's compliance with international treaties and agreements
- joint action, including advocacy with other Israeli NGOs and community-based organisations, especially the Bedouin
- defending the rights of Palestinian community activists and political figures who are harassed by the Israeli authorities in the courts and through public campaigns
- providing legal consultation and representation to the Palestinian community's representative bodies and NGOs inside Israel.

Objective 2 – Increasing civic space and facilitating dialogue that ensures accountability and representation of Israelis and Palestinians.

Our actions

- supporting partners to develop innovative initiatives for the representation and participation of all Palestinians in processes and decisions that affect them and determine their future
- increasing and protecting civic space for human rights defenders, young people and refugees, and lobbying the authorities in the oPt to be accountable and to ensure civil society can operate freely
- challenging legislation that seeks to limit the space for civil society to engage with the Israeli government on issues relating to the application of human rights equally inside Israel
- advocating with the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza, with political parties and with members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), to ensure that the rule of law and international human rights law are respected
- empowering marginalised groups, and youth in particular, to claim their rights and enabling them to ensure protection in conflict. Our partners raise young people's awareness on civil and political rights, and on international human rights law, and provide training on human rights to civil society, community-based and regional organisations. Some also specifically provide women with legal aid and training to raise awareness of their rights
- raising public awareness on the Palestinian refugee issue within Israeli society, and promoting political dialogue and debate between the authorities and civil society on just solutions to the refugees' right of return. Our partners' work in this area incorporates the development of transitional justice approaches among Palestinians and Israelis.



Palestinian workers queue from 4am to get through the Bethlehem checkpoint in time to get to work in Jerusalem, just a 15-minute drive away.



Above: Shahd Farra in the computer lab at a centre for teenagers in Khan Younis refugee camp, Gaza, run by Christian Aid partner the Culture and Free Thought Association. More than 50 per cent of Gazans are under 14 – and the vast majority of them have never left this patch of land, which is only 1.5km wide in places.

Objective 3 – Holding duty-bearers to account for their international obligations to increase protection of Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

Our actions

- supporting partner work towards accountability by exploring the use of social media and increasing advocacy initiatives on specific areas, such as trade with settlements and accountability of international institutions and third states. Under international law, Israel and the Palestinian authorities and armed groups have a responsibility to protect civilians. Christian Aid and our partners support pressure from civil society in Israel and the oPt – and from the EU and member states including Britain and Ireland – to hold them accountable for these responsibilities
- providing legal support and defence to ensure protection of Palestinians from human rights violations
- documenting Israeli and Palestinian human rights violations, demanding that authorities be held accountable through investigations, and engaging in innovative campaigns to raise awareness of such violations. We want the international community to hold both to account, to end the culture of impunity that has underlined the conflict.

Outcomes of objective 3

The cumulative effect of all of these approaches is an outcome where Palestinians and Israelis are able to live with security and ensure that their rights are protected. There are three specific outcomes to this objective:

Outcome 1 – Israel and the Palestinian authorities have shown increased adherence to, and accountability towards, their obligations under international law:

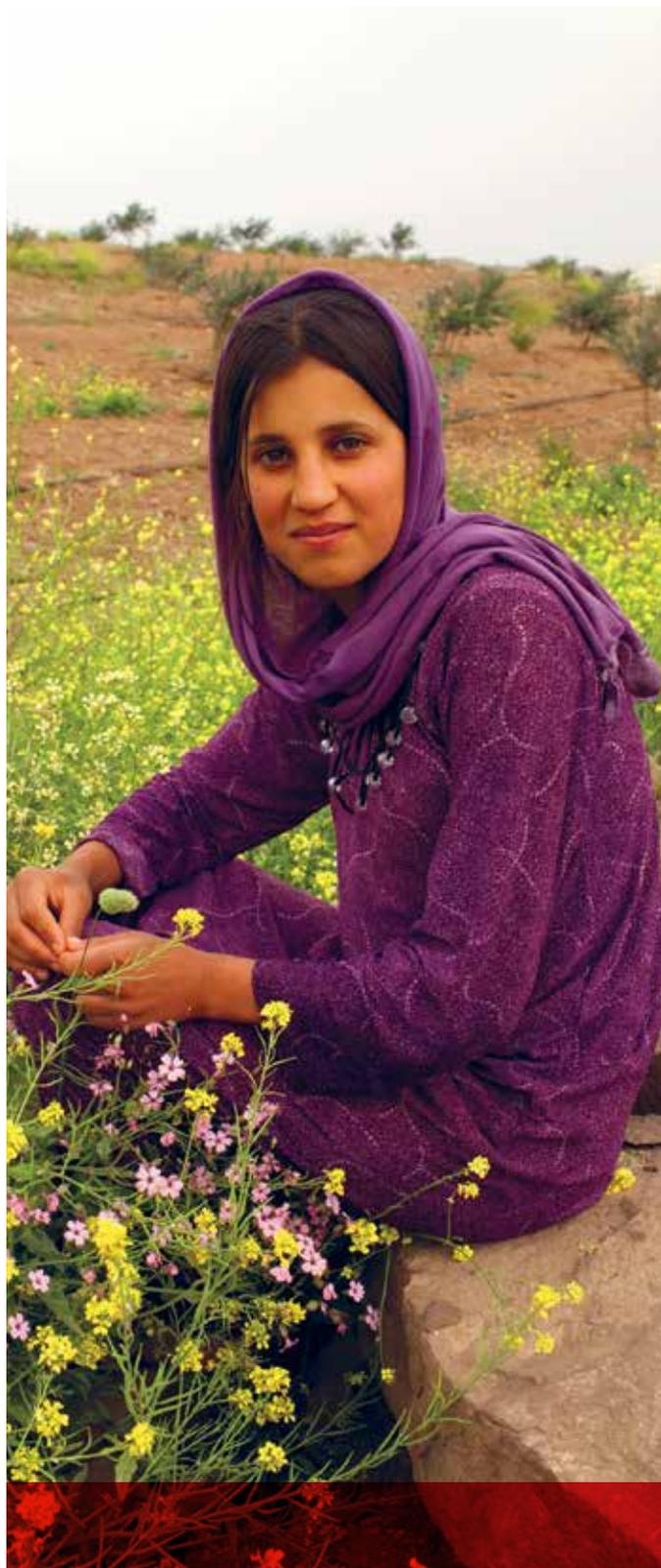
- to have monitored, investigated and documented human rights violations and exposed these to the public and to intergovernmental bodies, bringing pressure on Israel and the Palestinian authorities to stop them
- support partners in pursuing international accountability mechanisms such as universal jurisdiction in other countries
- to have combated the impunity of the security forces by seeking criminal investigations and indictments
- to have provided legal assistance and representation to Palestinian political prisoners and advocated for their rights
- to have lobbied EU officials and foreign diplomats in Israel and the oPt to press Israel and the Palestinian Authority to abide by their obligations under international law
- to have raised awareness of and provide training on human rights to law enforcers, other NGOs and those whose rights are being violated.

Outcome 2 – International humanitarian law and international human rights law has increasingly become the basis against which the public measure the behaviour of Israel and the Palestinian authorities:

- to have raised public awareness by publicising human rights violations using the media and employing new methods of communication
- to have supported human rights defenders against attacks
- to have mobilised the public to support non-violent protest against human rights violations.

Outcome 3 – British and Irish governments and businesses, and the EU, have taken action on human rights violations as a result of pressure by Christian Aid and our partners:

- to have cooperated with relevant civil society organisations and movements in European countries, to put pressure on governments to act.



Fifteen-year-old Rojan Wahid on her family's farm in Zanan Bchuk, northern Iraq. Christian Aid partner REACH helped set up greenhouses and build a dam to harvest water in Zanan Bchuk. They also provided training on farming methods, which allows the community to make best use of the little water available to them.

Our Resilient Livelihoods Programme

Our Resilient Livelihoods Programme in the Middle East creates opportunities for marginalised groups to build resilient and thriving livelihoods. It aims to bring about change at a community, policy and structural level.

Focusing on vulnerable women and marginalised rural communities, the programme challenges the systems and social structures within the Middle East that keep people poor. The programme supports communities without access to livelihood resources such as land and water, without security, without a voice and without dignity.

We want to see a region where men and women are free from discrimination and violence, and where women can be leaders of change in their community, ably representing themselves at all levels of society. We want to see a region where people in rural communities are able to build resilient livelihoods for themselves and their families; can access and manage resources; can access local, regional and international markets free from violence, discriminatory practices and restrictive policies; and can reach decision makers and governments to bring about change.

Focusing on vulnerable women and marginalised rural communities, the programme challenges the systems and social structures within the Middle East that keep people poor

The programme seeks to address barriers and restrictions to thriving livelihoods by working on resilience building in conflict settings, on market access and on the impacts of the environment and climate change on livelihoods. We work at different levels – with communities, local and regional government structures, the private sector and the UK and EU governments – to ensure that development is inclusive, sustainable and has an impact on as many people as possible.

Our overarching goals are:

- for communities to be part of an inclusive environment that does not discriminate against or exclude vulnerable groups
- governmental and societal systems that allow everyone to engage in economic activities without barriers or discrimination
- resilient communities that do not require external assistance.

Objective 1 – Vulnerable women and men are able to access resources and services necessary for a flourishing livelihood.

Our actions	What we hope to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting up and organising community organisations, including women’s groups, crisis teams and protection groups that are inclusive of previously marginalised groups within communities • capacity building and training to develop volunteers in their work with the community and with politicians, supporting them at meetings with government and municipality representatives • training in land rights, and legal advice and support • campaigns with government authorities to ensure land is accessible to and used by owners: water sources rehabilitated and new ones put in place; land rehabilitated; waste and sewage systems introduced; crops rehabilitated and protected • agricultural training for women: vocational and skills-based courses; training in running household gardens and animal husbandry; micro-loans and business start-up support and advice • providing shelter, psycho-social support training and vocational and skills-based training for women • producing community advocacy plans using participatory methods, which outline how and on what issues communities will target government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communities are organised to access decision making processes on infrastructure and government services to improve their livelihoods • communities and households have equitable and legal access to land, water and other agricultural assets to ensure their resilient livelihoods • communities have access to appropriate, technical, specific skill-set and vocational training • vulnerable individuals and communities – especially women – are protected from violence and the impact of conflict, to allow them to pursue flourishing livelihoods • appropriate provision of resources and services is ensured through national level advocacy by partners, and through local level advocacy led by communities and supported through Christian Aid’s advocacy.

Objective 2 – Individuals and groups have a fair opportunity to engage in markets to secure their own livelihoods.

Our actions	What we hope to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting producers with quality standard and accreditation programmes, business development support, training and capacity building, producing marketing materials, and building relationships with retailers • providing training in how to establish, run and manage a cooperative/association, and providing capacity building initiatives, marketing training and market analysis for cooperatives • local and national level advocacy activities, led by communities and partners, and UK advocacy by Christian Aid and our partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women and men can access local and international pro-poor markets to ensure their livelihoods • individuals and groups are collectively marketing their produce to achieve fair prices and regular demand of their products • policies preventing marginalised individuals and groups from accessing markets are targeted through advocacy in country and in the UK.



Above: Qasem Abu Jeish is a Palestinian farmer in Froush, in the Jordan Valley. His family’s land was confiscated in 1967 and is under full Israeli control, and classed as a military zone. Christian Aid partner PARC works with farmers like Qasem to help them stay in the Jordan Valley. Qasem is part of a cooperative that provides farmers with seeds, tools and marketing training to help them get a good price for their crops.

Objective 3 – Vulnerable and marginalised groups are able to build resilient communities that are able to withstand shocks to their livelihoods.

Our actions	What we hope to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information-sharing initiatives from partners to communities – informal and formal activities providing livelihood information, community-led campaigns and appeals to local/national governments to share information and heed input from communities • disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation training, participatory vulnerability and capacity assessments (PVCAs), disaster awareness information and training programmes, community action planning and resilience interventions • supporting communities to establish crisis management teams and disaster response groups, and develop ‘shock to livelihood response plans’, and training communities in disaster preparedness • local and national level advocacy, led by communities and partners targeting policies that prevent resilience and livelihood building • community advocacy plans produced in a participatory way outlining how communities will target government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communities have access to the information needed to make decisions regarding their livelihoods and potential risks to them • communities are trained and participate in resilience activities and interventions that strengthen their livelihoods and community resilience • communities can anticipate, plan for, respond to and reduce the effects of shocks to their livelihoods through appropriate mechanisms • policies that destabilise people’s livelihoods and prevent communities from building resilience are targeted and positively changed through national and community level advocacy.

Our reach in the region



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