

Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza

IOCC has worked in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza since 1997, collaborating with the local Orthodox Church and international partners like USAID and the Japanese government, as well as with hospitals, schools, and other community groups, to improve residents' quality of life. Since the program began, IOCC has coordinated with local partners, including the Orthodox Church based in Jerusalem, community-based organizations, and local NGOs. Work with the Church has included supporting educational initiatives by providing nonfood items and rehabilitating school facilities to expand the number of children those schools can accommodate.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Regarding the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, IOCC has demonstrated its capacity to mobilize quickly and efficiently in response to emergencies during and after conflict. Since 2009, IOCC has implemented emergency relief projects in Gaza, providing water, hot meals, food items, hygiene kits, and other non-food items to over 30,000 families, including

two rounds of monthly food vouchers in 2021 for 930 families whose homes were damaged during multiple conflicts. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IOCC assisted four schools in the West Bank and Jerusalem by providing computers and IT equipment to support remote learning, and single-seat desks to support social distancing in classrooms.





Sustainable Livelihoods

In 2018 IOCC established three technical and vocational centers where hundreds of young adults train for in-demand sectors like technology, mobile phone repair, solar power, and more. Over 1,200 youths have completed a two-semester training course.

In 2019 and 2022–2023, IOCC has so far placed hundreds of 18- to 26-year-old high-school and university graduates as interns with community organizations where they honed their professional skills and helped those groups serve their communities.

IOCC has also conducted surveys of employers who are ready to interview program graduates for both jobs and internships. The list is periodically updated through rescreening, and coursework is adjusted to reflect market priorities.

In 2020, the program developed a focus on solar energy, and IOCC now works with solar energy installers to create a training program for youth to learn how to install and manage solar electric systems. This initiative responded directly to the critical chronic shortage of electricity in Gaza.

Beginning in 2011 and continuing today, IOCC has managed multiple cash-for-work projects that provided families with cash payments to participate in projects improving community infrastructure and livelihood opportunities. Activities included water-catchment-area management, establishing small gardens and animal projects, and irrigation projects. Training and capacity-building activities were central to this initiative. Through these projects and programs, IOCC has reached over 60,000 people and provided tens of thousands of person-days in short-term employment and cash-for-work activities.

Support for educational institutions and the students they serve has been key to IOCC's activities in the West Bank and Gaza since 1997. Most recently, beginning in 2019, IOCC has implemented projects aiming to improve educational settings so that children and youth can achieve better-quality education and in turn positively impact their communities. Often implemented with the Schools General Administration of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, projects have reached thousands of students and youth and benefitted hundreds of staff and teachers.

Food Security and Agriculture



Since 2011, through IOCC, more than 2,500 households (~16,000 people) in Gaza and the West Bank have received agricultural supplies and training for home gardens or greenhouses, or livestock or beekeeping training to provide food and marketable farm products. Hundreds of women have participated in IOCC's agricultural activities and capacity building, including

training in farming and marketing, and have received specialized equipment like solar-powered herb dryers, equipping them to improve quality of life for themselves and their children.

In addition to the agricultural supplies, IOCC provided agricultural assets through greenhouse rehabilitation and home gardens. Hundreds of greenhouses and home gardens have been established through IOCC programs and equipped with irrigation systems. In addition, over 1,200 families have received laying hens and rabbits, plus supplies, increasing household food security.

Health

In 2022–2023, IOCC trained kindergarten teachers to recognize and respond to signs of trauma in children and provided psychosocial support sessions for 1,440 children and their parents. IOCC also provided referrals for individual psychosocial counseling and specialized service providers for children who needed additional care. IOCC is also reaching thousands of Gazan children with psychosocial support to help mitigate the impact of conflict on children. Similar activities took place in 2009–2011.

Through a wide network of community-based organizations, IOCC has worked with staff in kindergartens since 2018 to train educators, administrators, and parents to recognize signs of malnutrition in young children and to make referrals for treatment. Since then,

IOCC has conducted hundreds of screening sessions in kindergartens. About 33% of screened children have shown signs of malnourishment and been referred to clinics for treatment.

IOCC also screened siblings of the children referred for treatment, and almost 63% of screened siblings were also referred. In addition, IOCC staff rescreened kindergarteners from 2019 and 2020 and received a list of possible cases from administrators and teachers who had been trained to identify signs of malnutrition; about 40% of those identified were referred for treatment after evaluation by IOCC staff.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

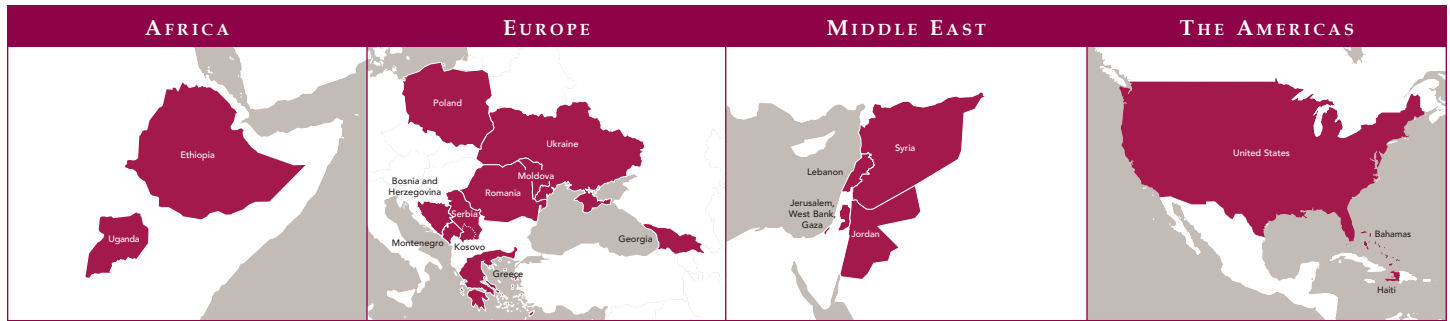


Water is crucial for both health and agriculture, especially in an arid climate. IOCC has helped establish water catchments that collect rainwater in Gaza, as well as tanks to safely store drinking water. From 2010 through 2015, IOCC estab-

lished over 460 water catchments throughout Gaza, serving farmers and their neighbors. After the 2014 conflict in Gaza, IOCC installed 577 water tanks for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refilled them with over 5,000 cubic meters of potable water. In addition, IOCC distributed 577 hygiene kits to the same IDP families.

THROUGHOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, IOCC continued its projects around the world while taking steps to protect staff, partners, and beneficiaries. All projects are continuously evaluated for multiple risk factors, and appropriate modifications made. IOCC ensures that all staff and beneficiaries receive information about COVID-19, including testing locations, and integrates this information into ongoing projects, as indicated by local health authorities.

Active Worldwide Programs



- Ethiopia
- Uganda

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Greece
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Romania
- Serbia including Kosovo
- Ukraine

- Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Syria

- Bahamas
- Haiti
- United States



● Emergency Preparedness & Response	119,043
● Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH).....	66,540
● Sustainable Livelihoods	23,912
● Food Security & Agriculture.....	112,602
● Health	658,135
● Other (Education, Nonfood Items, Shelter, Protection)	2,703

IN 2022, IOCC SERVED 982,935 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

IOCC was established in 1992 and is the official humanitarian organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. IOCC provides emergency relief and development assistance to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church and local NGO and community partners. Its global operations are managed from its headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, in the United States, with field offices in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, East Africa, and the US. Since its founding, IOCC has distributed more than \$800 million worth of aid in over 60 countries around the world, and has extensive experience implementing programs in partnership with United States government agencies (USAID, BHA, PRM) and the United Nations (UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, OCHA), as well as with European and international donors.



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