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FEDERATION

World Service



For Hope and A Future

LWF World Service - Jerusalem 2025 Annual Report

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Cover photo:
Bringing moments of joy to young patients through different activities in the hospital, reminding them that they are children first. Photo: LWF/ AVH team

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Edited by:
Emilie Della Corte, Sieglinde Weinbrenner, Suhad Kasbari

Designed by:
Nanda Linn

FOREWORD

The year 2025 brought its share of challenges across the Middle East region, but it also highlighted the strength, dedication, and steady commitment that guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Jerusalem Program. Throughout the year, our teams continued to offer lifesaving healthcare and life-changing educational opportunities in Jerusalem and to communities across East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

At the heart of these efforts, the Vocational Training Program (VTP) continued to support Palestinian youth in acquiring practical, market relevant skills that enhance employability and foster personal development. In 2025, the program celebrated the graduation of its 73rd cohort, with 264 graduates – 131 from the Ramallah VTC and 160 from the Jerusalem VTC. This sustained achievement underscores the program's stability and its ability to serve students effectively, even within a complex operating environment. In addition, 302 trainees completed short term vocational courses across both centers, reinforcing the VTP's important contribution to local economic participation and social development. Recognizing the multitude of pressures facing young people, the VTP also integrated psychosocial support into its programming, with 788 trainees benefiting from activities designed to strengthening emotional wellbeing and resilience.

Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) continued to play a central role as a leading referral center for oncology and chronic disease care. In 2025, AVH provided specialized treatment to 10,156 patients, most from the West Bank, with women accounting for 57% of those served. Despite movement restrictions and heightened tension, AVH remained a steadfast and trusted provider, delivering high-quality compassionate care to patients with complex medical needs.

Although the ceasefire initiated on 10 October 2025 brought some relief, the broader health system remains under severe strain. Access to AVH for Gaza patients remains impossible. Nevertheless, through collaboration and innovation, meaningful progress was achieved. In close collaboration with Al Ahli Arab Hospital (AAH), a total of 26,352 CT scans and 62,426 X-rays were conducted over the year at the only functioning radiology unit in northern Gaza, which AVH supported in establishing. Telemedicine services also expanded, providing remote consultations to 625 cancer patients, including 283 new cases. In addition, AVH facilitated three shipments of essential medications, helping to ensure continuity of treatment despite significant logistical challenges.

The Community Outreach Program (COP) remained active across the West Bank, reaching underserved communities through two mobile units, one providing mammography services and the other diabetes care. Over the year, COP served 19,185 individuals in 298 locations, achieving its targets despite the ongoing operational challenges of fieldwork. These efforts underscore LWF's continued commitment to ensuring equitable access to essential health services for communities most in need.

None of this work would be possible without our exceptional teams: 562 Palestinian professionals, supported by international partners, who bring expertise, compassion and commitment to classrooms, hospital wards, and remote communities every day. Their dedication forms the backbone of our work. We extend our sincere gratitude to all our partners, donors, and supporters, whose continued trust and engagement strengthen our shared mission.

We also warmly thank our member church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land, and especially Bishop Azar, for their ongoing support and close collaboration during what has been a challenging period for many.

In a region, too often described only through conflict and division, the LWF Jerusalem Program remains committed to supporting the healing of bodies, spirits, and futures. Guided by our shared values of justice, inclusivity, and peace, we continue our work with steadiness and hope, confident that our collective efforts contribute to a more dignified and compassionate future for all.

Thank you for standing with us.


 Sieglide Weinbrenner
 LWF Jerusalem Country
 Representative
 Mount of Olives, Jerusalem



WHO WE ARE

LWF Jerusalem began its work in 1948 as a refugee operation and, 76 years later, continues to serve 5 million Palestinians. LWF Jerusalem owns and operates the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem – the only hospital in the West Bank and Gaza providing radiation therapy for cancer patients and the only medical facility in the West Bank offering pediatric kidney dialysis. AVH also delivers home-based palliative care and runs two mobile clinics across the West Bank for diabetes care and early detection of breast cancer. In addition to healthcare services, LWF Jerusalem empowers Palestinian youth through its Vocational Training Program (VTP), equipping them with life skills and market-relevant technical training to strengthen resilience and improve access to employment. The VTP provides education through its vocational training centers in East Jerusalem (since 1949) and, since 2021, in Ramallah—ensuring access to vocational training for Palestinian youth in both Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Through its integrated approach to healthcare and vocational education, LWF Jerusalem has grown from supporting individuals to strengthening institutions and systems that promote long-term development and resilience.

Innovation is a consistent driver of our work. In the health sector, we introduce advanced technologies to improve the quality and effectiveness of care, while in vocational training, we continuously adopt modern tools and methods to enhance skills development and workforce readiness.

Where do we operate:

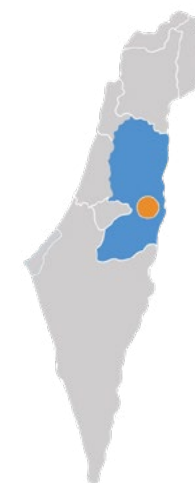
LWF Jerusalem delivers programs and services across the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza, addressing critical health and education needs

Country office

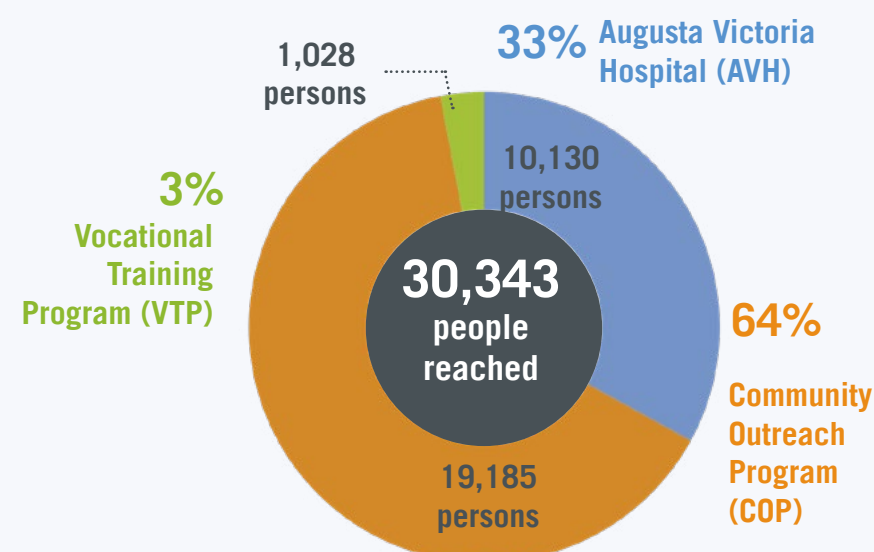
- Jerusalem, Mount of Olives

Operations

- West Bank
- East Jerusalem



Total persons reached in 2025:



Number of staff in 2025:



QUALITY SERVICES - HEALTH

Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH)

AVH is a key member of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network and a leading provider of specialized healthcare services for Palestinians. The hospital is widely recognized for its clinical excellence in oncology, hematology, bone marrow transplantation and renal diseases for adult and children, diabetes care, and skilled nursing. AVH delivers advanced cancer treatment services to both adult and pediatric patients.

During 2025, AVH served a total of 8,520 patients, the majority from the West Bank (73.9%), followed by Jerusalem (25.0%) and Gaza (1.1%). Women accounted for 58.1% of patients served, underscoring the hospital's central role in oncology and chronic disease care.

10,130 Patient Cases Across All Facilities

	No. Patients	Females	Males
AVH	6,688 patients (66%)	3,897	2809
Ramallah Clinic	2,686 patients (27%)	1,525	1,167
Hebron Clinic	756 patients (7%)	376	382
Total	10,130 (100%)	5,798	4,358

Counted at the facility level. These figures reflect operational workload and service utilization, including patients who accessed care at more than one facility.

Cross-Clinic Records vs. Unique Patients

Cross-Facility Patients - 1,610 (16%) <i>(Patients who accessed care at more than one facility)</i>	853	783
Unique Program Patients - 8,520 (84%)	4,945	3,575

8,520
unique patients

The difference between the two totals reflects patients receiving care across multiple facilities—an expected outcome within a coordinated cancer care system, where clinics provide access and follow-up services while the hospital delivers specialized and advanced treatment. Together, these figures provide a comprehensive picture of both service delivery volume and the programme's overall population reach.

In 2025, 8,520 patients received services across the AVH health system, which includes the hospital in East Jerusalem and two clinics in Ramallah and Hebron. Of these, 1,610 patients accessed services at more than one LWF health facility, reflecting the integrated nature of service delivery. This is expected in a system where clinics provide routine consultations and follow up care, while the hospital delivers specialized diagnostics and treatment.

These multi facility visits reflect standard referral pathways and coordinated care, such as patients attending clinics for consultations and the hospital for imaging or procedures. Beyond its inpatient services, AVH expands access to essential care through mobile mammography and diabetes clinics delivered via the Community Outreach program (COP). These services reach underserved and remote communities across the West Bank. In 2025 the COP reached 19,185 individuals across 298 locations in the West Bank, of whom 21% were men and 79% were women.

In solidarity with Gaza's and as part of our mission and commitment to Palestinians in need, AVH has continued to support patients from Gaza through its outpatient clinics and laboratory services, in close collaboration with Al-Ahli Hospital.

Despite severe restrictions and ongoing disruptions, AVH has maintained diagnostic consultations, pathology reviews, laboratory investigations, and remote medical coordination to ensure continuity of care for patients from Gaza whenever access to Jerusalem has been impossible.



Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. Photo: AVH team

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS in 2025

Delivering Life-Saving Specialized Care at Scale

AVH in Jerusalem

In 2025, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) reaffirmed its role as a cornerstone of specialized healthcare, delivering complex, life-sustaining treatment at scale. Through its core areas of expertise, AVH provided a high volume of essential, life-saving services, ensuring continued access to advanced care for patients with the most critical needs.

Delivering Life-Saving Care: By the Numbers

14,305

Chemotherapy Sessions

were administered to
1,461 patients

22,242

Dialysis Sessions

were conducted, ensuring life-
sustaining care for
208 patients

16,850

Radiation Therapy Sessions

were provided to
1,015 patients,

reflecting the scale and continuity of
oncology care services.



A young patient receiving dialysis care at Augusta Victoria Hospital. Photo: AVH team



At the Pathology department. Photo: AVH team

In 2025, AVH advanced critical infrastructure priorities to enhance service delivery, strengthen safety standards, and improve preparedness for growing patient needs. Key upgrades included the renovation of the main entrance and reception area, featuring a modernized reception counter, improved waiting spaces, and a more efficient queuing system. Comprehensive upgrades were also made to HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems, lighting, and low-voltage systems, creating a safer, more welcoming, and patient-centered environment while preserving the building's historical character.

Despite these challenges, AVH continues to operate free shuttle services connecting patients and companions to checkpoints and maintains contracts with East Jerusalem hotels to support those requiring multi-day treatment.

AVH remains committed to developing and expanding its specialized medical services to ensure patients receive advanced, timely, and high-quality care locally. This ongoing commitment reduces reliance on external referrals and strengthens the hospital's capacity to meet the growing healthcare needs of the community.

- **Brachytherapy:** As part of AVH's oncology service expansion, brachytherapy offers advanced treatment for uterine and cervical cancers. AVH procured the equipment to ensure timely implementation and to enhance continuity and quality of care for Palestinian patients.
- **Endoscopy Unit:** In 2025, AVH advanced the establishment of a dedicated Endoscopy Unit within the

remodeled German Wing, featuring two fully equipped procedure rooms. Six staff members have been trained to deliver comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy services, enhancing early detection of gastrointestinal cancers and reducing external referrals.

- **Hemodialysis:** AVH expanded its Kidney Care Center by adding 10 additional dialysis stations and upgrading the treatment environment to meet increasing demand. The center now serves more than 115 adults and 37 pediatric patients, improving patient experience, reducing waiting times, and maintaining uninterrupted hemodialysis services.

The AVH achieved an overall patient satisfaction rate of 90%, reflecting strong patient trust and the delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care. Satisfaction among pediatric inpatients, was even higher, reaching 99%, highlighting the hospital's exceptional commitment to the care of children.

AVH's role as a central referral hospital has been challenged by instability and restricted access, which have limited patients' ability to reach Jerusalem. As a result, the volume of referrals has significantly declined in recent years, while access for patients from Gaza has become extremely limited.



The Head of Augusta Victoria Hospital's Nutrition Unit provides nutritional counselling to a patient, as part of a comprehensive, patient-centred care approach Photo: AVH team

Gaza patients in the AVH Jerusalem

Since 7 October 2023, AVH has been unable to receive patients from Gaza. At that time, 82 patients and their companions were present in Jerusalem. By November 2025, 27 patients and 31 companions had safely returned to Gaza after completing their treatment. AVH has ensured continuity of care for all patients and companions remaining in Jerusalem, including medical follow-up, accommodation, and logistical support. Currently, 24 individuals remain accommodated in contracted hotels. In parallel AVH continues to coordinate closely with international partners to support the reopening of the humanitarian corridor, with a particular focus on facilitating access for children and women requiring specialized cancer care.



Women showcase handmade crafts during a community bazaar supporting artisans from the Gaza Strip at AVH. Photo: AVH team



A woman prepares traditional bread during the "Bazaar of Women", showcasing products made by women from the Gaza at AVH. Photo: AVH team

AVH in Gaza

Despite extreme access constraints, AVH maintained operations in Gaza by restoring electricity, connectivity, and essential hospital systems, while continuing to support staff facing insecurity, long commutes, and displacement.

In 2025, AVH and Al-Ahli Arab Hospital (AAH), supported by the LWF, delivered life-saving services across Gaza, processing 5,496 ultrasound scans, 119 pathology cases, and providing specialized care for new oncology patients. The hospitals facilitated the safe return of patients stranded in Jerusalem and coordinated priority evacuations for those requiring urgent treatment. Staff resilience and operational coordination ensured continuity of essential healthcare, demonstrating sustained impact and commitment to patient-centered care.

The radiology unit remained a critical lifeline, hosting the only operational CT scanner in northern Gaza. In 2025, the unit delivered:

40–50
scans daily

More than
88,000
CT and X-ray scans

Telemedicine services safeguarded continuity of cancer care, enabling remote follow-up and treatment guidance to 447 patients when physical access was not possible.

The World Health Organization-facilitated medical shipments enabled the continued provision of cancer treatment, diagnostics, and essential healthcare suppliers, supporting both hospitals amid widespread system collapse.

AVH in West Bank

AVH strengthened access to specialized healthcare through its West Bank clinics, bringing high-quality cancer services closer to patients. AVH clinics in **Ramallah and Hebron serve approximately 5,500 and 1,050 patients annually, respectively.**

During 2025, the AVH clinic in Ramallah provided oncology consultations, diagnostics, and follow-up care led by experienced specialists. The clinic also supported patients who were unable to reach Jerusalem due to movement restrictions and ongoing instability across the West Bank.

Its accessible location and expanded facilities enabled service growth and the introduction of additional medical specialties, responding to increasing local needs.

In Hebron, AVH delivered advanced oncology care alongside early cancer detection services, including breast screening and mobile mammography. Care was provided through a coordinated and multidisciplinary approach. By offering these services locally and referring only complex cases to Jerusalem when necessary, AVH reduced the burden on patients while ensuring timely access to life-saving treatment.

Closing Gaps in Access Through Mobile Healthcare

Community Outreach Program

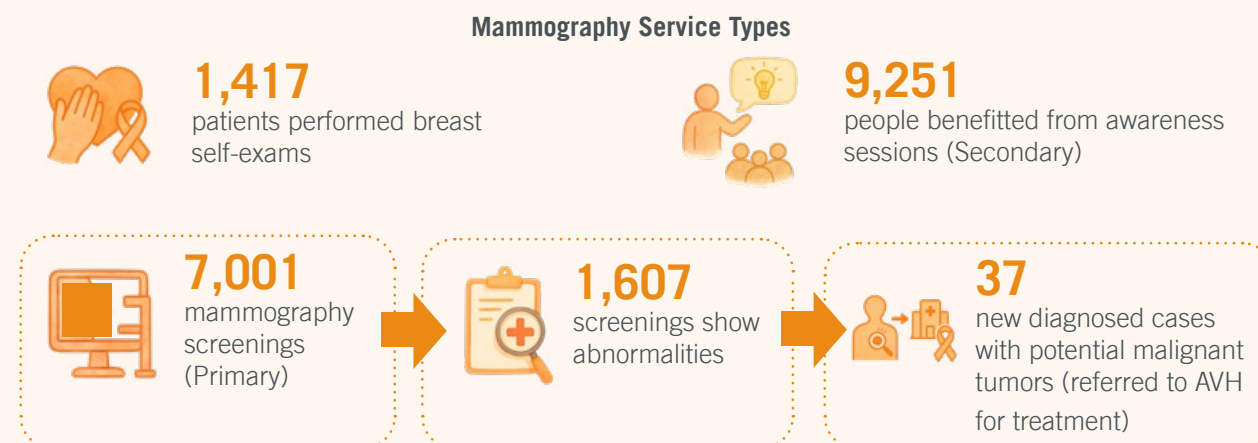
LWF Jerusalem's Community Outreach Program plays a vital role in expanding access to essential healthcare services across the West Bank through mobile mammography and diabetes clinics. In 2025 the mobile units reached 19,185 individuals across 298 locations in the West Bank ensuring services for underserved and hard to reach communities. Of those reached, 4,015 were men and 15,170 were women.

The Mobile Mammography Unit - served 9,251 individuals through a combination of awareness sessions, clinical exams, and mammography screening across 134 locations. Among them 7,001 women underwent mammography screening. Of these, abnormal findings were identified in 1,607 cases (22.9%) all of whom were referred for further diagnostic investigation. Thirty-seven women were diagnosed with potential malignant

tumors and were promptly referred for specialized treatment.

This integrated, community based approach has strengthened early detection of breast cancer, improved referral pathways, and brought life saving services closer to women who would otherwise face significant barriers to care.

Below is a detailed breakdown of services provided through the mobile mammography unit:



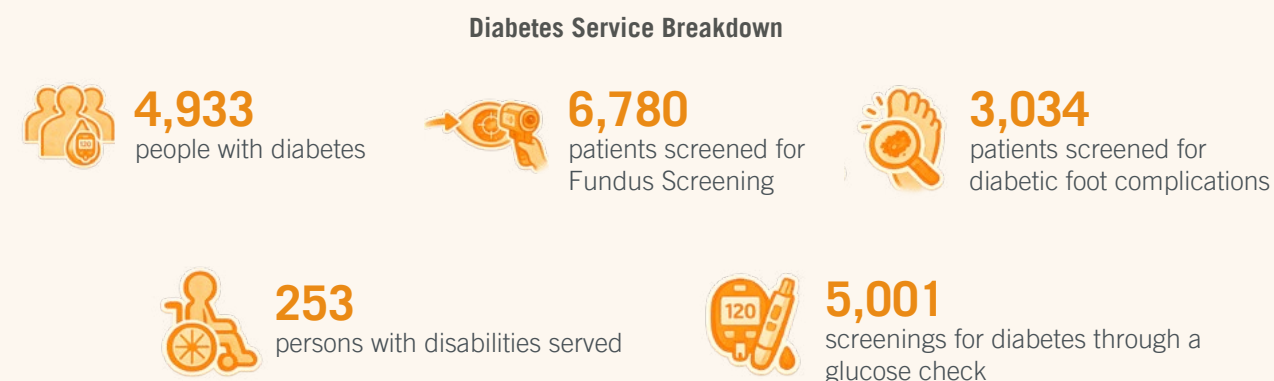
During the Mammography Outreach Clinic, women receive breast cancer screening as part of Community Outreach Program. Photo: AVH Team



During the Diabetes Outreach Clinic, part of the Community Outreach Program, a patient receives guidance from AVH staff and benefits from the services provided. Photo: AVH Team.

The Mobile Diabetes Unit - reached 9,934 individuals across 164 locations, providing essential services, including blood glucose testing, foot examinations, and personalized consultations focused on diet and healthy lifestyle practices.

Below is a breakdown of the services. It should be noted that some individuals benefited from more than one service, including 4,933 diabetes patients who received multiple services.



Pink October: Promoting Early Detection and Women's Health

During Pink October 2025, AVH led a month-long breast cancer awareness campaign across 31 locations in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, combining medical, educational, and community-based activities. The campaign emphasised the importance of early detection and self-breast examination. Through these efforts, 1,995 women participated in awareness sessions, 520 clinical breast examinations were conducted, 906 mammography screenings were provided, with referrals made for further follow-up when needed.

Campaign activities included an official opening event in Ramallah, media outreach to amplify health messages, a community bazaar "Naseej Al-Amal" created by oncology and dialysis patients, and a celebratory event honoring survivors and their inspiring stories bringing vital services and hope to women across the West Bank and East Jerusalem.



*During Mammography outreach clinic.
Photo: AVH Team.*

November Diabetes Awareness

In November 2025, AVH's mobile clinic delivered comprehensive diabetes prevention and care services to remote villages and underserved communities. Services included blood glucose testing, eye and foot screenings, nutrition counseling, and disease management. A total of 3,081 individuals benefited, including 797 patients living with diabetes who received medical guidance. Early detection efforts identified 176 cases of diabetic retinopathy, 64 foot complications, and 14 new diagnosed diabetes cases, all of whom were referred for timely follow-up and continued care.



The Diabetes Mobile Clinic provides essential services to residents in villages with limited access to healthcare. Photo: AVH team

Excellence in Care: High Patient Satisfaction Across Mobile Clinics

- The Mobile Clinics achieved exceptionally high patient satisfaction, reflecting strong trust and a consistently patient-centered approach to care.
- The Mammography Mobile Clinic recorded a 99% satisfaction and recommendation rate, with excellent performance in respectful treatment, privacy, infection prevention, and time management.
- The clinic also demonstrated a strong health education impact, with the majority of women reporting improved understanding of breast self-examinations techniques and mammography age guidelines.
- The Mobile Diabetes Clinic achieved an overall satisfaction rate of 98%, with near-universal satisfaction regarding staff professionalism, hygiene standards, and the quality of medical care provided.
- These results underscore the effectiveness and scalability of the mobile clinic model in delivering high-quality preventive and chronic health services to underserved communities.

Environmental Considerations

Environmental protection is a key priority of the LWF Jerusalem Program, and is carried out through a range of concrete measures:

Major infrastructure upgrades – including installation of gas boilers and solar collectors, as well as the replacement of the non-LED lighting with energy-efficient LWD fixtures – have significantly reduced the program's carbon footprint. These initiatives resulted in 43% reduction in CO₂ emissions and a 7% decrease in electricity consumption, representing important progress toward climate change mitigation.

In parallel, the COP transitioned to digital patient records, aligning with AVH systems. This shift not only enhanced data safety and privacy but also reduced paper use, supporting more environmentally sustainable approach to healthcare delivery. Collectively, these outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of the green conversion measures implemented on the Mount of Olives campus reinforcing LWF Jerusalem's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable operations.



A patient receiving dialysis care at Augusta Victoria Hospital, AVH team

LIVELIHOODS

Vocational Training Program (VTP)



Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

Since its establishment in Jerusalem in 1949, the Lutheran World Federation Vocational Training Program (LWF-VTP) has been a cornerstone of opportunity for marginalized youth and refugees. For more than seven decades, LWF-VTP has equipped thousands of young people with practical market-relevant skills, enabling them to enter the labor market with confidence and to contribute meaningfully to their families and communities.

Grounded in a strong commitment to quality education, inclusivity, and empowerment, the program continues to transform lives—one graduate at a time.

Today, the LWF-VTP offers comprehensive training in 17 specialized vocational fields across its centers in Jerusalem and Ramallah, responding to evolving labor market needs while expanding access to education for vulnerable groups.

LWF-VTP delivers Vocational Education and Training through 16 Vocational Secondary School programs (Grades 10–12) in Jerusalem, alongside a diverse range of one-year programs, short courses, and skills-upgrade trainings available in both Jerusalem and Ramallah.



Celebrating the graduation of vocational training graduates. Photo: Noor Oda, M&E VTP officer



In the Interior Design class. Photo: Noor Oda, M&E VTP officer

These programs span the following vocational fields.

- 1. Carpentry**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses: Carpentry, Interior Decoration, CNC, Wood Painting
- 2. Electronics and Communications**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses: Mobile Maintenance, Electronics Device Maintenance
- 3. Automotive Mechanics**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses in Automotive Mechanics
- 4. Automotive Electricity**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - Short courses in Automotive Electricity
- 5. Metal Works and Welding**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - One-year program (Ramallah – Aluminum)
 - Short courses: Aluminum Work, Welding
- 6. Plumbing and Central Heating Systems**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - Short course: Central Heating/Cooling Systems
- 7. Hybrid and Electric Vehicles**
 - Two-year program (Jerusalem)
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses:
 - Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Maintenance
 - Safety and Security Maintenance
 - Battery Maintenance and Restoration
- 8. Handicrafts**
 - One-year program (Jerusalem)
 - Short courses:
 - Pottery
 - Mosaic Art (Stone/Tile)
 - Wood Burning (Pyrography)
 - Painting (Glass, Fabric, Wood)
 - Candle Making
- 9. Culinary Arts**
 - One-year program (Jerusalem)
 - Various short courses
- 10. Electrical Installation and Solar Systems**
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses:
 - Solar Energy
 - Electrical Installation (1-phase and 3-phase)
 - Smart Building Management Systems
- 11. Interior Design**
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses in Interior Design
- 12. Graphic Design and Printing**
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short courses in Graphic Design and Printing
- 13. Administrative Assistance**
 - One-year program (Ramallah)
 - Short course in Executive Secretary
- 14. Construction-Related Professions**
 - Short courses (Jerusalem):
 - Electrical Installation (1-phase and 3-phase)
 - General Building Maintenance
 - Tiling
 - Painting
- 15. Modern Agriculture**
 - Short courses (Jerusalem):
 - Agricultural Irrigation Systems Design
 - Garden Design
 - Precision Agriculture and Smart Farming
 - Greenhouse Technology and Hydroponics
 - Landscaping
 - Climate-Smart Agriculture
- 16. Creative Industries / ICT**
 - Short courses (Jerusalem and Ramallah):
 - Graphic Design and Video Editing
 - 2D and 3D Design
 - Website Development
 - Microcontroller Programming
- 17. Modern Beauty**
 - Short courses (Jerusalem and Ramallah):
 - Barbering
 - Cosmetology
 - Hair Styling

This diverse portfolio enables learners to acquire practical, in-demand skills tailored ensures tailored to their interests and career goals.



Trainee participating in mobile maintenance short course at VTC Ramallah, gaining hands-on technical skills. Photo: Noor Oda, M&E VTP officer

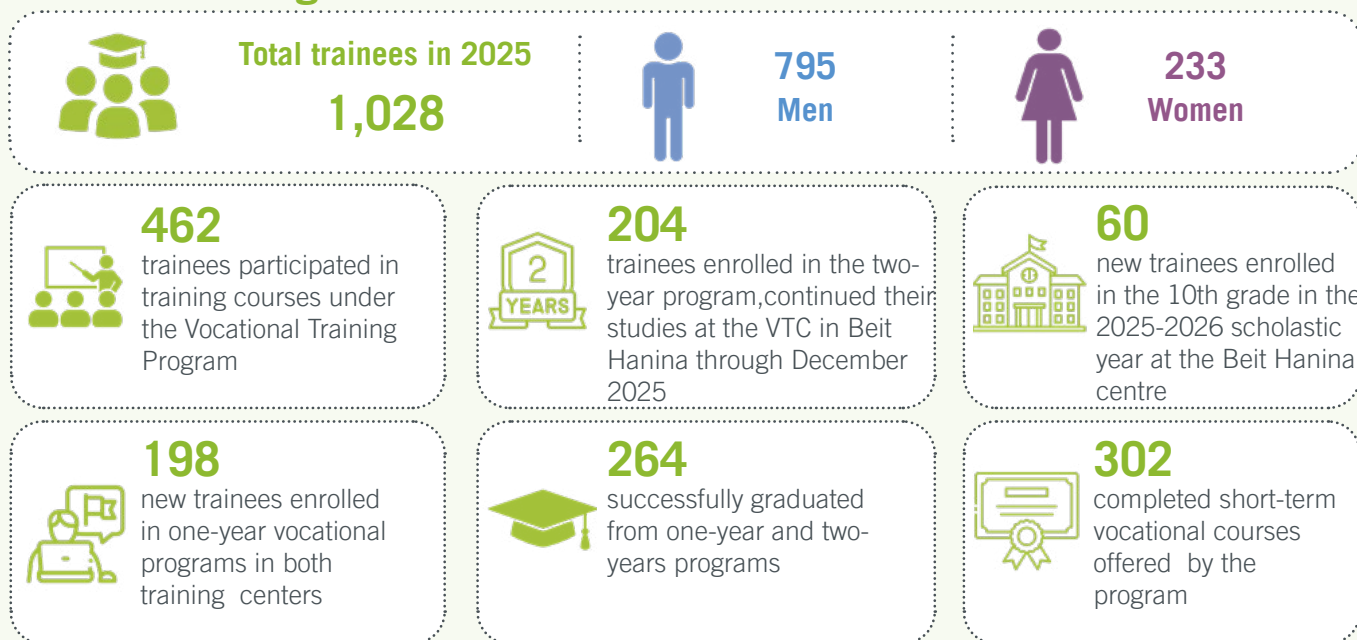


Auto-mechanic students pictured at the Vocational Training Centre in Ramallah. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS in 2025

By delivering market-relevant vocational training, VTP attracted motivated students equipped them with practical, employable skills, and actively connected graduates to the labor market. This approach expanded opportunities, strengthened workforce readiness, and reinforced the program's role in developing a skilled and empowered generation.

2025 Training Overview



The tables below present a detailed breakdown of trainees by programs and centres, highlighting VTP's continued commitment to skills development, accessibility, and lifelong learning.

VTC Jerusalem: Vocation School

Department	No. Of Trainees 2025-2026	No. Of 2025 Graduates
	First Year (Grade 11+ Grade 12+ Tenth grade)	
Plumbing and Heating	25	14
Telecommunication	44	14
Metal Works	21	12
Car Electricity	42	22
Car Mechanics	36	15

Carpentry	36	20
Tenth grade	60	
Total	264	97

VTP: 1-year Program

Department	No. Of Trainees 2025-2026	No. Of 2025 Graduates
Telecommunication	17	13
Aluminium Works	19	16
Interior Design	16	16
Graphic Design and printing	17	17
Secretary	17	15
Electrical installation and solar systems	20	19
Car Mechanics	19	17
Hybrid and electric cars	19	
Carpentry	16	18
Portray and handcraft	11	9
Catering	27	27
Total	198	167

VTP Short Courses

Course	Location	No. of Courses	No. of Trainees
Car electrical systems	VTCT	4	60
Hybrid Car Mechanics	VTCT	1	17
Air conditioning	VTCT	1	15
Electricity	VTCT	1	20
Mobile maintenance	VTCT	1	17
Graphic Design	VTCT	1	12
CNC	VTCT	1	14
Catering	VTC	2	35
Air Conditioning	VTC	2	32
Home Electricity	VTC	1	19
Car Mechanics	VTC	1	19
Barista and event coordination	VTC	1	42
Total		17	302



VTC Jerusalem trainees diagnosing a vehicle issue during their practical training in the Auto-mechanic workshop. Photo: Anwar Khatib, Projects coordinator

Empowering Futures

Despite ongoing uncertainty and operational challenges, 2025 demonstrated the VTP's resilience, as the program consistently delivered high-quality training and ensured uninterrupted services. The 73rd Cohort Successfully Graduated during the year, making a significant milestone for the program.

A total of 264 Graduates completed the one- and two-year vocational programs:

Gender Distribution among graduates was as follows:

- **67%** men (177 trainees)
- **33%** women (87 trainees)

This achievement reflects sustained program performance and underscores the VTP's continued commitment to providing life-changing vocational opportunities, even amid external constraints.

Commitment to Quality and Continuous Improvement

- Both training centers maintained high standards of vocational training while actively engaging trainees in continuous improvement processes.
- Regular satisfaction surveys are administered to systematically collect and analyze student feedback, ensuring that participants' perspectives directly inform program enhancements.
- Survey results indicate an 85% trainee satisfaction rate, highlighting the quality of instruction, the relevance of the training, and a supportive learning environment.

This structured feedback mechanism strengthens accountability, promotes responsiveness and fosters a culture of continuous improvement across the program.

Labor Market Impact

The program achieved:

- **90% Labor Force Participation** rate, with participation reaching 97% among male graduates and 77% among female graduates.
- **The overall employment rate stood at 69%** comprising 86% for men and 37% for women

Despite persistent gender disparities and broader economic challenges, these outcomes remain significantly above national averages, highlighting the VTP's strong and measurable contribution to improving employability.



Catering program trainees practicing during a hands-on training session. Photo: Anwar Khatib, Projects coordinator



VTC Jerusalem hands-on learning activities in the Handcraft and Pottery workshop. Photo: Anwar Khatib, Projects Coordinator

Supporting Wellbeing Beyond Skills

The VTP extends beyond traditional vocational training, offering extracurricular learning, psychosocial support, and recreational activities designed to promote holistic development.

In 2025, 788 trainees benefited from a wide range of supportive interventions including: recreational trips, theatre workshops, music and art workshops, psychodrama activities. These initiatives contributed to enhancing trainees' emotional wellbeing, creativity, self expression, and social skills.

Projects:

- **Palestinian youth acquire quality professional skills for the development of economic activities** - A project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and implemented in partnership with PARC and FPS was launched to support Palestinian youth in acquiring high quality professional skills for economic development. The project supports Palestinian youth interested in entrepreneurship and agribusiness, combining vocational and agricultural training with technical expertise, and innovative skills set. It offers dual pathways that enable participants to pursue either wage employment or business start-ups, drawing on proven methodologies adapted from successful vocational and economic empowerment programs.
- **The LWF Vocational Training Program, funded by DCA/NCA**, strengthens the economic resilience of Palestinian youth in the West Bank and East Jerusalem by enhancing their capacity for sustainable income generation through vocational training and tailored technical and/financial support.
- **Mental Health and Psycho-social Support (MHPSS) for Palestinian TVET students impacted by the War, in cooperation with CLWR and funded by MCIC**: This project aims to improve mental health and psychological wellbeing among Palestinian TVET students affected by the ongoing war. The initiative provides tailored psychosocial support to help youth cope with trauma, stress, and emotional challenges, enabling them to continue their education and training in a supportive environment.
- **Supporting Major Improvements to Livelihoods in East- Jerusalem (SMILE) supported by the European Union**: The SMILE project enhances youth employability through work readiness programming and specialized technical training targeting 72 beneficiaries (37 men, 35 women). Participants are supported through three-month paid internships to facilitate smoother integration into the labor market. It also strengthens career guidance services by training teachers and counsellors working with students aged 15–18, reaching 58 participants to date out of a target of 75.
- **Gender Responsive and Inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training (GRIT). Funded by Government of Canada, and implemented in partnership with CLWR**, the GRIT project concluded in September 2025. It reached 22,351 women and girls through awareness-raising activities, and 2,746 women (including 103 women with disabilities). The project significantly advanced gender inclusion and equity within the TVET sector.
- **Demand-Oriented Technical Vocational Education and Training II Project (DoTVET II) implemented by GIZ and funded by the German Cooperation**, the DoTVET II project strengthens the TVET system in the Palestinian territories by improving governance and aligning and linking training with the labor market. Key achievements include the development of curricula for hybrid and electric vehicles, procurement of modern training equipment, and strengthened partnerships with the private sector to enhance the relevance and quality of vocational training.



Trainee carefully welding metal pieces together during hands-on training in the Metal Shaping workshop. Photo: Anwar Khatib, Projects coordinator

PROTECTION

The LWF Jerusalem Program plays a vital role in protecting and empowering vulnerable communities across East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza by delivering integrated protection and wellbeing services.

Key Protection Activities and Achievements

Ongoing Psychosocial Services

Patients at AVH continuously receive psychosocial support as part of LWF's commitment to holistic care. During the war, LWF provided critical protection services to vulnerable Palestinians through a strengthened and responsive psychosocial support system. This included individual counseling sessions conducted by the psychosocial team during daily hospital rounds, ensuring that each patient's emotional and psychological needs are identified and addressed in a timely manner. In parallel, the team systematically reviewed and followed up on patient suggestions and complaints in close coordination with department heads and the quality assurance department, reinforcing a patient-centered and accountable care approach.

Empowerment Through Vocational Training

LWF's VTPs go beyond the delivery of technical skills to foster confidence, self-esteem, and employability among trainees. By promoting active participation and community engagement, the programs contribute to long-term individual and community resilience, with a particular focus on empowering women and youth.

Trainees at LWF's VTP in Jerusalem and Ramallah also benefit from integrated psychosocial support services, ensuring a safe inclusive and supportive learning environment. These services play a critical role in enhancing trainees' wellbeing, retention and overall academic and professional success.

Inclusive and Equitable Support

LWF systematically integrates gender justice and disability inclusion across all programs, ensuring that protection and development interventions effectively reach the most marginalized and at-risk populations.

Community-Based Protection and Social Cohesion

Through its integrated programming across education, health, and livelihoods, LWF strengthens community-based protection mechanisms. This holistic approach supports individuals and families in recovering from trauma, rebuilding livelihoods and forging sustainable and dignified futures.

ONE HIGHLIGHT OF 2025

VISIT FROM LWF PRESIDENT BISHOP HENRIK STUBKJÆR

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, President of the Lutheran World Federation and Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, visited the Holy Land from 4–9 November 2025. He was accompanied by Rev Dr Rospita, LWF Regional Secretary for Asia and the Middle East, Caroline Tveoy, LWF Head of International Programs, and Sieglinde Weinbrenner, LWF Jerusalem Representative.

During his visit, Bishop Henrik Stubkjær engaged with key institutions and officials, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), the LWF Jerusalem Program,, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). He also met with senior Palestinian officials including the Ministers of Finance and Health, to discuss pressing humanitarian needs and the role of faith based institutions in supporting community resilience.

The delegation also visited ELCJHL-run projects, including Dar Al-Kalima Lutheran School in Bethlehem and LW-supported vocational training programs, gaining firsthand insight into the church's contributions to education, healthcare, diaconal service, and environmental sustainability. The visit highlighted LWF's enduring commitment to service, quality healthcare, education, and vocational training, while reaffirming its solidarity with Palestinian communities and its support for nurturing the next generation of leaders, professionals and peacemakers.



Bishop Henrik Stubkjær's visit to the Vocational Training Program in Beit Hanina. From left: Caroline Tveoy, LWF Head of International Programmes; Bishop Henrik Stubkjær; Rev. Dr. Rospita Siahaan, LWF Regional Secretary for Asia; Sieglinde Weinbrenner, LWF Jerusalem Representative; Yousef Shalian, VTP Director; and Mahmoud Adarbeh, Deputy VTP Director. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Because She Chose to Get Screened

Saeda, a 55-year-old woman from Ramallah, lives a quiet life with her sister. Until recently, cancer was not something she ever imagined would affect her so closely. One year ago, Saeda's sister was diagnosed with breast cancer. Throughout the long and difficult treatment journey, Saeda stood firmly by her side - accompanying her to medical appointments, sitting with her through treatment sessions, and sharing moments filled with fear, uncertainty, and hope. When her sister finally recovered, relief and a sense of normalcy returned to their home, and Saeda believed that this difficult chapter was behind them.

In the year that followed, the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) mobile mammography clinic visited their area. Although Saeda felt no symptoms and had no immediate concerns about her own health, she chose to undergo screening. Her sister's experience had changed her perspective - she had learnt that early detection is not a source of fear, but an act of awareness and self-care.

The result revealed breast cancer. While the diagnosis was shocking, this time the circumstances were different. The cancer was detected at a very early stage, offering a strong chance of successful treatment. Saeda believes that her sister's illness ultimately served as a life-saving warning - one that prompted her to act before it was too late.

Saeda credits the dedication, professionalism, and thoroughness of the AVH medical team for identifying her condition early. Just as their timely care prevented her sister's illness from progressing, it spared Saeda from facing a far more advanced and difficult journey. Today, she views early screening not only as a medical service, but as a second chance at life.

From Trainee to Creative Entrepreneur

Ahlam Abu Hdeed, a 26-year-old from Jabal Al-Mukaber, is a graduate of the LWF Vocational Training Center, where she specialized in pottery and handicrafts in 2022. Driven by a deep passion for craftsmanship and a desire to learn a profession she loves, Ahlam joined the training program in search of both technical skills development and personal fulfillment.

Through a training grant, Ahlam gained valuable hands-on experience in ceramics and handicrafts within a supportive and encouraging learning environment. For her, the program offered more than vocational instruction - it provided a safe and creative space that nurtured positivity, self-expression and self-confidence, significantly shaping to her personal and professional growth.

Following her graduation, Ahlam took her first steps toward professional independence by selling her handmade pieces through her Instagram page, producing items based on customer orders. Within a short period, she was receiving five to six orders per month, producing more than twenty handcrafted pieces overall. This marked the beginning of a sustainable income stream and strengthened her financial independence.

As her skills developed and demand for her work increased, Ahlam expanded her initiative by establishing her own creative workshop, "Dream Studio." Through the studio, she organizes specialized, pre-booked workshops in a wide range of creative fields, including clay modelling, painting, glass art, decoration, flower arrangement, candle making, and mini cake decoration, working in collaboration with her aunt.

Like many young entrepreneurs, Ahlam faced early challenges, - most notably damage to her pieces while using external pottery ovens. By leveraging the technical support, guidance and facilities of the LWF Vocational Training Center, she was able to overcome these obstacles and ensure consistently high production quality. Notably, Ahlam achieved this progress entirely through her own skills and determination, without any prior external funding.

Today, Ahlam's journey is a compelling example of how vocational training can empower young women, transform creativity into sustainable livelihoods, and support the development of independent, future-oriented careers.



Ahlam Abu Hdeed during handicrafts workshop for children. Photo: Anwar Khatib, Projects Coordinator.

Bishop Henrik Stubkjær during a visit to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, accompanied by Dr. Fadi Al Atrash, CEO of the hospital (left). Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert



Bishop Henrik Stubkjær of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark presents a communion set as a gift during his visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. From left to right: Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, Bishop Ibrahim Azar, Rev. Dr. Rospita Siahaan, LWF Regional Secretary for Asia, and Rev. Imad Haddad (at the time of the photo not yet ordained as bishop, later Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land). Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert.



Sieglinde Weinbrenner shows a shipment of medical supplies to patients in Gaza, as the during Bishop Henrik Stubkjær visit. Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert.



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Mobile clinic

"The arrival of the mobile clinic in our area, free of charge, was something we did not expect. It made us feel that our health truly matters. It encouraged me, and many other women, to take the opportunity and undergo the screening after a long period of hesitation and fear." One of the beneficiaries from mobile clinics.

VTP

"I am very grateful to the instructor for the training. I have gained a solid understanding of electrical work, and today I am working independently, I am managing my own workshops on my own". Electricity Graduate

VTP

"My diploma year was a defining chapter—full of passion, support, and growth. It gave me a solid foundation in catering, shaped my confidence, and left me with lasting memories that continue to inspire me" Catering Graduate.

VTP

"Coming from Saudi Arabia, my work in graphic design and printing at LWF gave me a fresh start. I now connect with clients, create materials that support their work, and handle their campaigns—an experience that has truly strengthened my life here in the West Bank" Graphic Design Graduate.

AVH

"My journey in the hospital was not easy, but it showed me the true meaning of care. I was supported by my family, friends, and an exceptional medical team. What stood out most was that they are human before being doctors or nurses—they followed up, reassured me, and answered every question. Their compassion helped me regain my strength and return to life".

AVH

"I accompanied my mother during her stay in the Continuing Care Department at Augusta Victoria Hospital. At first, I was very worried about her health, but the care and dedication of the medical and nursing team reassured us. They closely followed her condition and explained every step of the treatment. Despite the difficult circumstances, their compassion and support made a real difference for both patients and their families."

AVH

"I feel safe here. I'm never nervous before coming, and the nurses treat me like family—not just as a patient."

AVH

"The cleanliness, the quality of the food, and the compassionate care from the nurses make the experience exceptional. I haven't seen this level of care in any other hospital in the country."

AVH

"Being a patient at Augusta Victoria Hospital was my choice. The nurses and patients feel like a second family, and the psychosocial unit provides vital emotional and mental support."

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Project Expenditures

Augusta Victoria Hospital	€52,347,626 (84.5%)
Vocational Training Program	€1,980,829 (3.2%)
Community Outreach Program	€158,172 (0.3%)
Other Projects	€7,440,211 (12%)
Total Project Expenditures	€61,926,838
Non-Project Expenditures	€2,026,058
Total Expenditures	€63,952,896

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JERUSALEM PROGRAM SENIOR STAFF

I. LWF CENTRAL OFFICE

Ms. Sieglinde Weinbrenner	LWF Representative
Mr. Alex Kuttab	Director of Administration and Finance
Mr. Tony Tabban	Human Resource Manager
Ms. Suhad Kasbari	Program Coordinator
Mr. Issa Akel	PMER Coordinator
Mr. Maher Mufdi	Deputy Director for Finance and Administration
Ms. Dima Ayyad	Procurement Manager
Mr. Imad Hammameh	Deputy Chief Finance Officer (AVH)
Mr. Yorghos Stavridis	Property Manager

II. AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL (AVH)

Dr. Fadi Atrash	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Badiah Bajjali	Chief Operations Officer
Dr. Hani Abdeen	Chief Medical Officer
Dr. Amal Abu Awad	Chief Nursing Officer
Ms. Lana NasserEddin	Director, Department of Community Outreach Programs
Ms. Kholoud Ashhab	Director, Department of Pharmaceutical Services
Mr. Muhammad Khweis	Director, Department of Public Services, Buildings & Grounds

III. VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM (VTP)

Mr. Yousef Shalian	VTP Director
Mr. Thaer Shqair	VTC Deputy Director, Ramallah
Mr. Mahmoud 'Adarbeh	VTC Deputy Director, Beit Hanina
Ms. Anwar Khatib	VTP Projects/graduates unit Coordinator



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During graduation ceremony. Photo: Noor Oda, M&E VTP officer

Your Support Matters More Than Ever

In this critical time of funding uncertainty, we urge you to take action:

- **Advocate** within your home countries to maintain or increase humanitarian and development funding.
- **Contribute** by making a donation or organizing fundraising efforts to support our vital work.

Every contribution, no matter the size, brings hope and equips people living in the world's most vulnerable situations to create tangible change.

Together, a better world is possible. For hope and a future.

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SEND A CHECK

The Lutheran World Federation,
Chemin du Pavillon 2,
CH-1218 Le Grand-Saconnex,
Switzerland

CONTACT

Regional Program Coordinator: Emilie Della Corte
Emilie.DellaCorte@lutheranworld.org

Country Representative: Sieglinde Weinbrenner
info.jerusalem@lutheranworld.org

P.O. Box 19178, Jerusalem 91191



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