

BISHOP'S HARVEST APPEAL

Safe spaces for children and families

The Bishop of Carlisle's Harvest Appeal has been funding the work of Christian Aid in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (IOPT), a region where Christian Aid has a long working history.

In Palestine there are very few safe spaces for children to spend quality time with their peers and parents in a public place. Christian Aid partners with the YWCA of Palestine, working in the West Bank with vulnerable communities. In 2022 the YWCA hosted workshops for communities in Alshweikeh and Kufur Nimeh to help them identify key vulnerabilities and needs within their communities and worked with them to develop strategies for addressing these needs.

Children in Alshweikeh lacked a space to meet and play safely and do joint activities with their parents after school and on holidays. The community's priority was to repurpose a piece of land adjacent to the local youth club, covering it with grass and providing playground toys for local children and families to use. Youth in Kufur Nimeh are very interested in sports, yet the only youth club in the village lacked the seating for youth



Children playing football in Kufur Nimeh

and parents to sit and watch the games. Through YWCA workshops, the community decided to upgrade their facilities and encourage the youth to visit the club by putting in seating for families to sit and watch and improving their cafeteria. The club will also be able to host football games with other clubs and teams to enhance youth exchange and utilise the space to its full potential.

The head of Kafr Ni'ma Village Council, Rafat said, 'Now, the number of visitors has increased, and young players are motivated by the presence of their families to encourage them in training and games.' By putting the voices of the communities central to both projects, each community gets to determine its own needs.

Thank you for your support of Christian Aid's work with Palestinian communities through the Bishop's Harvest Appeal.

