OCHA

FRAGMENTED LIVES

HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2015

JUNE 2016

Clashes at the northern entrance of Bethlehem city (Rachel's Tomb), 13 October 2015.

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Coordination Saves Lives

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FOREWORD

This is the fifth year in which the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has detailed the key humanitarian concerns in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The purpose of the report is to provide a comprehensive overview of the underlying causes or drivers of the humanitarian vulnerabilities in the oPt in a given year.

In 2015, the major drivers of humanitarian vulnerability in the oPt remained unchanged and were directly linked to Israel's protracted occupation, now approaching its 50th year. The situation continued to be characterized by violations of international humanitarian law by all parties, the systematic denial of Palestinian rights and continuing conflict, punctuated by frequent outbreaks of violence.

Vulnerability was most acute in Gaza, where the suffering resulting from the 2014 hostilities - with close to **90,000** Palestinians still displaced during the second half of 2015 - was compounded by an eight year blockade by Israel, the almost continuous closure of the Rafah passenger crossing by Egypt, and by internal Palestinian divisions. The precarious living conditions of displaced girls and women raise a range of protection concerns, including increasing exposure to gender-based violence.

These conditions continued to cause a protracted protection crisis with humanitarian consequences, where Palestinians face a range of threats that undermine their ability to live self-sustaining lives and prevent the enjoyment of their rights, including the right to self-determination.

At the end of 2015, **4.8** million Palestinians were estimated to be affected by this situation, with **2.3** million in need of humanitarian assistance, including **1.3** million in Gaza. To meet these needs, the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the oPt was launched in February 2015, comprising **206** projects worth US$ **571** million.

"We condemn, in the strongest terms, all attacks against Israelis and Palestinians alike. The recent wave of knife attacks and shootings is particularly appalling. There can be no justification for such despicable acts... [however] This crisis would not have erupted, I suggest ... if Palestinians did not still live under a stifling and humiliating occupation that has lasted almost half a century"

UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson,
Briefing to the Security Council, 22 October 2015

As in previous years, the Humanitarian Overview for 2015 is structured around the key concerns and advocacy priorities identified by humanitarian partners in the oPt: *Life, Liberty & Security*, which includes Palestinian and Israeli casualties from conflict-related violence, settler violence and the detention of Palestinians; *Forced Displacement*, driven by escalations of hostilities in Gaza and by the demolition of homes for lack Israeli-issued building permits, punitive demolitions and other practices in the West Bank; *Movement & Access*, focusing on the physical and administrative restrictions placed on the movement of Palestinian people and goods throughout the oPt; *Humanitarian Space*, detailing the obstacles that restrict the access of personnel and materials needed for humanitarian projects; and *Accountability*, a cross-cutting theme, essential to reduce future vulnerability, addressed throughout. Each of the four main sections is updated to include the significant developments and trends in the first four months of 2016.

The Way Forward section details the main steps required on the part of the Israeli authorities, Palestinian authorities and armed groups, to rectify policies and practices inconsistent with international law, protect the rights of Palestinians living under occupation and reduce humanitarian vulnerability.

LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY

OPT OVERVIEW

Palestinian civilians across the oPt continued to be subjected to threats to their lives, physical safety and liberty from conflict-related violence, and from policies and practices related to the Israeli occupation, including settler violence. While most of 2015 witnessed a relative calm compared to 2014, tension rose in September in East Jerusalem, with protests, clashes and violence spreading to the remaining oPt, including to the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) in Gaza, and Israel in October. Due to the upsurge in violence in the last quarter, 2015 recorded the highest number of casualties among West Bank Palestinians since 2005. Israeli casualties in the West Bank and Israel, among both Israeli forces and civilians, were also the highest since 2005. In Gaza, the August 2014 ceasefire has largely held, as reflected in the relatively low number of fatalities, although casualties also rose in the final quarter of the year, along with the escalation in the West Bank.

Among the main concerns during 2015 were the Palestinian attacks on Israelis and the response of Israeli forces, including possible instances of excessive use of force. These concerns were compounded by the continuing chronic lack of accountability and effective remedy for the killing of Palestinians, including as a result of settler violence, as well as regarding the majority of alleged violations of international law, by all parties to the 2014 hostilities. Accountability is essential to ensure justice for the victims and to prevent future violations.

	Fatalities	Injuries
2015	x171* Palestinian x25** Israeli	x15,477 Palestinian x304 Israeli
2014	x2,314 Palestinian x87 Israeli	x17,125 Palestinian x2,629 Israeli
2013	x39 Palestinian x5 Israeli	x3,964 Palestinian x151 Israeli
2012	x272 Palestinian x7 Israeli	x4,660 Palestinian x345 Israeli

** Excluding three Palestinians from the Gaza Strip who died of wounds sustained during the 2014 hostilities*

***Excluding one Israeli killed by a Palestinian with Israeli citizenship in an attack in Israel.*

2015

		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
PALESTINIANS	Injuries	134	167	176	223	284	78	141	196	413	7,555	3,888	2,222
	Deaths	2	1	2	5	2	3	8	4	3	68	36	37
ISRAELIS	Injuries	8	5	13	13	11	14	8	20	39	80	50	43
	Deaths				1		2			1	9	9	3



© Photo by OCHA

Palestinian home in Duma village (Nablus) set on fire by an Israeli settler, August 2015.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS: JANUARY - APRIL 2016

"Sadly, 2016 has begun much like 2015 ended – with unacceptable levels of violence and a polarized public discourse across the spectrum in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Briefing to the Security Council, 26 January 2016

- The frequency and intensity of protests and clashes in the West Bank and in the border areas of the Gaza Strip sharply declined during the first four months 2016, compared to the last quarter of 2015, alongside a more moderate fall in Palestinian attacks. Overall, between January and April 2016, 63 Palestinians, including 19 children, and five Israelis were killed and 1,722 Palestinians and 70 Israelis were injured across the oPt and Israel (another three Israelis were killed on 1 January 2016 in Israel in an attack perpetrated by a Palestinian with Israeli citizenship).[1]

- Fifty of the Palestinian fatalities, all suspected perpetrators, and all of the Israeli fatalities were recorded in the context of attacks and alleged attacks by Palestinians. On monthly average, this represents a 58 and 82 per cent decrease in Israeli and Palestinian deaths, respectively, compared to the equivalent figures during the last three months of 2015. Concerns over excessive use of force by Israeli forces in their response to Palestinian attacks, including possible extra-judicial executions, have remained. Also of continuous concern is the involvement of Palestinian children in attacks, which accounted for 14 of the Palestinian children killed so far in 2016.

- Another nine Palestinians were killed and 1,685 injured by Israeli forces during protests and clashes, an 87 and 91 per cent decline, respectively, compared to the last quarter of 2015. Seven of these fatalities and 94 per cent of the injuries occurred in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Israeli forces' use of live ammunition in such circumstances, which resulted in 12 per cent of the Palestinian injuries, remains of concern.

- While the August 2014 ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has largely held, the sporadic shooting of rockets from Gaza into Israel, as well as Israeli airstrikes and shootings in the areas along the perimeter fence in Gaza, continued also during the first four months of 2016. One such airstrike targeting a military facility in Gaza, reportedly in response to a rocket attack at Israel, killed two sibling children in their sleep. The digging of attack tunnels into Israel by Hamas, one of which was discovered in April 2016, has raised concern about a new escalation in violence.



Clashes in Kafr Qaddum village (Qalqiliya), March 2015.

© Akram Darawshi / Activestills.org.

Main trends in

LIFE, LIBERTY & SECURITY

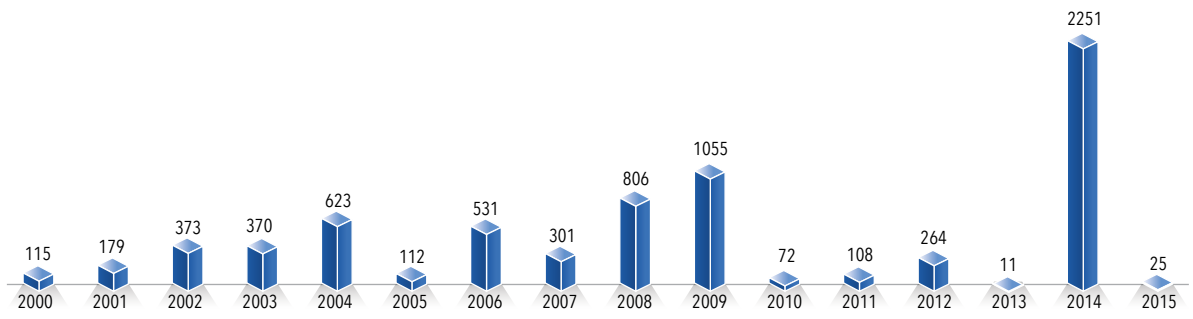
GAZA STRIP

The August 2014 ceasefire, which ended the deadliest escalation in hostilities since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967, has largely held: the number of fatalities 25 (excluding three Palestinians who died of wounds sustained during the 2014 hostilities) is the second-lowest recorded since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000. However, protests along the Gaza perimeter fence in the context of rising tensions in the West Bank resulted in a relatively large number of casualties in the last quarter of the year. Explosive Remnants of War also continue to threaten the life and physical integrity of Gaza residents. Although some Palestinian armed groups have not adhered to the ceasefire understanding, there was a sharp decrease in rockets fired from Gaza towards Israel throughout the year (26 in total) and of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza.[2]

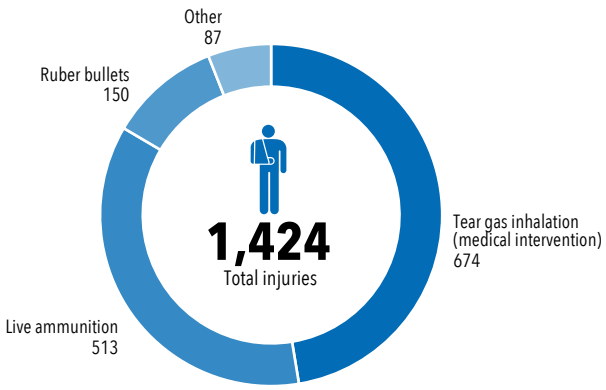
Palestinian casualties

Palestinian protests in the context of escalating tensions in the West Bank, accounted for the majority of casualties in Gaza, with nine of the 25 fatalities recorded on 9 and 10 October when Israeli forces fired at protestors at two locations near the perimeter fence, leading to concerns of "unwarranted use of live ammunition against demonstrators."[3] Three of the fatalities in 2015 were children (two boys and a girl), one was a woman, and the rest were men. Overall, of the 1,424 Palestinians injured by Israeli forces during the year in the Gaza Strip, 36 per cent were hit by live ammunition, compared to 10 per cent in the West Bank.

Palestinian fatalities in Gaza

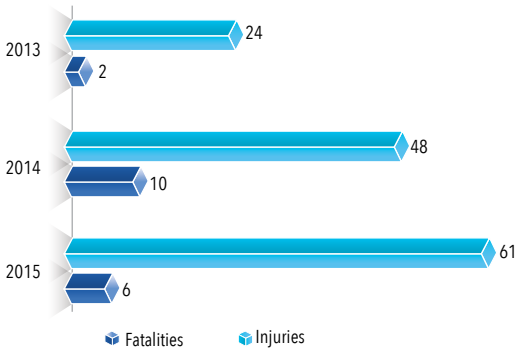


Palestinian injuries by weapon



Explosive remnants of war (ERW)*

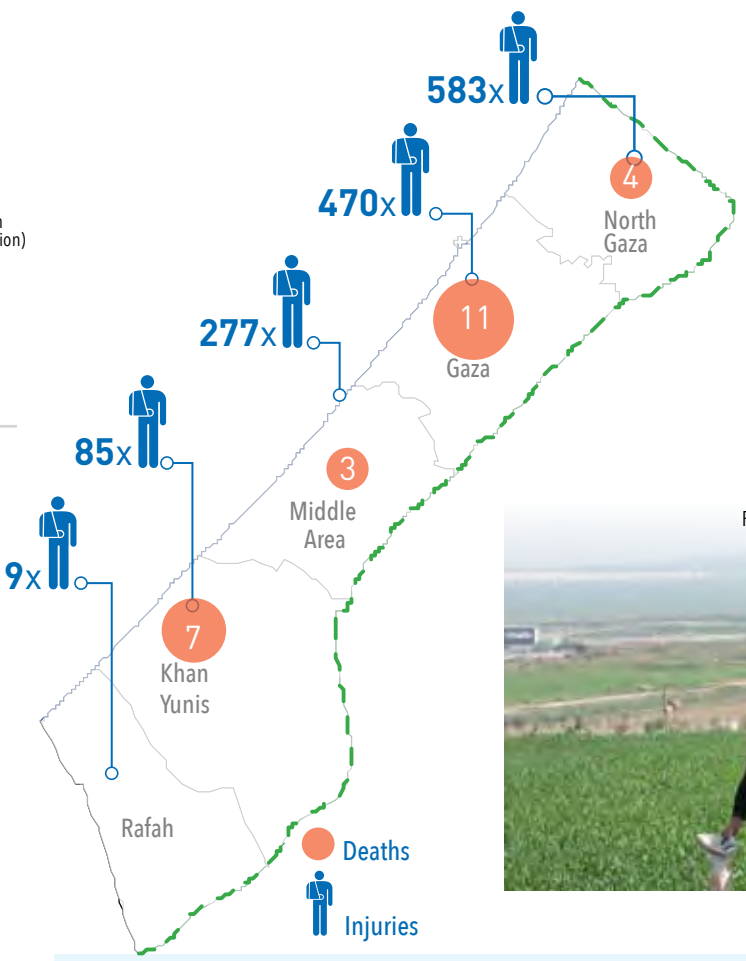
Significant numbers of unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the 2014 hostilities, including ERW from Hamas and other armed groups, are dispersed across Gaza, and continued to pose a serious threat to the life and physical integrity of the population in 2015.



** Casualties from ERW are not included in the totals mentioned elsewhere in this section*

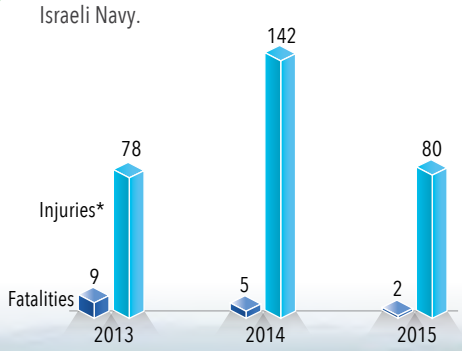


Explosive remnants of war



Access restricted areas (ARA)

Israel continued to enforce a buffer zone by land, including through the firing of live ammunition, citing concerns about the firing of rockets and the digging of tunnels. Fishermen also continued to be affected by shooting and confiscation incidents in the context of the enforcement of access restrictions at sea by the Israeli Navy.



** Figures exclude casualties during protests and hostilities.*



Shuja'iyeh, Gaza. February 2016.

Lack of accountability for violations arising from the 2014 hostilities

In June 2015, the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict issued its findings and recommendations, noting that information gathered pointed to the possible commission of war crimes by Israel and by Hamas and other armed groups, in addition to serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties.

On August 2015, the Palestinian Government established an Independent National Commission to monitor the implementation of the recommendations, but so far, no information has been released regarding its findings. Additionally, while the Gaza Ministry of Interior reportedly launched an investigation on the summary executions of alleged collaborators during the 2014 hostilities, no further information has been made available.

On the Israeli side, the latest update issued by the Military Advocate General in June 2015 indicates that he has ordered the opening of criminal investigations into 22 cases of alleged violations by Israeli soldiers, which resulted so far in one criminal indictment issued for a case of looting.

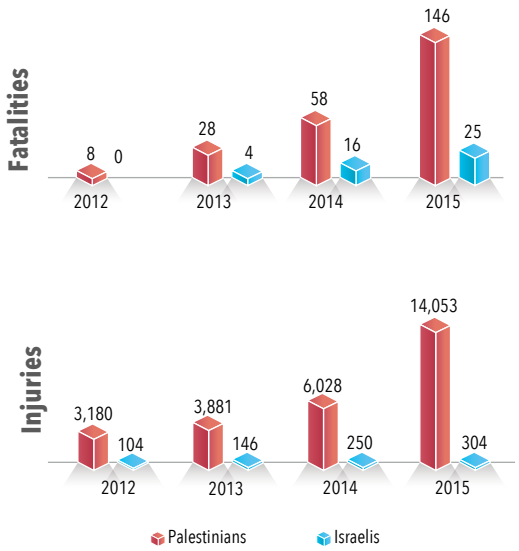
In a report issued in March 2016, the High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed serious concern about the lack of implementation of these recommendations by all sides, including those related to the investigation of alleged violations and the prosecution of perpetrators.

WEST BANK

While most of 2015 witnessed a relative calm compared to 2014, tension rose in September in East Jerusalem, initially centring on the Al Haram al Sharif / Temple Mount, with protests, clashes and violence spreading to the remaining oPt. The last quarter of 2015 was marked by a sharp rise in stabbing, ramming, and shooting attacks by unaffiliated Palestinians against Israeli civilians and forces, and widespread clashes. As a consequence, 2015 recorded the highest number of casualties among West Bank Palestinians since 2005, when OCHA began documenting incidents. There was also a sharp increase in incidents raising concern about excessive use of force and arbitrary deprivation of life, both in the context of clashes and in response to Palestinian attacks, including multiple cases where perpetrators and alleged perpetrators were shot and killed on the spot by Israeli forces.[4]

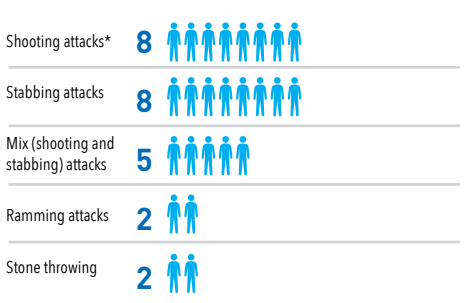
Palestinian casualties

Most Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (94 of 146) were suspected perpetrators of attacks or alleged attacks on Israelis.[5] The absolute majority of Palestinian injuries occurred during clashes and resulted mainly from tear gas inhalation requiring medical treatment (60 per cent); rubber bullets (26 per cent); and from live ammunition shot by Israeli forces (10 per cent). Thirty children were killed by Israeli forces and settlers during the year in the West Bank and Israel, the highest number recorded since 2006. Of these, 20 children, including four girls, were involved in attacks and alleged attacks.



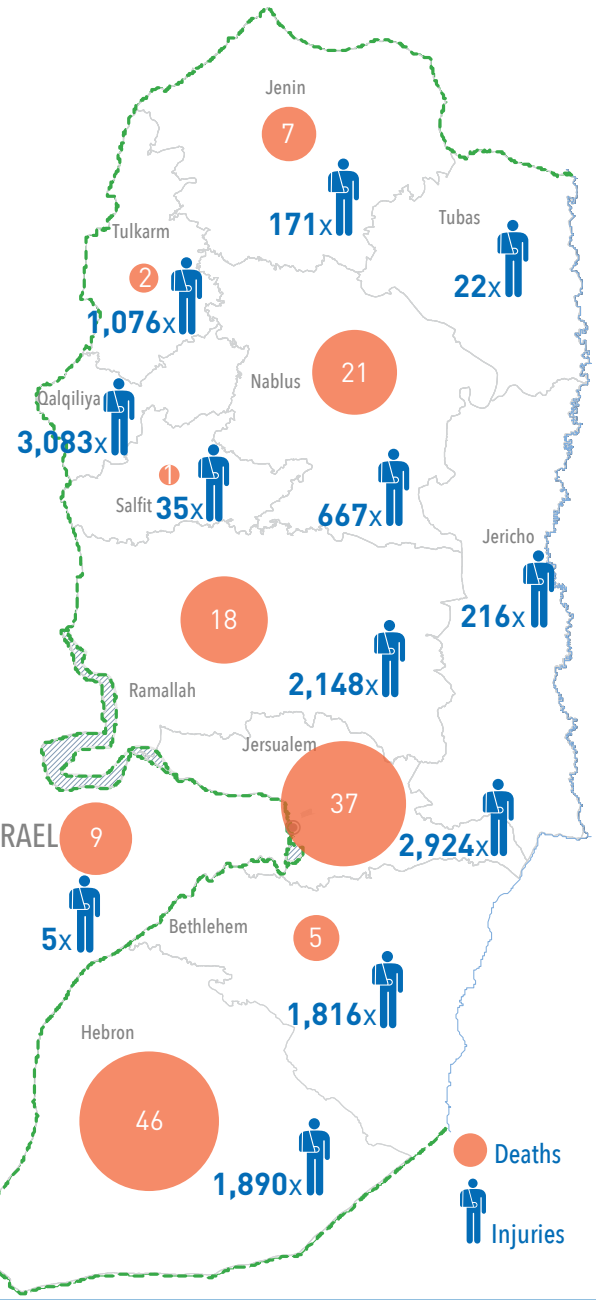
Israeli fatalities by type of attack

Twenty-three civilians and two members of Israeli forces were killed in 2015 in attacks by suspected Palestinians,[6] including 21 in the West Bank, and four in Israel.[7] This was the highest number of Israeli fatalities by West Bank Palestinians since 2005, when OCHA began recording such incidents. Of the Israeli civilians, two were women. Such attacks have been unreservedly condemned by the UN Secretary-General: "There can never be any justification for stabbings, vehicle attacks, shootings, incitements to violence, or the glorification of killers."[8]



** excluding one Israeli killed by a Palestinian with Israeli citizenship in an attack in Israel.*

Palestinian casualties by area



Palestinian fatalities by gender

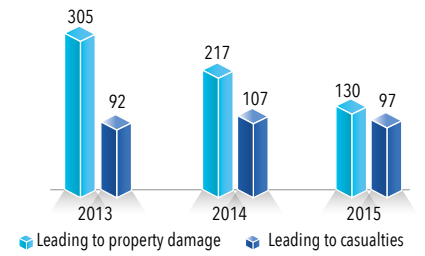


Violence by Israeli settlers

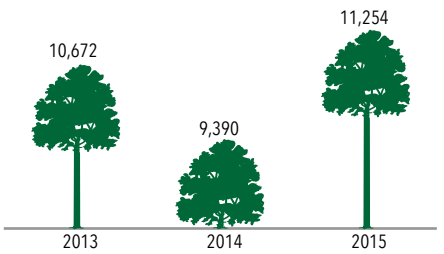
The number of settler violence incidents resulting in Palestinian casualties or damage to property declined in 2015 compared to 2014. The most serious incident entailed an arson attack that led to the burning to death of three members of a Palestinian family. The number of damaged, stolen or uprooted trees in 2015 was the highest since 2006.



Settler violence incidents

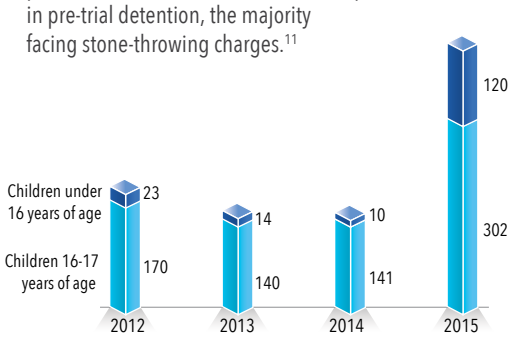


Trees vandalized



Detention

As of the end of 2015 there were over 6,000 Palestinians held by the Israeli Prison Service on 'security' grounds, the highest such figure since 2010.[9] The number of children among them, 422, was also the highest since August 2008, when this indicator began to be tracked, including six held in administrative detention, without charge.[10] Some 80 per cent of the Palestinian children imprisoned were in pre-trial detention, the majority facing stone-throwing charges.[11]



Lack of accountability

Insufficient accountability for violations arising from the Israeli forces in their policing capacity in the West Bank continued. In 2015, 21 criminal investigations were reportedly opened into cases involving the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces. As of the end of 2015, results for all investigations remained pending. In the whole of 2015, there were two indictments against members of Israeli forces, both relating to cases involving the killing of Palestinians in 2013 and 2014. Measures adopted by the Israeli authorities, particularly following the fatal arson attack on three members of a Palestinian family, appear to have contributed to the decline in incidents of settler violence during the year. Gaps in law enforcement remain: from 2005 to 2015, 7.3% of a sample of 1,014 investigation files related to complaints about settler attacks against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank monitored by the Israeli organization Yesh Din led to an indictment. Figures issued by the Israeli Ministry of Justice suggest that the rate of indictment between 2013 and 2015 was significantly higher.[12]

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

OPT OVERVIEW

The forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinians across the oPt takes place in the context of Israel's prolonged occupation and lack of respect for international law, compounded by recurrent rounds of hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Although no major displacement occurred in Gaza in 2015, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip continue to suffer from the devastating consequences of the 2014 hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups, including Hamas, with an estimated 90,000 people still displaced during the second half of 2015.

Israeli policies and practices in certain parts of the West Bank, particularly in Area C and East Jerusalem, have contributed to the creation of a coercive environment that undermines a Palestinian physical presence and exacerbates the risk of individual and mass forcible transfers. The planning system applied in Area C favours Israeli settlement interests over the needs of the protected population and makes it almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain building permits: between 2010 and 2014, Palestinians submitted 2,020 applications for building permits in Area C, of which 33 were approved.[13] A similarly restrictive planning regime in East Jerusalem has resulted in only 13 per cent of the municipal area zoned for Palestinian construction, most of which is already built up.

"The creation of new facts on the ground through demolitions and settlement building raises questions about whether Israel's ultimate goal is, in fact, to drive Palestinians out of certain parts of the West Bank, thereby undermining any prospect of transition to a viable Palestinian state."

UN Secretary-General's remarks to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 18 April 2016



© Photo by Suhaib Salem/Reuters

Palestinian boy sleeping inside his destroyed home in the Shuja'iyeh neighbourhood of Gaza City, September 2015.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS: JANUARY - APRIL 2016

- The number of Palestinian structures demolished, or dismantled and confiscated by the Israeli authorities across the West Bank sharply increased in the first four months of 2016, surpassing the figures for all of 2015 (598 vs. 548). Overall, 858 Palestinians, around half of them children (416), were displaced, compared to 787 people in the whole 2015. As in 2015, the vast majority of demolitions took place in small herding communities in Area C, exacerbating the risk of forcible transfer. Punitive demolitions also continued during 2016 with 12 homes targeted (included in the above total), alongside the advancement of legislation that would allow the punitive expulsion of families of suspected perpetrators of attacks from the West Bank to the Gaza Strip.

- In the Gaza Strip, the reconstruction and repair of homes destroyed and damaged during the 2014 hostilities continued during the first quarter of 2016. Between 3 April and 22 May, Israel suspended the entry of cement to Gaza for the private sector, following a diversion of cement from its legitimate beneficiaries, as well as the discovery of a tunnel running under Gaza to Israel. This had delayed the reconstruction and repair of homes of IDPs.



Palestinian home demolished in the Khan Al Ahmar Bedouin community (Jerusalem), April 2016.

© Photo by OCHA.

Main trends in

FORCED DISPLACEMENT

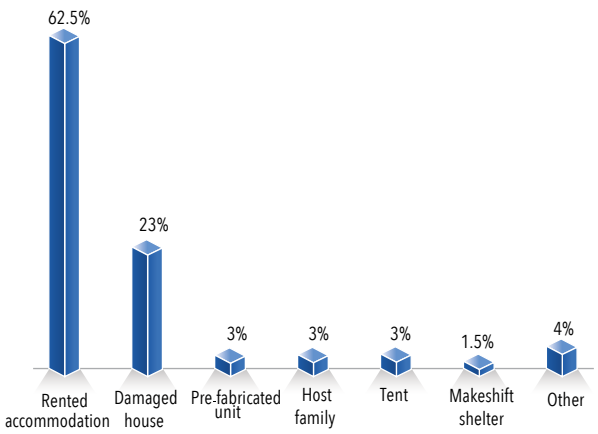
GAZA STRIP

In the Gaza Strip, forced displacement is primarily driven by escalations in hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups, with the July-August 2014 conflict resulting in the highest rate of internal displacement since 1967. Some 11,000 housing units were totally destroyed and 6,800 severely damaged and rendered uninhabitable. With the August 2014 ceasefire largely holding, no new displacement occurred during the course of 2015. An estimated 16,000 families (nearly 90,000 people) remained displaced during the second half of 2015, most of whom had moved multiple times, with almost a quarter living in the rubble of their damaged homes, according to a household survey coordinated by OCHA.[14]

Obstacles to reconstruction

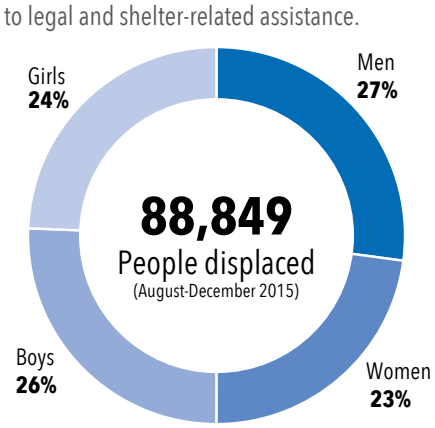
Obstacles on the entry into Gaza of the enormous amounts of construction materials needed for the repair and reconstruction of homes has been a major challenge. Since October 2014, the Israeli authorities have facilitated the entry of construction materials for the repair of damaged homes under the "shelter repair stream" of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM). The introduction of the "residential stream" of the GRM in July 2015 resulted in a significant increase in the number of trucks entering Gaza, enabling beneficiaries to access materials both for the reconstruction of homes that were completely destroyed and for new housing. However, due to ongoing Israeli restrictions, the slow pace of disbursement of pledges made by member states for reconstruction, and the inability of the Palestinian Government of National Consensus to assume effective government functions in Gaza, progress on reconstruction has been slow for IDPs. By the end of the 2015, 15 per cent of displaced families (2,700) were able to return to homes that had been repaired or reconstructed.

Accommodation of IDP households (as of the second half of 2015)

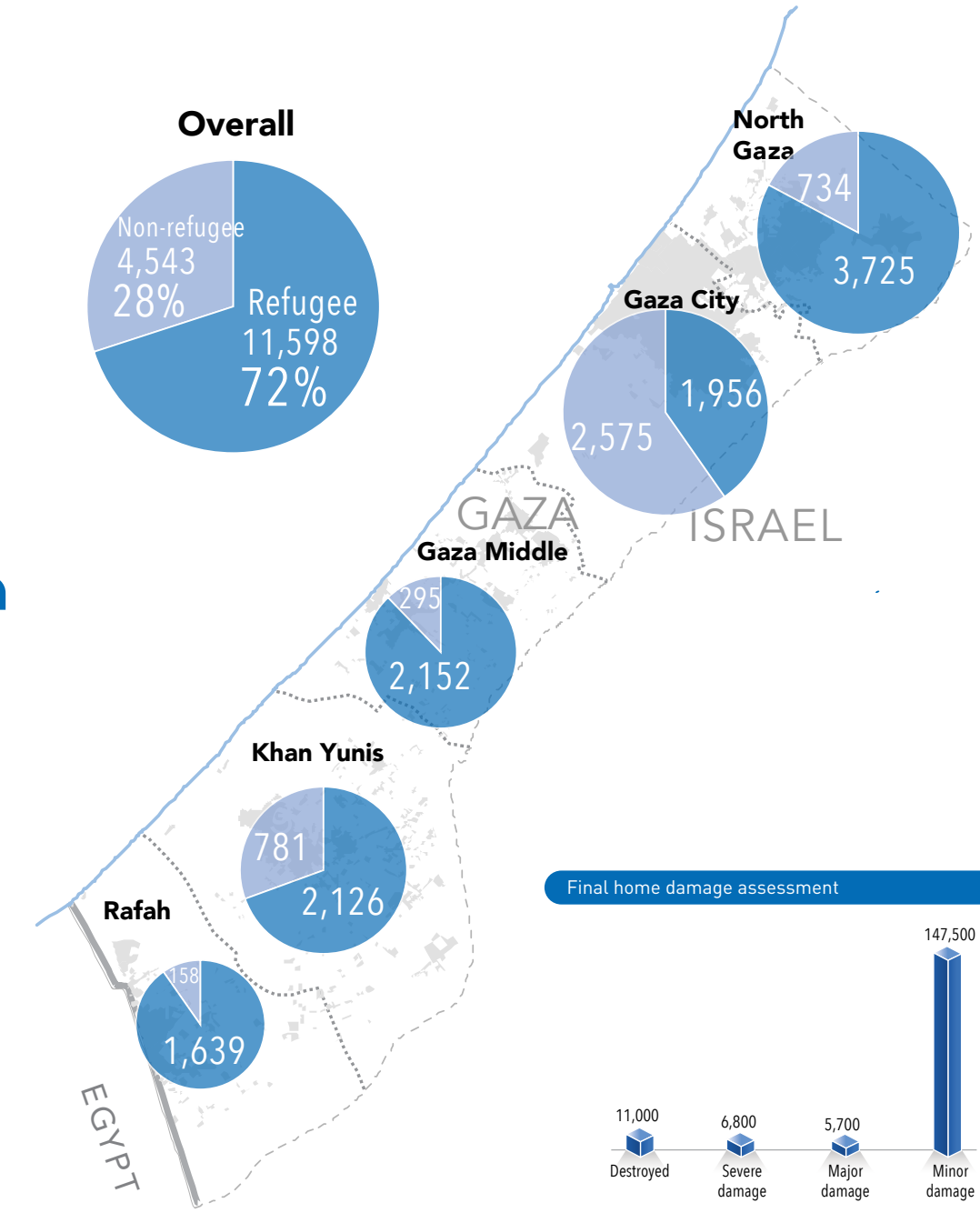


Displaced girls and women

The living conditions of displaced girls and women, accommodated with host families, in rented apartments, prefabricated units, tents and makeshift shelters, or in the rubble of their previous homes, raise a range of protection concerns, including lack of privacy and increasing exposure to gender-based violence. The traditional retention of property rights by men, including rights over homes destroyed or damaged during the war, impedes the access of displaced women to legal and shelter-related assistance.



IDP Households (as of the second half of 2015)



Final home damage assessment

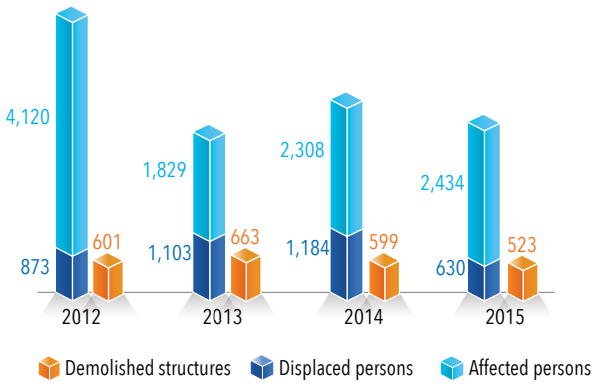

© Photo by OCHA
Temporary shelters in the Shuja'iyeh neighborhood of Gaza City, May 2016.

WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

Forced displacement in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is triggered by multiple factors, including building restrictions; the destruction of homes and livelihoods for lack of Israeli-issued building permits or on punitive grounds; conducting military training exercises near residential areas; forced evictions; settler violence; revocation of residency; restrictions on access to services and livelihoods; relocation plans; or any combination of these factors.

Demolitions due to lack of permit

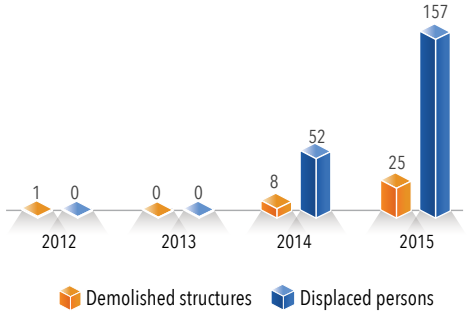
The demolition of Palestinian homes and livelihood structures in Area C and East Jerusalem remains a serious concern. According to the Israeli authorities, these demolitions are a legitimate law enforcement measure against structures built without the required permit. The number of such structures demolished and people displaced in this context decreased by 13 and 48 per cent compared to 2014. However, tens of thousands of Palestinians endure fear and insecurity due to outstanding demolition orders, with an estimated 13,000 structures, including homes, facing pending demolition orders in Area C.[14] Due to the current discriminatory and unlawful planning processes it is almost impossible for Palestinians to obtain building permits in the vast majority of in Area C and East Jerusalem.[15]



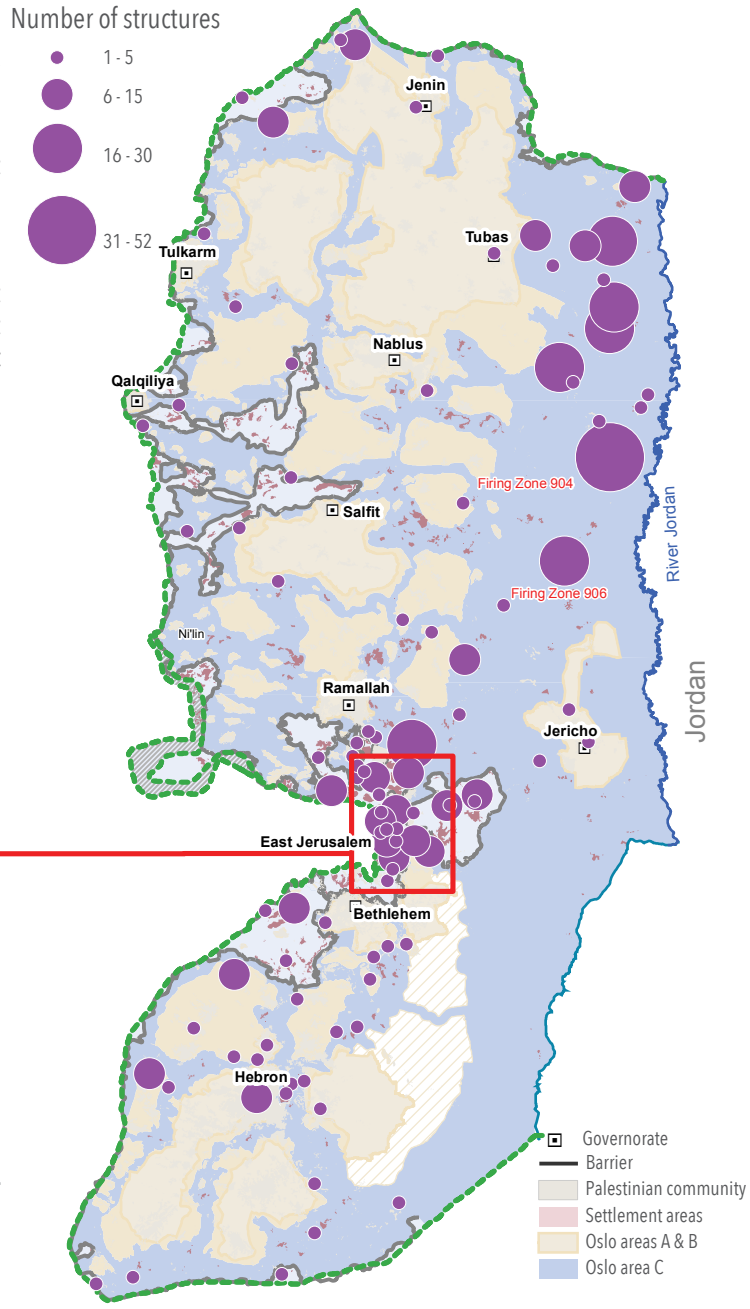


Punitive demolitions/sealing off

The Israeli authorities resumed this practice in mid-2014, after an almost complete halt for the previous nine years, and expanded its application since October 2015, citing the need to deter potential Palestinian attackers. During 2015, the Israeli authorities demolished or sealed on punitive grounds 25 residential structures, displacing 157 Palestinians, including 74 children. This practice targets the family homes of suspected perpetrators of attacks against Israelis (including those killed during the attacks), and therefore constitute collective punishment;[16] in several cases, apartments adjacent to those targeted have also been destroyed or severely damaged and their residents displaced (included in the total).



Demolitions in the West Bank



Military training exercises

The temporary displacement of entire communities located in areas designated as "firing zones" in the context of military exercises has become systematic in recent years. Despite the entry prohibition by military order, there are at least 38 herding communities with over 6,200 residents currently located in these "firing zones", which cover approximately 18 per cent of the West Bank.[17] Many of these communities were present in these areas prior to them being designated as closed during the 1970s.



Home demolished in Al Jiftlik community (Jericho), February 2016.

Herding communities at risk of forcible transfer

Most Bedouin and herding communities across Area C (total population estimated at 30,000) are at risk of forcible transfer due to a coercive environment, which includes: the destruction and threat of destruction of homes, schools and animal shelters, due to lack of building permits; restrictions on access to grazing land; lack of basic infrastructure; and intimidation and attacks by Israeli settlers. In some areas the Israeli authorities have advanced explicit plans to remove the communities from their current locations.

Central West Bank

Israeli plans foresee the "relocation" of 46 Bedouin communities (around 7,000 Palestinians) in the central West Bank to three sites, which are at various planning stages: Al Jabal (Jerusalem), Fasayil and An Nwei'meh (Jericho). Some of these communities are currently located in and around strategic areas earmarked for Israeli settlement infrastructure, including the planned E1 settlement project.[18]

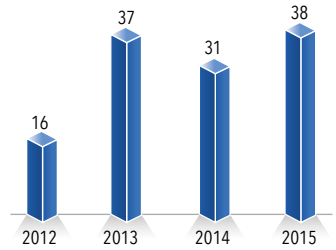
Southern West Bank

The Israeli authorities have sought to transfer around 1,200 Palestinians from eight herding communities in southern Hebron (Masafer Yatta), on the grounds that the area is designated as "firing zone 918". Most affected families have been living in the area from before this designation. A "mediation" process between the Israeli authorities and the communities' legal representatives ended without a resolution by the end of 2015. Some portions of the "firing zone" are planned for settlement expansion.[19]

Settler takeover

In 2015, following the implementation of eviction orders, Israeli settlers took over three houses in East Jerusalem, displacing seven Palestinians including four children. Israeli law allows Israeli individuals and organizations to pursue claims to land and property they owned in East Jerusalem prior to the establishment of the State of Israel, while most Palestinians are unable to do the same regarding land and property in what is now Israel.

Incidents of temporary displacement due to military training



MOVEMENT AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

OPT OVERVIEW

Israel restricts Palestinian movement within the oPt, including between the Gaza Strip and West Bank, through a combination of physical obstacles, bureaucratic constraints, and the designation of areas as restricted or closed. Combined, these restrictions impede access to services and resources, disrupt family and social life and undermine Palestinians' enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights, undermine livelihoods and compound the fragmentation of the oPt.

Fenced in on its land borders with Israel and Egypt, and with no control over its airspace or territorial waters, access from the Gaza Strip to the outside world is restricted to three land crossings, controlled by Israel (Erez and Kerem Shalom) and Egypt (Rafah). While the Israeli blockade remains a form of collective punishment of the civilian population,[20] 2015 witnessed a significant relaxation of restrictions by the Israeli authorities, as evidenced in an increase in the volume of Palestinians from Gaza, in particular businessmen and patients, permitted to leave through the Erez crossing: a limited passage of Muslims and Christians to the holy places in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, also continued.[21] The easing of restrictions also resulted in a significant increase in the amount of goods allowed in and out of Gaza for commercial purposes through the Kerem Shalom crossing. However, the other three Israeli-controlled crossings, Nahal Oz, Sufa and Karni, remained closed in 2015, while the vast majority of the smuggling tunnels under the border with Egypt remained inoperative. The Egyptian-controlled Rafah crossing also remained largely closed in 2015, including for humanitarian assistance.

Physical obstacles such as the Barrier and checkpoints, and administrative requirements, particularly permits, restrict Palestinian access and movement within the West Bank, including into East Jerusalem, areas isolated by the Barrier, 'firing zones', the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2), and land around or within Israeli settlements. In recent years, the Israeli authorities have eased some long-standing restrictions in the West Bank, improving Palestinian access to key urban hubs. This trend continued into 2015, with a lifting of permit requirements to enter East Jerusalem and Israel for all male West Bank ID holders above 55 years and women above 50 years. The wave of violence that spread throughout the West Bank in the latter part of the year resulted in increased restrictions on Palestinian movement throughout, with the Israeli authorities citing security concerns.



© Photo by OCHA

Rafah crossing, Gaza. February 2016.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS: JANUARY - APRIL 2016

- During the first few weeks of 2016, the Israeli authorities removed some checkpoints and roadblocks deployed in previous months throughout the West Bank, easing Palestinian access to services and livelihoods. This has been particularly evident across the Hebron governorate, except in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city (H2) where severe restrictions remained and in some cases intensified. On the other hand, since the beginning of 2016, following Palestinian attacks, the Israeli authorities have consolidated the practice of blocking some or all of the main routes to the villages where the suspected perpetrators lived, raising concerns about collective penalties.

- Between 3 April and 22 May, Israel suspended the entry of cement to the Gaza Strip for the private sector, following a diversion of cement from its legitimate beneficiaries, as well as the discovery of a tunnel running under Gaza to Israel. By contrast, also in April, the Israeli authorities expanded the fishing area, along the southern Gaza coast, from six to nine nautical miles, while retaining the current six-nautical-mile fishing limit along the northern coast.

- The Rafah crossing has been continuously closed since 24 October 2014, with exceptional partial openings on 42 days, as of the end of April 2016.



Main route into the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron City (H2), January 2016.

© Photo by UNICEF

Main trends in

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

GAZA STRIP

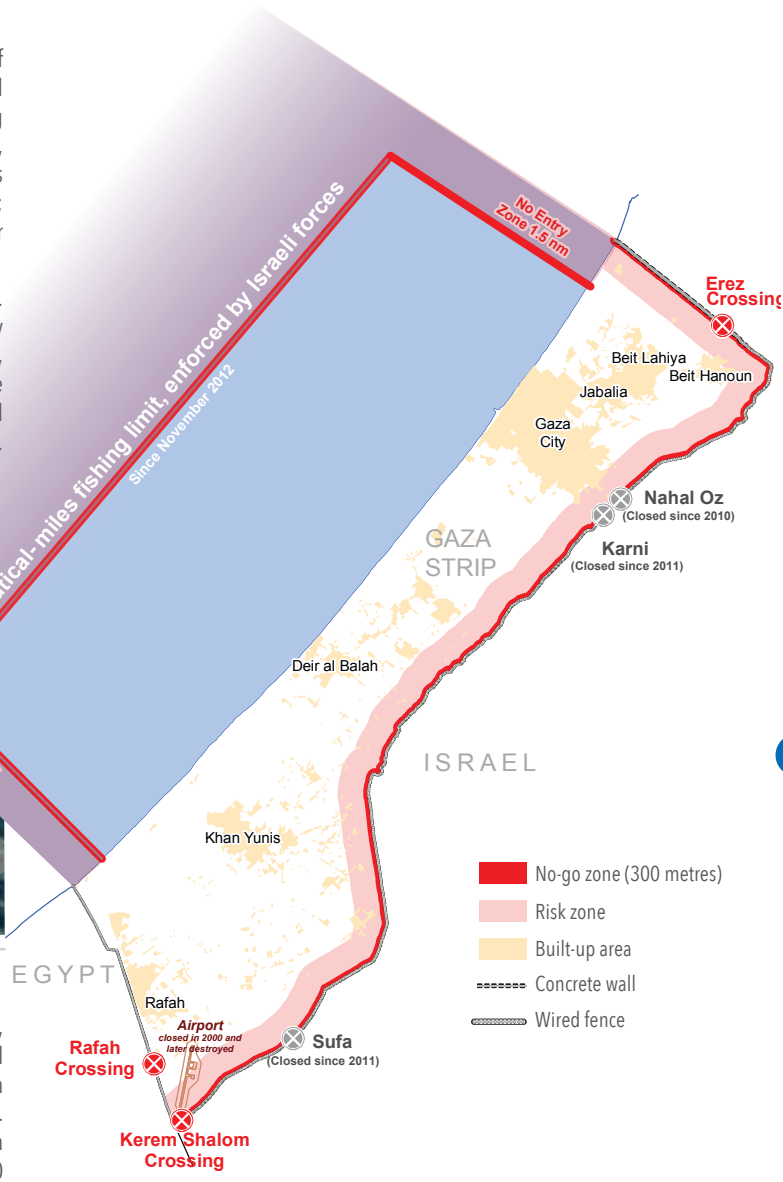
2015 was marked by a continuation of the relaxations introduced by the Israeli authorities in the aftermath of the 2014 hostilities and resulted in a significant increase in the number of crossings of people via Erez and the volume of goods via Kerem Shalom. However, the remaining restrictions on external trade, including with the West Bank, and on access to agricultural land and fishing waters, are key factors discouraging investment and perpetuating high levels of unemployment, food insecurity and aid dependency. According to the Israeli authorities, the access restrictions they impose on the Gaza Strip are security measures addressing a range of threats, including the smuggling of weapons, the firing of rockets and the digging of offensive tunnels. The inability of the Government of National Consensus to assume control over of the Palestinian side of the crossings due to the ongoing internal divide has added additional challenges. The humanitarian impact of the blockade is also exacerbated by the almost-continued closure by Egypt of the Rafah passenger crossing since October 2014, leaving the vast majority of the 1.8 million Palestinians living in Gaza unable to leave.

Access restricted areas (ARA)

Citing security concerns, including rocket firing and digging of tunnels, Israeli forces continued to enforce a buffer zone by land and sea, the "Access Restricted Areas" (ARA), including through the firing of live ammunition, land levelling, destruction of property, arrests, and the confiscation of equipment. By sea, since 2013, Israel has enforced a six-nautical-mile fishing limit along the entire Gaza coast; Israel and Egypt also impose a "no fishing zone" along their respective maritime boundaries with Gaza.

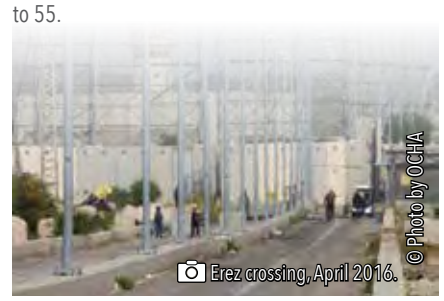
The exact extent where access is permissible by land remains unclear. Areas up to 300 metres from the perimeter fence are generally considered to be a "no-go" area and up to 1,000 meters "high risk", which discourages farmers from cultivating these areas. In some cases in 2015, special coordination was granted to international organizations to implement projects up to 100 metres from the fence.


Fisherman in Gaza, March 2015. © Photo by OCHA



Erez Crossing

The number of Palestinians permitted by Israel to cross through Erez more than doubled in 2015 compared to 2014, with businessmen and patients and their companions accounting for the highest category. Israel raised the monthly quota of merchant-permits from 3,000 to 5,000, and daily exits of merchant permit-holders from 400 to up to 800. During the year, there was an increase in the absolute number of medical permits issued, along with a decline in approval rates which, by the end of December, was the lowest (67 per cent) since May 2009. Restrictions were also placed on patient companions, including raising the minimum age to 55.

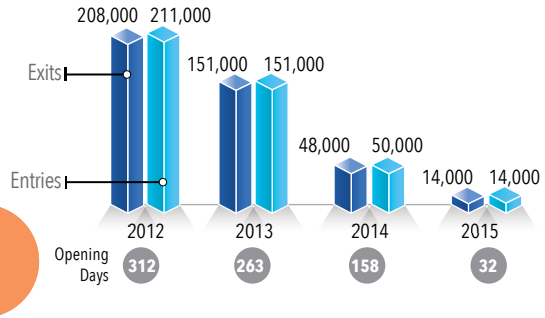

Erez crossing, April 2016. © Photo by OCHA

Rafah Crossing

Rafah has been largely closed, including for humanitarian assistance, since 24 October 2014: in 2015 there were 32 days of partial openings. Of a total of 1,670 patients referred by the Palestinian Ministry of Health to Egypt, 178 patients were able to cross to Egypt. Prior to the closure, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed Rafah for health related reasons.[22] By year's end, at least 30,000 Palestinians registered as humanitarian cases were waiting to cross Rafah and an unidentified number of Palestinians were stranded in Egypt waiting to return.


Rafah crossing, February 2016. © Photo by OCHA

Movement through Rafah



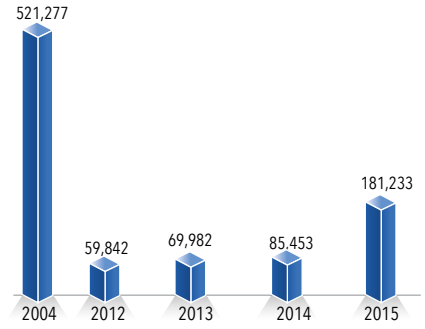
Kerem Shalom Crossing

Imports: Israel expanded the Kerem Shalom crossing and allowed in 83 per cent more imports compared to the previous year, amounting to 64 per cent of the monthly average of imports in the first half of 2007, prior to the imposition of the blockade. The "dual use" list of goods (items that could be used for military as well as civilian purposes) was revised three times during 2015, removing a longstanding restriction on the import of gravel, but banning previously -approved items, including wooden boards thicker than 1 cm.

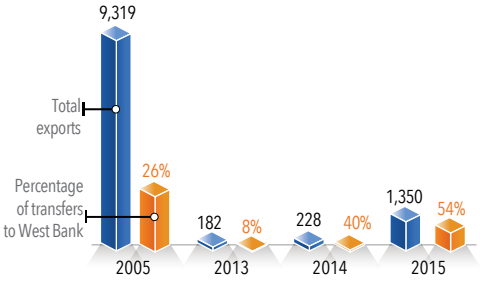
Exports: For the first time since the imposition of the blockade in 2007, Israel allowed the export of goods to Israel. In 2015, there was six-fold increase in exports and transfers from Gaza compared to 2014. Total exits are still 14.5 per cent of a wider range of exports that left Gaza for Israel, the West Bank and the external world in 2005, prior to the imposition of various restrictions ending in a full blockade in 2007.


Kerem Shalom crossing, May 2016. © Photo by OCHA

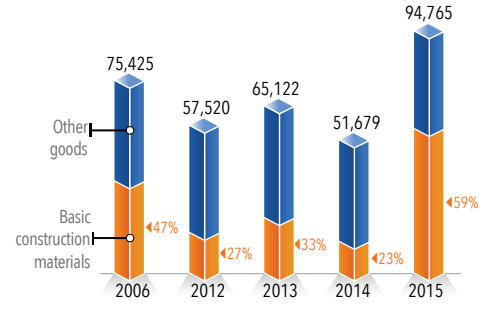
Entries into Israel



Exports/transfers from Gaza (Truckloads)



Imports/transfers to Gaza (Truckloads)*



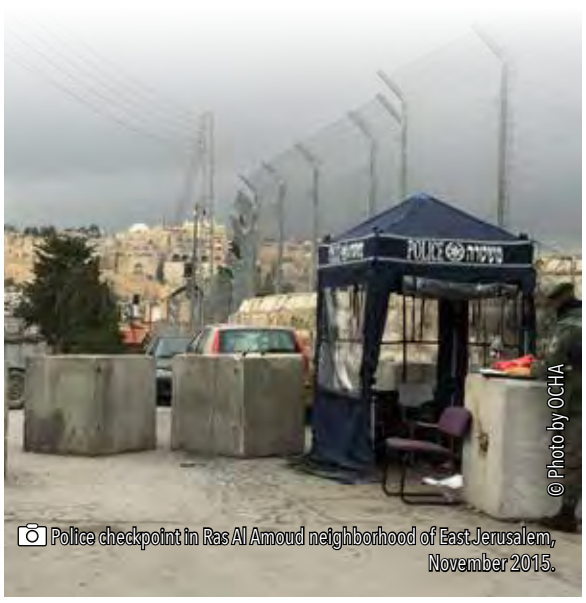
*Excluding fuel

WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

The trend of recent years of easing some of the restrictions on Palestinian movement continued into 2015, including during the Ramadan period, which saw some Gaza pilgrims granted permits to visit Al Aqsa Mosque for the first time since 2000. However, the escalation of violence in the latter part of the year witnessed a re-imposition of some of physical and administrative measures by the Israeli authorities, citing security needs. These disrupted access to services, including educational and health facilities, places of work, and holy sites, forcing people to take longer and more costly routes.[23]

East Jerusalem

Heightened tensions during September, in conjunction with an increase in the entry of Israelis to the Al Haram Al Sharif / Temple Mount, led to a select list of Palestinians prohibited from entering the compound. An increase in attacks and violence in October led to the deployment of about 40 new checkpoints and roadblocks, systematically restricting the movement of Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, and affecting 138,000 people in nine neighbourhoods. The majority of these obstacles were gradually removed, with eight obstacles still in place by the end of the year.



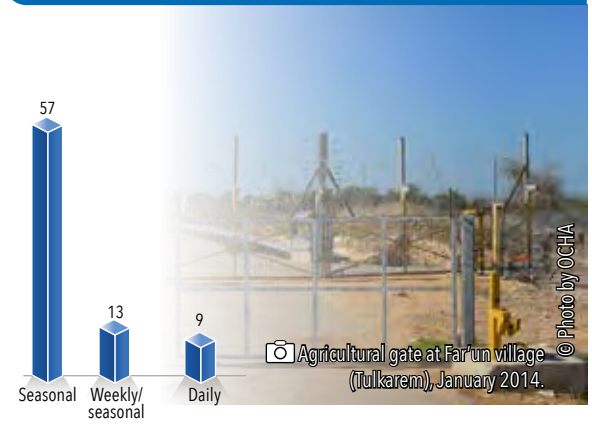
Police checkpoint in Ras Al Amoud neighborhood of East Jerusalem, November 2015.

© Photo by OCHA

The Barrier

The Israeli authorities resumed construction of a section of the Barrier in the Cremisan valley extending from Beit Jala to the village of Walaja in the Bethlehem governorate. While this construction was approved by the Israeli Supreme Court, it contravenes the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of 2004. In total, 56 km of the Barrier's route are located within Bethlehem governorate. If completed as planned, 58 Palestinian farming families will be separated from approximately 3,000 dunams of land.

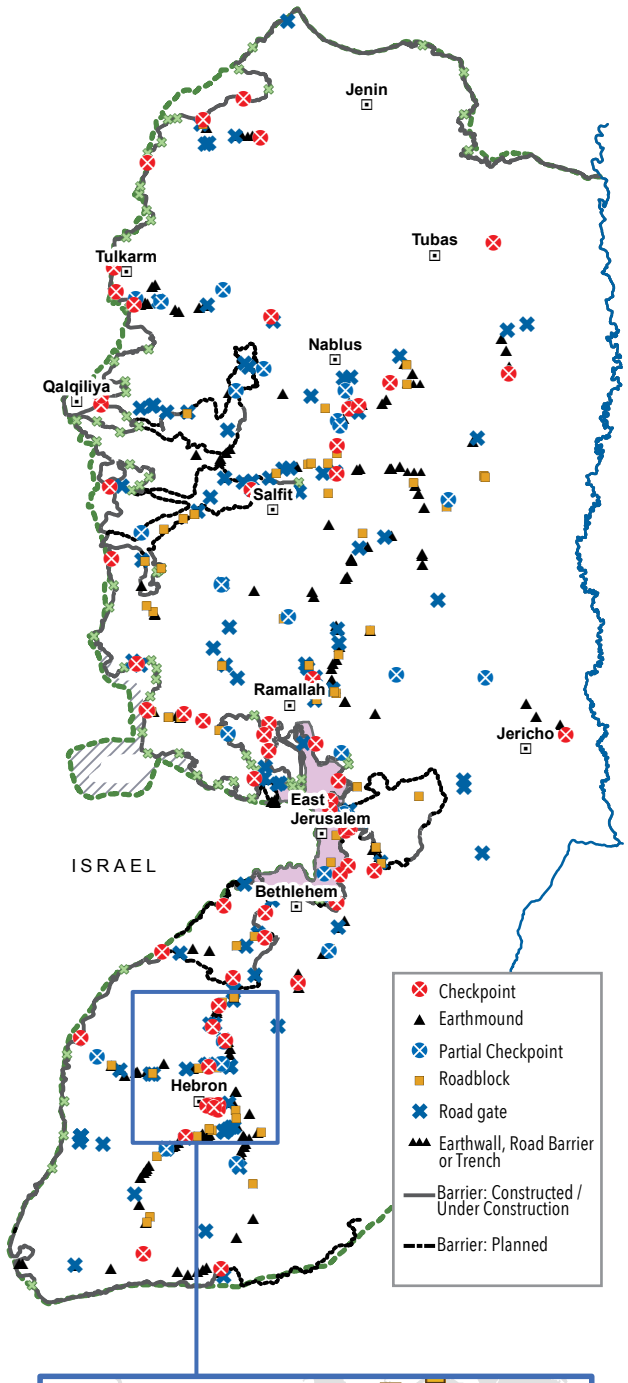
Barrier agricultural gates by type

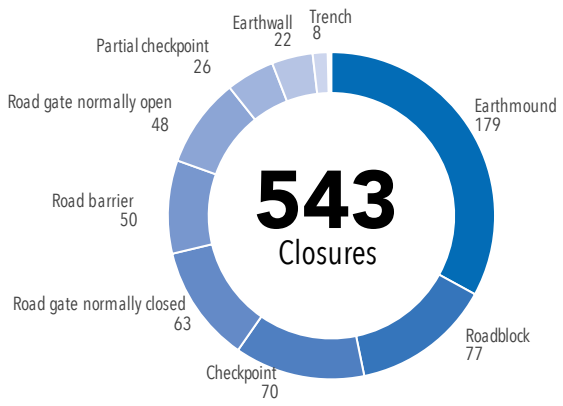


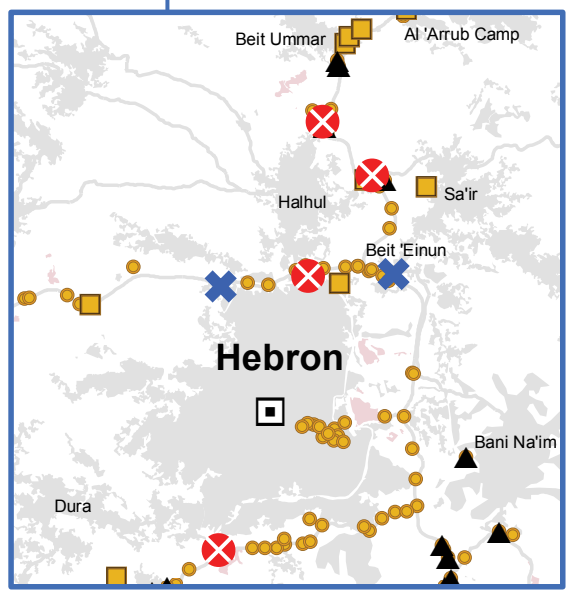
Agricultural gate at Far'un village (Tulkarem), January 2014.

© Photo by OCHA

Closure obstacles as of 31 December 2015

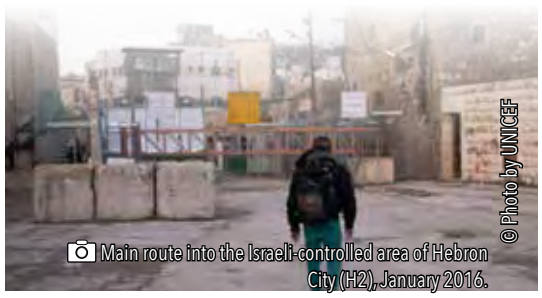






Northern West Bank

During October, Israeli forces intensified movement restrictions following the killing of an Israeli couple in the Nablus governorate: as of 31 December, there were 18 new obstacles, in addition to 167 pre-existing obstacles. These include two checkpoints (Huwwara and Za'tara) which were intermittently closed without prior notice, and the turning of a road (Nablus eastern bypass) into an Israeli-only road, diverting Palestinian traffic into a longer and more congested detour.



Main route into the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron City (H2), January 2016.

© Photo by UNICEF

Hebron governorate

Following a series of attacks and alleged attacks in the governorate, movement restrictions in Hebron peaked in November, with 53 obstacles deployed, in addition to 109 pre-existing obstacles,[24] blocking or restricting all routes, including dirt roads, leading to Hebron city. Palestinian access to the settlement area within the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron City (H2) was further restricted.[25] Most restrictions remained in place as of the end of 2015, and resulted in long delays and disruptions to services and livelihoods, including access to hospitals and schools.

Over 4000 children go to 15 schools located in the H2 area, who were affected by access restrictions.

HUMANITARIAN SPACE

OPT OVERVIEW

In 2015, humanitarian organizations continued to face a range of obstacles from the Israeli authorities regarding the access of personnel, especially national employees, and the materials needed for humanitarian projects. These include physical and administrative restrictions on the access and movement of humanitarian actors; restrictions on the delivery of materials needed for humanitarian projects; and limitations on the implementation of projects that involve building, expanding or rehabilitating infrastructure in the Gaza Strip and Area C of the West Bank. Such obstacles have hampered the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide assistance and protection to Palestinians throughout the oPt. Humanitarian operations in Gaza were also impeded by restrictions imposed by, and the prohibition on contact with the Hamas authorities, in addition to the prolonged closure of the Rafah crossing with Egypt.



Makeshift shelter housing a displaced family in Gaza city, January 2016.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS: JANUARY - APRIL 2016

- 2016 started with a sharp increase in the Israeli authorities' demolition of structures provided as humanitarian aid, citing lack of building permits. Between 1 January and 30 April 2016, 170 such structures were demolished, or dismantled and confiscated by the Israeli authorities, almost 60 per cent above the equivalent figure for all of 2015.

- The access of national staff of humanitarian organizations to and from the Gaza Strip also deteriorated in the first four months of 2016, following a decline in the Israeli authorities' approval rate for permit applications, as well as a shortening in the duration of approved permits, which had been previously valid for three months.

- Between 3 April and 22 May, Israel suspended the entry of cement to Gaza for the private sector, following a diversion of cement from its legitimate beneficiaries, as well as the discovery of a tunnel running under Gaza to Israel. This had disrupted the functioning of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, impeding progress in the reconstruction and repair of homes and infrastructure.



Temporary shelter provided as humanitarian assistance demolished in the Bedouin community of Jabal Al Baba (Jerusalem), 21 January 2016.

© Photo by OCHA

Main trends in
HUMANITARIAN SPACE

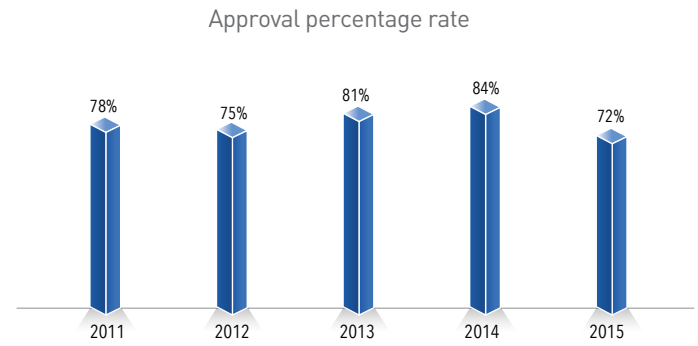
GAZA STRIP

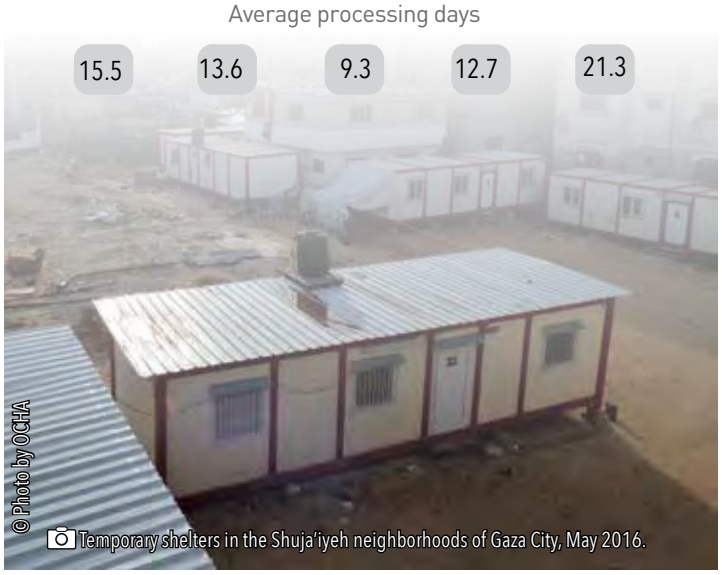
With the blockade on Gaza still in place, the UN-brokered Temporary Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) continued to operate in order to facilitate the entry of restricted goods, primarily building materials, to address the enormous reconstruction and recovery needs arising from the 2014 hostilities. During the year, Israeli authorities introduced several relaxation measures (see Movement and Access Restrictions section), which allowed for an acceleration in the pace of work. However, restrictions on the movement of humanitarian actors, as well as on imports, continued to seriously limit the pace of construction and the type and scope of humanitarian operations. These obstacles were compounded by the prolonged closure of the Rafah crossing by Egypt, and new restrictions on the movement of humanitarian staff by the de facto authorities in Gaza. Restrictions imposed by counter-terrorism legislation and the "no contact" policies with the de facto authorities posed further challenges on the operational environment of humanitarian and developmental actors.

Humanitarian personnel

The approval rate of permit applications from UN national staff by the Israeli authorities decreased considerably compared to 2014 (from 84 to 72 per cent), although the absolute number of approvals slightly increased (from 1,069 to 1,089). The average processing time of applications was the longest in the last five years. The ban on the entry of staff with East Jerusalem residency or Israeli citizenship into Gaza since July 2015 led to a sharp decline in the overall number of applications from these categories in 2015 compared to 2014 (46 vs.134 applications). At the same time, the rate of approval for these categories during 2015 increased compared to the previous year (74 vs. 52 per cent). The de facto authorities in Gaza also added an additional layer of restrictions affecting humanitarian actors' operational space, including on the movement of staff and access to certain areas, and the introduction of a permit regime applicable to national staff for the exit and entry into Gaza.

Gaza entry and exit permits for national UN staff





Temporary shelters in the Shuja'iyeh neighborhoods of Gaza City, May 2016.

The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM)

The number of partaking stakeholders in the GRM, reached over 130,000 by 31 December 2015.[26] In July, the "residential stream" of the GRM was introduced, enabling for the first time the reconstruction of homes that were completely destroyed during the 2014 hostilities and the construction of new residential structures. Prior to that, the "shelter stream" only covered repairs to damaged or partially destroyed structures. The removal of aggregates from the list of goods identified by the Israeli authorities as having a "dual use" (civilian and military) has also had a positive impact. A reduction in the thickness of permissible wood, in August 2015, has had a very negative impact on projects, including temporary housing solutions for IDPs. By the end of the year, the vast majority of health and educational facilities destroyed or damaged during the war have been repaired or reconstructed.[27]



UN Board of Inquiry

On 27 April 2015, a summary of the UN Board of Inquiry's report was released concerning incidents affecting UN premises during the 2014 hostilities. The report indicated that the attacks affecting seven of these premises used as emergency shelters, which resulted in the death of 44 Palestinians and the injury of over 227, were attributable to Israel. Palestinian groups were found responsible for hiding weapons in three UN facilities that were not being used as shelters at the time.[28]



School in Jabalia.

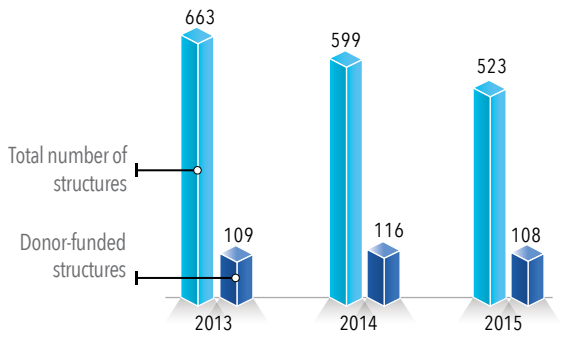
WEST BANK, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM

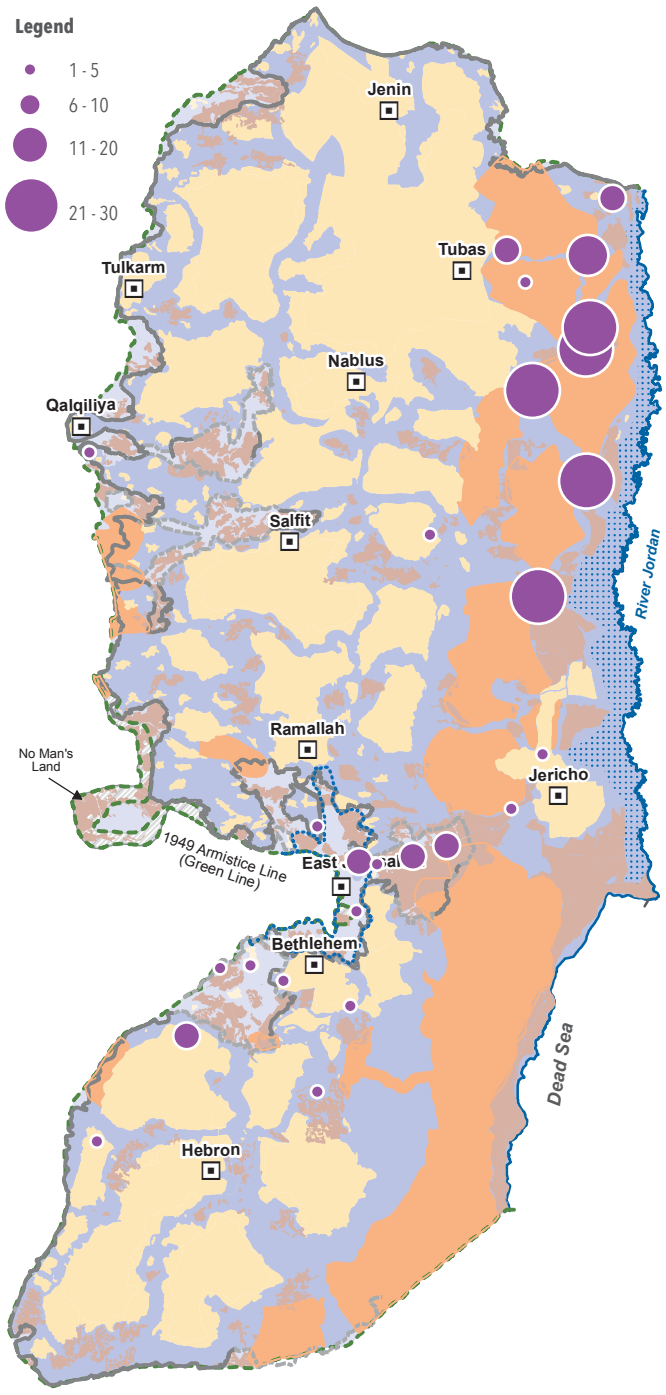
The implementation of humanitarian projects continued to be impeded by restrictions on access to East Jerusalem and limitations on projects involving the provision/expansion/rehabilitation of shelters and other structures in Area C. The operational capacity of some organizations, human rights defenders and health providers, in particular, was also hampered by Israeli forces and settlers, including through restrictions on their access and movement, and threats against, attacks on, and arrest of their staff.[29]

Destruction of humanitarian assistance

The implementation of humanitarian projects in Area C and East Jerusalem involving activities such as the delivery of emergency shelters or the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure continued to be severely hampered by the discriminatory and unlawful zoning and planning policy applied by the Israeli authorities in these areas. In 2015, citing lack of building permits, the Israeli authorities demolished, dismantled and/or confiscated 108 donor-funded structures provided as humanitarian assistance to Palestinians, compared to 116 structures in 2014 and 109 in 2013. Almost all such structures were located in Area C, with around 50 per cent located in the Jordan Valley and areas designated as closed military zones.

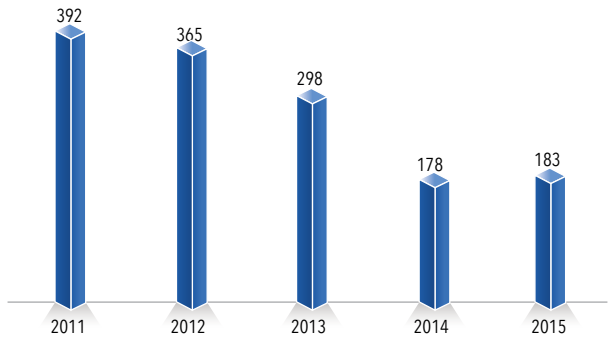
Demolitions, confiscations/ dismantlement of donor-funded assistance on grounds of lack of permit





Delays at checkpoints

The number of incidents obstructing or delaying the movement of UN and international organization employees in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was nearly the same as in 2014, well below the figures recorded in previous years. The declining trend in recent years can be attributed, to some extent, to the humanitarian staff's systematic avoidance of the most difficult checkpoints, at the expense of reliance on longer and more expensive routes.



Human rights defenders

Israeli forces and settlers increasingly obstructed the work of human rights defenders, including international, Palestinian and Israeli organizations, volunteers and local groups. This was particularly evident during the last quarter of 2015, in the context of the provision of a protective presence during the olive harvest and in the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city, "H2".[30] Some of these actors were physically assaulted, arrested, threatened by settlers, and received anonymous death threats.[31] In October, three out of four organizations were forced to temporarily pull out of some areas of H2. These attacks were compounded by restrictions on movement imposed by Israeli security forces.[32]

> *Protective presence organizations are on the front line of this work in the occupied Palestinian territory, embodying the support of the world community to the people of Hebron and defending the rights of Palestinian children, not least to a safe journey to and from school. They must be allowed to continue their work without violence, threats or retaliation.*
>
> UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper

Health providers, premises, and property

Some actions by the Israeli authorities during the last quarter of 2015, in the context of the escalation in attacks and violence, impacted on the ability of health workers to provide care to those in need.[33] These included the forcible entry of Israeli police forces on two occasions to the Al Makassed hospital in East Jerusalem, and the entry of undercover Israeli forces into Al Ahli hospital in Hebron, which resulted in the fatal shooting of a Palestinian man. The placing of checkpoints, particularly in Hebron city and East Jerusalem, also impeded the access of patients, ambulances and medical staff to hospitals.[34] Between 2 October and 27 December, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) recorded 333 incidents involving: attacks on its staff and paramedics (147); damage to its property (93); and delays of ambulances (93).



Demolition in al Jiftlik, February 2016.

SETTLEMENTS: A KEY DRIVER OF HUMANITARIAN VULNERABILITY

Israeli settlements, which have been established and expanded in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in contravention of international law, underlie many of the concerns highlighted in this report and generate the need for assistance and protection measures by humanitarian actors.

According to official Israeli data, the number of new 'building starts' in Area C settlements (i.e. excluding settlements in East Jerusalem) increased by 26 per cent in 2015 compared to 2014.[35] However, while the marketing of land for settlement construction by the Israeli government (i.e. tenders) also continued, the volume declined sharply compared to 2014, according to Peace Now.[36]

"Current Israeli practices related to the presence and expansion of settlements [...] continue to have a profound impact on land and housing rights, the right to water and sanitation and freedom of movement, and result in restrictions on the right to education"

Report by the UN Secretary-General, January 2016

As a rule, all public land (also referred to as 'state land') in Area C is automatically placed within the boundaries of the settlement local and regional councils, rather than allocated for the benefit of the local population, as required under international law.[37] In 2015, the Israeli authorities continued to endorse "state land" declarations made in previous years, with the stated objective of advancing settlement expansion projects, or regularizing prior construction carried out without the permits required under Israeli law.[38] At the same time, during 2015 the Israeli authorities also demolished a few unauthorized settlement structures.[39]

This comes in addition to other Israeli-government-supported and promoted methods aiming at strengthening the presence of settlements in the oPt, including the declaration of archaeological sites, national parks, and infrastructure development.[40]

The official allocation of public land to settlements, along with the takeover of private land by settler groups, have contributed to the shrinking of space available for Palestinians to sustain their livelihoods in an increasingly fragmented West Bank, and have impacted their enjoyment of a range of human rights.[41]

The longstanding phenomenon of settler violence, compounded by insufficient law enforcement by the Israeli authorities, has also undermined the physical security and livelihoods of Palestinian communities. Documented cases of settler attacks, trespassing and forceful takeover of land, suggest that violence is often being carried out as part of a calculated effort by settlers to push Palestinian farmers from what has subsequently become de facto Israeli-controlled areas. This phenomenon has continued despite the efforts by the Israeli authorities to improve law enforcement against violent settlers.

Combined with the restrictive and discriminatory zoning and planning policy applied in Area C and in East Jerusalem, these settlement-related phenomena have undermined the living conditions of Palestinians and rendered them increasingly vulnerable, including to the risk of individual or mass forcible transfer.



© Photo by OCHA

Arab al Jahalin Bedouin community and Qedar settlement (Jerusalem).

THE WAY FORWARD

The UN Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza Conflict have outlined a number of relevant recommendations for Israeli and Palestinian authorities, which derive from legal obligations and which, if implemented, would eliminate or significantly ameliorate the concerns highlighted in this report. Third states also share responsibility for ensuring respect for international humanitarian law in the oPt and for promoting compliance with human rights obligations, and should take all necessary actions stemming from that responsibility.

Included among the most recent recommendations by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and the Commission of Inquiry are the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

- Carry out an independent review of the rules of engagement of their security forces, and ensure they are consistent with international human rights law and standards;

- Conduct prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into all incidents of use of force leading to the death or injury of civilians, ensuring they are subject to public scrutiny, and hold perpetrators accountable;

- End the system of administrative detention; ensure that all detainees are promptly charged or released;

- During hostilities, ensure respect to international humanitarian law, particularly the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack, and ensure accountability for all violations;

- Ensure full criminal accountability for Israeli settler perpetrators;

- End all forms of collective punishment, including the blockade on Gaza and punitive demolitions;

- Allow movement between Gaza and the West Bank;

- Remove physical restrictions on free movement throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, unless they are consistent with the exceptions recognized under international human rights and humanitarian law;

- Recognize and respect the residency rights of Palestinians, including by immediately halting the practice of revoking residence permits, ending the freeze on changes to addresses, removing any quotas on family reunification requests, and processing backlogged requests and new requests expeditiously;

- Halt and reverse the creation and expansion of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including the use of land control mechanisms, such as the designation of firing zones, archaeological parks and agricultural land;

- Immediately cease discriminatory and unlawful planning processes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem;

- Stop the demolition of Palestinian homes and properties in the West Bank, and revoke other laws, policies and practices that may result in individual or mass forcible transfers.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PALESTINIAN AUTHORITIES AND ARMED GROUPS

- Hamas and other armed groups must respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, including by ending all attacks on Israeli civilians and civilian objects, including all rocket attacks;

-The Palestinian authorities must ensure that violations of international humanitarian law are investigated in compliance with international standards, and that full accountability is achieved, including through criminal proceedings;

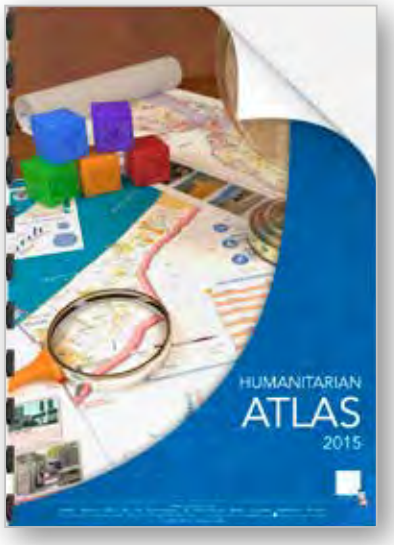
- The Palestinian authorities must implement their obligations under international human rights treaties, including with regard to freedom of movement, freedom of expression and assembly, the prohibition on arbitrary arrests and detentions;

- The Palestinian authorities should announce a moratorium on the death penalty including the award of such sentences, as a step towards abolition;

- The State of Palestine must accelerate efforts to translate the declaration on Palestinian unity from 2014 into tangible measures on grounds that would enable the Government of National Consensus to ensure the protection of human rights and achieve accountability for victims. Genuine unity will also improve the Palestinian government's ability to meet pressing economic problems, which are adding to the frustration and anger driving Palestinian violence.

For more information see the reports: Report of the Secretary-General on "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan," A/HRC/31/43, 20 January 2016; Report of the Secretary-General on "Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," A/HRC/31/44, 20 January 2016; Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, A/HRC/31/40, 20 January 2016 and Report of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 A/HRC/29/52.

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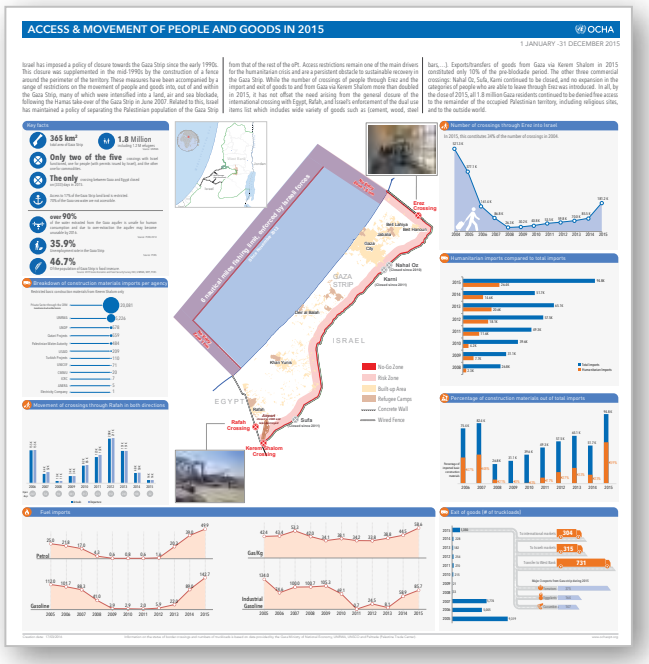
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ENDNOTES

1. OCHA Protection of Civilians database does not include incidents which did not involve residents of the oPt either as victims or perpetrators.
2. According to the Israeli Security Agency, 26 rockets and three mortars were fired from Gaza into Israel in 2015. https://www.shabak.gov.il/English/EnTerrorData/Archive/Annual/Pages/2015AnnualSummary.aspx
3. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, A/HRC/31/40, 20 January 2016, para. 22. "Shots appeared to have been fired at the upper body and heads of protesters, although witnesses say that there was no imminent threat to life or serious injury to soldiers who were positioned in towers, armoured vehicles or behind dirt-mounds, on the other side of the fence." Ibid. "Reportedly, IDF subsequently shifted its practice to use more tear gas, warning shots and shots to the legs. Nonetheless, unwarranted use of live ammunition continued, including in at least five incidents documented by OHCHR where peaceful protesters carrying Palestinian flags were shot and wounded." Ibid., Para. 24.
4. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, A/HRC/31/40, 20 January 2016, para. 10.
5. OHCHR documented 18 Palestinians shot dead, by live ammunition in the context of clashes Ibid., Para. 18.
6. This includes one Israelis policeman killed by Israeli forces' 'friendly fire'.
7. This excludes incidents not involving Palestinians who hold West Bank ID cards.
8. Briefing to the Security Council, 18 April 2016.
9. Information provided by B'tselem.
10. http://www.btselem.org/statistics/minors_in_custody
11. OCHA, The Humanitarian Bulletin January 2016
12. The MoJ figures do not disaggregate cases of "ideologically motivated offenses" against Palestinians from those directed at Israeli forces, therefore they are not comparable with Yesh Din's figures. See: Ministry of Justice, Israel's Investigation and Prosecution of Ideologically Motivated Offences Against Palestinians in the West Bank, February 2016.
13. Response dated 16 November 2014 from Lieut. Eliran Sason of the Civil Administration to a request under the Freedom of Information Act submitted by Adv. Sharon Karni-Cohen of Bimkom.
14. From mid-August to December 2015, the IDP Working Group carried out a survey targeting households who lost their homes during the 2014 hostilities. For a summary of the main findings see: OCHA, *Gaza: Internally displaced persons*, April 2016.
15. Report of the Secretary-General on "Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan," A/HRC/31/43, 20 January 2016, para. 69. See also OCHA, *"Under Threat: Demolition Orders in Area C of the West Bank,"* September 2015.
16. Humanitarian Coordinator calls for end to punitive demolitions in the occupied West Bank, Press release, 16 November 2015.
17. A recent research indicates that nearly 80 per cent of "firing zones" are not used for training. See: Kerem Navot, A Locked Garden, March 2015.
18. The authorities have justified the plan claiming that the residents lack title over the land and that the relocation will improve their living conditions. The residents, however, have not been genuinely consulted about the plan; they firmly oppose this plan and insist on their right to return to their original homes and lands in southern Israel. In the meantime, they have requested protection and assistance in their current location, including adequate planning and permits for their homes and livelihoods.
19. In 2012 the Israeli Civil Administration (the "Blue Line Team") endorsed the declaration of "state land" within Firing Zone 918, allocated to the settlements of Yattir, Susiya, Abigail and Ma'on. See Kerem Navot, A Locked Garden, p. 83.
20. Report of the Secretary General, A/70/421, 14 October 2015, para .29.
21. Since November 2014, Israel has allowed a weekly average of 200 Muslims to visit Al Aqsa Mosque and continued to grant Christian Palestinians permits to visit holy sites in the West Bank twice a year, with a total of 996 exits recorded in 2015 compared to 945 in 2014. Israel also granted 161 permits to students to travel via Erez to reach academic institutions abroad.
22. http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/WHO_monthly_Gaza_access_report-December_2015-final.pdf?ua=1
23. Two Palestinians died on their way to hospitals after being delayed at newly-established checkpoints: the elderly, ill, disabled and women were disproportionately affected groups.
24. These include around 95 obstacles and permanently staffed checkpoints, in the over 20% of Hebron City, known as H2, where Israel continues to exercise full control. This area is home to over 6,000 Palestinians.
25. This included a sweeping ban on the crossing of Palestinian males aged between 15 and 25 through certain checkpoints, as well as the requirement from residents of these areas to register with the Israeli authorities in order to be allowed through other checkpoints.
26. http://grm.report/#/Shelters
27. As of March 2016, 78 of the 82 hospitals and health centers affected have been reconstructed or repaired, and works on 243 of 259 schools damaged or destroyed have been completed. UNSCO, Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 19 April 2016. para. 54
28. http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-90
29. https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-agencies-salute-work-human-rights-defenders-hebron-occasion-international-human
30. Ibid.
31. A/HRC/31/40 para 38
32. A/HRC/31/40 para 38
33. https://www.ochaopt.org/content/un-agencies-call-respect-health-premises-and-right-health-care
34. On 4 October, PRCS declared a state of emergency following 14 attacks by Israeli forces and settlers against its ambulances and staff.
35. Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, Dwellings, by stage of construction, district and construction initiator, March 2016.
36. Peace Now, No Settlement Freeze, February 2016.
37. B'Tselem "Acting the Landlord: Israel's policy in Area C", June 2013; B'Tselem, "Under the Guise of Legality: Declaration on state land in the West Bank", 2012; B'Tselem, "By Hook and by Crook: Israeli settlement policy in the West Bank", 2010.
38. These endorsements are done by Israeli Civil Administration's Task Force for the Survey of State Land Boundaries (the Blue Line team). The Blue Line team is tasked with inspecting and defining the boundaries of land designated as State property, or so-called "State land" by Israeli authorities since 1970
39. On 29 July 2015, Israeli security forces demolished two apartment buildings in the settlement of Beit El (Ramallah), on privately owned land belonging to a resident of the adjacent village of Dura al-Qara. The demolitions were carried out pursuant to High Court judgments after lengthy legal proceedings and repeated attempts by the Israeli authorities and settlers to have the buildings retroactively approved.
40. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the Occupied Syrian Golan, Report by the Secretary General, A/HRC/31/43, para. 12.
41. Ibid, para 105.

OPT OVERVIEW



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