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JULY 2016

OCHA



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Suspected ERW in Gaza has killed and injured more than 100 since the end of the 2014 hostilities.
- Planned easing of access restrictions for Palestinians in Ramadan partially frozen after fatal Tel Aviv attack.
- New project will target vulnerable communities in Area C with water consumption of less than 30 litres per capita per day.
- East Jerusalem Palestinian localities behind the Barrier lack adequate infrastructure, facilities and services.

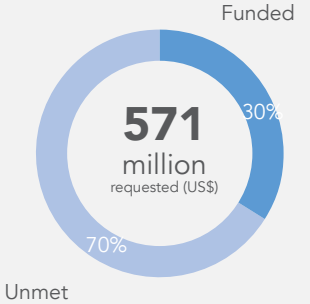
JULY FIGURES

Palestinian killed (direct conflict)	7
Palestinian injured (direct conflict)	256
Israelis killed (direct conflict)	1
Israelis injured (direct conflict)	9
Structures demolished in the West Bank	56
People displaced in the West Bank	80

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2016

571 million
requested (US$)

30% funded



Overview

The majority of Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank face difficulties in accessing water, with an estimated 180 residential areas not connected to any water network and depending on expensive tankered water to meet their needs. Localities served by the network are also vulnerable to water scarcity, particularly in the summer, a situation exacerbated by a decision in June by the Israeli water company *Mekorot* to reduce the amount of water pumped to over 150,000 Palestinians in the northern West Bank. This month's Bulletin profiles a UNICEF-coordinated project to supply subsidized water to 20,000 people in 79 Area C communities, which have an average water consumption of less than 30 litres per capita per day (l/c/d), far below the international standard of 100 l/c/d. The limited access to water is one element of the coercive environment in Area C that increases the risk of forcible transfer.

This month marks the twelfth anniversary of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion which stated that the sections of the Barrier which run inside the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are illegal and should be dismantled. The Bulletin highlights the impact of the Barrier on Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem which are physically separated from the urban centre. Tens of thousands of Palestinians living in these areas face restricted access, a lack of basic services and public infrastructure, unplanned residential construction and lack of law enforcement.

Access to East Jerusalem is also a major concern for the wider Palestinian population, particularly during Ramadan. Since 2008, the Israeli authorities have relaxed permit requirements for Palestinians who hold West Bank ID cards to access the Al Aqsa Mosque for Friday prayers during Ramadan. This year, a total of 300,000 Palestinians who met the aged-based criteria entered East Jerusalem during the four Fridays of Ramadan. However, other announced easings in access restrictions were cancelled, after a fatal attack in Tel Aviv on 8 June, just after Ramadan began, including for the majority of worshippers from the Gaza Strip.

July 2016 marks two years since the seven week escalation of hostilities in Gaza in 2014. One of the most deadly legacies of that escalation is the presence of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), which continue to pose a

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serious threat to the civilian population. This month's Bulletin profiles the work of the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), including efforts to clear large aerial bombs, which impede reconstruction and development efforts. To date, UNMAS has cleared sites in more than 40 cases, but 87 sites remain to be cleared.

In his briefing to the Security Council on 12 July, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke of his recent "moving encounter" with a 15 year-old boy in an UNRWA school in Gaza, who concluded the meeting by saying "harsh restrictions drain away the ambitions of any young person. And this is how we see our future -- to be killed by the conflict, to be killed by the closure, or to be killed by despair." The Secretary-General expressed the hope that "Surely, we can do better for all the children of Palestine and Israel. Surely, they deserve a horizon of hope." The Bulletin concludes with a project which aims to offer exactly such hope to the young people of Gaza. UNRWA's *Summer Fun Weeks* is currently providing sports and leisure activities in over 120 different locations in Gaza, as part of the Agency's efforts to support refugee children's psychosocial needs.

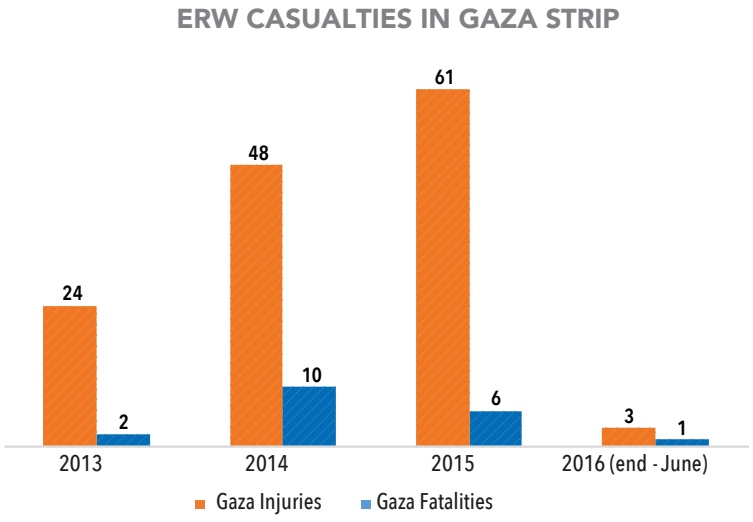
"Surely, we can do better for all the children of Palestine and Israel. Surely, they deserve a horizon of hope."

UN Secretary-General

Gaza two years on: residents at risk from Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)

Full extent of ERW contamination is unknown

In Gaza, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and other explosive hazards resulting from the 2014 and previous hostilities continue to pose a serious threat to the life and physical integrity of the population. The extent of contamination by ERW in Gaza is unknown. Although a large number of ERW was cleared shortly after the 2014 conflict by both official and unofficial bodies, suspected ERW remain hidden throughout Gaza, either among the rubble of destroyed structures or buried below the surface. Since the end of hostilities in August 2014, 17 people have been killed and 100 more have been injured by ERW, including 46 children.



This report was prepared by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

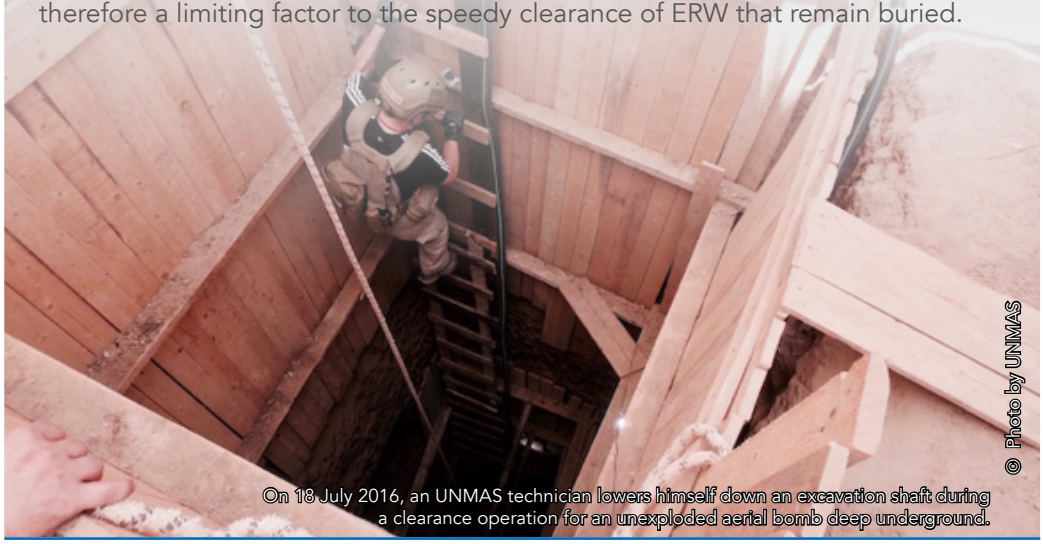
As part of a sustainable strategy to mitigate the risks posed by ERW, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) focuses on protection measures which include the continued removal of suspected ERW, and support for reconstruction and development efforts by providing a holistic framework of risk mitigation measures. These measures comprise four mutually-reinforcing components, beginning with site-specific ERW risk assessments to determine the hazards and the level of risk. Based on these assessments, ERW risk awareness training is then provided to construction workers. UNMAS monitors ongoing work activities to ensure compliance with recommended measures. The final component is responsive technical support from an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) expert whenever an item is suspected to be an ERW. These activities are complemented by providing ERW risk education to communities at risk in order to reduce the number of accidents.

Since the end of the 2014 hostilities, UNMAS has cleared more than 40 cases of suspected large aerial bombs.

Case Study: ERW Removal

On a hot summer day in July 2016, a bomb expert from UNMAS lowered himself down an excavation shaft 12 metres underground in a busy neighbourhood in the Middle Gaza Area to defuse a 925 kg aerial bomb, part of the legacy of past conflicts in Gaza. Although the responsibility for ERW clearance lies with the Gaza police, the impact of large aerial bombs cannot be properly managed in Gaza due to a lack of the technical skills required to render such items safe. UNMAS was therefore requested by the Ministry of Interior to fill this gap and assist with the clearance of aerial bombs. In this case, the bomb was safely removed and destroyed. For the UNMAS technician, the safe completion of this task brought with it the satisfaction of knowing that the danger had been removed forever. For the landowner, the removal of the ERW allowed him to close a painful chapter and to start the process of rebuilding his property.

When a bomb expert defuses a large bomb buried deep underground in a civilian area in Gaza, it is on the understanding that this work is only one essential component of a collaborative and holistic approach to protect civilians from the risk posed by ERW. Among other activities, since the end of the 2014 hostilities, UNMAS has cleared more than 40 cases of suspected large aerial bombs posing a risk to communities and impeding reconstruction and development efforts. Of the 131 locations identified since 2014 where this type of aerial bomb is suspected, 87 sites remain to be cleared. Each case can takes weeks to conclude and requires a costly combination of workers and heavy machinery. The availability of funding is a therefore a limiting factor to the speedy clearance of ERW that remain buried.



© Photo by UNMAS

On 18 July 2016, an UNMAS technician lowers himself down an excavation shaft during a clearance operation for an unexploded aerial bomb deep underground.

Following the end of hostilities, UNMAS supported UNDP's Rubble Removal project for the safe removal and processing of more than one million tonnes of rubble. By the end of July this year, 81 risk assessments had been provided in support of reconstruction efforts coordinated by UNDP; the areas surveyed totalled 405,000m^2 of land, including 41 km of roadways. ERW risk awareness training has been provided to 211 workers and risk education sessions have reached almost 39,000 members of communities at risk, including boys and girls.

In parallel, UNMAS continues to provide UNRWA, other UN agencies and NGO partners with leadership and expert technical expertise on the management of explosive hazards, while developing contingency plans to strengthen emergency preparedness. The ERW risk mitigation measures deployed in Gaza constitute a responsible and sustainable response to identify and remove ERW, and ultimately protect the lives of civilians.

"Those responsible for recent terror attacks must be held accountable. However, closures – such as those in Hebron -- penalise thousands of innocent Palestinians and amount to collective punishment."

UN Secretary-General

300,000 West Bank Palestinians allowed into East Jerusalem for Ramadan prayers

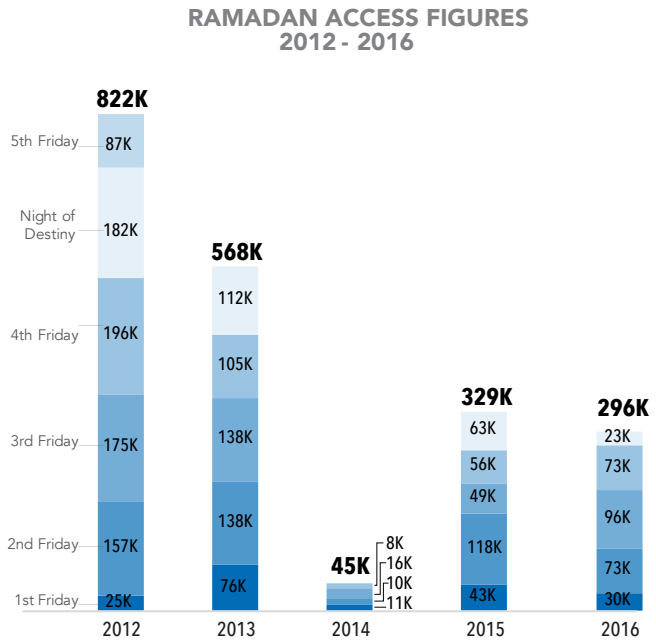
Other easing of restrictions cancelled after fatal attack in Tel Aviv

Since 2008, the Israeli authorities have introduced aged-based criteria during the month of Ramadan that allow Palestinians holding West Bank ID cards to access Al Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem for Friday prayers in lieu of the normal permit requirements. The criteria differ slightly every year but in 2013, 2015 and 2016 all Palestinian women, irrespective of age, were allowed to enter East Jerusalem for Friday prayers. In 2016, access for men was limited to males under 12 and above 45 years of age.

Every year, Ramadan-related family visitation permits have also been issued to allow West Bank ID holders to access East Jerusalem during Ramadan and the feast of *Eid Al Fitr;* these permits are generally valid on all days except Fridays and Saturdays. West Bank Palestinians outside the declared age limit have also been able to apply for Friday prayer permits. On 9 June this year, permits issued for both categories – estimated at around 83,000 – were frozen by the Israeli authorities following a shooting attack on the previous day in Tel Aviv in which four Israelis died, and just a few days after the month of Ramadan began on 6 June.

Following two Palestinian attacks in the Hebron governorate on 30 June and 1 July, which killed two Israeli settlers (including a girl), Israeli forces blocked several junctions leading to and from villages and towns throughout the governorate, including Hebron city itself.. As a result, the access to services and livelihoods by residents of the Hebron governorate (~700,000) were impacted to various degrees, due to the restrictions on Hebron city, which functions as a service hub. Most these closures were gradually removed toward the end of July. In his briefing to the Security Council on 12 July, the UN Secretary-General, declared that "those responsible for recent terror attacks must be held accountable. However, closures – such as those in Hebron -- as well as punitive demolitions and blanket revocations of permits penalise thousands of innocent Palestinians and amount to collective punishment."

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Around 300,000 Palestinians who hold West Bank ID cards and met the access criteria set by the ICA entered East Jerusalem during Ramadan.

According to official figures by the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA), around 300,000 Palestinians who hold West Bank ID cards and met the access criteria set by the ICA entered East Jerusalem during Ramadan through three main Barrier checkpoints: Qalandiya, Gilo and Az Zeitun (See Graph 1 for a comparison with previous years).

The Israeli authorities also put in place arrangements at checkpoints to facilitate access for thousands of Palestinians, including the designation of separate lanes for men and women, and special lanes for humanitarian cases; reducing overcrowding on the East Jerusalem side of checkpoints by improving the process of purchasing tickets and embarking on buses; and improving the flow of people inside the Old City of Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, three significant concerns arose this year in the operation of the checkpoints. First, there were no clear instructions about who was eligible to use the humanitarian lanes, usually designated for the elderly and the infirm. At the Qalandiya checkpoint, the men's humanitarian lane was often inaccessible due to overcrowding.

Second, on the third Friday of Ramadan, there were at least two occasions when Israeli forces allowed men of all ages to cross Qalandiya checkpoint, only to turn some of them back as they boarded buses on the grounds that they did not meet the age criteria. This problem

As has been the case for the past eight years, UNOCHA coordinated the field monitoring of checkpoints which control movement of Palestinians to East Jerusalem during the four Fridays of Ramadan this year, in cooperation with other humanitarian partners. The purpose is to monitor freedom of worship and access to religious sites in Jerusalem; to identify risks and mitigation measures for the most vulnerable; to provide feedback to the Israeli authorities some of which was implemented this year; and contribute to UNOCHA's analysis of broader access trends. Monitoring took place on both sides of the following checkpoints: Qalandiya, Gilo/Bethlehem, Zeitun and Shu'fat, as well as in the Old City of Jerusalem.

aggravated overcrowding on the men's side of the Qalandiya checkpoint on the fourth Friday of Ramadan (1 July), where a significantly higher number of men under 45 years of age had queued in hopes of crossing due to more relaxed arrangements introduced the previous week.

On the fourth and final Friday of Ramadan, Israeli forces regularly fired tear gas canisters and sound grenades at the queuing crowds and ordered men under 45 years of age to turn back. Some cases of stone-throwing by Palestinians were also reported. According to Palestinian medical sources, a 63-year-old Palestinian from Nablus was killed as a result of tear gas inhalation and 21 Palestinians were injured (18 as a result of tear gas inhalation and three by sound grenades). One Israeli soldier was also reportedly injured by a stone. On one occasion during this unrest, Israeli forces opened Qalandiya checkpoint to men of all ages, then closed it again and resumed the firing of tear gas and sound grenades.

The third concern is that, for the first time, Israeli forces staffing Shu'fat checkpoint did not allow West Bank Palestinians with Anata and Shu'fat addresses and who met the age criteria to cross. This is in line with a new ICA policy effective since December 2015 that only allows East Jerusalem ID holders to use this checkpoint. The new policy is not

Access of Palestinians from Gaza to East Jerusalem during Ramadan

Since October 2014, a limited number of Palestinians from Gaza, generally over 60 years of age, have also been allowed to perform Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan. This year, a number of relaxation measures for Fridays in Ramadan were also announced for Gaza residents, including 500 permits for those over 50 years of age, 300 permits for prayer in Al Aqsa Mosque from Sundays to Thursdays, and an additional 800 permits with the same age criteria for the night of Laylat al-Qadr. Following the fatal attack in Tel Aviv on 9 June, these measures were suspended. The existing quota of approximately 300 people from Gaza over the age of 60 permitted to pray at Al-Aqsa on Fridays throughout the year since October 2014 was maintained throughout the month, except for 11 June when no access from Gaza was permitted. As the Egyptian-controlled Rafah crossing also remained closed for most of Ramadan, those hoping to make the pilgrimage to Mecca were prevented from crossing.



widely known and resulted in multiple cases of elderly Palestinians from Anata and Shu'fat being systematically denied access at Shu'fat checkpoint, forcing them to divert to Zeitun checkpoint (20 kilometres away) or Qalandiya checkpoint (13 kilometres).

Water tankering projects target the most vulnerable communities in Area C

Water shortage increases the risk of forcible transfer

The majority of Palestinian communities across Area C of the West Bank face serious water access problems. According to the Vulnerability Profile Project (VPP) - a comprehensive survey of all Area C communities coordinated by OCHA in 2013 - 180 residential areas are not connected to the water network and another 122 have a connection with no or an irregular supply.[1] This situation is directly linked to the restrictive discriminatory planning and zoning regime applied by the Israeli authorities in Area C.[2]

In Area C,180 residential areas are not connected to the water network and another 122 have a connection with no or an irregular supply.

These communities rely on rainwater harvesting during winter and the first months of spring, and on tankered water from June to October. The cost of piped water supplied from networks is about five NIS per cubic metre (m^3), but residents of the most isolated communities pay between 20 to 50 NIS/m^3 to private vendors depending on the distance and access constraints. These water purchases can account for up to half of the family's monthly expenses in the poorest communities.

Limited access to water has a direct impact on people's well-being, contributes to the continuous erosion of their income and livelihoods, and increases their exposure to intimidation and violence while they are fetching water from distant sources. These factors, combined with the destruction of homes and livelihood-related structures due to lack of building permits, creates a coercive environment that increases the risk of forcible transfer.

The Israeli water company reduces water supply to villages in the northern West Bank

From the beginning of June 2016, the Israeli water company *Mekorot*, which is the largest supplier of piped water in the West Bank, reduced the quantity of water pumped to 14 Palestinian villages in the Nablus, Qalqilia, Salfit, and Jenin governorates.[3] According to the Palestinian Water Authority and local Palestinian sources, the reduction ranged from between 50 and 70 per cent. This has forced over 150,000 people living in the affected villages to increase reliance on expensive tankered water to meet their domestic and livelihood needs. A spokesperson for the Israeli Ministry of Defense told the Israeli media that, "as a result of increased water consumption in the summer, the flow must be managed and regulated to enable the highest possible supply to all the population. Given this problem, the head of the Civil Administration has approved an emergency regulation to operate the Ariel 1 drill rig to increase the amount of water to residents of northern Samaria".[4] According to the Israel Water Authority, the water shortage in the northern West Bank has also affected Israeli settlements.[5]

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Subsidizing water tankering

To alleviate this situation, GVC (an international NGO) and UNICEF will coordinate with the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in a project targeting communities in Area C with an average water consumption of less than 30 litres per capita per day (l/c/d), and/or pay more than 20 NIS/m^3 for tankered water. Based on these criteria, 79 communities with a population of approximately 20,700 were identified.

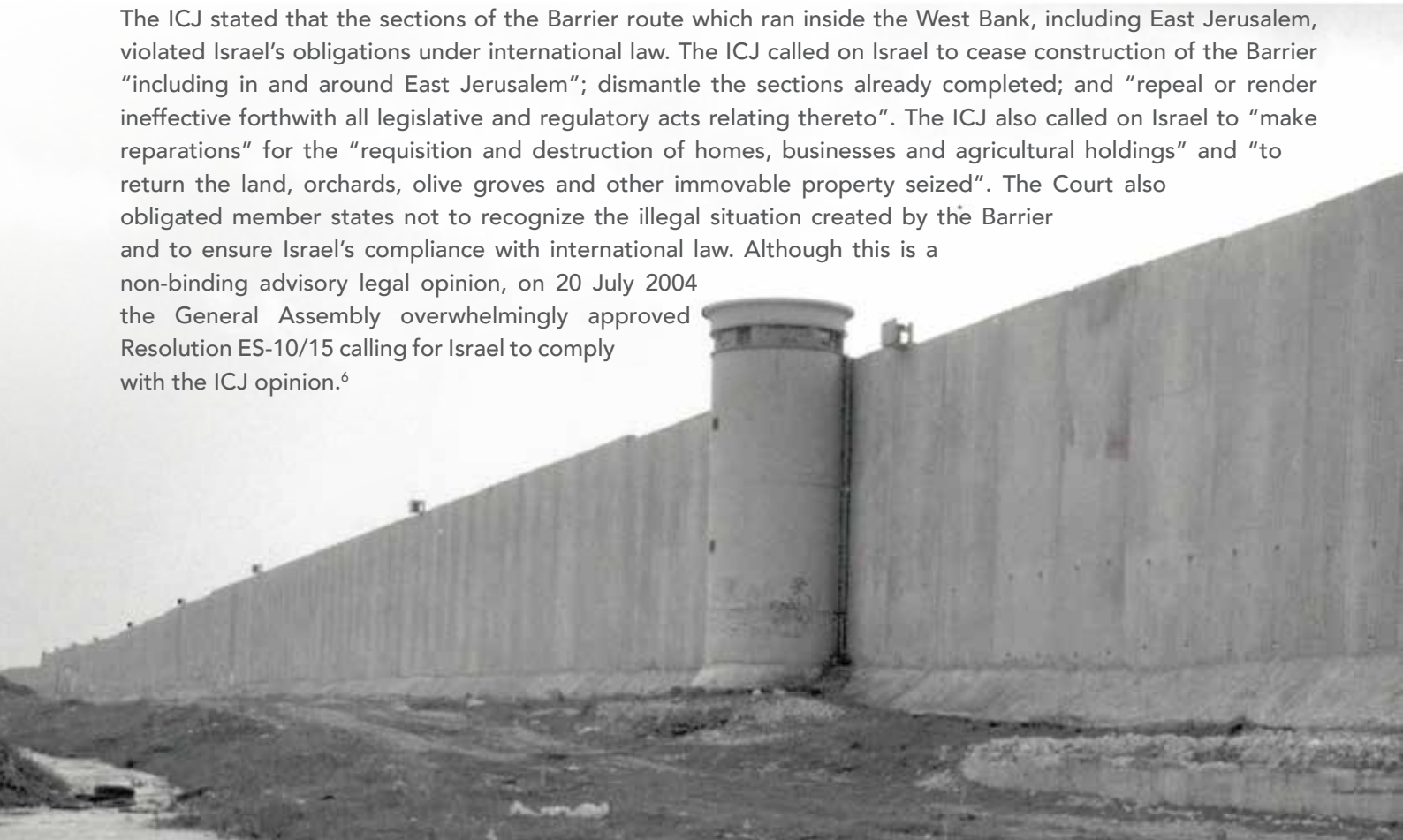
All residents of these communities will be supplied with 30 l/c/d of subsidized water at a price of 10 NIS/m^3 for a period of 90 days, regardless of the location of the community or the supply point. Additionally, the 33 schools operating in the targeted areas will be allocated five litres per day per pupil, and the two clinics with receive 10 l/c/d free of charge.

The distribution will based on coupon system sold by community representatives in coordination with the Joint Service Councils of the targeted areas. A PWA database for coupon management will facilitate implementation and monitoring, and ensure efficiency and equity. Beneficiaries will be directly involved in the process to enhance accountability. The project aims to start in August and will cost approximately USD $500,000, and will be implemented through the oPt Humanitarian Fund.

The 12th anniversary of the ICJ advisory opinion

On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The ICJ recognized that while Israel "has to face numerous indiscriminate and deadly acts of violence against its civilian population" and that it "has the right, and indeed the duty, to respond in order to protect the life of its citizens … the measures taken are bound nonetheless to remain in conformity with applicable international law."

The ICJ stated that the sections of the Barrier route which ran inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violated Israel's obligations under international law. The ICJ called on Israel to cease construction of the Barrier "including in and around East Jerusalem"; dismantle the sections already completed; and "repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto". The ICJ also called on Israel to "make reparations" for the "requisition and destruction of homes, businesses and agricultural holdings" and "to return the land, orchards, olive groves and other immovable property seized". The Court also obligated member states not to recognize the illegal situation created by the Barrier and to ensure Israel's compliance with international law. Although this is a non-binding advisory legal opinion, on 20 July 2004 the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved Resolution ES-10/15 calling for Israel to comply with the ICJ opinion.[6]

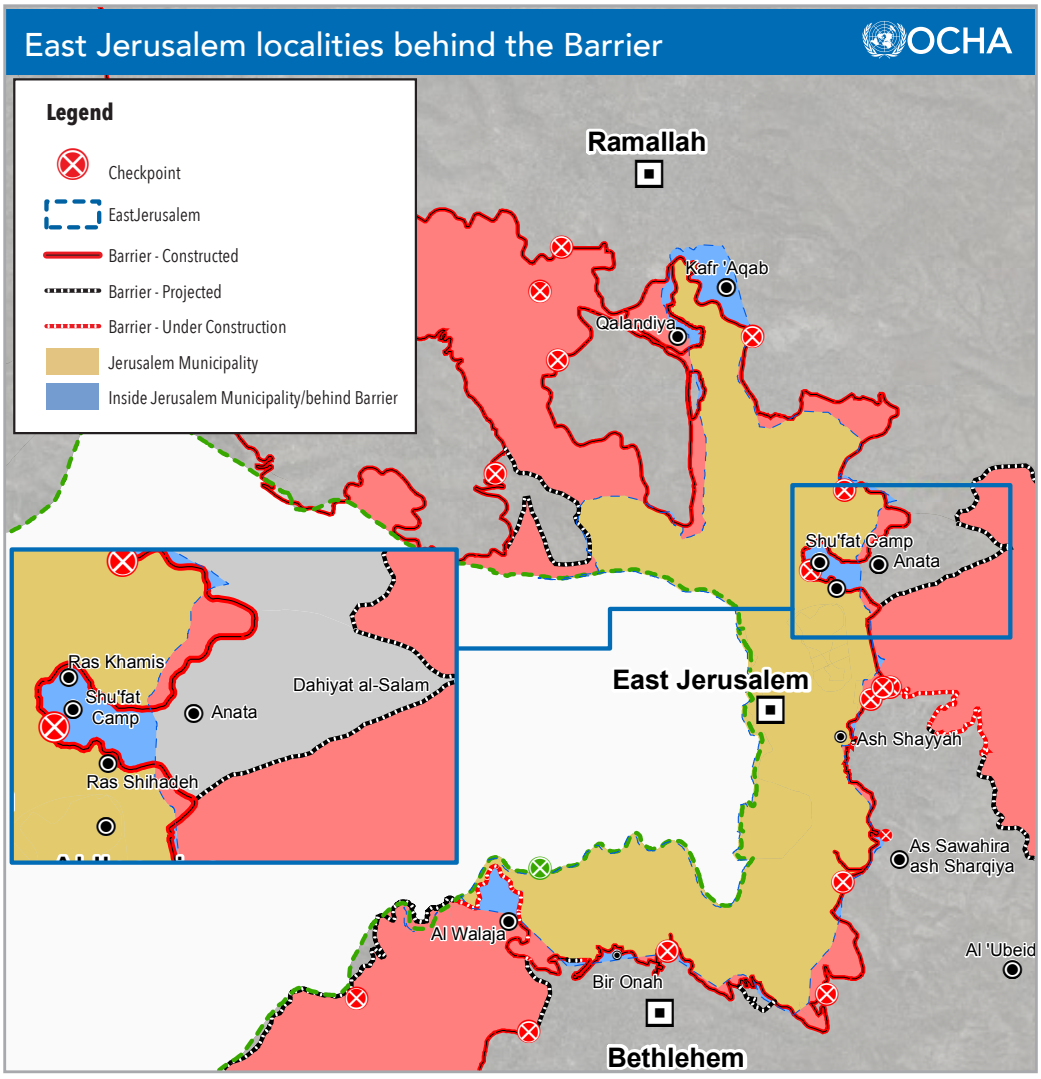


East Jerusalem Palestinian localities behind the Barrier

The Barrier physically separates some East Jerusalem Palestinian localities from the urban centre, despite these areas remaining inside the Israeli-declared municipal boundary and residents retaining their permanent resident status in the city. Palestinians living in these areas now need to cross checkpoints to reach workplaces and the health, education and other services to which they are entitled as residents of Jerusalem.

The two localities primarily affected are Kafr 'Aqab and the Shu'fat Camp area, (the latter comprising Shu'fat Camp, Ras Khamis, Ras Shihadeh and the Dahiyat al-Salaam area of Anata). Smaller enclaves include Ash Shayyah, Qalandiya village and part of As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya. Also affected are Bir Onah and part of Al Walaja in the Bethlehem governorate, which were incorporated by Israel within the municipal boundary of Jerusalem in 1967 (See map).

The population of these areas is estimated to total 160,000, although the ratio of East Jerusalem residents to West Bank ID holders is also unknown. Kafr 'Aqab, in particular, is the location of choice for couples with 'mixed residency' status; spouses who hold Jerusalem residency can maintain their 'centre of life' and live with their West Bank partners without obtaining a permit for the partner to live in these areas.



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In 2005, Israel established a 'Jerusalem Envelope Community Authority' to provide an optimal response to essential needs and ensure that the Palestinian localities separated from the city by the Barrier continue to receive state and municipal services. "The State also promised to fund special transportation for all students living outside the Barrier, to establish a community administration, to build new schools and rent classrooms, to allocate municipal hotlines, and to arrange alternative traffic routes for residents of the neighbourhoods and for rescue teams in the event of an emergency." [11] However, according to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, "in spite of a government decision that was made a decade ago, and in spite of commitments the government made following legal petitions to the High Court of Justice, as of today, none of the multitude of assurances made to the residents of these neighbourhoods have been fulfilled."[12]

Lack of services, facilities and security

Although residents of these areas continue to pay municipal taxes, the public infrastructure, resources and services are significantly degraded or lacking entirely. Roads are unpaved and lack sidewalks, street lighting or pedestrian crossings.[7] On some occasions, as in Ras Khamis, residents have paid for the upkeep of their own roads.[8] Water and sewage systems are stretched and fail to keep pace with the growing population.[9] Basic services, including garbage collection, are contracted out by the municipality to private companies based on an underestimate of the actual number of residents, creating significant gaps. In Shu'fat Camp this has led to the regular burning of garbage and other environmental hazards.[10]

The Israeli police seldom enter municipal areas beyond the Barrier except for "security reasons". However, under the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority is formally prohibited from operating in these areas, thereby creating a security vacuum manifested in an increase in lawlessness, crime and drug trafficking.[13] Israeli ambulances do not enter these areas, requiring Palestinian ambulances to coordinate the transfer of patients at checkpoints. [14]



© Photo by OCHA

High-rise buildings in Ash Shayya.

Wildcat construction

Due to the restrictive planning regime in East Jerusalem, there is a serious housing shortage; those who build 'illegally' face the threat of demolition, displacement and other penalties. A notable aspect of the Palestinian localities behind the Barrier is the rapid and informal increase in residential construction, particularly high-rise buildings. This construction is driven by the lack of municipal enforcement and an absence of the penalties and demolitions meted out to Palestinians in the rest of the city.[15] The phenomenon is most evident in the two large enclaves of Kfar 'Aqab[16] and the Shu'fat Camp area, but smaller areas such as Ash Shayya and Bir Onah are currently experiencing a similar boom in construction.

The massive demand for housing has led to unauthorized construction and dangerous practices: buildings constructed within metres of each other without adequate infrastructure for water, drainage, sewage, electricity and roads. In Shu'fat Camp, makeshift overhead electricity cables and water lines have been installed by residents, increasing security hazards. The lack of municipal oversight to ensure basic engineering and safety standards is particularly evident in the lack of contingency planning for earthquakes and other hazards.[17]

A notable aspect of the Palestinian localities behind the Barrier is the rapid and informal increase in residential construction, particularly high-rise buildings.

In Brief:

Israel opened 24 criminal investigations into the killing and injury of Palestinians since October 2015, leading to one indictment

The last quarter of 2015 was marked by a sharp rise in stabbing, ramming and shooting attacks by unaffiliated Palestinians against Israelis, as well as almost daily protests and related clashes. As a consequence, the number of casualties among West Bank Palestinians (145 fatalities and over 14,000 injuries) in 2015 was the highest since 2005, when OCHA began documenting incidents. Israeli casualties in the West Bank and Israel were also the highest since 2005 (25 fatalities and 300 injuries). The frequency and intensity of protests and clashes declined sharply during the first half of 2016 alongside a more moderate fall in Palestinian attacks.

The response by Israeli forces to many of these incidents has raised concern about possible excessive use of force and even extra-judicial executions. According to the Israeli office of the Attorney General,[18] between October 2015 and June 2016 the Israeli authorities opened a total of 24 criminal investigations into incidents resulting in the death or injury of Palestinians by its security forces in the West Bank and Israel. Of these, one has led to the indictment and prosecution of a soldier.[19] Another 142 cases have been "examined"; in half (71 cases) the relevant authority[20] determined that "no additional legal or disciplinary proceedings were required". The other 71 cases are still under review or awaiting a decision about follow up. In October 2015, Israeli forces killed nine Palestinian civilians and injured another 237 during clashes near Gaza's perimeter fence, but none of these cases have led to the opening of criminal investigations.

Gaza fishing zone restricted after brief expansion

After less than three months during which the Israeli authorities expanded the fishing zone along the southern Gaza coast from six to nine nautical miles (NM), the six NM limit was re-imposed on 27 June. The brief expansion on 3 April 2016 was less than the 20 NM agreed to as part of the Oslo Accords, but the Fisherman's Syndicate estimated that it had led to an increase of 25 per cent in the quantity and diversity of the fishing catch.

Since September 2000, Israel has tightened restrictions on Palestinian access to the sea and to land located near the fence with Israel (Access Restricted Areas), citing security concerns. These restrictions are enforced by firing direct or warning live ammunition, the destruction of property, arrests and the confiscation of equipment. Israel and Egypt also impose a "no fishing zone" along their respective maritime boundaries with Gaza. Over 35,000 Palestinians depend on this industry for their livelihoods.

UNRWA's Summer Fun Weeks get underway in Gaza

UNRWA's Summer Fun Weeks (SFW) are taking place between 23 July and 11 August in over 120 different locations across the Gaza Strip, including installations that facilitate the participation of children with special needs. The SFW include sports activities such as football, basketball, and popular games like trampolines, slides or sack races. Other activities such as handicrafts and drawing will also be offered. Around 140,000 students have already registered.

This year, each area will have a specific theme. In the northern area, Beit Hanoun and Jabalia, the focus will be on mental health in children's overall well-being because this region was one of those most affected by the 2014 hostilities. The theme in Gaza city is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" to raise awareness of the value of natural resources. In the Middle Area the spotlight will be on democracy and child parliaments, with children taking on roles such as the UN Secretary-General, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA or the Director of UNRWA Operations during simulations of UN bodies and agencies. Khan Yunis will explore traditional Palestinian food and dance, and in Rafah children will have their summer fun activities in English. They will be in contact with children across the globe to practice their language skills and exchange experiences.

During the 2014 conflict, a total of 548 Palestinian children lost their lives and about 1,000 children were injured – some so badly that they will have permanent disabilities for the rest of their lives. Thousands more were displaced. The SFW is one of many efforts by UNRWA to support refugee children's psychosocial needs by providing them with a safe and fun place to play and the possibility of developing new friendships.

Endnotes

1. A dynamic database presenting the VPP findings is available at: http://www.ochaopt.org/vpp.aspx.
2. See 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.
3. The affected villages are: Huwara, Deir Al Hatab, Salem, Azmout, Jit, Sarra, Kafr Qaddum, Al-Funduq, Jinsafut, Qarawat Bani Hassan, Biddya, Fandaqumiya, Asa'sa and Silat ad-Dhahr.
4. Amira Hass, "Israel Admits Cutting West Bank Water Supply, but Blames Palestinian Authority", Ha'aretz, 21 June 2016.
5. Ibid.
6. The full text of the ICJ opinion can be found at: http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/index.php?p1=3&p2=4&k=5a&case=131&code=mwp&p3=4
7. "In Kafr 'Aqab, only four kilometres out of the total 25 kilometres of roads are paved and in reasonable condition", Ir Amim, "Displaced in their own city" p.35. http://www.ir-amim.org.il/en/report/displaced-their-own-city-impact-israeli-policy-east-jerusalem-palestinian-neighborhoods-city
8. "Palestinian neighbourhood, abandoned by Jerusalem, paves Its own road", Ha'aretz, 12 April, 2016 http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.713925
9. In March 2014, the water supply to Shu'fat camp and neighbouring areas was disconnected for weeks. The authorities explained that the infrastructure had not been expanded to keep pace with the sharp rise in population and that the majority of homes had been constructed without a permit. In January 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that the authorities must upgrade the existing water lines in order to increase the water pressure and that meetings should be held with residents to arrange payments for water. Ir Amim, "Displaced in their own city" pp. 33-34.
10. Ibid. In Shu'fat camp, UNRWA is responsible for sanitation collection, but residents of neighbouring communities dump their garbage in the camp for UNRWA to collect, overburdening the Agency's capacities. In Ash Shayya, Al 'Eizariya Municipality collects the garbage although it is formally prohibited from operating in the area, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Jerusalem Municipality.
11. Ir Amim, "Displaced in their own city", p.37.
12. http://www.acri.org.il/en/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/EJ-10-Years-Letter-English-Excerpts.pdf
13. "Refugee Camp near Jerusalem becomes a haven for drug dealers", Ha'aretz, 21 November 2011, http://www.haaretz.com/refugee-camp-near-jerusalem-becomes-173-a-haven-for-drug-dealers-1.396700
14. According to Al Eizariya Municipality, if a Jerusalem resident dies in the Ash Shayya enclave, the body must be transported to Ma'ale Adumim checkpoint where an Israeli health official in an ambulance confirms the death and issues a certificate before the death is officially recognized by the Israeli authorities.
15. In recent months, the Israeli authorities have started to demolish some structures in these communities, most recently 15 low-rise structures in Qalandiya village on 27 July.
16. As of 2012, the number of new building start-ups in Kafr 'Aqab accounted for 83 per cent of all new building in the entire city of Jerusalem. As of the beginning of 2013, some 1,282 new apartments were nearing completion, all in high-rise buildings. Ir Amim, "Displaced in their own city", p. 44.
17. Employees from the Building Inspection Division have not entered Kafr 'Aqab since 2005. Ibid, p.46.
18. Letter to OCHA dated 15 July 2016.
19. This case dates from 24 March 2016 when the perpetrator of a stabbing attack in Hebron was killed after he had already been shot and injured and reportedly no longer presented a threat.
20. The Military Advocate General's Corps for soldiers and the Office of the State Attorney for policemen.

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