Humanitarian Bulletin
occupied Palestinian territory

MAY - JUNE 2017
SPECIAL EDITION

OCHA
1967-2017 50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION


© Photo by OCHA.
Abeer al Nemnem and her daughters sitting at the porch of their house in Ash Shati Refugee Camp, Gaza, May 2017.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Gaza's electricity crisis continues: while the Gaza power plant resumed partial operations, Israel reduced its supply by 40%, at the request of the Palestinian Authority (PA).
- The referral of over 1,600 patients to medical treatment outside Gaza disrupted, following the apparent suspension of payments for this service by the PA.
- Halt in West Bank demolitions and displacements during the month of Ramadan, amid a continuation in the wave of settlement expansion announcements.

MAY-JUNE FIGURES

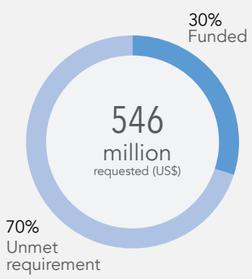
Palestinian killed (direct conflict)	14
Palestinian injured (direct conflict)*	790
Israelis killed (direct conflict)	1
Israelis injured (direct conflict)*	20
Structures demolished in the West Bank	19
People displaced in the West Bank	25

Includes injuries between 1 May and 19 June only

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2017

546 million
requested (US$)

30% funded



Overview

This Humanitarian Bulletin coincides with the 50th anniversary of the June 1967 war and the start of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. To mark the occasion, this issue revisits the cases of ten Palestinians who featured in previous OCHA publications, to illustrate some of the enduring humanitarian concerns in the oPt.

Of particular concern these days is the aggravation of Gaza's chronic electricity crisis, which has undermined already precarious living conditions over the past decade. The drivers of this problem in recent years have included internal Palestinian disputes; limited collection of bills from consumers and related funding shortages to run Gaza's sole power plant (GPP); the destruction of electricity-related facilities by Israeli airstrikes; and Israeli restrictions on the import of spare parts and equipment, citing security concerns.

In the April 2014 issue of the Humanitarian Bulletin, Abeer al Nemem, a mother-of-11 from Beach Camp, in the Gaza Strip, recounted the difficulties she faced in carrying out the most basic of daily activities due to electricity cuts, such as providing tea or warm milk for her children. Revisiting Abeer three years later, the situation has deteriorated further, following the shutdown of the GPP in April 2017 and the reduction in electricity supply by Israel, at the request of the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA). These recent developments occurred in the context of an escalation of the decade-long conflict between the PA and the Hamas de facto authorities.

As a result, the majority of the population has been plunged into almost constant darkness and basic services, including health facilities, water supply and wastewater management, have almost ground to a halt, depending almost exclusively on a UN emergency fuel operation. Although the GPP resumed partial operation on 21 June, following the purchase of fuel through Egypt, the situation remains precarious. On 14 June, the Humanitarian Coordinator in the oPt, Robert Piper, warned of the "disastrous consequences of a further reduction in electricity-supply to the Gaza Strip" and called upon "the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and Israel to put the welfare of Gaza's residents first and to take the necessary measures to avoid further suffering."

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The deteriorating health situation in Gaza, and the difficulties patients face in accessing life-saving treatment outside of the coastal enclave, has been a recurrent topic in the Bulletin. In the January 2017 issue, Siham Al Tatari, a cancer patient, recounted having to interrupt her chemotherapy treatment for seven months and missing two appointments in the Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem before she finally obtained a permit. By June, the cancer had spread to Siham's bone marrow and, at the time of interview, she was still waiting for a permit for her hospital appointment. The condition of patients like Siham is also affected by the ongoing internal Palestinian conflict: since March 2017, the referral of over 2,000 patients to medical treatment outside Gaza has been disrupted, following the apparent suspension of payments for this service by the PA. This may be resulting in higher mortality rates among waiting patients, including highly vulnerable neonates.

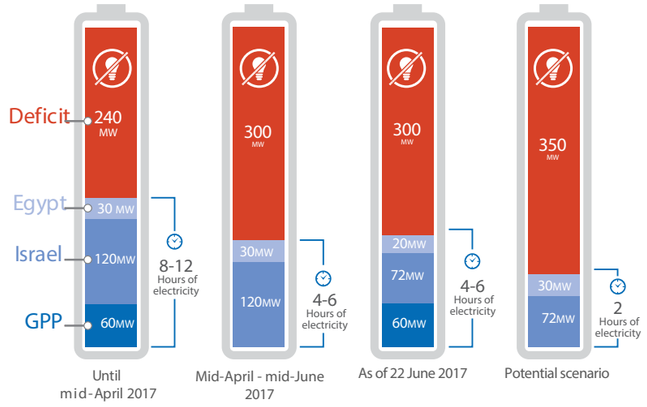
The West Bank topics covered in this Bulletin include longstanding humanitarian concerns: the impact of the Barrier in the Jerusalem area and the rural West Bank; concerns about excessive use of force and the condition of children in detention; communities at risk of risk of forcible transfer; and the many restrictions on building and access to services experienced by Palestinian communities in Area C.

A common concern linking many of these issues is the impact of the Israeli settlements which have been established across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in contravention of international law. The seizure of land for the establishment and expansion of settlements, alongside settler violence and the takeover of land by settler groups, have deprived Palestinians of their property and reduced the space available for them to sustain their livelihoods. Many of the restrictions on Palestinian movement, including the Barrier, which undermine access to basic services and livelihoods, are imposed to protect settlements and facilitate their daily life.

In December 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2334, which called on Israel to take steps "to cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem." However, as indicated by the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nikolay Mladenov in his June briefing to the Security Council, "no such steps have been taken […] while there has been substantial increase in settlement-related announcements […], with plans for nearly 4,000 housing units moving forward and 2,000 tenders issued."

In a statement issued this month, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the oPt stressed that "from a humanitarian's perspective, 50 years of occupation represents a gross failure of leadership by many – local and international, Israeli and Palestinian. Too many innocent civilians – Palestinian and Israeli alike – are paying for this abject failure to address the underlying causes of the world's longest-running protection crisis."

ELECTRICITY DEMAND/SUPPLY



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

GAZA'S ENERGY CRISIS

ABEER AL NEMNEM FROM ASH SHATI REFUGEE CAMP, GAZA

APRIL 2014

"Shortage of cooking gas is every mother's nightmare"

Abeer al Nemnem, aged 41, lives with her husband and their 11 children in a three-bedroom house with no windows and one little kitchen in Ash Shati refugee camp (Beach camp) in Gaza. Her husband is ill and unemployed. She works in a kindergarten for NIS300 a month. Abeer struggles to provide decent hot meals for her large family. Her everyday life is exacerbated by Gaza's chronic energy crisis. Shortages of cooking gas and regular electricity cuts make it impossible to carry out the most basic activities such as providing tea or warm milk for her children in the morning.

"Shortage of cooking gas is every mother's nightmare. If we run out of gas, we have to wait for more than three weeks to get our gas cylinder refilled. We cannot afford a backup cylinder as we are very poor. I sometimes use a small gas cylinder…When the small cylinder runs out, I try to time food preparation with the electricity cuts schedule, using an unsafe electric stove to prepare simple meals such as fried potatoes, eggs or hot milk for the children. The stove is not safe because of the poor electricity supply and because it is low on the ground. I'm always afraid one of the children will knock it over and burn themselves. It often happens that the children wake up at night during electricity cuts and I cannot even prepare milk for them. It's even worse when my children have to go to school without breakfast or even a cup of milk or tea…My children are exposed to danger every time we run out of gas, but what can I do?"

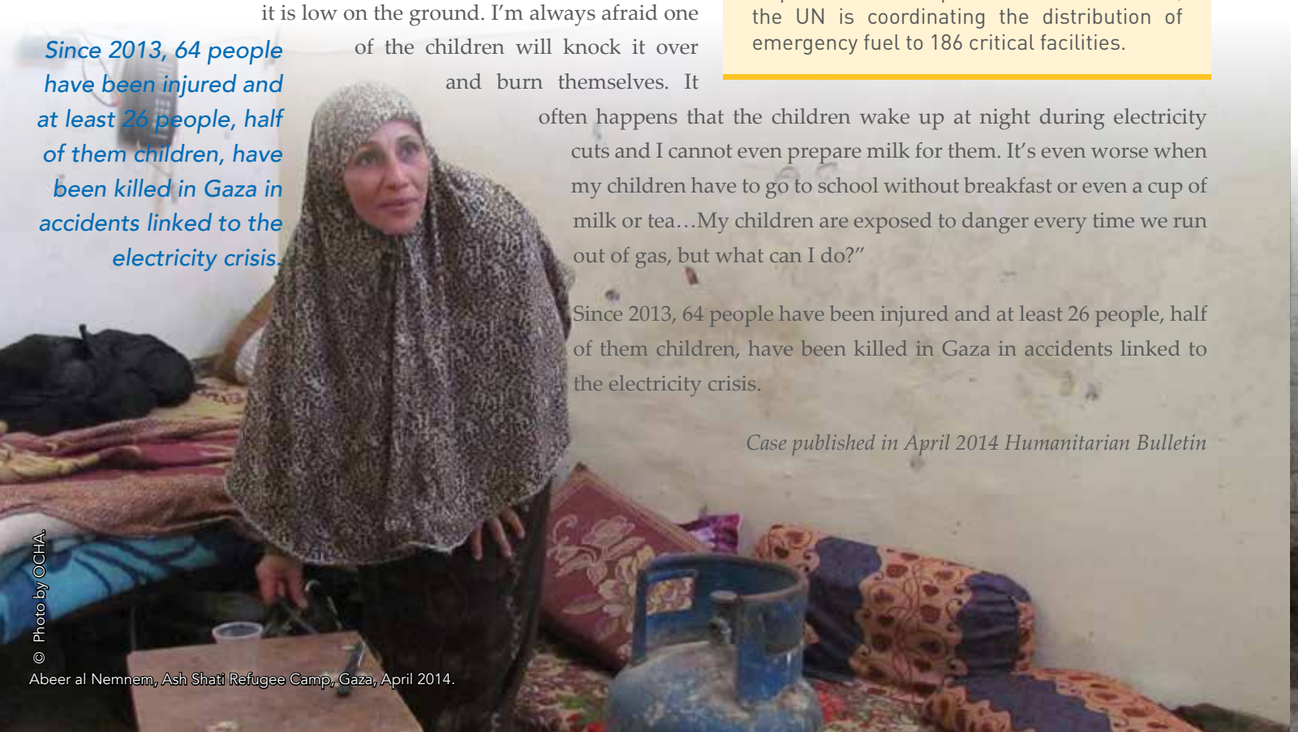
Since 2013, 64 people have been injured and at least 26 people, half of them children, have been killed in Gaza in accidents linked to the electricity crisis.

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Case published in April 2014 Humanitarian Bulletin

For the past decade, the Gaza Strip has suffered from a chronic electricity deficit that has undermined its already fragile living conditions. The functioning of Gaza's sole power plant (GPP) is impaired by disputes between the Palestinian authorities in Gaza and Ramallah over the funding and taxation of fuel; the inadequate collection of bills from consumers; the destruction of fuel storage tanks by an Israeli strike in July 2014; and Israeli restrictions on imports of spare parts and equipment, citing security concerns. In April 2017 the GPP shut down completely after exhausting its fuel reserves. It resumed partial operations in late June with fuel purchased from Egypt. Gaza also relies on the purchase of electricity from Israel and Egypt.

In May 2017, the Ramallah-based Palestinian government decided to cut its payments for electricity provided to Gaza by Israel. As a result, Israel reduced its supply by 40 per cent in late June. In recent years, the electricity deficit has required a rationing system entailing regular rolling blackouts of 12-16 hours per day, occasionally increasing to up to 22 hours. This has had a direct impact on the delivery of services, including health, water and sanitation, and education. To prevent the collapse of essential services, the UN is coordinating the distribution of emergency fuel to 186 critical facilities.



© Photo by OCHA.

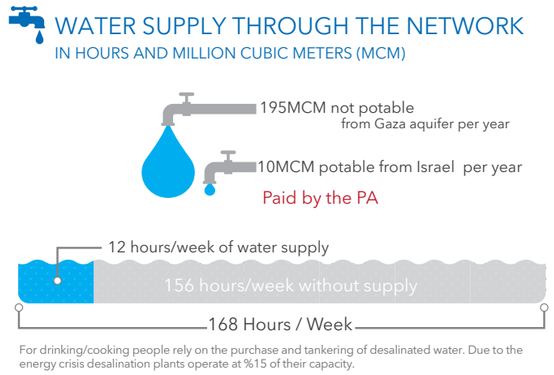
Abeer al Nemnem, Ash Shati Refugee Camp, Gaza, April 2014.

JUNE 2017

"Supplies of running water and electricity rarely coincide"

Since April, Gaza has been plunged into almost constant darkness after the shutdown of Gaza's sole power plant.

"How can I run a household without cooking gas, electricity and water?!," said Abeer when revisited in June 2017. "It's catastrophic. It's now been two months without gas. The (private) gas supplier said our turn for refilling has not come yet. I have a little gas cylinder but this can barely heat food and I use it just for emergencies. I can only cook when we have electricity but this is unpredictable and lasts just for two or three hours maximum. I don't know when we will have electricity but I must tailor my time around it. It drives me crazy!



Today, for example, my children told me that the electricity would be back at 6 in the evening. If that is true, it will give me just enough time to cook a meal before Iftar – breaking the daily Ramadan fast. The other day, we only had electricity around midnight. I had no choice but to make bread as we had run out and I needed bread for the children. Making bread at night is very challenging because the only space I have is the living room where my children sleep. I had to move the sleeping children to my room while I baked. By the time I finished it was just before dawn. When we have electricity during the day I can either cook or make bread, never the two together. I cannot even use a washing machine, as the power supply is weak. I do all the washing by hand.

My daughter is sitting for her final high school exams and she cannot study. We have only two emergency lights, which are not strong enough for reading. I don't let her use a candle because it is unsafe. I'd rather live in darkness than risk my children's lives.

Blackouts also mean that the water pump is not working and there is no running water to take a shower. Supplies of running water and electricity rarely coincide. When there is electricity there is no water and when there is water there is no electricity. We have running water every other day, sometimes only every three days, and then only for only a few hours a day. The water is very salty and cannot be used for drinking or cooking, only for cleaning the house and taking showers. Showering in salty water hurts my eyes and damages my daughters' hair. For drinking we refill containers of water from the mosque desalination station, which offers it for free, but it is not always available because the desalination machine is dependent on electricity.

I feel so sorry for my children. There is nothing for them to do and there is no space for them to play. When I was their age, we never had blackouts. We used to play in the streets and were happy. Now the streets are dark. As time passes I feel things are getting worse. We live under blockade. Gaza is a prison where one is shackled and cannot do anything."



© Photo by OCHA.

Children collecting water from a desalination point in Ash Shati Refugee Camp, Gaza, February 2017.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE OUTSIDE GAZA

THE CASE OF SIHAM AL TATARI, GAZA CITY

JANUARY 2017

"The closure of Erez and Rafah crossings sentences cancer patients to death"

Siham,[1] a 53-year-old woman from Gaza and a mother of 10 children, was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 2013. "This was the beginning of a long, painful and expensive journey," Siham told OCHA in January 2017. Due to shortages in medical equipment in Gaza and because of difficulties in obtaining a permit for medical checks in East Jerusalem, Siham was referred to Egypt. There, she had to stay for three months, mostly at her own expense, as the Palestinian Authority covers the cost of medical treatment only. While in Egypt she contracted hepatitis C and only learned about it when she was back in Gaza a few months later.

"Last May (2016), I was put on chemotherapy as new cancerous tumors were found in my stomach and hips. The course of treatment ran for seven sessions that had to be completed without interruption every 21 days. I only managed two because the drugs were not sent from Ramallah to Gaza. I waited more than two months and then my doctor referred me to the Augusta Victoria hospital in East Jerusalem. Twice I missed my appointment because I lacked a permit. All I heard from the [Israeli] authorities was that the permit application was being processed. About five months after I first applied, and only after referring my case to human rights organizations and protesting, did I finally get a permit to leave Gaza. A day before coming to Jerusalem, I learned that the cancer has spread to the thyroid.

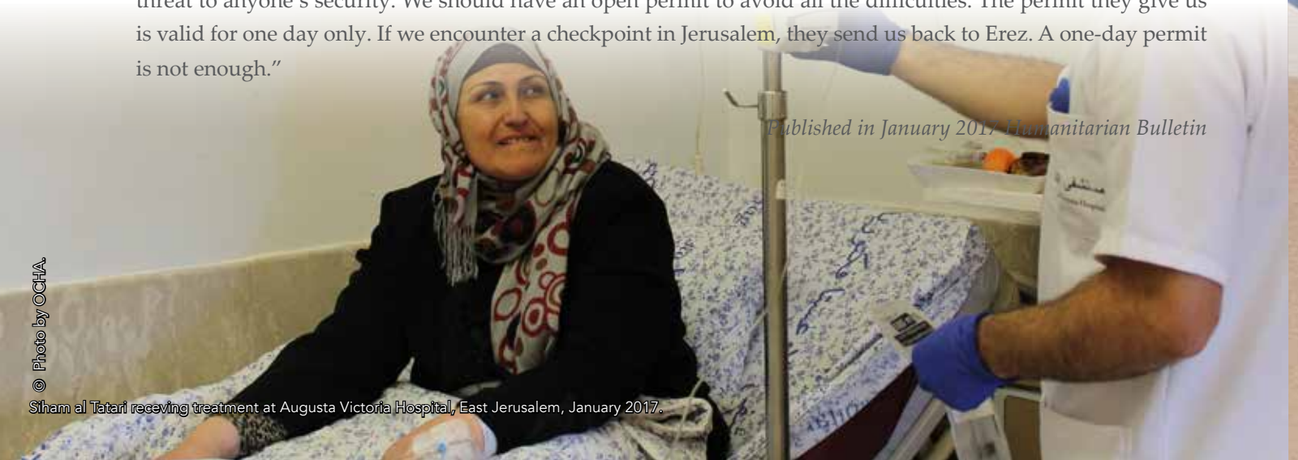
The repeated closure of Erez and Rafah sentences cancer patients to death. It's a slow death. We are humanitarian cases. We demand our right to be treated.... We just want to be treated and go home. We are not dangerous or a threat to anyone's security. We should have an open permit to avoid all the difficulties. The permit they give us is valid for one day only. If we encounter a checkpoint in Jerusalem, they send us back to Erez. A one-day permit is not enough."

Published in January 2017 Humanitarian Bulletin

In June 2007, following the takeover of the Gaza Strip by Hamas and citing security concerns, Israel imposed a land, sea and air blockade on Gaza that intensified previous access restrictions. Along with the closure of the Rafah crossing by Egypt, the blockade 'locked in' nearly two million Palestinians in Gaza, unable to access the remainder of the oPt and the outside world. Exceptions are made for certain categories, including medical patients and their companions who must apply for a permit from the Israeli authorities to cross via the Erez crossing.

The number of exits via Erez started to rise after the 2014 hostilities and continued into 2016. However, numbers fell in the second half of the year, including a decline in the overall approval rate for medical patients to 64 per cent versus 77 per cent in 2015. The Israeli authorities have attributed the decline to concerns about the misuse of permits by Hamas.

The situation has been compounded by the ongoing internal Palestinian divide: since March 2017, the referral of over 2,000 patients for medical treatment outside Gaza has been disrupted following the apparent suspension of payments by the Ramallah-based Palestinian government. In April 2017, the World Health Organization reported that three patients from Gaza died while awaiting Israeli permits to access health care in hospitals in East Jerusalem.



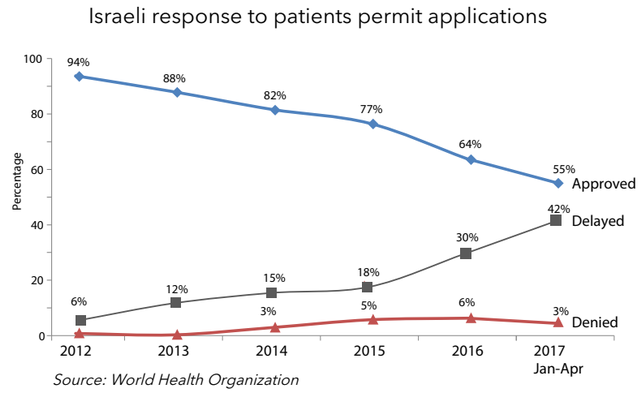
© Photo by OCHA.

Siham al Tatari receving treatment at Augusta Victoria Hospital, East Jerusalem, January 2017.

JUNE 2017

"We want to receive treatment and be treated with dignity"

Five months later, the cancer had spread to Siham's bone marrow. From January she returned to Augusta Victoria Hospital once and was put under a new course of four- to six chemotherapy sessions. She missed her 1 June appointment because she did not receive a permit and was still waiting to hear whether she would get one for her 11 June appointment.

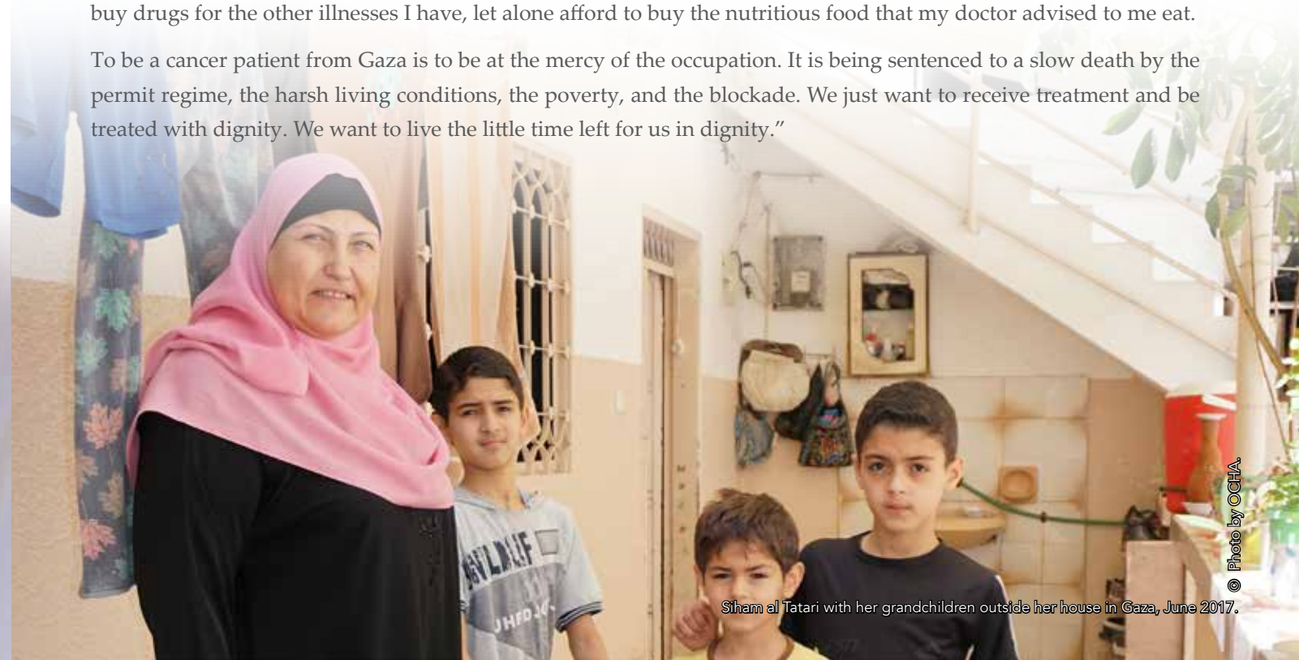


Source: World Health Organization

"The permit application is still under consideration. I am worried I will miss my appointment again. My doctor told me I cannot have long interruptions between the sessions, and if I don't make it for the next one I will have to restart the chemotherapy course all over again. I'm dreading it. If the bone marrow cancer spreads, it would necessitate a transplant. I don't want to go down that road as it's complicated and very risky. Timely treatment is important to try and stop or slow the cancer's advancement. I just want to continue with the course without having to start all over again. The first session was exhausting. I felt so sick. On my way back home to Gaza, I fainted and lost consciousness while being searched at Erez. I need a companion but they need a permit, must be above a certain age and a first degree relative. The cost of having a companion with me in East Jerusalem is also unaffordable.

My doctor in Gaza says that having a positive outlook and high morale are important in dealing with cancer. How can I sustain morale when I'm struggling with the most basic of things such as having running water, being able to bake bread without electricity and finding the money to cover my medical treatment. Every time I have an appointment in Jerusalem my husband has to borrow money from his friends! How can I be positive when my university graduate children are unemployed and have no hope of finding a job? My house was damaged during the 2014 war and is yet to be fixed. I have nothing else to sell in the house to cover the transport costs. The recent PA salary cuts were the final straw: my salary has been cut by 40 per cent. I cannot repay the loans I have taken for my medical treatment or buy drugs for the other illnesses I have, let alone afford to buy the nutritious food that my doctor advised to me eat.

To be a cancer patient from Gaza is to be at the mercy of the occupation. It is being sentenced to a slow death by the permit regime, the harsh living conditions, the poverty, and the blockade. We just want to receive treatment and be treated with dignity. We want to live the little time left for us in dignity."



© Photo by OCHA.

Siham al Tatari with her grandchildren outside her house in Gaza, June 2017.

RESTRICTED LIVELIHOODS: GAZA FISHERMEN

ABDALLAH AL 'ABASI FROM ASH SHATI REFUGEE CAMP, GAZA

JULY 2013

"Fishing seemed a prosperous business"

Abdallah al 'Abasi, a 53-year-old fisherman from Ash Shati refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, operates a boat with four of his seven sons and another 12 fishermen. The income generated by Abdallah's boat provides for about 70 people, the majority of them children. For many years, Abdallah was employed as a construction worker in Israel. In September 2000, following the beginning of the second Intifada, the loss of his job in Israel pushed him to seek an alternative livelihood.

"Fishing seemed a prosperous business. I bought a small 7 metre-long-boat and began to work day and night. We were able to reach very far into the sea. At the beginning, I used to make about US$1,000 a month, which at that time was quite a lot, so I managed to save some money and buy a double-sized boat and three smaller boats. We sold the fish to the local market and to merchants from the West Bank and Israel."

Since September 2000, Israel has tightened restrictions on Palestinian access to the sea, citing security concerns. These restrictions have been enforced through the firing of live ammunition, arrests and the confiscation of equipment. While sea restrictions have varied, since 2006 fishermen have generally been allowed to access less than one third of the fishing areas allocated to them under the Oslo Accords: six out of 20 nautical miles (NM), although this has temporarily been extended to nine NM during the sardine season in recent years.

Fish, particularly sardines, is a major source of protein, micronutrients and essential Omega 3 fatty acids for Palestinians in Gaza and contributes to nutritional diversity. The fish available in the six NM area tend to be smaller in size. Israel and Egypt also impose a "no fishing zone" along their respective maritime boundaries with Gaza. Over 35,000 Palestinians still depend on this industry for their livelihoods.

Following Operation Cast Lead in January 2009, the fishing area was reduced to three nautical miles (NM). "From that time our financial situation began to deteriorate rapidly. The fishing catch was only a fraction of what it used to be, both in quantity and in quality. We lost access to the bigger and more valuable fish. The best income we were able to make then was $ 45 per day versus over $ 70 previously. On some days, we had no income as we were not even able to cover the cost of fuel. We had to cut our expenses, even on the basic things."

Published in July 2013 Gaza's Fishermen Case Study



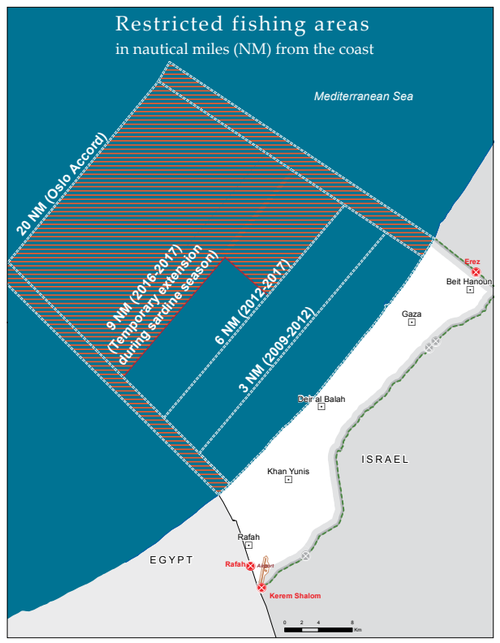
© Photo by OCHA.

Abdallah al 'Abasi, 53 years old, fisherman, Gaza, June 2013.

MAY 2017

"As if the sea turned to asphalt"

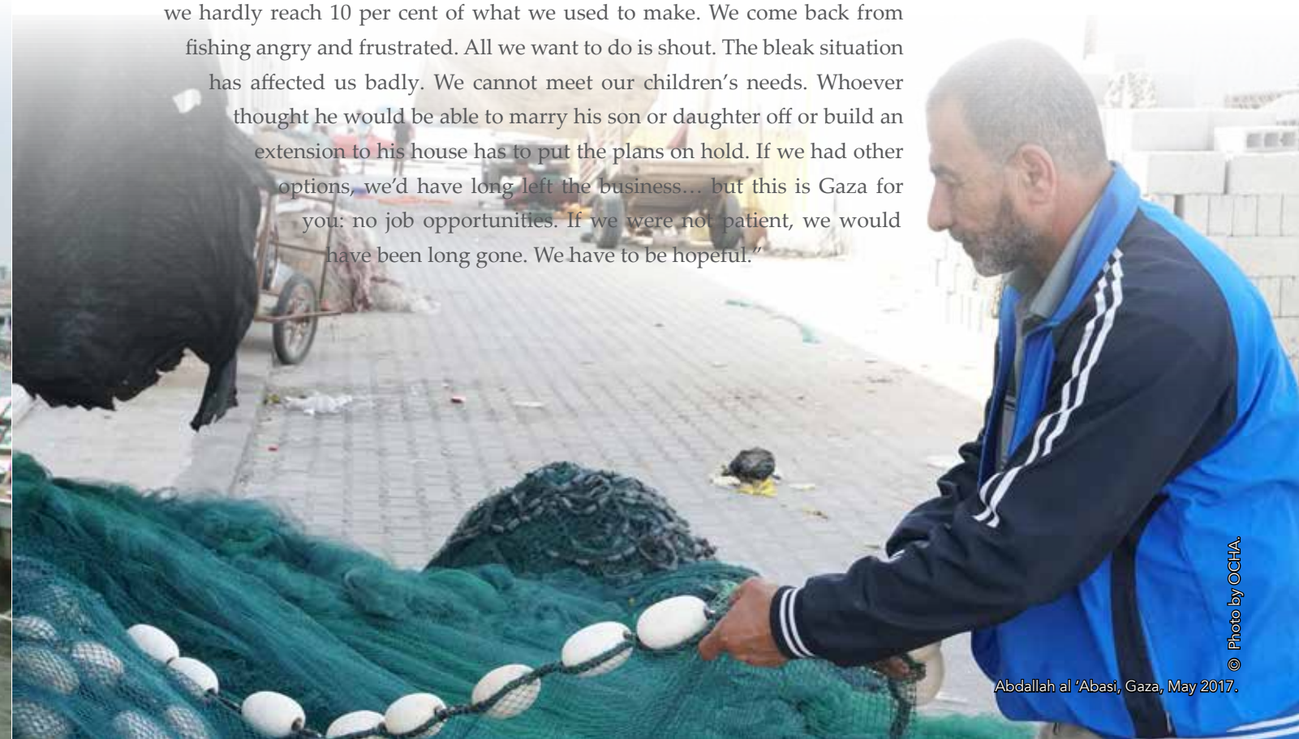
Abdallah, now aged 57, still operates a fishing boat which is the only source of income for about 80 people. He goes fishing almost every day during the two fishing seasons.



"We simply do not know what will happen to us. Things are just getting worse, be it the fish catch, the blockade, or the [Israeli] persecution and shootings at sea. The fishing zone where fishing is permitted is barren. Despite the recent expansion from six to nine NM, the area is sandy and overfished, as if the sea turned to asphalt. The fish are in rocky areas or in areas deep in the sea beyond the 9 NM limit. This is where fish spawn and are most productive. Access to these areas is prohibited and I even fear getting closer to the shooting zone. The Israeli navy does not hesitate to shoot. In Arabic we say "This is a meal which does not need spoons", i.e. it is not worth taking the risk.

Now is the peak of the sardine season, but there are hardly any, as if fish is extinct. The fish we catch is very small and not profitable. It's very discouraging. All the hard work we do does not pay off. We barely cover the cost of the fuel for the boat. If any of the fishing equipment gets damaged, we cannot afford to fix it.

Before the blockade, the income generated in the few months of the two fishing seasons used to be enough for the entire year. You could see the smile on the fishermen's faces. Nowadays we hardly reach 10 per cent of what we used to make. We come back from fishing angry and frustrated. All we want to do is shout. The bleak situation has affected us badly. We cannot meet our children's needs. Whoever thought he would be able to marry his son or daughter off or build an extension to his house has to put the plans on hold. If we had other options, we'd have long left the business… but this is Gaza for you: no job opportunities. If we were not patient, we would have been long gone. We have to be hopeful."



© Photo by OCHA.

Abdallah al 'Abasi, Gaza, May 2017.

EXPORTS FROM GAZA UNDERMINED BY THE BLOCKADE

MUJAHED AL SOUSY FROM JABALIA, GAZA

MARCH 2015

"We are shocked that Israel is banning the entry of wooden planks"

Mujahed Al Sousy is the general manager of the Sousy Furniture Company in Jabalia. Before the 2007 blockade, the company employed between 150 and 200 skilled workers and exported between 20-25 truckloads each month: 80 per cent went to Israeli markets, 19 per cent to the West Bank and one per cent was sold in the local market in Gaza. With the imposition of the blockade in 2007, the exit of goods was banned and production was limited to the Gaza market, which has a very limited purchasing power. The number of workers the company could employ was radically reduced.

In November 2014, Israel allowed the resumption of furniture transfers to the West Bank for the first time since 2007. However, the hopes of furniture producers were short lived: in February 2015, Israel included wooden planks thicker than 2.5 centimetres in the list of items considered to have a dual military-civilian use and banned their import into Gaza. This undermined any significant reactivation of the sector.

"We face other challenges in transferring furniture out of Gaza. Our shipments must be palletized to only one metre in height and there are steep logistical costs because of the loading and offloading for security … Now we are shocked that Israel is banning the entry of wooden planks thicker than 2.5 centimetres. How can I compete in West Bank markets with all these additional costs and problems?"

Published in March 2015 Humanitarian Bulletin

As part of the blockade imposed in 2007 following the takeover of the Gaza Strip by Hamas, Israel completely banned exports. This resulted in a dramatic decline in manufacturing activities and a rise in unemployment. In 2010, the export ban was eased slightly to allow the exit of minimal quantities of goods, primarily cut flowers and strawberries to overseas markets only. Following the 2014 conflict, commercial transfers from Gaza to the West Bank resumed, first for agricultural produce and later for textiles and furniture; after March 2015, limited exports were also permitted from Gaza to Israel.

Despite significant progress, a range of other constraints, including restrictions on imports of certain raw materials considered by Israel to have a dual military-civilian use, have resulted in the volume of goods exiting Gaza in 2016 falling by less than 20 per cent from those in the first half of 2007, prior to the imposition of the blockade.



© Photo by WFP/ElBaba.

Workers in the Sousy Furniture Company, March 2015.

JUNE 2016

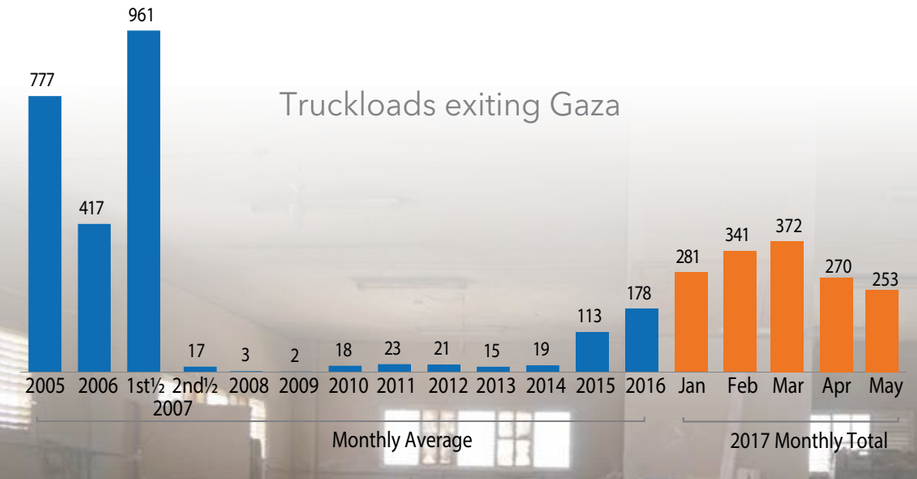
"I have been paying out of my own pocket to keep the business going"

"The situation is slightly better, if still challenging," said Mujahed when revisited in June 2017. "Since 2016, the Israeli authorities have allowed exports of furniture to Israel and have increased the height of pallets from 1 to 1.2 metres.

We now export one truckload to Israel each month and employ about 50 workers. This is a marginal improvement but better than nothing. We were major exporters of solid wood dining tables and chairs. The variety of our products has shrunk and is limited by the type of wood, mostly plywood, that we are allowed to import from Israel.

Our ability to compete is severely challenged by many factors: the ban on the entry of raw materials essential for our main products, dining tables and chairs; the longer power cuts and the increasing price of fuel to operate backup generators; and the high transportation costs for both exports and imports. Prior to the blockade, all shipments took place via the Karni crossing, which is geographically closer to our factory than Kerem Shalom. Loading a truck via Kerem Shalom costs NIS 3,500 to NIS 5,000, while in Karni we used to pay NIS 800 to NIS 1,200.

With the renewal of exports to Israel, I feel like a newborn who is learning about life afresh. We have to start all over again and find new clients in Israel as some of our original clients went bankrupt after the blockade. I would not call what we do now production. We don't generate a profit and can barely cover our costs. For years we've been running at a loss. I have been paying out of my own pocket to keep the business going in the hope that the blockade will be lifted and the political situation will get better."



© Photo by OCHA.

Mujahed al Sousy in his furniture workshop, June 2017.

THE IMPACT OF THE BARRIER ON THE JERUSALEM AREA

SAMIH ABU RAMILA, FROM KAFR 'AQAB, EAST JERUSALEM

AUGUST 2010

"Residents pay municipal taxes... but the municipality wants us to arrange the services by ourselves"

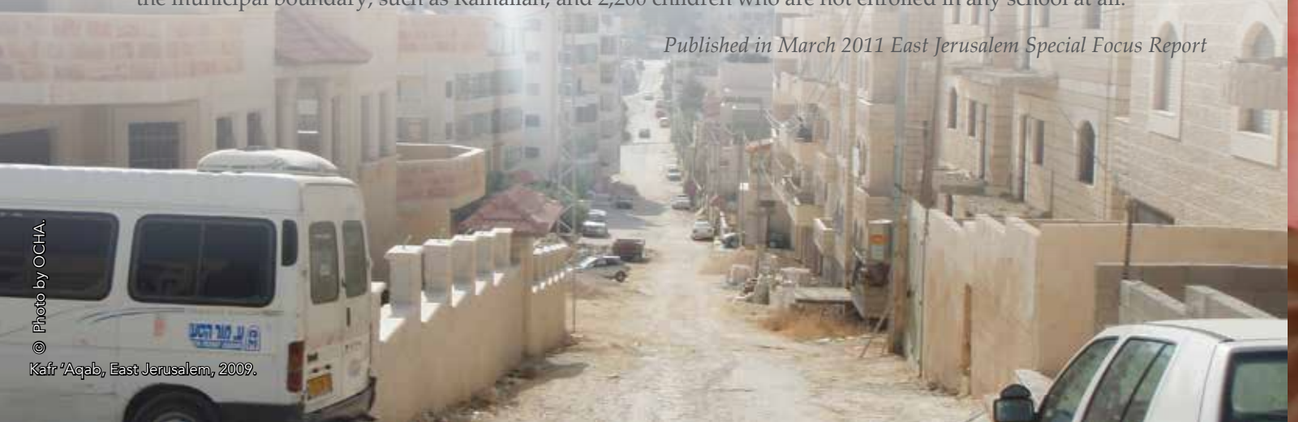
"When the Wall was erected, Jerusalem ID holders from neighbouring areas in the West Bank such as Bir Nabala and Ar Ram moved here to Kafr Aqab to maintain their 'centre of life' in the city and avoid having their ID card revoked. As the Jerusalem Municipality failed to allocate resources accordingly, services were insufficient to meet the increased needs. However, all these new residents were paying the municipal tax, the arnona, and expected services in return. Residents were dissatisfied with the community centre comprised of people appointed by the municipality. That is why a group of young people, including myself, started looking for alternative ways to serve residents' needs without challenging, but rather cooperating, with the established political system. We founded an organization, the Company for the Development of Kafr Aqab, to look after the interests of residents and to act as a bridge between residents and the municipality.

Following a wave of Palestinian attacks, including suicide bombings, Israel began building a Barrier in 2002 with the stated aim of preventing such attacks. The Barrier's deviation from the Israeli-declared municipal boundary of Jerusalem has resulted in some Palestinian localities in East Jerusalem, especially Kafr Aqab and Shufat camp area, becoming separated from the urban centre. Although residents retain their permanent residency status and continue to pay municipal taxes, these areas have effectively been abandoned by the municipality.

Basic facilities and services are degraded or lacking entirely so residents need to cross checkpoints to access the health, education and other services to which they are entitled as residents of Jerusalem. The Palestinian Authority has no jurisdiction in these areas, and the Israeli police and municipality staff seldom enter municipal areas beyond the Barrier, thereby creating a security vacuum manifested in unsupervised wildcat building, and an increase in lawlessness, crime and drug trafficking.

When we complained to the municipality about the lack of educational facilities and the fact that our children had to cross the Wall to go to school, we were encouraged to arrange everything by ourselves as with the health clinic - the Al Bayan Health Centre which we established. Two businessmen and I invested money in the project. We found a suitable building which had a building permit, carried out some renovation work to make it comply with security and health standards, and hired teachers. The municipality came to check it and decided to cover part of the expenses, namely the salaries of the staff, and gave us a status as 'recognized unofficial.' As ninety percent of the teachers come from the West Bank, where they are paid less than teachers in Jerusalem, we retain a portion of their salaries to run the school. The rest is covered by student fees and donations from international organizations. Today the school serves 2,300 students from kindergarten to 12th grade. However, there are 1,500 pupils from Kafr Aqab enrolled in schools in areas outside the municipal boundary, such as Ramallah, and 2,200 children who are not enrolled in any school at all."

Published in March 2011 East Jerusalem Special Focus Report



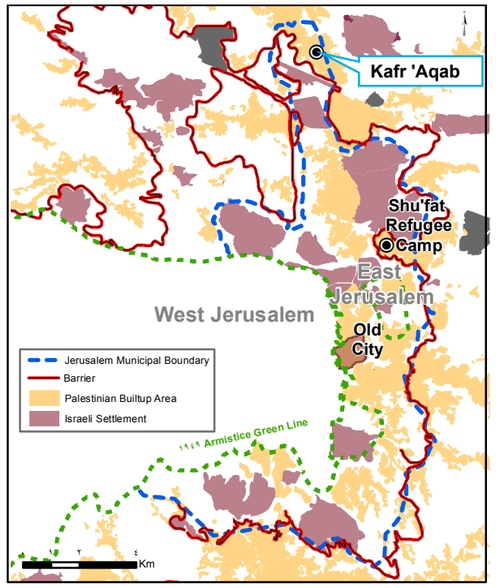
© Photo by OCHA

Kafr 'Aqab, East Jerusalem, 2009.

MAY 2017

"The school is being punished for keeping our children off the streets"

"In the intervening years, the school has expanded significantly to cater for 4,000 pupils, both boys and girls, spread over seven buildings," Samih told OCHA in May 2017. "It still retains its 'recognized unofficial' status, with the Israeli Ministry of Education covering only 75 per cent of the teachers' salaries. Because the school is registered as a private company, it must obtain a certificate of 'good conduct' every year from the Israeli authorities. This approval has been contested on the grounds that the company is not paying the teachers their full salaries as required by Israeli law. In 2016, one of the Israeli officials involved in the inspection process demanded a bribe in return for 'good conduct' clearance.[3]



The 'good conduct' certificate was refused in January 2017, with the result that the teachers stopped receiving their salaries from the beginning of the year. The Jerusalem Municipality maintains that it lacks the means to take over the school and absorb all the costs so the school faces the prospect of being closed down. I feel as if the school is being punished for keeping our children off the streets and for trying to provide an education for them instead of letting them remain ignorant and uneducated. I am a victim of this conflict between the Israeli Ministry of Education and the Jerusalem Municipality. I understand that the Palestinian Authority cannot officially operate in Kafr Aqab while it remains officially part of Jerusalem under Israeli law, yet I also feel that they have a responsibility to try to find a solution to our problem."



© Photo by OCHA

Samih Abu Ramila, Kafr 'Aqab, East Jerusalem, May 2017.

CHILDREN IN DETENTION

SUHAIB AL AWAR FROM SILWAN, EAST JERUSALEM

JUNE 2012

"They kept me isolated for five days"



On 5 March 2012, at approximately 4:00 am, Israeli border police arrested 14-year-old Suhaib al Awar from his home in Silwan (East Jerusalem) and charged him with incitement, and stone and Molotov cocktail throwing. He was released on 4 April and put under house arrest for 12 months, four of which were in the custody of his 57-year-old grandmother in Jabal al Mukabber, another area of East Jerusalem. During this period, he was not allowed to leave the house and his grandmother was required to stay with him all the time unless Suhaib's mother, grandfather or uncle were present. The family had to pay a fine of NIS 5,000 ($1,300), and bail of NIS 50,000 ($13,000) against violations of the conditions of the house arrest. Following the arrest, Suhaib was not allowed to attend school, with the exception of sitting final exams and on condition that his mother accompanied him to school.

For the past three years, approximately 700 Palestinian children in East Jerusalem have been detained by Israeli forces every year, usually on charges of stone-throwing and, more recently, incitement to violence in social media. Some of these cases have triggered allegations of abuses during the arrest, transfer and/or interrogation. Also of concern are recent changes to Israeli legislation that allow harsher prison sentences for children convicted of crimes such as stone-throwing, including children as young as 12 who start serving their sentences when they turn 14. Some Palestinian children convicted or awaiting trial have been placed under house arrest. Although preferable than imprisonment for children, this puts additional strain on the families affected.

Since 2013, UNICEF has engaged in dialogue with the Israeli authorities on children's rights while in military detention. In 2014, following this dialogue, Israeli forces began to replace the practice of night arrests of Palestinian children, in some cases, with a summons procedure, alleviating some of the protection concerns emerging during the first 48 hours of arrest, transfer and detention.

When describing his detention conditions, Suhaib said:

"They kept me isolated for …five days. The room was very dirty, and sewage often flooded the floors …they interrogated me for 4-7 hours per day, during which my hands were handcuffed and my feet tied to a chair. I was often beaten. In one instance, the interrogator placed a chair on my legs and leaned on it, and then threatened me with a knife…."

Published in May 2012 Humanitarian Bulletin



© Photo by OCHA

Suhaib's house in Silwan, East Jerusalem, next to an Israeli settlement.

MAY 2017

"I had to be my son's prison warden"

KHULOOD AL AWAR, SUHAIB'S MOTHER

"Suhaib has been in prison for two years now. In June 2015, one day before he turned 18, he was arrested by the Israeli border police who accused him of setting an army jeep on fire. In fact, on that day he was working with his uncle in Tel Aviv all day. When he was about to be released due to lack of evidence, the Shabak (Israeli intelligence) presented new charges: throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at settlers and the army on an earlier date. He was sentenced to four years imprisonment. In the appeal to the High Court, he was offered to plead guilty in exchange for a reduced sentence but Suhaib refused to admit to a crime he had not committed. When I visited him last time he told me he was joining the prisoners' hunger strike. For 55 days now I have not seen or heard from him.

He was only 13 when he was first arrested at around 7:30 in the morning just before he entered his school in Ras al Amud. Since then, every time something happened in Silwan they would arrest him. In total, Suhaib has been arrested ten times: in some of these cases he was put under house arrest and in others in jail for a total of 21 months, excluding the last two years.[4] All this happened while he was still a child and for allegations of stone and Molotov throwing.

The most difficult of all his arrests was the third one when he was only 14. Everything about it was traumatising: the arrest itself, the interrogations, the signs of maltreatment and torture on his face and ears, the court hearings. He was put under house arrest for 12 months. Even then he was not left alone: he was taken to the police station five times for questioning. For nights on end Suhaib would not sleep. I would wake up at night and see his eyes wide open. During this house arrest the relationship between us became very tense. I had to be his prison warden at home because his dad and I signed papers that if the terms of house detention were breached, we would pay a fine of NIS50,000.

Suhaib's detention has transformed my life. I became a woman who is outspoken against injustice. The hardest thing for me is being unable to give him a cuddle, touch him or even take a photo with him.[5] It hurts that he was deprived of his childhood and adolescence. It hurts when my second son, who is only two years younger than Suhaib, feels he has no brother to physically be there for him or enjoy his company. It hurts to think that as a released prisoner his job opportunities would be limited.

But Suhaib has remained very ambitious. He is determined to complete his high school exams while in prison. He would like to study political science, journalism or law. He wants to be able to speak freely and without restrictions. I cannot help fearing for his life when he's released, especially in the current climate. Living in Silwan is like living in a minefield where things could explode anytime. But I have to be optimistic."



© Photo by OCHA

Khulood al Awar, carrying her son's (Suhaib) photo, Silwan, East Jerusalem, May 2017.

EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AND LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

MOHAMMED AL AMMASI FROM AL FAWWAR REFUGEE CAMP, HEBRON

SEPTEMBER 2016

"I went to the rooftop of my house to watch the clashes...A second later I was shot three bullets in my legs"

Just before dawn on 16 August 2016, large numbers of Israeli soldiers raided al Fawwar refugee camp (Hebron) and conducted a house-to-house search operation. The forces took over multiple rooftops across the camp and deployed snipers. Palestinian youths threw stones and, according to Israeli sources, also Molotov cocktails at the soldiers, who responded with live ammunition and tear gas canisters. During the clashes, an 18 year-old Palestinian youth was shot and killed by the soldiers and another 52 residents were injured, more than half of them by live ammunition. No Israeli injuries were reported.

Mohammed al Ammassi is a 22-year-old resident of the camp: "I went to the lower rooftop of my house to watch the clashes. The house is located on a hill away from the area of the clashes. At one point, I was called by a neighbor to check whether the upper roof of my house could be used by camera men and reporters from two TV channels covering the incident.

As soon as I got to the other roof, I heard an Israeli sniper positioned on a nearby building asking me in Arabic: 'Where do you want it?' I did not reply and turned my back. A second later I was shot with three bullets in my legs. One hit my knee and the other one hit my thigh, lodging in my hip. As I fell down shouting 'Stop!', the soldier fired another bullet that hit my right hand. I was evacuated to a hospital in Hebron but due to the complexity of my injuries, was transferred to a Ramallah hospital. I underwent two operations and the doctors feared I could have a life-time disability."

Case collected in September 2016 for September Humanitarian Bulletin – unpublished.

Violent clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians in the West Bank, primarily during demonstrations and search and arrest operations, have been on the rise in recent years. In 2016, 19 Palestinians were killed and over 3,200 injured during such clashes; nearly 14 per cent of these injuries were from live ammunition. Serious injuries often result in long-term disability, rendering young Palestinians in constant need of medical treatment and humanitarian assistance, and disrupting the lives of their entire families.

At least some of the clashes leading to Palestinian casualties have raised concern about possible excessive use of force by Israeli forces, including the use of lethal weapons as crowd control measures. Such cases have only rarely led to effective investigations and holding to account suspected perpetrators within Israeli forces. Moreover, a series of amendments to Israeli tort law in recent years, including broadening the definition of "warfare activity" and the introduction of procedural restrictions, makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to effectively claim compensation for violation of their rights through the Israeli court system.



© Photo by OCHA.
Al Fawwar Refugee Camp, Hebron, May 2017.

MAY 2017

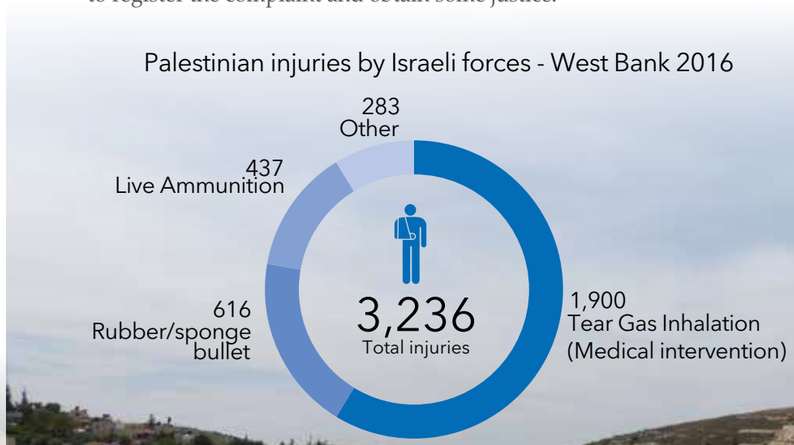
"I missed the limited window of opportunity to obtain justice"

"It was only three months ago that I returned to work at the traditional oven that I run with my father. For seven months I had excruciating pain and could not do anything but physiotherapy sessions. My leg has sustained nerve damage and for months I had to wear boots, even at home, as I lost control over the left foot. My left knee moves involuntarily too. I cannot go down the stairs easily and have to rely on my right leg a lot. I cannot walk further than 500 metres before I feel pain and start to limp. I had to buy a car to help me move around, but running a car in the camp is not easy because of the narrow streets and alleys.

My right hand also has some form of disability and the pieces of shrapnel make it hard for me to do many things. Any awkward movement makes it stiff. I cannot bend my hand easily or hold things. The injury left me in chronic pain and has affected my work tremendously.

My work in the oven is mostly physical and entails chopping vegetables and carrying heavy stuff: sacks of flour, potatoes, etc. Now I cannot do many of these things. I mainly do administrative tasks and some supervision. My father is getting old and I was the one who ran the oven, which is our main source of livelihood.

I did try to seek justice but did not have any support, connections or someone to instruct me on how to go about it. I wanted to get in touch with an Israeli lawyer to open a file for compensation and was willing to pay the costs. I knew I had a strong case. My shooting was captured live by the camera crew and went viral. The footage shows that I posed no threat to anyone. I could not get a lawyer in time and missed the limited window for opportunity to register the complaint and obtain some justice."[6]



© Photo by OCHA.
Mohammed al Ammasi at the lower rooftop of his house in al Fawwar, May 2017.

FIRING ZONES AND RISK OF FORCIBLE TRANSFER

KHALED AL 'AMOOR FROM KHIRBET SARURA – MASAFER YATTA, HEBRON

MAY 2013

"Settlers set our crops alight and killed my donkey"

Khaled al 'Amoor[7] was born in 1958 in the herding community of Khirbet Sarura in the Masafer Yatta area of south Hebron. Khalid and his four siblings own 200 dunums of land in Sarura, where they grew wheat, barley and other seasonal vegetables for domestic consumption. According to Khaled, about 24 families lived in Sarura before 1967. These were herding and farming families living off their livestock and land.

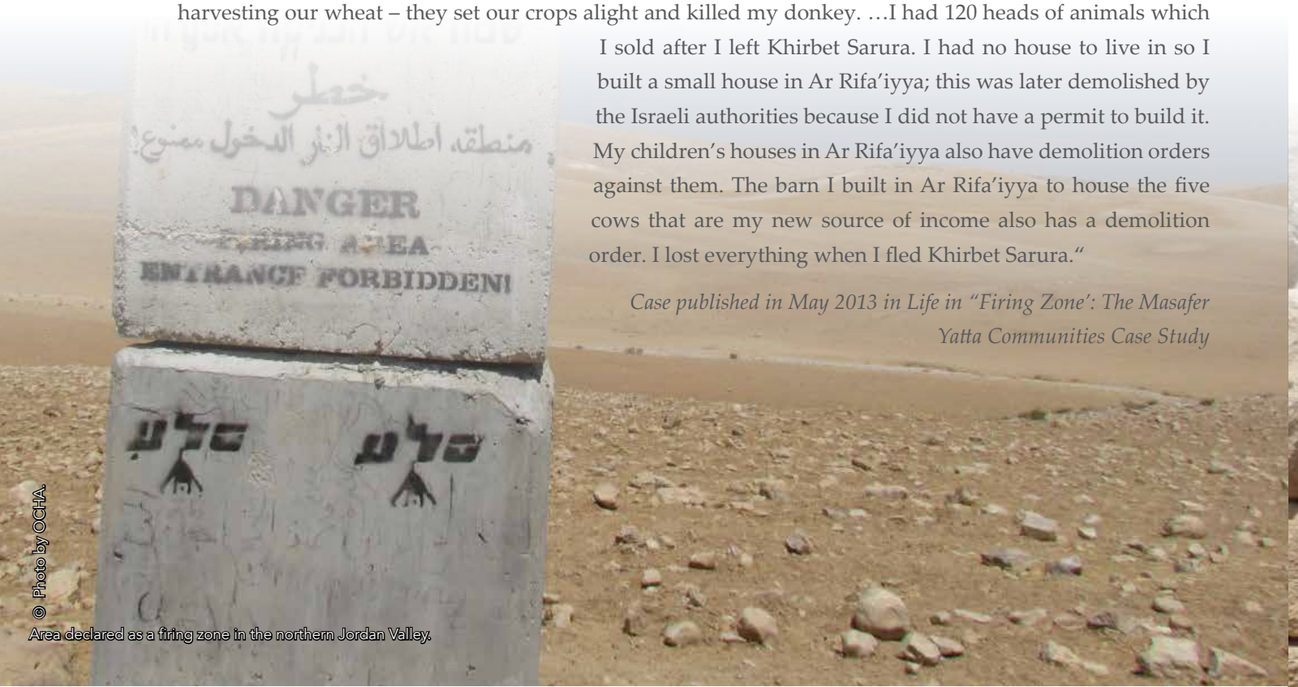
In the 1980s, the Israeli authorities designated most of Masafer Yatta, where 14 herding communities live, as a closed military zone for training: "Firing Zone 918". Since then, these communities have been subjected to a range of policies and practices by the Israeli authorities and Israeli settlers that have undermined their living conditions. Khirbet Sarura was particularly affected and gradually depopulated as a result.

"I was born in Khirbet Sarura and have lived there for more than 30 years. I got married and my wife delivered 10 children there. I left in 1996 with other families when the road to our village was closed by settlers from the nearby Ma'on settlement, but I continued to access my land in the area for several years. However we continued to experience violent attacks by settlers; in 2003 for example, the settlers attacked us while we were harvesting our wheat – they set our crops alight and killed my donkey. …I had 120 heads of animals which I sold after I left Khirbet Sarura. I had no house to live in so I built a small house in Ar Rifa'iyya; this was later demolished by the Israeli authorities because I did not have a permit to build it. My children's houses in Ar Rifa'iyya also have demolition orders against them. The barn I built in Ar Rifa'iyya to house the five cows that are my new source of income also has a demolition order. I lost everything when I fled Khirbet Sarura."

Case published in May 2013 in Life in "Firing Zone': The Masafer Yatta Communities Case Study

Since the 1970s, Israel has declared some 18 per cent of the West Bank, or nearly 30 per cent of Area C, as firing zones for military training. A presence in these zones is prohibited by military order unless special permission is granted. Despite this prohibition, there are 38 small Palestinian herding communities with a population of over 6,200 located within these zones. Many of these communities existed in the area prior to its closure.

These Palestinians are among the most vulnerable in the West Bank with high levels of humanitarian need. Most have faced the demolition of their homes and sources of livelihood on the grounds of lack of building permits, which are impossible to obtain. Some have been repeatedly displaced for short periods of time to make room for military training. These and related practices have generated a coercive environment, placing the affected people at risk of forcible transfer.



© Photo by OCHA

Area declared as a firing zone in the northern Jordan Valley.

MAY 2017

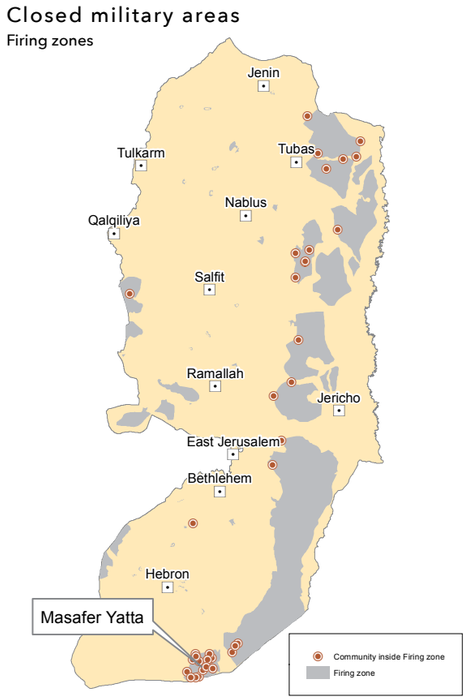
"We don't suffer anymore from settler violence but are more isolated"

"I now divide my time between Ar Rifa'iyya and al Majaz, one of the Masafer Yatta communities within the firing zone," Khaled told OCHA in May 2017. "For two years after being forced to leave Sarura, I tried to settle in Ar Rifa'iyya but could not. I am used to the herding lifestyle, and the house we moved to was too small for my large family. Eventually, I moved to al Majaz where I own about 100 dunums of land, but had to start from scratch. I had no housing for my family or for my 400 sheep. I had to build a few rooms for my family, a big water well and two animal shelters.

I applied for a building permit but it was rejected by the civil administration on the grounds that this is a firing zone. All the structures now have demolition orders. In the last court hearing, two weeks ago, the judge refused to give us an injunction, which would have meant more time to legalize the structures before they are demolished, but called the Civil Administration to reach an agreement with us.

To sustain our herding way of life we have no choice but to stay in al Majaz, despite all the problems. We tried to move back to Sarura but our caves had been destroyed and the water wells poisoned by the settlers. As al Majaz is more isolated, we do not suffer from settler violence but meeting basic needs is more expensive. Due to the poor roads, I have to pay up to 60 shekels per cubic meter of tankered water instead of 20 that I would pay in Sarura. The same applies to transportation. A return journey from al Majaz to Yatta, the closest town, would cost 300 shekels in a taxi, and you don't always find taxi drivers who agree to do it.

Wherever we go, we are persecuted by the Israeli authorities and their planning regulations. They just want the land without the people. But we have no alternative. We don't have permits to work in Israel. We are not craftsmen and do not have professions or higher education. Herding and farming is what we know. This is our way of life.""





© Photo by OCHA

Khaled al 'Amoor outside his destroyed cave in Sarura, May 2017.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN AREA C OF THE WEST BANK

ABDUL RAHIM BISHARAT, AL HADIDIYA, TUBAS

MAY 2011

"Eighty percent of children drop out from school"

The four herding communities of the al Baqaia area of the northern Jordan Valley: Mak-hul, al Hadidiya, Khirbet Samra and Khirbet Humsa (population around 500) are in Area C. Due to the restrictive planning regime, no schools can be built in this area and in the 2010-11 academic year, 166 children from these four communities had to travel between 27 and 45 km to reach their primary schools. Roughly half of them attended schools in Tubas and Tammun towns, which required them to cross one of the two checkpoints into the area (Hamra and Tayyasir). Residents, including the driver of the school bus, reported frequent incidents of mistreatment and humiliation by Israeli soldiers who ask the children to get off the bus to be searched.

Abdul Rahim Bisharat, a 62-year-old resident of al Hadidiya, told OCHA:

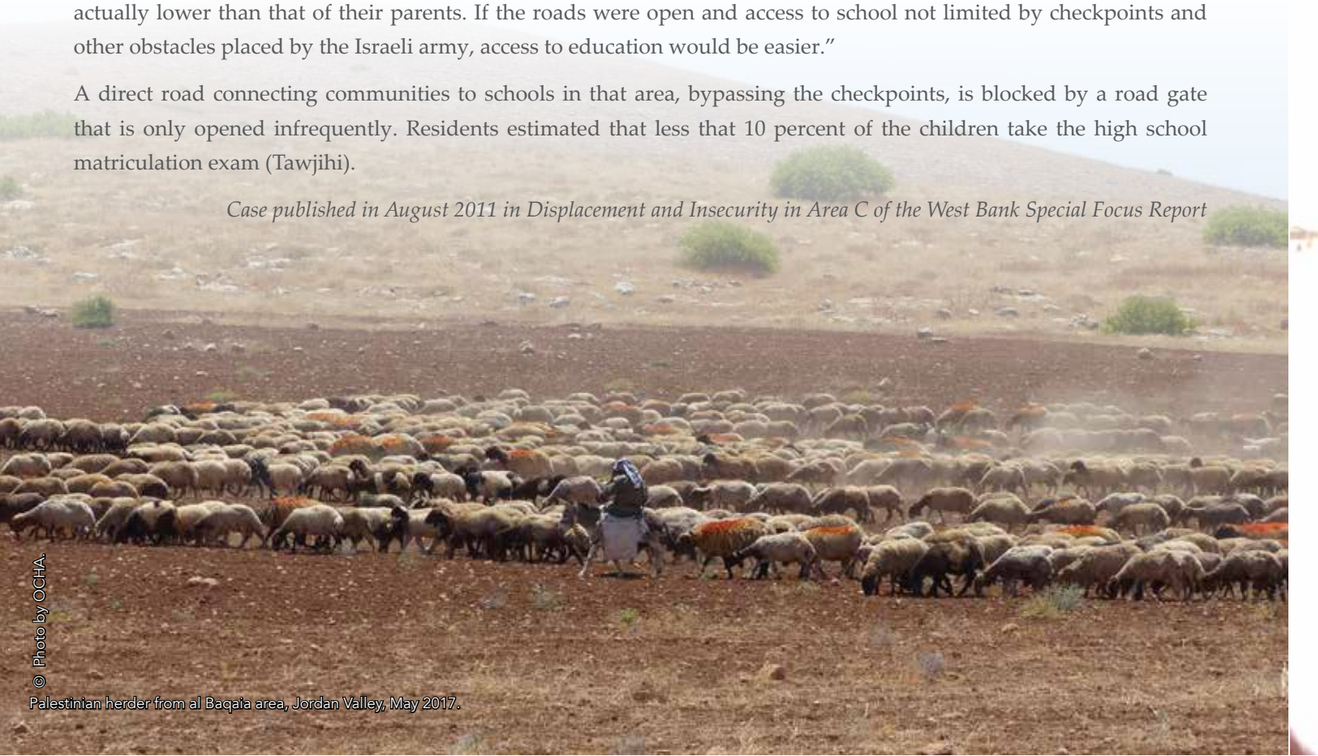
"To complete school, children go to Tammun and stay there during the week, while their parents remain in the community. One of the older children looks after the others in town. As a result, there is often little supervision of the children or support available to help with homework. For example, I have eleven children between the ages of 7 and 17 years living in the same apartment alone. In general, children either do not succeed at school or get homesick and want to return. I would say that around 80 percent of children drop out. The level of education of this generation is actually lower than that of their parents. If the roads were open and access to school not limited by checkpoints and other obstacles placed by the Israeli army, access to education would be easier."

A direct road connecting communities to schools in that area, bypassing the checkpoints, is blocked by a road gate that is only opened infrequently. Residents estimated that less that 10 percent of the children take the high school matriculation exam (Tawjihi).

Case published in August 2011 in Displacement and Insecurity in Area C of the West Bank Special Focus Report

The restrictive planning regime applied in Area C, which comprises over 60 per cent of the West Bank and where Israel retains near exclusive control, makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain building permits. This prevents them from developing basic services in their communities, including education. Over a third of the residential areas in Area C (189 out of 532) lack a primary school and children are forced to travel long distances, sometimes on foot, to reach the nearest school.

Some children, including those in the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2), must cross a military checkpoint and/or are exposed to harassment by Israeli settlers on their way to school. Families often adopt negative coping mechanisms, including withdrawing children from school, a practice particularly affecting Palestinian girls.



© Photo by OCHA

Palestinian herder from al Baqaia area, Jordan Valley, May 2017.

MAY 2017

"The situation at the checkpoints has changed but we don't consider it an improvement"

In May 2017, there was still no school in the area and access to education remained a challenge. In 2016 the two checkpoints controlling movement between this area and the rest of the West Bank were turned into partial checkpoints i.e. staffed by soldiers only occasionally, easing access.

"Many families were forced to leave al Hadidiya due to the lack of schools," said Abdul Rahim when revisited in May 2017. These families had no one to take care of their children in Tammun or Tubas, where many of our children had to stay in rented accommodation during weekdays, all by themselves, to be able to attend school. In November 2015, to tackle the problem of families leaving and school drop outs, we secured international funding to buy a school bus to make daily return journeys and to pave the road. A few days later, the road was demolished by the Israeli authorities, along with another 26 structures.

But, we did not give up. We agreed that the school bus would wait on the main road and I would use my tractor to take the children to the bus. Never mind the rain and the cold, and the fact that the children used to get wet, what really bothered them most was being covered with mud from the tractor and arriving to school dirty. My daughter came to me one day and said she didn't want to go to school because the children were laughing at her, saying she was dirty.

Access to education has improved somewhat and costs have greatly diminished since the bus is now administered by the Palestinian Ministry of Education, but the long detours of between 27 and 45 km, and the lack of proper access roads to our communities to pick up the students, remain a challenge. Although al Hamra and Tayaseer checkpoints are partially staffed, we still suffer. The soldiers there are like the winter sun: they appear out of the blue and start delaying people, including the school bus, for long search procedures. We are at their whim. That's why I don't consider the partial manning of the checkpoints an improvement. Improvement for us means freedom of movement with no checkpoints at all."



© Photo by OCHA

Abdul Rahim Bisharat and his daughter , al Hadidiya, Jordan Valley, May 2017.

IMPACT OF THE BARRIER ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

TAYSEER AMARNEH FROM AKKABA, TULKARM

FEBRUARY 2014

"Even saplings and plants need coordination before they are allowed to cross"

Tayseer Amarneh of Akkaba village in Tulkarm owns 230 dunums of land, mostly planted with olive trees. To access his land isolated between the Barrier and the Green Line, Tayseer requires a special permit. Data collected by OCHA over the past four years of olive harvests in the northern West Bank show a permit approval rate of about 55 per cent.

For those farmers granted permits, access to land behind the Barrier is through designated gates. During the 2016 olive harvest there were 84 gates, of which only 9 opened daily; 10 opened some days during the week and during the olive harvest; and 65 only opened during the olive harvest. The Akkaba gate used by Tayseer only opened three days each week for three periods of 15 minutes.

In 2002, following a wave of Palestinian attacks, including suicide bombings, Israel began building a Barrier with the stated aim of preventing these attacks. The vast majority of the Barrier's route is located within the West Bank; it separates Palestinian communities and farming land from the rest of the West Bank, and contributes to the fragmentation of the oPt.

In its Advisory Opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) established that the sections of the Barrier that run inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, together with the associated gate and permit regime, violate Israel's obligations under international law. The ICJ called on Israel to cease construction of the Barrier inside the West Bank, to dismantle the sections already completed and repeal all legislative measures related to it.

The limited allocation of permits, combined with the restricted number and opening times of the Barrier gates, impedes essential year-round agricultural activities such as ploughing, pruning, fertilizing, and pest and weed management. As a result, there is an adverse impact on olive productivity and value. Data collected by OCHA in the northern West Bank show that the yield of olive trees in the area between the Barrier and the Green Line has reduced by approximately 65 per cent in comparison with equivalent trees in areas accessible all year round.[8]

Tayseer explained: "There are complicated procedures at the gates regarding the type of agricultural materials and equipment we are allowed to take to our land behind the Barrier, and this directly affects the quality and type of work that we can carry out. Many times, the soldiers at the gate refused to let me pass with my tractor when I needed it to work on our land; it was the same with agricultural tools such as saws, which I need to prune my trees. They told me to go to the Palestinian DCO to coordinate to allow these materials to cross. When I wanted to carry fertilizer across, the soldiers told me to drop it on the ground for a security check and many times they refused to let it pass. Even saplings and plants need coordination before they are allowed to cross."

Case published in February 2014 Humanitarian Bulletin



© Photo by OCHA

Tayseer 'Amarneh, farmer, Akkaba, Tulkarm, February, 2014

MAY 2017

"Some farmers are choosing not to plant because they are afraid of not obtaining a permit and losing their harvest"

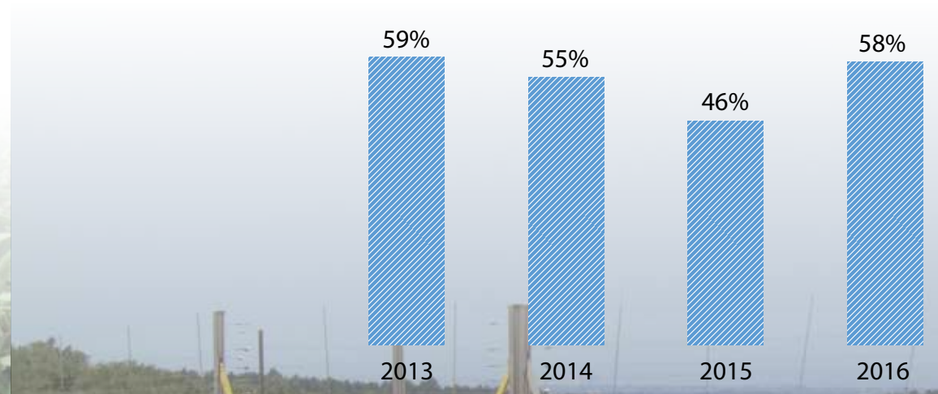
OCHA revisited Tayseer in May 2017:

"In Akkaba, 223 residents are eligible for agricultural permits, including seasonal permits for the olive harvest. Since the beginning of 2017 only 27 permits are valid in the village. I used to have six employees to work on my land; now I have none because they cannot obtain permits because of the new regulations.[9] Only one of my sons has a permit but he is studying in the university and cannot help me except during the holidays, when the gate is usually closed. Nowadays, some farmers are choosing not to plant their land at all because they are afraid of not obtaining a permit and losing all their harvest.

Even if you receive a permit you are at the mercy of the soldiers who are responsible for opening and closing the gate. We sometimes wait for hours until the soldiers come and let us through. Agricultural tools, fertilizers and plants need pre-coordination to be allowed through the gate, which means that we call the Palestinian liaison officers, who call the Israeli liaison officer and coordinate the entry of the material. There are two Israeli military officers who open the gate, and the Border Police and army both need to be informed. Recently at the gate, the Border Police said that they had not received any written notification that I wanted to bring fertilizers onto my land while the army said that they had received it. They did not allow us carry the fertilizers through until a fax was sent from the Israeli liaison to the Border Police.

These policies are reducing the amount of land planted behind the Barrier as farmers are getting frustrated and do not want to take the risk of planting and then not receiving a permit to cultivate or harvest."

Rate of approval of «Seam Zone» permits for the olive harvest season:
Salfit, Qalqiliya, Tulkaram & Jenin governorates





© Photo by OCHA

Agricultural gate, Akkaba, Tulkarm, May 2017.

ENDNOTES

1- In the original case, Siham was referred to by the pseudonym Salma.

2- Some private schools are recognized 'unofficially' by the Israeli authorities and supported financially by the municipality to compensate for the shortage of classrooms in the municipal system. Other, more-recently established 'recognized official' schools, are termed 'contractors' by the other providers in that they are considered primarily profit-driven and receive most of their expenses from the municipality.

3- The case was the subject of a report on the Israeli Channel 10 programme (http://m.nana10.co.il/article/1245380?sid=120&pid=55&service=10tv).

4- The family paid a total of NIS15,000 in fines. Almost every time Suhaib was detained the family had to pay money to release him.

5- The only time his mother was allowed to hug him was when her father passed away and she went to deliver the news. Suhaib was serving his 21-month prison sentence.

6- Under Israeli legislation, residents of the West Bank or Gaza cannot claim damages for harm suffered if they do not inform the Ministry of Defense in writing within 60 days of the incident.

7- In the original case, Khaled al-'Amoor was referred to by the pseudonym Mohammad.

8- For further details on the methodology used for data collection see: Humanitarian Bulletin, February 2014, Impact of the Barrier on Agricultural Productivity in the Northern West Bank: http://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/ocha_opt_the_ humanitarian_monitor_2014_03_19_english.pdf.
In 2016, there was a 74 per cent reduction in yield in Tayseer's olive trees behind the Barrier in comparison with his trees on the 'Palestinian' side to which he has free access.

9- These restrictions apply to a minimum area of land and land ownership documents are required before Palestinian landowners can apply for a permit to cross the Barrier. See Humanitarian Bulletin, April 2017, Increased restrictions on access to agricultural land behind the Barrier. https://www.ochaopt.org/content/monthly-humanitarian-bulletin-april-2017.