

<p>UNITED NATIONS</p> <p>OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS</p> <p>Occupied Palestinian Territory</p>		<p>الأمم المتحدة</p> <p>مكتب لتنسيق الشؤون الإنسانية</p> <p>للأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

P.O. Box 38712 East Jerusalem
Phone: (972) 2 – 5829962 / 5825853, Fax: (972) 2 – 5825841, www.ochaopt.org

Preliminary analysis reveals that the planned route to complete the Barrier will have severe humanitarian consequences for hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank¹

On 1 October 2003, the Israeli Government approved further plans for the construction of the Barrier throughout the West Bank. This information was released on 23 October 2003 and a map made available on (www.seamzone.mod.gov.il). Approximately 180 km of the Barrier has already been constructed. It consists of a combination of ditches, trenches, roads, razor wire, electronic fences and concrete walls. The total length – both planned and built will be 638 km. The Head of the Knesset Economics Committee estimates that it will cost \$3.4 billion.

The Israeli Government in June 2002 began construction of the Barrier following several suicide bombings and attacks by Palestinian militants on Israeli citizens. It maintains that the Barrier is a temporary structure to physically separate the West Bank from Israel to prevent such attacks on Israeli citizens.

While part of the Barrier lies on the Green Line, most of it passes through the West Bank. This report analyses its humanitarian impact in these areas.

Analysis of Humanitarian Impact

West Bank land affected

Approximately 191,000 acres – or about 13.5 percent – of West Bank land (excluding East Jerusalem) will lie between the Barrier and the Green Line, according to the Israeli Government projections. (See map attached).

This will include 39,000 acres enclosed in a series of enclaves and 152,000 acres in closed areas between the Green Line and the Barrier.

Palestinian population affected

This land, some of the most fertile in the West Bank, is currently the home for more than 189,000 Palestinians living in 100 villages and towns.

¹ This report updates information released in November 2003. It contains more precise information on the Barrier length and updated population figures. Map information on the Barrier uses only published official Israeli sources. The secondary or depth barriers are excluded from total calculations as there has been no evidence of work starting on these structures. They have not yet been officially revoked.

Of these people, 20,000 will live in closed areas – areas between the Barrier and the Green Line. Another 169,000 will live in 9 enclaves – totally surrounded by the Barrier.

The Barrier will also affect those people living east of it who need to cross it to get to their farms, jobs and services. More than 400,000 Palestinians, for example, live within a one kilometre strip of the barrier (excluding East Jerusalem). Many of these people and many others living further to the east, will be directly harmed by the Barrier.

Barrier length

Stretching a total of 638 kilometres (including Jerusalem), the new Barrier route will run from Jenin in the northern West Bank to the southern-most tip of Hebron in the south. Because of its meandering path into the West Bank, its length is more than twice the length of the Green Line. The finished Barrier will be four times longer than what is now completed.

Departure from the Green Line

Only 10% of the Barrier's length runs along the 1949 Armistice Line or Green Line. For the rest, the Barrier's planned path cuts deep into the West Bank – up to 22 km where it is planned to envelope the Israeli settlement of Ariel.

Enclaves created

The Barrier also folds in on itself to create 9 separate enclaves – areas where people will be totally surrounded by the Barrier.

Access to West Bank jobs and services

People who live in either enclaves or closed areas will have to pass through gates in the Barrier to reach markets, schools, hospitals and maintain family connections in the areas of the West Bank to the east. Although Israel introduced some changes to the operation of the gates, access for Palestinians in these areas is restricted. As yet, no information on gates through the projected path of the Barrier has been publicly released by the Israeli Government.

Israeli settler population affected

Also included in the area between the Barrier and the Green Line will be 56 Israeli settlements containing approximately 140,200 Israeli settlers – 63 percent of the West Bank settlement population.

The majority of the Israeli settlers will live within the same zone of the Barrier as the Palestinians for whom the Barrier was designed to separate.

Palestinians require permits to continue residing in closed areas

Given the latest Israeli policy on permits, Palestinians residing in closed areas between the Barrier and the Green Line face an uncertain future in terms of their personal status and their lands' status. On 7 October 2003, the Israeli Defence Forces issued a number of military orders closing land areas located between the Barrier and the Green Line in the Jenin, Qalqilya and Tulkarm districts. The orders require approximately 5,000 residents in these closed areas to apply for green-coloured permits to remain living in their homes. Private vehicles should also be registered accordingly.

These permits are valid for up to six months and in principle are valid for only one gate. Use of other gates is allowed only in emergency cases.

The Barrier will further restrict farmers living outside this 'closed zone' from getting to their land within it. Medical staff, business people and international humanitarian organizations also have to apply for special permits. According to the military orders, Israeli citizens and internationals of Jewish descent are exempted from these requirements.

Humanitarian consequences

As yet no studies have been released by the Israeli Government to measure the Barrier's impact on Palestinian lives.

However, it seems inevitable that more people, unable to reach their land to harvest crops, graze animals or earn a living will face economic hardship. The damage caused by the destruction of land and property for the Barrier's construction is irreversible in the medium term and undermines Palestinians' ability to recover should a political situation allows conditions to improve.

Residents also risk being cut off from schools, universities and specialized medical care. The Barrier also fragments communities and isolates residents from vital social support networks.

If the military orders that restrict entry into the closed areas between the Green Line and the Barrier are applied to the new parts of the Barrier, then many thousands of Palestinians are likely to face difficulty continuing to live in their homes or access land.

Depth Barriers

The Israeli Defense Forces in April 2003 issued maps to show plans for a three further secondary or depth barriers in the northern West Bank that loop out from the main Barrier. Although not part of the Israeli 'Seam Zone' plans, if built they will enclose a further 21,000 acres between the main Barrier and depth barriers and enclose around 101,000 people.

January 2004

Enclaves and Closed Areas between West Bank Barrier and the Green Line

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

January 2004

Preliminary statistics on the Palestinian lands between the Barrier and the Green Line (excluding Jerusalem)

Total Area Between the Barrier and the Green Line: 191,000 acres

Enclave area: 39,000 acres
Closed area: 152,000 acres

13.5% of West Bank land

Total Length of the Barrier: 638 km

Completed or under construction: 188 km (including Jerusalem)

Planned: 450 km (including Jerusalem)

10% of the Barrier follows the Green Line
Length of the Green Line: 315 km

Total Population Between the Barrier and the Green Line

Palestinians: 189,000 (100 communities)

Israeli settlers: 141,500 (58 Israeli settlements)

Population in Enclaves

Palestinians: 169,000 (41 communities)

Israeli settlers: 1,300 (2 Israeli settlements)

Population in Closed Areas

Palestinians: 20,000 (59 communities)

Israeli settlers: 140,200 (56 Israeli settlements)

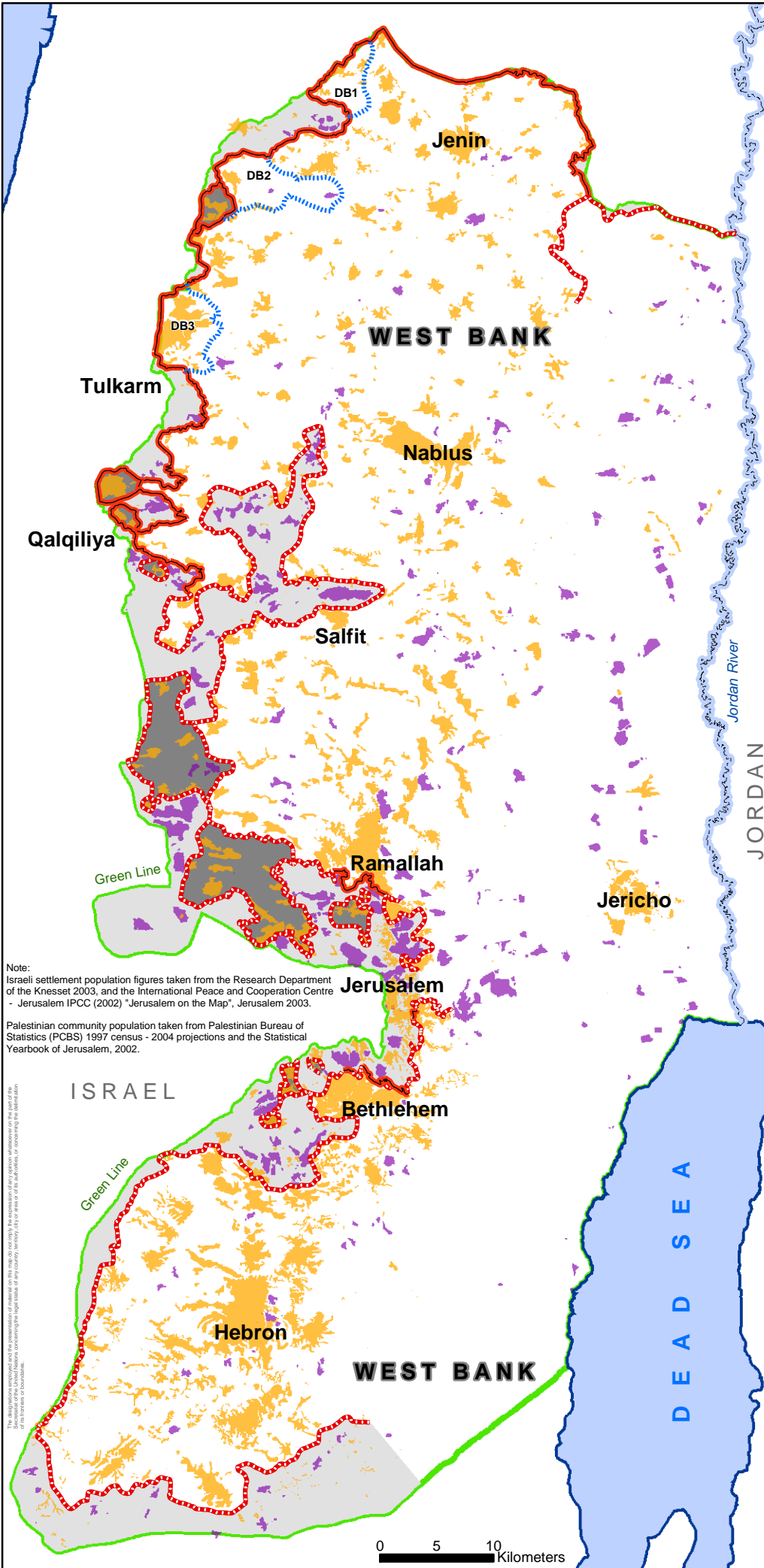
Depth Barriers Area and Length

Area: 21,000 acres
Length: 43 km

Population in Depth Barriers

Palestinians: 101,000 (19 communities)

Israeli settlers: 500 (2 Israeli settlements)



Note:
Israeli settlement population figures taken from the Research Department of the Knesset 2003, and the International Peace and Cooperation Centre - Jerusalem IPCC (2002) "Jerusalem on the Map", Jerusalem 2003.
Palestinian community population taken from Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) 1997 census - 2004 projections and the Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem, 2002.

The information contained in this document is of a preliminary nature. It is not intended to be used for legal purposes. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

- Completed Barrier or under Construction
- - - Planned Barrier*
- ⋯ Depth Barrier**
- Enclave: Area surrounded by the Barrier
- Closed Area: Area enclosed by the Barrier and the Green Line
- Palestinian Community
- Israeli Settlement

*Barrier path based on Israeli Government (Ministry of Defence - Seam Zone Authority) Maps - 23 Oct 2003.
**Depth Barriers based on IDF maps - March 2003.