



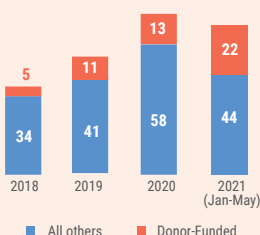
Palestinian-owned livelihood structures demolished by the Israeli authorities in Beit Jala (Bethlehem) on 4 May 2021. Photo by OCHA.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fewer Palestinian-owned structures demolished by the Israeli authorities during Ramadan and none during the May escalation of hostilities and unrest.
- Multiple court hearings held on the planned forced eviction of Palestinians in several East Jerusalem neighbourhoods.
- Seizure still used by the Israeli authorities to remove Palestinian-owned structures in Area C.

STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED/SEIZED

Monthly Averages



MAY FIGURES

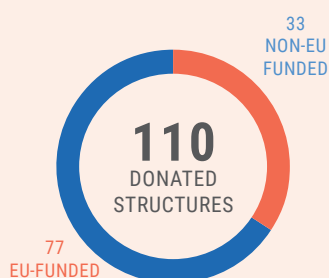
STRUCTURES TARGETED

East Jerusalem	1
Area C	12
Area B	0
Area A	0

PEOPLE IMPACTED

Displaced	9
Affected	70

ASSISTANCE DEMOLISHED/SEIZED IN 2021



OVERVIEW

In May, the Israeli authorities demolished, forced people to demolish, or seized 13 Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This resulted in the displacement of nine people, including four children, and otherwise affected the livelihoods, or access to services, of 70 others. All the structures were located in Area C or East Jerusalem, and were targeted for lacking building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.

The decline recorded in May, compared with the first quarter of 2021, is attributed to the month of Ramadan (13 April - 12 May), during which the Israeli authorities customarily halt most demolitions, and the 11-day escalation of hostilities and unrest, between 10-21 May.

None of the structures demolished or seized in May had been provided as humanitarian aid. However, in Al Baqa'a (Hebron), one livelihood structure, provided as humanitarian aid at a value of over 2,000 euros, was served with a stop-work order.

While the number of structures demolished or seized in May is the lowest monthly figure this year, the cumulative figure in 2021, as of end May (330), is 50 per cent higher than its equivalent for the same period in 2020 (220) and 116 per cent higher for structures provided as humanitarian aid (110 vs. 51).

Seven of the structures demolished or seized in May, or 54 per cent, were seized without, or with very short, prior notice. In Umm Zaitonah (Hebron), the Israeli authorities seized two residential structures and two livelihood structures for lacking building permits in Area C, displacing nine people, including four children, and affecting the livelihoods of another nine people. The owners reportedly received the seizure orders during the operation itself, preventing them from objecting in advance.

Seized structures may be recovered, but this requires the owners to pay the Israeli Civil Administration for transportation and storage expenses, as well as committing

to not reinstall the structures without a building permit. As these permits are almost impossible to obtain, such recoveries rarely happen.

In East Jerusalem, one structure in Ras al ‘Amud, used as a garage and car wash facility, was demolished by the owner, following the issuance of a demolition order. So far in 2021, the proportion of structures demolished by their owners in East Jerusalem, following the issuance of such orders, reached 40 per cent, up from an average of 27 per cent in the previous five years. This is attributed to new Israeli legislation, which limits the authority of Israeli courts to intervene and enables the Jerusalem Municipality to exert pressure on families to demolish their properties themselves.

On 2 May, the Israeli Supreme Court held a hearing on a leave to appeal request filed by the four extended families facing forced eviction from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. On 7 June, the Israeli Attorney-General announced that he would not intervene in the High Court proceedings with respect to the pending eviction of the four families. The Supreme Court has scheduled a hearing on the families’ leave to appeal request on 2 August 2021 and will issue a ruling accordingly.

In a related development, on 26 May, the Jerusalem District Court postponed a pre-scheduled hearing on the planned forced eviction of six Palestinian households, comprising 33 people, including 19 children, from Batn al Hawa quarter in Silwan neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. About 100 Palestinian households in Batn Al Hawa are at risk of forced eviction by the Israeli authorities, mostly due to court cases initiated by, Ateret Cohanim, an Israeli settler organization, more than anywhere else in East Jerusalem.

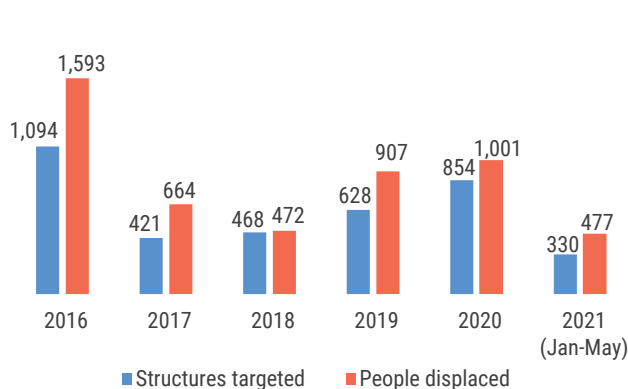
WEST BANK DEMOLITIONS / SEIZURES

	Structures demolished	People displaced*		People Affected**	
		All	Children	All	Children
East Jerusalem	1	0	0	8	1
Area C	12	9	4	62	36
TOTAL	13	9	4	70	37

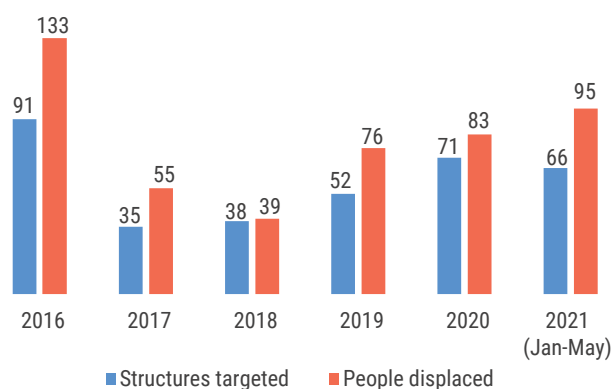
* Includes all people who had a structure used as their habitual place of residence demolished.

** Includes all people who had any of their property, other than their residence, demolished. Displaced and affected are mutually exclusive categories, i.e. people counted under the former are not included in the latter.

TOTAL STRUCTURES TARGETED AND PEOPLE DISPLACED



MONTHLY AVERAGES OF STRUCTURES TARGETED AND PEOPLE DISPLACED

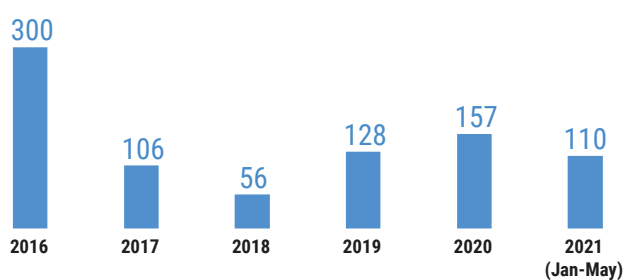


DEMOLITION/STOP-WORK ORDERS AFFECTING DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES MAY 2021

Date	Community	Governorate	Type of structure	Number of structures	Type of incident	Estimated cost in Euros
2 May	Al Baqa'a	Hebron	Livelihood structure	1	Stop-work order	2,233
Total				1		2,233

TARGETED DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES

TOTALS



MONTHLY AVERAGES

