KEY FACTS

- Around 210,000 Palestinians currently live in Bethlehem governorate, including some 6,000 in 17 residential areas located in Area C, which is directly controlled by Israel.
- There are over 100,000 Israeli settlers residing in 19 settlements and settlement outposts across the governorate, including in those parts de facto annexed by Israel.
- More than 85% of Bethlehem governorate is designated as Area C, the vast majority of which is off limits for Palestinian development, including almost 38% declared as “firing zones”, 34% designated as “nature reserves”, and nearly 12% allocated for settlement development.1
- Less than 1% of Area C in Bethlehem has an outline plan approved by the Israeli authorities allowing Palestinians to build legally.
- Since 2009 the Israeli authorities demolished 118 Palestinian structures in Area C of Bethlehem governorate, citing lack of building permits, displacing 174 people; around half of the structures demolished were funded by donors.
- 56 km of the Barrier’s route are located within Bethlehem governorate, of which 42% are complete and 20% under construction. If completed as planned, 12 communities, will be physically separated from the rest of the governorate.
- Farmers in at least 22 communities across the governorate require visitor permits or prior coordination to access their privately-owned land located behind the Barrier or in the vicinity of settlements.
- From 2009 through 2014, OCHA recorded 162 settler attacks resulting in Palestinian casualties or property damage, as well as 73 Palestinian attacks resulting in Israeli casualties or damage to property throughout the governorate.
- In 2014, four Palestinians, including two children, were killed by Israeli forces in clashes that erupted during protests and military operations across Bethlehem, and another 1,292, including 614 children, were injured.

These figures include areas designated as “nature reserves” in the context of the 1998 Wye River Agreement between Israel and the PLO, which are de facto administered as Area C. The three categories within Area C partially overlap (see map).
**25 August:** Israeli Civil Administration declares 3,799 dunums as "state land".

**12 June:** Palestinians kidnap and subsequently kill three Israeli youths.

**24 September:** Israeli authorities promote plan to build 2,610 housing units in Giv'at Ha'Matos settlement.

**1 October:** Israeli Civil Administration publishes an outline plan for the establishment of a Jewish religious school in an area previously declared as 'state land'.

**6 July:** Settlers open a road through Palestinian lands connecting Efrata settlement to Giv'at Ha'Etam agricultural farm.

**4 July:** Settlers take over forest and announce the establishment of a ‘tourist site’.

**6 April:** Israeli Civil Administration declare 1,000 dunums of land as ‘state land’, part of which has been already allocated for settlement development.