

HUMANITARIAN BULLETIN MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2015*



HIGHLIGHTS

- Significant decline in Israeli-Palestinian violence and resulting casualties across the oPt during the first half of 2015, compared with the previous six months
- Heightened threats of demolition and forcible displacement in two herding communities in Area C of the West Bank.
- Over 275,000 Palestinians allowed into East Jerusalem for the Friday Prayers of Ramadan; some restrictions reinstated following Palestinian attacks.

Overview

One year on, people in Gaza struggle to cope with loss

July marked one year since the outbreak of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel, which resulted in an unprecedented number of civilian casualties and homes destroyed among Palestinians. One year on, most people in Gaza are still struggling to cope with the immense losses they experienced and attempting to reconstruct their lives. This Humanitarian Bulletin highlights the case of 19-year-old Ala', from Jabaliya refugee camp, who survived an airstrike that killed his entire family of 11 members in the building to which they had relocated. Over the course of hostilities at least 142 Palestinian families had three or more members killed in the same incident for a total of 742 fatalities.

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Since the temporary ceasefire of 26 August 2014, violence across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) has declined gradually. Palestinian and Israeli casualties during the first half of 2015 were significantly lower than in the previous six months, even after excluding the Gaza hostilities, with June 2015 recording the lowest

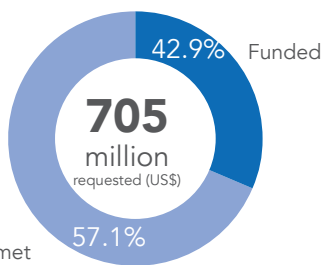
JUNE FIGURES

Palestinian civilians killed (direct conflict)	3
Palestinian civilians injured (direct conflict)	68
Structures demolished in the West Bank	47
People displaced in the West Bank	31

STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN 2015

705 million requested (US\$)

42.9% funded



Gilo checkpoint, Palestinians accessing East Jerusalem for the Ramadan Friday prayer, 3 July © Photo by OCHA

* Due to variation in the reporting periods of specific sections, from July 2015, the month indicated in the Humanitarian Bulletin's title will reflect the month of issuance rather than the reporting period of the contents.

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United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory
P. O. Box 38712 East Jerusalem 91386 | tel +972 (0)2 582 9962 | fax +972 (0)2 582 5841 | ochaopt@un.org [facebook.com/ochaopt](https://www.facebook.com/ochaopt)

Coordination Saves Lives



number of Palestinian injuries in more than three years. However, in the absence of a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and with the peace negotiations to end the longstanding occupation stalled, the situation remains inherently fragile and the risk of a new cycle of violence is ever-present.

The fragility of the situation is exacerbated by the slow pace of reconstruction and the dire socioeconomic conditions in the coastal enclave. Approximately 100,000 people whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged are still displaced, most of them in precarious conditions. After months of delay, the Israeli and Palestinian authorities reached an agreement in July on a new mechanism to allow imports of restricted building materials into Gaza for the reconstruction of homes that were completely destroyed. This will enable the start on the ground of the first housing project to house some 1,000 displaced families. However, enormous funding gaps may delay the launch of additional projects.

In the West Bank, Israeli restrictions on the use of land by Palestinians in Area C and the related vulnerability continue to be a significant source of tension. During July there were heightened threats of demolition and forcible displacement of two herding communities in Area C: Susiya in Hebron and Abu Nwar in the Jerusalem periphery. This triggered the engagement of many UN member states and other stakeholders in response to these threats, which so far did not materialize. Humanitarian organizations continue to provide critical support to increase the resilience of some 30,000 Palestinians living in herding communities in Area C, including the regular distribution of food assistance, as highlighted in this Bulletin.

Also in Area C, this month the Israeli authorities approved plans for the construction of over 900 new housing units in Israeli settlements, which are illegal under international law. Furthermore, following the implementation of an Israeli High Court ruling ordering the demolition of two buildings erected without permit on private Palestinian land in the Beit El settlement, the Israeli Prime Minister ordered to advance the approval of 300 housing units in this settlement, and another 500 units in East Jerusalem, according to media reports.

In a positive development, the Israeli authorities relaxed restrictions on the movement of Palestinians within the oPt, including East Jerusalem, and between the oPt and Israel during the month of Ramadan. These measures had a positive impact on the right of Palestinians to freedom of movement, to freedom of worship and to family life. Some of these access easings were progressively revoked in response to several Palestinian attacks, raising concern about collective penalties imposed on the wider population.

In his first visit to the Gaza Strip, Robert Piper, the incoming Humanitarian Coordinator for the oPt, highlighted the urgency of accelerating reconstruction. He called on member states to disburse pledges they had made and on the Israeli authorities to review current import restrictions. "Palestinians in Gaza need to be lifted out of this self-perpetuating cycle of crisis," said Mr. Piper. He also visited the community of Susiya in the West Bank and emphasized that, "the destruction of private property in an occupied territory is

During July there were heightened threats of demolitions and forcible displacement of two herding communities in Area C - Susiya in Hebron and Abu Nwar in the Jerusalem periphery – that triggered the engagement of many UN member states and other stakeholders.

prohibited under international humanitarian law, [calling] on the Israeli authorities to suspend all demolitions of Palestinian structures in Area C and to provide its residents with a planning and permit regime that allows them to meet their needs.”

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES DECLINE IN JUNE AND IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2015

Ongoing concern over use of live ammunition in crowd control situations

In June Israeli forces killed three Palestinian civilians and injured 66 others in clashes and other incidents across the oPt. All the fatalities and 58 of the injuries were recorded in the West Bank. During the same period, Palestinians killed two Israeli civilians and injured nine others, as well as five members of Israeli forces.¹ Despite the relative increase in fatal incidents, June marked the lowest number of Palestinian injuries in the oPt since January 2012.

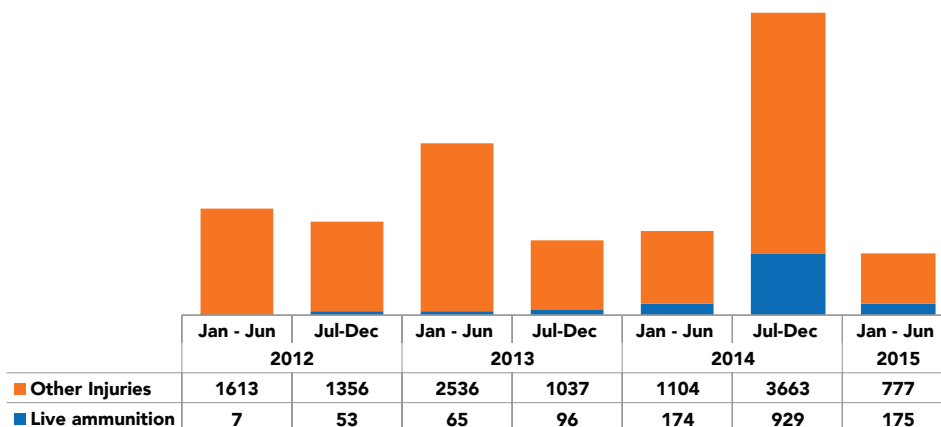
All three Palestinian fatalities were killed by live ammunition: a 23-year-old man shot during a search and arrest operation in Jenin refugee camp; a 22-year-old man shot with live ammunition during clashes in Kafr Malik village (Ramallah); and a 23-year-old Palestinian killed at Hamra checkpoint (Nablus). According to Israeli military sources cited in the media, two of the men were killed while attempting to throw fire bombs, and the third had opened fire at soldiers.

The majority of injuries in the West Bank took place during incidents in the Jerusalem and Ramallah governorates, predominantly in the course of clashes involving stone throwing at Israeli forces, and in weekly demonstrations in Kafr Qaddum in Qalqiliya governorate. Eight Palestinians were also injured in the Access Restricted Area (ARA) along the Gaza Strip’s perimeter fence with Israel.

Two Israelis were killed by Palestinian live fire: one was shot in an area near the village of Deir Ibzi’ (Ramallah), and another was shot on a road near a settlement outpost in the Nablus area. Four other Israelis were also injured by Palestinian live fire in two separate incidents. Israeli forces arrested several Palestinian suspects in connection with these

In the West Bank during the first half of 2015, Israeli forces shot and killed a total of 13 Palestinian civilians, including two children, down from 38 fatalities, including eight children, recorded in the second half of 2014.

Palestinian injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank, Live ammunition vs. other injuries



incidents. Five other Israeli civilians and two members of Israeli forces were injured in stone-throwing incidents, and another two Israelis in stabbing incidents during June.³

Fewer civilian casualties in the first half of 2015

Overall, there was a significant decline in Israeli-Palestinian violence and resulting casualties across the oPt during the first half of 2015 compared with the previous six months. This decline is still significant even if the Gaza casualties during the summer escalation are excluded.

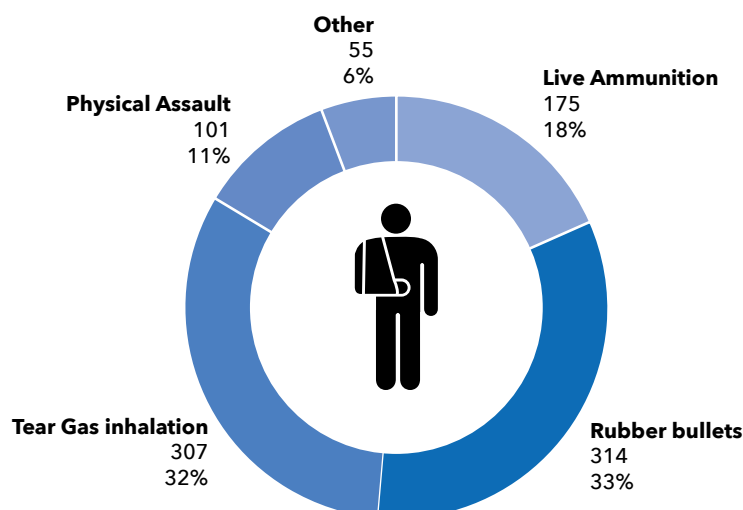
In the West Bank during the first half of 2015, Israeli forces shot and killed a total of 13 Palestinian civilians, including two children. This is down from 38 fatalities, including eight children, recorded in the second half of 2014. All but one of this year's Palestinian fatalities were males ranging between 17 and 27 years of age, except for a 41-year-old man who was shot in East Jerusalem after he ran over a group of Israeli border policemen. Four of the Palestinian fatalities occurred during responses to the stabbing of Israeli forces; another three took place during clashes involving stone throwing at Israeli forces; a 17-year-old child was shot while allegedly trying to steal a car; and the remaining fatalities took place in other circumstances.

During this six-month period, Israeli forces injured a total of 952 Palestinians, 20 per cent of the equivalent figure for the second half of 2014 (4,592 Palestinian injuries). This latter period of 2014 saw heightened tensions during extensive Israeli military operations following the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli youths by Palestinians; the kidnapping and burning alive of a Palestinian child by Israelis; the hostilities in Gaza and Israel; and concerns over changes to the status quo of Al Aqsa Mosque compound.

In the Gaza Strip, one fatality by Israeli forces was recorded in the first half of 2015: on 25 March, a 32-year-old fisherman was shot and killed while reportedly fishing approximately five nautical miles off Gaza's shore, nearly one kilometre from the northern fence with Israel. During the same period, 47 Palestinian civilian injuries were

So far in 2015, Israeli forces injured a total of 952 Palestinians, 20 per cent of the equivalent figure for the second half of 2014. This latter period of 2014 saw heightened tensions, which decreased to a large extent this year.

Palestinian injuries in the West Bank by weapon Jan- Jun 2015



PALESTINIAN BOY SHOT AND KILLED BY SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICER

On 3 July 2015, an Israeli Brigade Commander shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian near Qalandiya checkpoint (Jerusalem). Initial statements by the Israeli authorities defended the handling of the incident in the face of “real mortal threat”. However, video footage released by B’Tselem suggests that at the time the youth was shot, he was fleeing and did not pose a threat.² The Israeli military police reportedly opened a criminal investigation into the case.

recorded in Access Restricted Areas on land and sea, down from 54 injuries in the period of 2014 since the August ceasefire.

There has also been a general decline in the number of Israeli casualties by Palestinians. In the first six months of 2015, three Israelis were killed and 43 others injured versus 12 deaths (including 11 civilians, four children) and 104 injuries in the post-ceasefire period of 2014. The majority (29) of Israeli injuries were in incidents involving stone throwing, followed by five injuries due to stabbing, and four in shooting incidents.

This trend is consistent with reports by the Israel Security Agency (ISA, previously known as the General Security Service or Shabak) that Palestinian attacks on Israeli civilians and security forces have declined from a monthly average of 160 between September and December 2014 to 117 between January and June 2015.⁴

Proportion of injuries by live ammunition remains high despite relative calm

Despite the relative calm and overall decrease in casualties, the proportion of injuries caused by live ammunition during the first half of 2015 was 18 per cent, nearly the same as in the second half of 2014 at 20 per cent. The majority of these injuries occurred in crowd control situations, largely demonstrations and clashes involving stone throwing at Israeli forces, raising concerns about excessive use of force.⁵

These concerns were highlighted by the Independent Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Human Rights Council to review events that occurred in the oPt in the summer of 2014. The Commission pointed out that “the pervasive use of live ammunition inevitably raises the risk of death or serious injury. The use of firearms against those not posing a threat to life or serious injury constitutes a violation of the prohibition of the arbitrary deprivation of life, and may, depending on the circumstances, amount to an act of willful killing”.⁶

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MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS TEMPORARILY EASED DURING RAMADAN

Some restrictions reinstated following Palestinian attacks

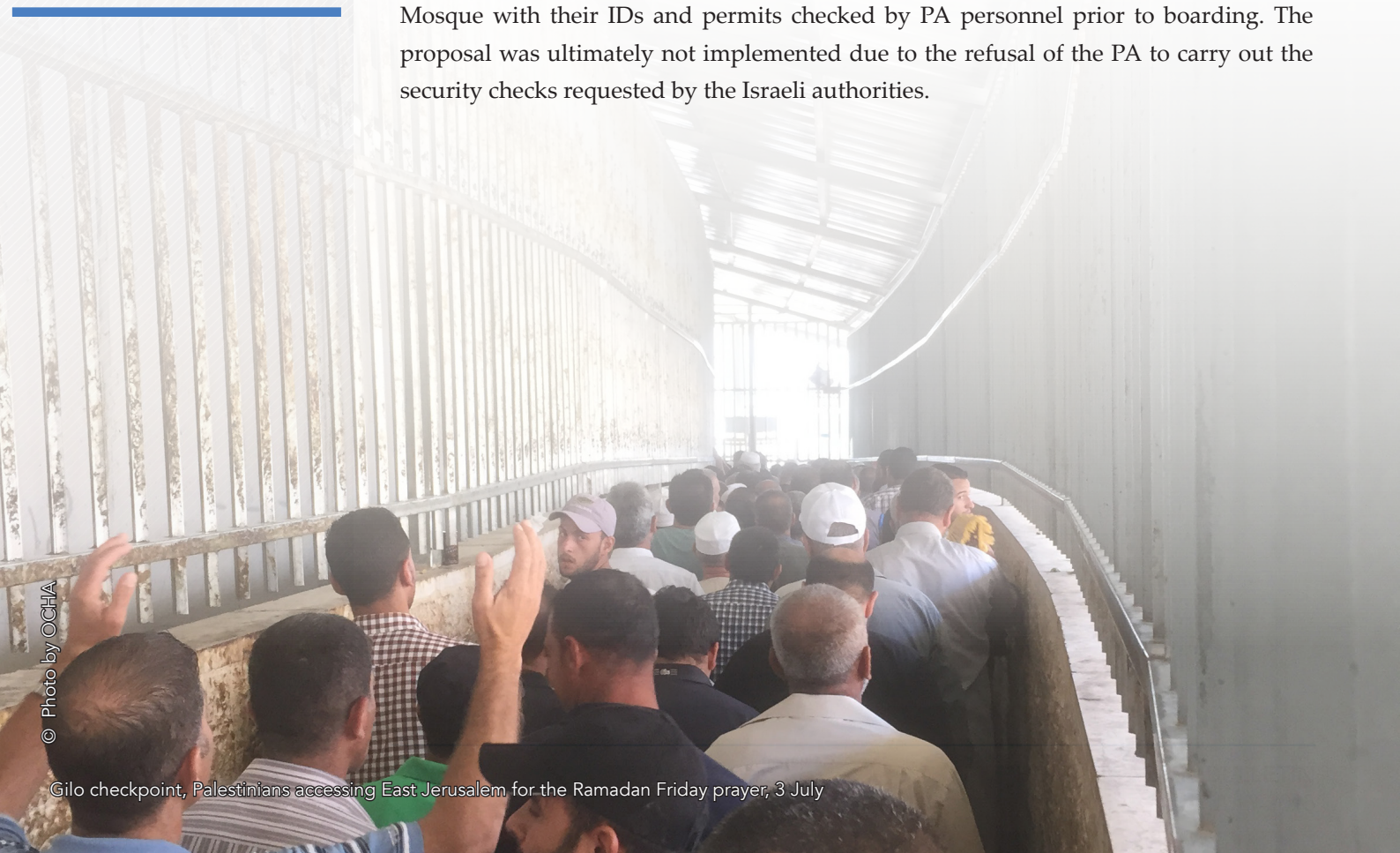
For the month of Ramadan, which started on 18 June, the Israeli authorities relaxed some restrictions on the movement of Palestinians within the oPt, including East Jerusalem, and between the oPt and Israel. These measures had a positive impact on the right of Palestinians to freedom of movement, to freedom of worship and to family life. However, in response to a series of Palestinian attacks (see *Decline in Casualties* section), the Israeli authorities progressively revoked some of these measures, raising concerns about collective penalties.

Until recently, all Palestinians holding West Bank IDs were prohibited from accessing East Jerusalem without obtaining a special permit. Permit holders may access the city via four checkpoints along the Barrier: Qalandiya, Gilo, Shufat, and Zaitun CPs. On March 2015, the Israeli authorities lifted the permit requirement for men over 55 and women over 50 crossing one of these checkpoints after 8 am.

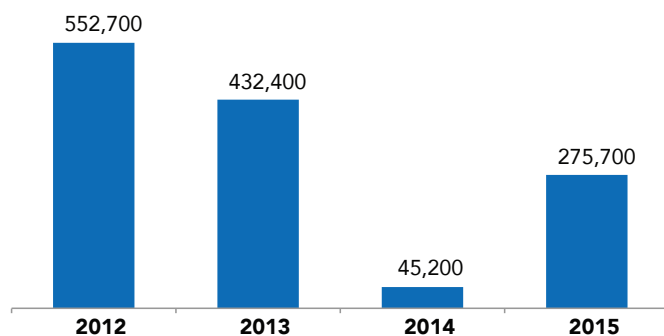
During Ramadan, exemption from the permit requirement was extended on Fridays to men over 40, boys below 13 years and all females, to allow more people to attend Al Aqsa Mosque for the traditional prayers. Males between 13 and 40 years of age were eligible for permits. Similar permits were issued to a few hundred Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Individuals crossing the checkpoints underwent two to three inspections and searches by Israeli forces.

Prior to Ramadan, the Israeli authorities had reportedly proposed to the Palestinian Authority (PA) that people board buses in Palestinian cities and travel directly to Al Aqsa Mosque with their IDs and permits checked by PA personnel prior to boarding. The proposal was ultimately not implemented due to the refusal of the PA to carry out the security checks requested by the Israeli authorities.

During Ramadan's Fridays, men over 40, boys below 13 years and all females were exempted from the permit requirement to access East Jerusalem, to allow more Palestinians to attend Al Aqsa Mosque for the traditional prayers.



West Bank ID holders entering East Jerusalem during the four Ramadan Fridays



Source: The Israeli District Liaison Office for Jerusalem

During this period, the Israeli authorities also eased the criteria for issuing permits to West Bank ID holders for access to East Jerusalem and Israel for the purpose of family visits; this included the lifting of the “magnetic card” requirement. Several hundred additional permits allowing Palestinians to travel via Ben Gurion airport in Israel were also issued.

Following attacks by Palestinians on the third and fourth Fridays of Ramadan, the Israeli authorities narrowed the age criteria to access East Jerusalem without a permit (men over 50 and women over 30). They also revoked all permits issued to residents of Gaza and of Sa’ir town (population 22,400) in Hebron, home to the perpetrator of one of the attacks, and to travelers via Israel’s airport. Despite this, about 800 permits were issued to residents of Gaza to attend the *Laylat al Qadr* (Night of Destiny) celebrations in East Jerusalem on 13 July. Lack of clarity regarding these changes and insufficient dissemination of relevant information resulted in confusion, friction with Israeli forces, and hundreds of people being turned back at checkpoints during the last two Fridays of Ramadan.

More than 275,000 crossings took place via the four authorized checkpoints. The highest figure of 120,000 was recorded on the second Friday, while the volume on the other three days fluctuated between 50,000 and 56,000. While this represents a large increase compared to Ramadan 2014, the figures are lower than in 2012 and 2013. Ramadan 2014 featured a peak in tension due to the Gaza hostilities and military operations and clashes in the West Bank, alongside severe access restrictions into East Jerusalem.

Also in Ramadan, the Israeli authorities opened a road connecting Hebron city to the nearby town of Bani Naim (population 25,700), which has been closed since 2000 following the beginning of the second Intifada. This opening has almost halved the distance between the two localities (from 20 to 11 kilometers), thereby facilitating access to services and workplaces, and reducing transportation and logistics costs to dozens of quarries and stone factories operating in the area.

Lack of clarity regarding changes in the restrictions to access East Jerusalem and insufficient dissemination of relevant information resulted in confusion, friction with Israeli forces, and hundreds of people being turned back at checkpoints.

ONE YEAR ON, GAZA SURVIVORS STRUGGLE TO COPE WITH LOSS

Ala' Balatah: the only survivor of his immediate family

July marked one year since the outbreak of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel. The hostilities had a devastating impact on civilians in the Gaza Strip, including an unprecedented number of civilian casualties and homes destroyed. A particularly painful aspect of this conflict has been the large number of families that sustained multiple fatalities: information collected by OCHA indicates that a total of 142 Palestinian families had three or more members killed in the same incident for a total of 742 fatalities. One year on, most people in the Gaza Strip are still struggling to cope with the immense losses they experienced and attempting to reconstruct their lives.

The case of the Balatah family home, Jabaliya refugee camp⁷

Shortly after the start of the hostilities, Naim Nasmi Balatah, aged 45, relocated with his family to the house of his brother, Abdul-Kareem, which was made from concrete rather than asbestos and was considered safer. On 29 July, Abdul-Kareem's house was struck by several Israeli air missiles, most likely precision guided munitions, which indicates that the home may have been directly targeted. Eleven family members were killed and another 41 civilians, including 17 children and five women, were wounded.

THE PRACTICE OF TARGETING RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

On 15 June, the Independent Commission of Inquiry, appointed by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate alleged violations of international law in the 2014 summer conflict released its report.⁸ One of the practices addressed is the targeting of Palestinian residential properties, as illustrated by the case of the Balatah family.⁹

The Commission investigated 15 cases of airstrikes on residential buildings in which a total of 216 people were killed, including 115 children and 50 women. The fact that precision-guided weapons were used in all these cases, according to the Commission, indicates that they were directed against specific targets and resulted in the total or partial destruction of entire buildings. Many of the incidents took place in the evening or at dawn, when families gathered for Ramadan meals, or at night when people were asleep. The timing of the attacks increased the likelihood that many people, often entire families, would be at home.

In nine of the 15 cases examined, the Commission found indications of possible military objectives in or nearby the affected homes, mostly individuals who were or who could have been present in the building at the time it was hit, presumably on account of their alleged links to the police, Hamas or an armed group. However, due to a lack of cooperation by the Israeli authorities, the Commission could not determine the real motive for the attacks. In a further six cases, the Commission found little or no information available that could possibly explain the motive for the attack. All the cases examined raised concerns about possible violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality or precaution in attack.

The Government of Israel has justified the legality of this practice claiming that "in some cases, the IDF - after employing all feasible precautions and making proportionality assessments - attacked military objectives that were situated within residential buildings".¹⁰ This is illustrated by one such airstrike conducted on 8 July, whereby the home of a military commander of an armed faction was attacked after the IDF found that "the site was used as an operational planning site and because a large number of weapons had been stored there and designated for attacks against Israeli citizens".¹¹

Cases of Israeli airstrikes targeting residential buildings in the Gaza Strip during the 2014 hostilities examined by the Independent Commission of Inquiry raised concerns about possible violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality or precaution in attack.

ADDRESSING CHILDREN'S PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS¹²

During the hostilities, child protection organizations focused on delivering immediate psychosocial aid to distressed children and families. Following the ceasefire, the emphasis shifted to more focused and structured psychosocial interventions to address the huge levels of stress-related symptoms among children. This included an integrated referral system for vulnerable children and families, and training of case managers for children at risk. Between July 2014 and July 2015, members of the Child Protection and Mental Health Psychosocial Support Working Groups served more than 138,000 children with psychosocial interventions, nearly 134,000 with ERW awareness raising, and 171,000 children with other child protection interventions that included career-child interaction, case management and life skills education. One year on, it is estimated that over 300,000 children in the Gaza Strip are still in need of psychosocial support.

Survivors stated that the family had just finished a long meal on the second day of the Eid al Fitr celebration and most of the family members were taking a nap at the time of the attack. The UN Independent Commission of Inquiry pointed out that, regarding this case, "the commission has not received any information suggesting that there was a military target in the house, and to date, the IDF has made no statement concerning the incident. It appears that no warning was issued".¹³

Naim, his wife Saha, aged 42, and his six daughters were killed instantly. The couple's eight-year-old son died on his way to hospital. The one-year-old son of one of the daughters and the son of Abdul-Kareem were also killed. Eighteen year old Ala', who was outside the house at the time, was the only surviving member of his immediate family.

Coping with the loss

One year later, Ala's uncle, Jamil Balatah, recounts the traumatic events and the year since the airstrike that killed his brother and his brother's family. Jamil works as a driver for the British Council and insisted on telling the story in English so that Ala' would not understand and would be spared from reliving the trauma and losses, remaining focused on the future.

Jamil recalled how Ala' moved in with another uncle immediately after the ceasefire, staying for three months before relocating to Jamil's house, where he felt more comfortable with cousins of his own age. Just before the war, Ala' had finished high school. His father had wanted him to succeed in his studies and Ala' was determined to improve his grades to be able to go directly to university. In the year that passed, he registered for two courses, but did not manage to



Ala' and Jamil Balatah, Jabaliya refugee camp, July 2015. © Photo by OCHA

Over 138,000 children in Gaza have been reached with psychosocial interventions. Due to the fact he is over 18, Ala' Balatah did not receive any such assistance.

ISRAELI INVESTIGATIONS¹⁴

In the aftermath of the 2014 hostilities, the Israeli military established a mechanism for fact finding assessments (FFA Mechanism) to examine "exceptional incidents" that occurred during the military operation in Gaza. Based on the findings, the Military Advocate General (MAG) decides on follow up procedures. According to official Israeli information released in June 2015, the FFA has received allegations related to 190 cases, of which 105 have been examined and conclusions submitted to the MAG. Following review, the latter has decided to close 19 of these cases without opening a criminal investigation and referred seven cases for investigations. In an additional 15 cases where the initial allegation indicated a reasonable suspicion of criminal misconduct, the MAG ordered the opening of a criminal investigation without the need for prior examination by the FFA Mechanism. In one of these cases, the investigation was completed, leading to the indictment of three soldiers suspected of looting NIS 2,420 from a Palestinian family. The report recently released by the MAG does not contain any information about the case of the Balatah family.

"I am looking forward to getting married," Ala' said, with a timid smile, when asked about his hopes for the future.

complete them. Ala' plans to enroll in university in September for a diploma which will enable him to continue on to a bachelor's degree if his grades will be sufficiently high. The family recently received USD \$5,000 for each family member killed in the incident from a committee funded by the United Arab Emirates to support survivors. Apart from this payment and the regular food distributions by UNRWA, the uncle lamented that "Ala' did not receive any psychosocial support and neither have we". This is due to the prioritization of children by specialized agencies for psychosocial interventions (see box above). Following this interview, Ala's case was referred to UNRWA's psychosocial services for further follow up.

With his uncle's assistance, Ala' is now reconstructing his family house and replacing the asbestos with cement – the reason why the family had left their home in search for safety

one year ago. Ala' recently became engaged to a 16-year-old girl from Jabaliya and the young couple will marry later this year. They hope to be able to finish the house next month so Ala' and his bride can make a fresh start there. "I am looking forward to getting married," Ala' said, with a timid smile, when asked about his hopes for the future.

For Ala's uncles and cousins, they hope for employment opportunities. "The situation here is impossible," said Jamil. "One son graduated from university as a nurse in 2007 and is still jobless. The other graduated in 2008 in IT and is also unemployed. The eldest son holds a Master's degree and works as an Arabic teacher. He is a civil servant working in a government school and he is the only one



Football match in memory of Naim Balatah, Jabaliya.

who has a job. We hope the situation will improve and that Ala can find a job in the future and live a worthy life.”

Ala’ currently spends most of his time with his friends and cousins. During Ramadan, a series of football matches were organized in the camp in which the players wore t-shirts with the name Naim in memory of Ala’s father.

Information regarding the food assistance program contained in this section was received from WFP and UNRWA

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AMONG HERDERS IN AREA C OF THE WEST BANK

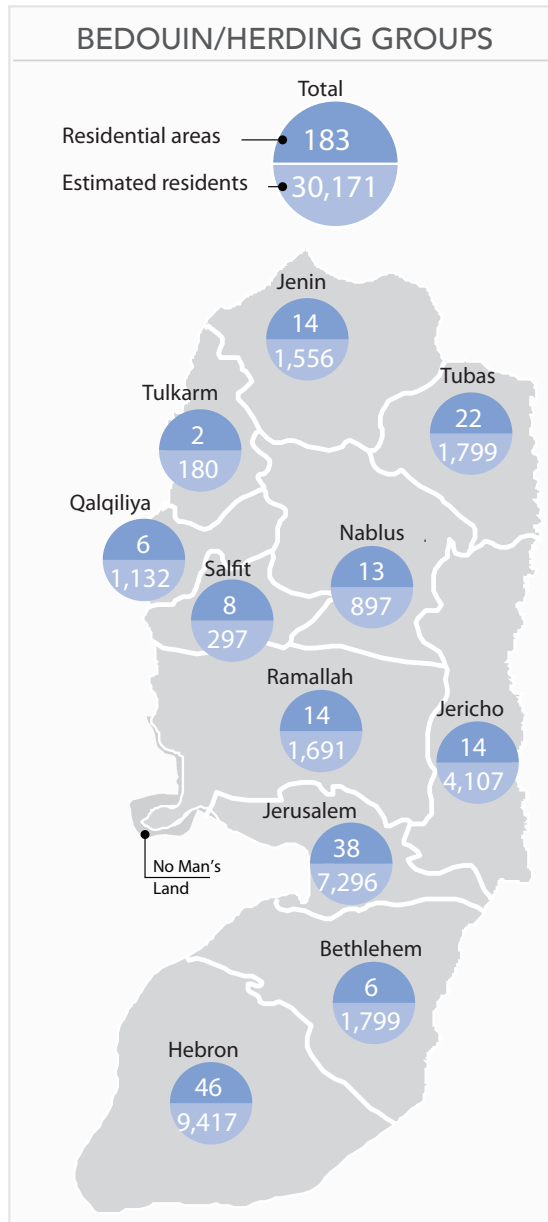
Food assistance enables communities to avoid negative coping mechanisms

Since 2009, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and UNRWA have provided regular food assistance to more than 30,000 Bedouin and other herders living in 183 residential areas across Area C of the West Bank.¹⁵ These beneficiaries are amongst the poorest and most vulnerable Palestinians, with some communities seriously under threat of forcible transfer. The programme aims to ensure that their basic food needs are met and also contributes to building community resilience.

Food distributions take place every three months: WFP is in charge of food procurement and UNRWA of logistics. The food packages include staples such as fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, and chickpeas or lentils. Both agencies jointly monitor and report on the programme, which is part of the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the oPt through the Food Security Sector.¹⁶ In 2014 and 2015, this programme was made possible thanks to multilateral donors and with the support of Canada, Japan, Belgium and Switzerland.

Communities at risk of forcible displacement

Various Israeli practices affecting Bedouin and other herding communities in Area C have created a coercive environment that undermines food security and acts as a “push factor”. These practices include restrictions on access to grazing land and markets; denial of access to basic



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ASSISTING KHAN AL-AHMAR BEDOUIN

Khan al-Ahmar is one of the Bedouin communities located alongside the highway between Jerusalem and Jericho and at risk of forcible transfer. Food assistance from WFP and UNRWA helps residents to free up resources to buy vegetables. *"We can't produce enough vegetables for ourselves, so we buy them from a local vendor who comes to the village once a week,"* says Maha, a 34-year-old woman living in the community. Maha uses the fortified wheat flour received through the food assistance program to make *shrak*, a thin flatbread baked on a large frying pan known as a *saj*. *"We also use the chickpeas to prepare humous and the lentils to make soup,"* she said.

infrastructure; rejection of applications for building permits; and demolition or threat of demolition to homes, schools and animal shelters. In the first half of 2015 the Israeli authorities demolished 159 structures located in 15 herding communities across Area C on the grounds of lack of building permits; these demolitions constituted nearly two-thirds of all Area C demolitions during this period.¹⁷

Some 7,000 Bedouin living in 46 residential areas in the hills to the east of Jerusalem and in the central West Bank are at risk of forcible transfer due to a "relocation" plan advanced by the Israeli authorities.¹⁸ The authorities have justified the plan on the grounds that the residents lack title over the land and that the relocation will improve the living conditions of residents. This plan is strongly opposed by residents, who insist on the right to return to their original homes and lands in southern Israel. In the meantime, they have requested protection and assistance in their current location, including adequate planning and permits for their homes and livelihoods.

In early July 2015, one of the affected communities, Abu Nwar, received demolition and stop work orders targeting dozens of their residential and livelihood structures. On a visit to the community, Israeli officials told the residents to vacate their homes by the end of the Muslim Eid al Fitr feast and move to the Al Jabal relocation site in advance of forthcoming demolitions.

The Israeli authorities have justified the "relocation" of Bedouin communities on the grounds that the residents lack title over the land and that the relocation will improve the living conditions of residents.



Mohammed, Aziz's 6-year-old son, stands next to their small vegetable garden in Um al Kheir, June 2015.

Bedouin and herders in dozens of communities in southern Hebron also face a coercive environment that generates displacement threats. In July the Israeli authorities announced the imminent demolition of part of the community of Susiya on the grounds of lack of building permits.¹⁹ Following concerns raised by multiple member states and other stakeholders, the demolitions and forcible displacement have not been executed to date.

A second community, Um al Kheir (26 families), faces constant challenges in accessing water. In addition, construction within the community is prohibited due to the lack of a planning scheme, and traditional herding and farming livelihoods are becoming increasingly unviable. These circumstances have severely undermined access to adequate quantities of good quality food.

Aziz, a 29-year-old engineer from Um al Kheir, said that he started to sell his sheep a few years ago as a way to survive. “Thirty years ago Um al Kheir was one of the wealthiest Bedouin communities in the region. We had a herd of 1,600 sheep, whereas now we only have about 200 sheep left,” said Aziz. Food assistance has enabled Aziz to avoid resorting to such drastic coping strategies. “Thanks to the food rations, I don’t have to sell my sheep any more to feed my children.”

Of his future hopes, Aziz says: “I hope the demolition order on my house will be lifted and I want to repair the roof and walls of my house to make it more habitable, especially during the cold winters. To help us get by, I would like to setup small projects such as beekeeping, and maybe larger vegetable gardens.”

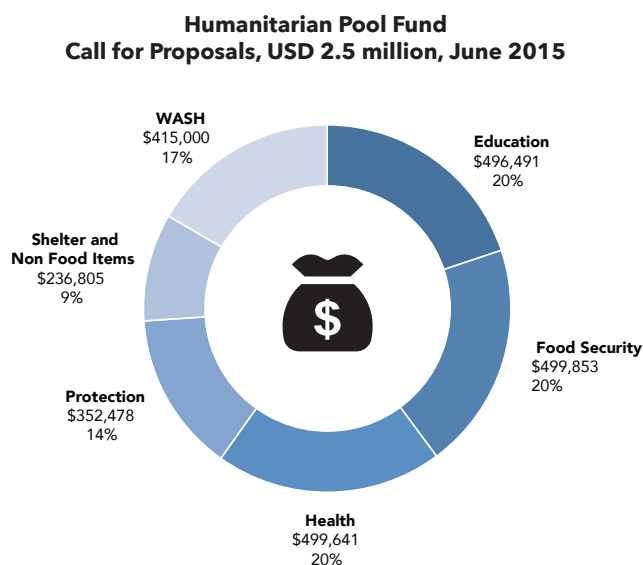
“Thirty years ago Um al Kheir was one of the wealthiest Bedouin communities in the region. We had a herd of 1,600 sheep, whereas now we only have about 200 sheep left”

HUMANITARIAN POOLED FUND PROVIDES \$2.5M TO SUPPORT CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES

The 2015 Strategic Response Plan for oPt is 42.9 per cent funded

In June, the Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) for the oPt launched its first call for proposals to cover unfunded humanitarian projects included in the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP). Overall, a total of 36 proposals were submitted, of which 26 were recommended

by the relevant clusters, and 11 were finally approved by the HPF review board for a total of \$2.5 million. The selected projects, to be implemented by four national NGOs and seven international NGOs (four of them in partnership with national NGOs), address critical needs in the areas of education, food security, health and nutrition, protection, shelter and WASH. Three of these projects will be implemented in the Gaza Strip and nine in the West Bank.



The HPF, which was created earlier this year, is the successor to the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) activated in 2007 to provide rapid funding in response to sudden onset emergencies. In addition to maintaining the original ERF role through a reserve of at least \$4 million, the HPF will support high priority projects included in the SRP but not directly funded by donors. Each individual proposal can receive up to \$250,000. Only projects meeting the criteria developed by the inter-cluster coordination group and endorsed by the Fund's Advisory Board are eligible. The realigned HPF will enable the Humanitarian Coordinator to target the most critical humanitarian needs and funding gaps more effectively.¹⁸

The 2015 SRP has so far received nearly \$303 million or 42.9 per cent of total requests (\$705 million). Funding for projects identified as top priority is even lower and stands at just 29 percent. The possibility of launching a second HPF call for proposals during 2015 to cover these gaps depends on the availability of funding, which is currently being sought urgently.

With a contribution of \$2.8 million, Belgium is the latest addition to a group of nine donors contributing to the HPF and part of the Fund's Advisory Board. So far in 2015, the HPF has received contributions from Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Ireland and Switzerland.

Projects to be funded by the Humanitarian Pooled Fund

Cluster	INGO	NNGO	Total	Number of projects
Education	\$247,491	\$24,9000	\$496,491	2
Food Security	\$249952	\$249,631	\$499,853	2
Health	\$250,000	\$249,641	\$499,641	2
Protection	\$243,953	\$108,525	\$352,478	2
Shelter and Non Food Items	\$236,805	0	\$236,805	1
WASH	\$415,000	0	\$415,000	2
Total	\$1,643,202	\$856,797	\$ 2,500,000	11

The realigned Humanitarian Pooled Fund supports high priority projects included in the Strategic Response Plan but not directly funded by donors, with up to \$250,000 per project.

END NOTES

1. *Injuries include people hit during violent incidents between Palestinians and Israelis who received medical treatment either in a clinic/hospital, or at the site by a paramedic. It includes people treated for breathing difficulties due to tear gas, but excludes psychological shock.*
2. Available at http://www.btselem.org/press_releases/20150712_killing_of_muhammad_ali_qusbah
3. *On 21 June in East Jerusalem, an 18-year-old Palestinian youth from Sair (Hebron) stabbed and severely injured an Israeli border policeman, who subsequently shot and injured his assailant. On 29 June, a Palestinian woman stabbed and injured an Israeli border policewoman staffing the Gilo checkpoint controlling Palestinian access into East Jerusalem from the southern West Bank; the Palestinian was arrested.*
4. See Israel Security Agency, *Monthly Summary (various issues)*, available at: <https://www.shabak.gov.il/english/Pages/homepage.aspx>
5. See Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *A/HRC/28/80*, March 2015, para. 15-18.
6. *Report of the detailed findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-21/1, Summary, para. 71.*
7. *The details about this incident were extracted from the report issued by the UN Independent Commission of Inquiry, para. 145-152.*
8. *Report of the detailed findings of the Independent Commission of Inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution S-21/1 (hereafter: Commission of Inquiry).*
9. *Commission of Inquiry, Summary, para. 35-45.*
10. *Government of Israel, The 2014 Gaza Conflict: Factual and Legal Aspects, para 276. Available at: <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/IsraelGaza2014/Pages/2014-Gaza-Conflict-Factual-and-Legal-Aspects.aspx>*
11. *Ibid.*
12. *Information provided by the UNICEF-led Child Protection Working Group.*
13. *Commission of Inquiry, full report, para. 152.*
14. *Decisions of the IDF MAG Regarding Exceptional Incidents that Allegedly Occurred During Operation 'Protective Edge' - Update No. 4, 11 June 2014, available at: <http://www.law.idf.il/163-7353-en/Patzar.aspx>*
15. *The number of residents and residential areas were estimated in a vulnerability profile project carried out in 2013. For further information see: <http://www.ochaopt.org/vpp.aspx>*
16. *For further information on the SRP see: <http://www.ochaopt.org/srp2015/>*
17. *OCHA's demolition database.*
18. See OCHA, *Bedouin Communities at Risk of Forcible Transfer*, September 2014.
19. *For further background see OCHA, Susiya: A Community at Imminent Risk of Forced Displacement, June 2015.*
20. *For further information on the HPF, including information on how to contribute, please contact HPF Manager, Saad Abdel Haq (abdel-haq@un.org).*

Annex: Monthly Indicator Tables

Conflict-related casualties and violence¹

Direct Israeli-Palestinian conflict related casualties

	2011	2012	2013	2014						2015					
	Total	Total	Total	July	Aug	Sep*	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May

Palestinian deaths

Gaza	108	264	11	1550	669	12	4	1	3	2256	0	0	1	0	0	0
West Bank (by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers)	17	8	28	17	8	4	4	4	2	58	2	1	1	5	1	3
Total	125	272	39	1567	677	16	8	5	5	2314	2	1	2	5	1	3
Of whom are civilians ²	62	136	32	1059	454	16	8	5	5	1573	2	1	2	5	1	3
Of whom are female	3	23	1	207	87	3	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0

Palestinian injuries

Gaza	468	1485	83	10,500	3	7	8	20	10739	4	2	10	10	13	8	
West Bank (by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers)	1647	3175	3881	2210	640	206	282	1000	330	6023	118	165	165	213	258	60
Total	2115	4660	3964	13,735	209	289	1008	350	17147	122	167	175	223	271	68	
Of whom are civilians	2054	n/a	3959	NA	NA	206	291	984	347	NA	122	167	175	223	271	68
Of whom are female	151	n/a	158	2142	4	24	6	5	2286	6	2	14	10	7	2	

Israeli deaths

Israel, Gaza and West Bank	11	7	4	71	0	2	8	0	85	0	0	0	1	0	2
Of whom are civilians	11	3	2	5	0	2	6	0	17	0	0	0	1	0	2
Of whom are female	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Israeli injuries

Israel, Gaza and West Bank	122	345	151	2437	22	32	55	15	2629	8	5	13	12	11	14
Of whom are civilians	56	60	74	837**	10	19	41	12	952	7	2	9	7	8	9
Of whom are female	3	7	10	NA	NA	3	6	2	27	2	0	7	2	2	2

*September-December fatalities in Gaza include those who sustained injuries during the Israeli offensive on Gaza (July-August)

**See Magen David Adom's report: http://www.mdais.org/h/316/&mod=download&me_id=13228

Israeli-settler related incidents resulting in casualties or property damage

	2011	2012	2013	2014						2015						
	Total	Total	Total	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Incidents leading to Palestinian casualties ⁴	120	98	94	25	6	3	6	14	4	110	8	6	13	5	6	4
Incidents leading to Palestinian property/land damages	291	268	306	24	12	5	19	17	18	221	17	10	8	8	12	12
Subtotal: incidents affecting Palestinians	411	366	399	49	18	8	25	31	22	331	25	16	21	13	18	16
Incidents leading to Israeli Casualties	23	35	38	14	14	9	10	16	10	89	6	2	5	7	4	7
Incidents leading to Israeli Property/land damages ⁵	13	15	12	9	7	27	27	20	23	140	11	25	9	8	4	5
Subtotal: incidents affecting settlers	36	50	50	23	21	36	37	36	33	229	17	27	14	15	8	12

Civilian Palestinians killed or injured by unexploded ordnance in Gaza

		2011	2012	2013	2014						2015						
		Total	Total	Total	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Adult	Injured	7	12	4	0	15	3	0	5	11	38	0	0	2	0	1	0
	Killed	1	2	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	0	0	0
Child	Injured	17	19	19	0	0	2	0	2	7	19	0	3	1	3	3	0
	Killed	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total		27	34	26	0	21	6	1	7	11	65	0	3	3	3	4	0

Source: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Child Protection

Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict

	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	Total	Total	Total	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
West Bank	2	2	4	2	2	1	2	0	2	13	1	0	0	1	0	0
Gaza Strip	11	44	1	367	174	3	0	1	1	548	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict

West Bank	308	427	1232	283	201	74	58	113	108	1221	37	31	35	65	46	13
Gaza Strip	125	105	10	3,306	0	0	0	1	4	3416	0	0	0	4	2	1

Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict

oPt	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict

oPt	0	3	8	NA	N/A	1	0	1	3	7	1	0	3	0	2	0
Israel	0	2	0	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Number of Palestinian children held in detention by Israeli authorities

In Israel and oPt	192 monthly average	198 monthly average	197 monthly average	192	201	128	163	156	152	185 monthly average	163	182	182	163	163	N/A
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Number of Palestinian children displaced by demolitions

West Bank, inc Ej	618	474	558	4	83	87	44	70	9	651	66	0	60	14	0	17
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Number of incidents resulting in the disruption of schools¹⁹

oPt	na	321	47	0	4	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	4	14	12	2	0
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Source: OCHA, Defence for Children International, Israel Palestine Working Group on grave violations affecting children in armed conflict

Access

Access to healthcare - Gaza

	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	2011 Monthly Average	2012 Monthly Average	Mon. Ave.	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Applications for permits to leave Gaza through Erez Crossing ¹⁵	872	777	1148	1,093	946	1561	1038	1,636	1,684	1513	1,489	1429	1615	1539	1,814	2,148
of which approved	721	719	1010	716	783	1307	76	1,292	1,379	1246	1,202	1148	1329	1278	1,529	1,720
of which denied	19	7	3	70	20	41	213	44	56	39	52	63	27	18	45	140
of which delayed ¹⁶	83	17	135	307	143	213	15	300	249	228	235	218	259	243	240	288

Source: WHO

Movement of humanitarian staff, West Bank

	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	2011 Monthly Average	2012 monthly ave	Mon. Ave.	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Incidents of delayed or denied access at WVB checkpoint ¹⁷	38	37.5	40.1	12	33	38	31	39	30	29	17	28	54	42	38	27
Of which occurred at Jerusalem checkpoint	22	21	22.3	3	21	14	4	6	6	8	4	7	6	4	6	3
Number of staff days lost due to checkpoint incidents	25	21	18.5	10.5	19	26.5	9.5	32	15	25	5.5	13.6	16.2	14.2	12	4

Source: OCHA

Search and Arrest

	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	Monthly Average	Monthly Average	Mon. Ave.	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon.Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Search Campaigns (West Bank)	349	338	316	411	292	353	422	409	409	413	496	348	372	332	469	276
Palestinians detained (West Bank)	262	283	491	826	472	467	562	631	584	563	618	384	481	400	526	401

Source: OCHA


Palestinians under Israeli custody (occupation related)⁶

	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	Monthly Average	Monthly Average	Mon. Ave.	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon.Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Total as of the end of the month	5326	4,451	4227	5,383	5,505	5439	5477	5527	5,528	5258	5549	5609	5591	5554	5516	N/A
of whom are women	26	7	10	17	17	15	14	15	20	16	20	20	18	21	22	N/A
of whom are administrative detainees ⁷	240	245	132	446	473	468	457	461	463	327	455	424	412	396	391	N/A
of whom are detained until the conclusion of legal proceedings	633	897	1062	1,577	1,650	1623	1609	1534	1,511	1525	1526	1534	1499	1479	1370	N/A

Source: Israeli Prison Service (through B'Tselem)


Demolition of Structures

Structures demolished⁸



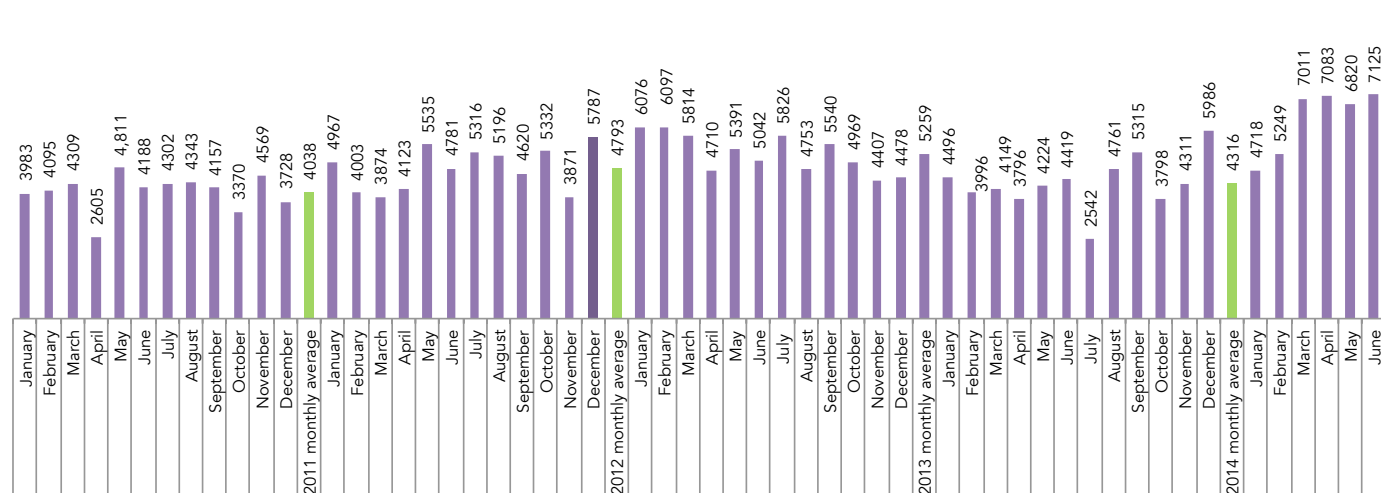
	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	Total	Total	Total	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
of which in Area C	571	540	565	6	25	58	27	37	24	493	76	15	77	21	18	41
of which in East Jerusalem	42	64	98	2	5	3	23	11	14	98	5	2	18	2	4	6
Area A	NA	NA		2	2	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area B	NA	NA			5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	622	604	663	10	37	62	50	48	38	601	81	17	95	23	22	47

People Displaced due to demolitions⁹



	2011	2012	2013	2014							2015					
	Total	Total	Total	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
of whom were displaced in Area C	1006	815	805	0	98	122	67	102	10	969	117	0	110	25	0	29
of whom were displaced in East Jerusalem	88	71	298	0	20	15	30	34	8	208	0	0	0	0	0	2
Area A	NA	NA	0	11	16	5	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	0	0	0
Area B	NA	NA	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1094	886	1103	11	140	142	97	136	18	1215	117	0	110	25	0	31

Truckloads of goods entering Gaza from Israel¹⁸










Source: Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, Gaza

* Due to historical differences in the modality of transfer, to preserve the uniformity of the data, figures do not include truckloads carrying fuel.

Strategic Response Plan(SRP) 2015:

Occupied Palestinian territory Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2015 as of 30-July-2015

		SRP 2015	
Cluster		Total request in USD	% of funds received
	Coordination and Support Services	23,235,547	90%
	Education	20,330,672	32%
	Food Security	324,704,291	35%
	Health and Nutrition	21,212,516	39%
	Protection	51,935,541	51%
	Shelter/Non-Food Items	224,930,156	40%
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	39,213,897	48%
Total		705,562,620	42.9%

Monthly Indicator Notes and Clarifications

Casualties

1. **Conflict-related casualties:** includes all casualties that occurred in violent incidents immediately related to the Israeli occupation and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, such as military operations, search and arrest campaigns, clashes during demonstrations, attacks involving Israeli settlers, etc. These figures exclude other related casualties such as those in the context of access delays, the explosion of unexploded ordnance, reckless handling of weapons, collapse of tunnels, and internal Palestinian violence.
2. **Civilians:** includes people who, according to the information available at the time of publication, did not fulfill a “continuous combatant function” as part of an organized armed group, regardless of the circumstances of their injury or killing. Figures in this category should not be considered comprehensive, as unconfirmed or disputed cases are excluded.
3. **Tunnel related casualties:** figures in this category may overlap with those under conflict-related casualties, as it includes casualties in the context of Israeli attacks targeting tunnels, as well as those resulting from tunnel collapses and other accidents.

Israeli settler-related violence

4. **Incidents resulting in casualties:** includes all violent incidents involving Israeli settlers and Palestinians, including those in which the injury was caused by a member of the Israeli security forces during an intervention in such an incident.
5. **Incidents resulting in property damage/losses:** *ibid.*

Search and Arrest

6. **Palestinians in Israeli custody:** includes all Palestinians from the oPt held by the Israeli authorities at the end of each month, whether in Israel or in the West Bank, in connection to an offense related to the Israeli occupation and classified by the Israeli authorities as a “security detainee/prisoner”. Therefore it excludes Palestinians held in connection to a “regular” criminal offense.
7. **Administrative detainees:** Palestinians held by the Israeli authorities without charge or trial, allegedly for preventive purposes.

Demolitions

8. **Structures demolished:** includes all Palestinian-owned structures in the oPt demolished by the Israeli authorities, regardless of their specific use (residential or non-residential) or the grounds on which the demolition was carried out (lack of building permit, military operation or punishment).
9. **People displaced due to demolitions:** includes all persons that were living in structures demolished by the Israeli authorities, regardless of the place in which they relocated following the demolition.
10. **People affected by demolitions:** includes all people that benefited from a demolished structure (as a source of income, to receive a service, etc), excluding those displaced.

Access West Bank

11. **Permanently staffed checkpoints:** staffed by Israeli security personnel, excluding checkpoints located on the Green Line and ‘agricultural gates’ along the Barrier.
12. **Partially staffed checkpoints:** checkpoint infrastructure staffed on an ad-hoc basis.
13. **Unstaffed obstacles:** includes roadblocks, earthmounds, earth walls, road gates, road barriers, and trenches. For historical reasons, this figure excludes obstacles located within the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron City (H2).
14. **‘Flying’ or random checkpoints:** checkpoints deployed on an ad hoc basis in places without pre-existing infrastructure.

Access to health

15. **Applications for permits to leave Gaza through Erez:** includes only the applications submitted for travel scheduled within the reporting period.
16. **Delayed applications:** includes applications regarding which no answer was received by the date of the medical appointment, thus forcing the patient to restart the application process.

Movement of humanitarian staff

17. **Incidents of delayed or denied access at a WB checkpoint:** includes incidents affecting local or international staff of humanitarian organizations, both UN and international NGOs.

Imports to Gaza

18. **Truckloads by type:** for historical reasons this figure excludes truckloads carrying all types of fuel.

Child Protection

19. Attacks include the targeting of schools that cause the total or partial destruction of such facilities. Other interferences to the normal operation of the facility may also be reported, such as the occupation, shelling, targeting for propaganda of, or otherwise causing harm to school facilities or its personnel.