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MONTHLY REPORT
MAY 2015

OCHA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 12,500 housing units totally destroyed and nearly 6,500 severely damaged in the Gaza Strip during the 2014 summer hostilities, according to latest damage assessments.
- Concern over the precarious living conditions of approximately 100,000 internally displaced persons, particularly of those belonging to vulnerable groups.
- Successful spring season harvest in a restricted area in northern Gaza, following rehabilitation interventions.
- The Israeli army resumed military training exercises in the northern Jordan Valley, leading to the temporary displacement of four herding communities,

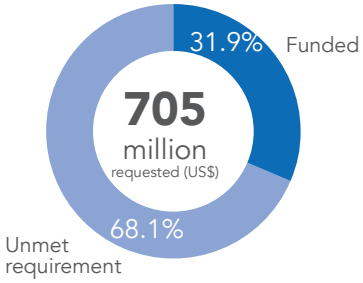
MAY FIGURES

Palestinian civilians killed (direct conflict)	1
Palestinian civilians injured (direct conflict)	271
Structures demolished in the West Bank	22
People displaced in the West Bank	0

STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN 2015

705 million
requested (US$)

31.9% funded



Overview

Accountability for violations of international law: a vital priority

The devastation of residential areas across the Gaza Strip and the resulting mass displacement over the course of the hostilities of summer 2014 were unprecedented. The latest figures emerging from damage assessments carried out by the United Nations indicate that over 12,500 housing units across Gaza were totally destroyed and nearly 6,500 were severely damaged. Almost 150,000 additional units were damaged to some degree, but are still inhabitable.

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Due to the slow pace of reconstruction, approximately 100,000 people remain displaced and are currently accommodated with host families, in rented apartments, prefabricated units, tents and makeshift shelters, or in the rubble of their previous homes. Their living conditions continue to raise a range of protection concerns, including overcrowding, limited access to basic services, lack of privacy, tensions

IDPs living makeshift shelters next to their destroyed homes, Beit Hanoun © Photo by OCHA

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with host communities, risks due to unexploded ordnance, and exposure to weather extremes. This has exacerbated the vulnerability of certain groups, including people with disabilities, a concern highlighted in this edition of the Humanitarian Bulletin.

In late June, the Independent Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Human Rights Council to investigate alleged violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law in the context of the 2014 summer events in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), including the West Bank, and Israel, released its report. The Commission attributed the massive scope of destruction of homes in the Gaza Strip to various practices adopted during the course of hostilities, including Israel's policy of targeting residential buildings in airstrikes; Israel's use of artillery barrages in residential neighbourhoods; and the launching of attacks near to or from within heavily populated areas by Palestinian armed factions. In multiple incidents related to these practices, the Commission found credible evidence of violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack under IHL, possibly constituting war crimes.

The Independent Commission of Inquiry found credible evidence of violations of the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in attack under IHL, possibly constituting war crimes.

The hostilities also resulted in extensive damage to agricultural assets. The Bedouin community of Um an Naser, located in the Access Restricted Area (ARA) near Gaza's perimeter fence, is one such affected community. Despite the significant scope of the damage and ongoing access constraints, support by humanitarian and development agencies and donors has enabled local farmers to complete a successful spring harvest.

Albeit in a different context and scale, the destruction of civilian property and the displacement of people are ongoing concerns in the West Bank. For the second consecutive month, there was a decline in the number of Palestinian-owned structures demolished or dismantled by the Israeli authorities in Area C and East Jerusalem due to lack of a building permit. However, the Israeli army resumed military training exercises in the northern Jordan Valley during May, leading to the temporary displacement of four herding communities located in "firing zones", which cover approximately 18 per cent of the West Bank. This type of displacement disrupts community livelihoods, spreads fear among children and impedes access to schools. Some communities in this area have been temporarily displaced more than 20 times since 2012.

The Independent Commission has urged all the relevant parties "to take immediate steps to ensure accountability, including the right to an effective remedy for victims." However, the report also noted that "the persistent lack of implementation of recommendations – made by previous commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions, United Nations treaty bodies, special procedures and other United Nations bodies, in particular the Secretary-General and OHCHR – lies at the heart of the systematic recurrence of violations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory."

ONE YEAR AFTER THE 2014 HOSTILITIES

Between 7 July and 26 August, the Gaza Strip witnessed the deadliest escalation in hostilities since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967. According to the Protection Cluster, a total of 2,251 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians, were killed. Some half a million people were displaced at the height of the hostilities and approximately 100,000 remain homeless. Public infrastructure, including educational and health facilities and water and sanitation installations, suffered heavy damage. Almost one year later, OCHA will issue a series of articles in the Humanitarian Bulletin to highlight the continuing humanitarian impact.

LATEST DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS REVEAL OVER 12,500 HOUSING UNITS DESTROYED OVER THE SUMMER HOSTILITIES IN GAZA

Almost one year later, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) still await durable solutions

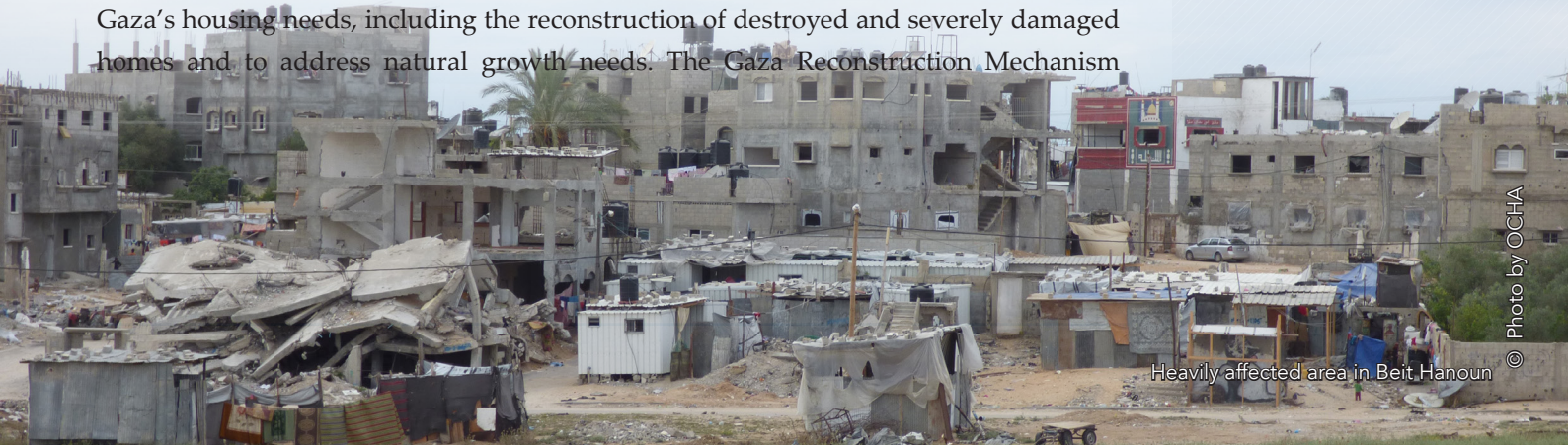
According to the most recent damage assessment of the summer 2014 hostilities in the Gaza Strip, some 12,576 housing units were totally destroyed and 6,455 housing units severely damaged. In total, over 19,000 units were rendered uninhabitable.[1] This has resulted in an estimated 100,000 IDPs who are currently accommodated with host families, in rented apartments, prefabricated units, makeshift shelters, or in their heavily damaged homes. Nearly 150,000 additional units sustained various degrees of damage but remained inhabitable. Most of the destruction and damage occurred in Gaza governorate, followed by the North, Khan Yunis, Middle Area and Rafah, with over 80 per cent of the housing units destroyed or damaged belonging to refugees.[2]

Temporary solutions are designed to bridge the gap between emergency assistance and permanent reconstruction. These include transitional shelter cash assistance (TSCA), the completion of partially finished buildings, accommodation in collective centres, prefabricated caravans and temporary shelters. Some 15,200 households have received TSCA in the form of rental or hosting allowance, but 11,500 received this cash for rent for only four months and 3,750 households until the end of 2015. Around 75 per cent has been provided through UNRWA for affected refugee families, and the rest through UNDP,[3] of which some US$11 million has been made available for TSCA.

Temporary solutions for IDPs include transitional shelter cash assistance, the completion of partially finished buildings, accommodation in collective centres, prefabricated caravans and temporary shelters.

The number of households receiving cash assistance for partially damaged housing totals over 70,383, almost all provided by UNRWA. In addition, 2,208 households have received cash assistance for severely damaged housing (1,841 UNRWA; 367 UNDP). Some $216 million has been pledged to the $720 million required for UNRWA's emergency shelter programme, leaving a shortfall of $504 million.[4]

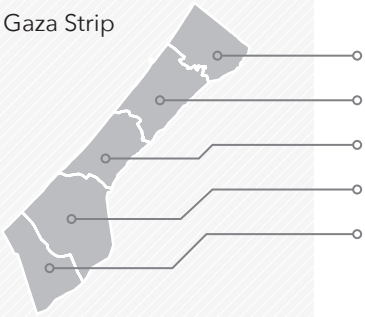
The Shelter Cluster estimates that over 122,000 housing units[5] need to be built to meet Gaza's housing needs, including the reconstruction of destroyed and severely damaged homes and to address natural growth needs. The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism



Heavily affected area in Beit Hanoun © Photo by OCHA

(GRM), which has been operational since September 2014, allows families whose homes have been assessed to purchase restricted building materials from designated private sector vendors. As of 17 June, 95,143 individuals requiring materials for shelter repairs had been cleared to purchase materials under the GRM. Of these, over 90 per cent have so far procured full or partial quantities of their allocated construction material. However, almost one year after last summer's conflict, not a single totally destroyed home has been rebuilt in Gaza; initial works on the ground are expected to start over the second half of 2015.

Housing units affected during 2014 hostilities by governorate, scope of damage and family status



	Destroyed		Severely damaged		Major damages		Minor damages	
	Refugees	Non Ref.	Refugees	Non Ref.	Refugees	Non Ref.	Refugees	Non Ref.
North	2,872	448	1,702	303	980	267	25,054	9,815
Gaza	1,755	2,100	1,080	829	664	1,578	28,531	6,908
Middle	1,792	129	901	54	724	79	22,372	1,030
Khanyounis	1,620	639	877	295	1,160	545	21,223	4,547
Rafah	1,122	143	379	35	242	46	22,679	1,521
Total	**9,161**	**3,459**	**4,939**	**1,516**	**3770**	**2,515**	**119,859**	**23,821**
Grand total	**12,620**		**6,455**		**6,285**		**143,680**	

Source: Shelter Cluster Palestine, Factsheet May 2015.

Content for this article was contributed by NRC's Urban Displacement Out of Camps (UDOC) team in Gaza.[6]

CHALLENGES CAUSED BY LONG-TERM DISPLACEMENT: TEMPORARY SHELTER SOLUTIONS FOR IDPS IN BEIT HANOUN

Beit Hanoun is a Palestinian community located in the northern Gaza Strip, close to the Access Restricted Area (ARA) along the perimeter fence with Israel (see ARA box below). Beit Hanoun sustained heavy damage during the July-August hostilities in Gaza. Approximately 3,600 households were displaced as a result of damage or total destruction of their homes (1,466 destroyed homes and 995 severely damaged), approximately half of Beit Hanoun's 50,000 residents. All the residents of Beit Hanoun are Palestine refugees.[7]

IDPs indicated a preference to remain in close proximity to their damaged or destroyed homes so as to be close to relatives, children's schools and other services provided in their local community.

Since the August 2014 ceasefire, IDPs in Beit Hanoun have settled in pre-fabricated housing units in two temporary displacement sites: 89 households on land owned by the municipality and in 80 pre-fabricated housing units erected in the vicinity of destroyed homes. Others have been housed with host families or in UNRWA collective centres. By mid-June, the Agency closed the last shelter, after all families there, with UNRWA's assistance, found alternative accommodations, allowing the affected buildings to be returned to their original uses, primarily as schools. In assessments carried out by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, IDPs indicated a preference to remain in close proximity to their damaged or destroyed homes so as to be close to relatives, children's schools and other services provided in their local community. IDPs also prioritized staying close to their home to benefit from any potential assistance offered.

An IDP committee was established in Beit Hanoun following the summer hostilities by IDPs who are considered residents of Beit Hanoun and local representatives, including municipality workers and members of community-based organizations. The committee monitors the situation of IDPs and also engages in coordination during emergencies, including organizing volunteers to help evacuate people to safe places, as demonstrated during the winter storm.

Challenges to service provision

The Beit Hanoun municipality provides some basic services to IDPs, including WASH and solid waste management. The municipality also issues building permits and damage certificates based on initial damage assessments. As with other IDPs throughout Gaza, service provision in Beit Hanoun is delivered by multiple actors including UNRWA, WFP, and other UN agencies and NGOs. Assistance includes food parcels, NFIs and cash assistance for home repairs. Some actors have also provided cash for work opportunities, albeit to a limited number of people. According to the municipality, around 95 per cent of Beit Hanoun's IDP population received a rental subsidy from UNRWA around four months after the end of hostilities for a period of up to four months. Until now, the majority of IDPs have not received any other payment despite their mounting needs.

Lack of information regarding the exact location of IDPs and their conditions at the household level is an ongoing challenge.

One of the biggest challenges facing IDPs is the limited availability of rental accommodation, coupled with lack of resources to pay rental fees as a result of economic devastation, unemployment and recurrent conflict. UNRWA piloted a project to complete partially finished buildings in 10 housing units in Beit Hanoun for IDP families by offering the owners a payment equivalent to two years of rental subsidy to complete the housing unit.

According to the municipality, other challenges facing IDPs include the payment of fees necessary to replace land ownership documents and municipal service fees. Furthermore, IDPs continue to face a range of protection threats, including unexploded ordnance in the rubble of damaged and destroyed homes. With funding from the United States, UNDP initiated a project which has so far removed about 30 per cent of the enormous quantity of rubble accumulated by the large-scale destruction in Beit Hanoun, although some IDPs have removed rubble themselves due to the slow progress in rubble removal.

Temporary shelters in Khuza'a © Photo by OCHA

IDPS IN PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING UNITS SUFFER IN THE SUMMER HEAT

High summer temperatures are compounding the already vulnerable situation for Gaza's IDPs. In response, OCHA coordinated an initial multi-sector assessment with cluster partners across the Gaza Strip during May to assess the situation of IDPs in pre-fabricated housing units at temporary displacement sites. The main needs identified included providing shade at these sites; insulation to temporary structures/caravans; a more stable electricity supply; appropriate access to drinking water, alternative water storage or larger water storage facilities; fridges; and cooled community spaces, including areas where women's privacy can be guaranteed and children can study and play. In the temporary displacement sites in Beit Hanoun, the lack of privacy between units, limited availability of drinking water and high summer temperatures were listed as the main challenges. Clusters are developing a range of cluster-specific response plans to meet the most urgent needs identified during the assessment for implementation in the coming weeks.

Information gaps persist

Service providers and the municipality are still struggling to identify the needs of IDPs in order to improve service provision. Lack of information regarding the exact location of IDPs and their conditions at the household level is an ongoing challenge. Lack of information about vulnerable groups is also detrimental to the ability of humanitarian responders to address the needs of these individuals. In response, a multi-actor initiative (clusters, agencies, authorities, municipalities and the IDPs themselves) of IDP Vulnerability Profiling, coordinated by OCHA, will be launched after Ramadan to better track IDPs with special needs and collect details about location, needs and concerns.

Around 78 per cent of displaced persons with disabilities reported lack of access to basic needs during the emergency and post-emergency period.

Responding to the needs of Persons with Disabilities in Gaza

Persons with disabilities (PwDs) - estimated to represent 2.4 per cent of the population - are one of the most vulnerable groups in times of crisis in terms of accessing emergency services. Following the 2014 summer hostilities, Handicap International (HI), in partnership with four disability service providers,[8] launched an emergency response project to meet the urgent needs of PwDs. This project was implemented from August 2014 until the end of February 2015.

A total of 6,475 vulnerable persons benefitted from the project: 4,385 PwDs (1,986 female and 2,399 male) and 2,090 persons with injuries (PwIs: 679 female and 1,411 male). Around 78 per cent of displaced PwDs reported lack of access to basic needs during the emergency and post-emergency period, while 48 per cent of them reported a lack of access to the specialized services they needed.

As part of this project, HI donated 648 mobility assistive devices, NFI and therapeutic materials to hospitals during the hostilities for distribution to PwIs. Immediately after the ceasefire, HI supported its partners in the five governorates to provide multidisciplinary rehabilitation services, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychosocial support, nursing and dressing, referrals to other services, plus assistive devices and NFI distribution. A total of 27,696 multidisciplinary rehabilitation sessions, 2,578 mobility assistive devices and 3,975 NFI were distributed to the most vulnerable persons affected

DISPLACED AND DISABLED:

"ALL I NEED IS MY ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR SO I CAN MOVE AROUND AGAIN AS I USED TO BEFORE THE WAR."

Abu Mohammad, a 53-year old registered refugee and father of nine, became an IDP when his family home in Beit Hanoun was destroyed during the July-August hostilities. His difficulties as a refugee are compounded by being disabled: he has been paralyzed from the hips down since he was eight years old and cannot walk. His electric wheelchair was destroyed during the hostilities and his children now have to carry him everywhere. As head of the household, it is very challenging to rebuild or improve his family's shelter conditions when he cannot move.

"All I need is my electric wheelchair so I can move around again as I used to before the war," Abu Mohammad said when asked about the biggest challenge he faced.

During the summer hostilities, the family stayed in an UNRWA shelter in Beit Hanoun and then relocated to another shelter in Jabalia. It was very difficult for Abu Mohammad to stay in the shelter because of his disability. His wife also suffers from paralysis in her left arm and part of her leg. One of their sons was injured in the head when the shelter in Beit Hanoun was struck by Israeli fire during the hostilities, killing multiple members of the extended family. The injured son regularly attends an UNRWA clinic to check his blood pressure and he experiences constant headaches and frequent nose bleeds.

The extended family includes 38 members, all of whom used to live in the multi-storey building that was destroyed during the hostilities. They have now returned and erected a few makeshift shelters on the site of their former home. The sounds of shooting from an Israeli military training facility very close by is frightening for the children. The family's living conditions are dire and several of Abu Mohammad's children and grandchildren have rashes all over their bodies, while the younger children cry a lot. One son, 16, searches through the rubble to sell bricks and cement for recycling. This is very dangerous due to the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW), but the family's resources are so scarce that they feel there is no alternative.

Water is very scarce, largely eliminating the family's ability to bathe regularly. They have received some food assistance and Abu Mohammad receives a modest subsidy from the Ministry of Social Affairs every three months due to his disability. They also received a one-time rental allotment and a furniture subsidy from UNRWA. In May, Abu Mohammed's family managed to move to a caravan in a TDS (Temporary Displacement Site) in Beit Hanoun. The family's case has been referred back to UNRWA, the Health Cluster and Handicap International for follow up.

Abu Mohammad and his family next to their current residence in Beit Hanoun

© Photo by OCHA

by the crisis. Technical support and training were delivered to partner outreach teams to ensure quality rehabilitation services to support PwDs and PwIs. It is anticipated that 148 of the 2,090 PwIs (seven per cent) will suffer from permanent disability due to physical impairment and another 137 (6.5 per cent) will have a permanent disability due to sensorial impairment.[9]

This section was submitted by FAO

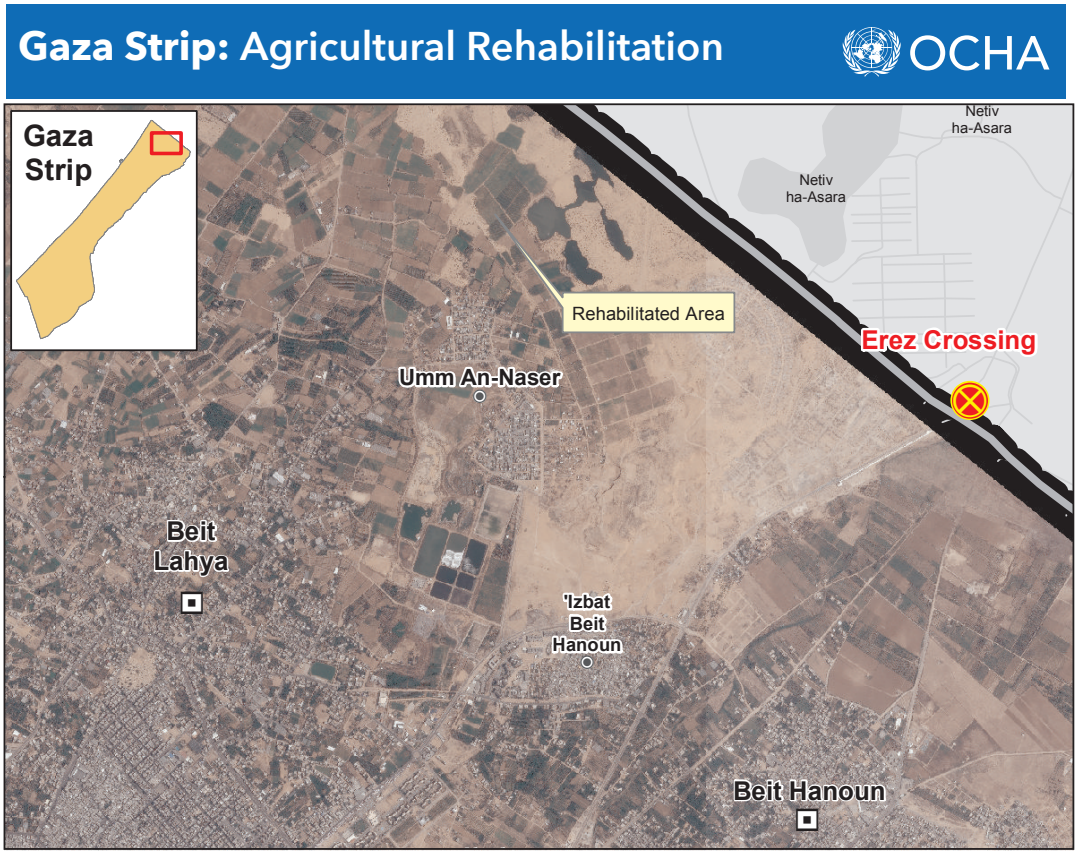
UM AN NASER: OPPORTUNITIES FOR 'BUILDING BACK BETTER' IN THE ARA, GAZA STRIP

Interventions to repair agricultural damage from the summer 2014 conflict resulted in a successful harvest

Amidst ongoing access restrictions and insecurity, and despite significant damage sustained during the 2014 July-August hostilities, Palestinian farmers in the Bedouin village of Um an Naser in northern Gaza managed to complete a successful harvest. This was possible, to a large extent, due to sustained support by humanitarian and development agencies and donors, led by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

A rehabilitation project in 2012 enabled the reclamation and planting of 271 dunums of land providing 125 farmer households with access to sustainable livelihoods.

Um an Naser is located in the Access Restricted Area (ARA) near Gaza's perimeter fence in Beit Lahiya governorate. It is home to approximately 5,000 people and is one of the poorest and most marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip. The village was established in 1997 following the Palestinian Authority's dispalcement of Bedouin families from Arab Maslakh and the surrounding area (next to Beit Lahiya) to make way for a housing project. In 2009 the de facto authorities in the Gaza Strip designated 1,000 dunums of public land north of the village for community use, allocating two dunums per family, but the community's ability to cultivate the land remained extremely limited due to access restrictions imposed by the Israeli military.



Since 2012, through strong coordination with all relevant stakeholders, FAO has been able to ensure consistent and safe access to agricultural sites as well as local ownership of project investments in Um an Naser. In November of that year, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, FAO launched a project aimed at assisting the reclamation and planting of earmarked parcels of land, making 271 dunums of land suitable for agricultural use and providing 125 farmer households with access to sustainable livelihoods, including the planting of melons, squash, cucumbers and eggplant. Subsequently, with the support of the Government of Japan, an agricultural well was established to improve water access for farmers, while Spanish funds secured in-kind agricultural inputs to maximize harvest efficiency.

The 2014 July-August hostilities took a heavy toll on the agricultural sector in Gaza, with damage estimated at $500 million by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. Hostilities damaged 120 dunums of cultivated land, sub-pipelines of drip irrigation networks and the agricultural well, thereby preventing farmers from using significant areas of their land and negatively impacting their income.

With financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, FAO facilitated recovery through the rehabilitation of damaged land and infrastructure, including the repair or replacement of irrigation systems, an agricultural road and rehabilitation of an agricultural well and its generator room – valued at more than $40,000. By January 2015, farmers were able plant their fields, leading to a successful spring harvest.

Despite the significant impact of the blockade and recurrent hostilities on the ARA, the rehabilitation of land in Um an Naser has contributed to the resilience and livelihoods of small-scale farmers, turning abandoned land into an agriculturally productive asset. As such, it sets a precedent for further investment in the ARA, as well as the need for donor support and robust, multi-stakeholder coordination to make this possible.

FAO's assessments suggest that to fully utilize the 21,640 dunums of arable land located 300 to 1,500 metres from the perimeter fence through land rehabilitation, a water access infrastructure and an optimal cropping pattern, would require an initial investment of $55 million. This could generate an annual gross income of $79 million within two years – a sum that could transform the livelihoods of more than 6,000 marginalized farmer households, with broader positive impacts on the local economy.

The rehabilitation of arable land located 300 to 1,500 metres from the perimeter fence, at an estimated cost of $55 million, would transform the livelihoods of more than 6,000 marginalized farmer households.

Umm an Naser farmers harvesting rehabilitated areas

© FAO/Azzam Saleh

WHAT ARE THE ACCESS RESTRICTED AREAS?[10]

Citing security concerns, since 2000 Israel has imposed severe restrictions on Palestinian access to land and sea, creating a "buffer zone" known as "access restricted areas" (ARA). Access restrictions on land and at sea continue to undermine the security and livelihoods of tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza.

The manner in which the ARA has been enforced has endangered the lives and well-being of those who come within the vicinity of these restricted areas. Access restrictions are enforced through a range of mechanisms that include the use of live fire and the destruction, damage and confiscation of property both on land and at sea.

Fishermen are currently allowed to access less than one third of the fishing areas allocated under the Oslo Accords - 6 out of 20 nautical miles (nm) from the coast. The potential fish catch lost as a result of access restrictions is estimated at more than 1,000 metric tonnes (mt) per year, compared to the equivalent catch before 2000.

Israeli communications regarding the scope of the access restrictions imposed on land have been inconsistent. While the area first enforced by Israel in 2000 was 150 metres inside Gaza, this was extended to 300 metres in May 2009. In practice, at various points in time, the "no-go zone'' on land has been enforced up to 500 metres from the fence, with a "high risk" zone extending up to 1,500 metres. Since the November 2012 ceasefire agreement, access to the ARAs has been eased, allowing some farmers to regularly access their land up to 100 metres from the fence. However, the Israeli authorities have issued contradictory statements regarding accessible areas and applicable conditions, generating further uncertainty and insecurity.

In recent times, the Israeli military has justified the restrictions and measures imposed on the ARA in the vicinity of the fence with reference to concerns about the potential use of these areas by armed factions to dig tunnels into Israel. A number of such tunnels were discovered and destroyed over the course of the July-August hostilities.

Since the beginning of 2014 (excluding the summer hostilities), the majority of casualties on land have occurred in areas within 300 metres of the fence, affecting primarily rubble collectors and demonstrators.

© FAO/Adham Al Khateeb

Generator room funded by donors damaged during 2014 hostilities.

MORE THAN 50 PALESTINIAN FAMILIES TEMPORARILY DISPLACED IN LARGE ISRAELI MILITARY TRAINING EXERCISE IN THE JORDAN VALLEY

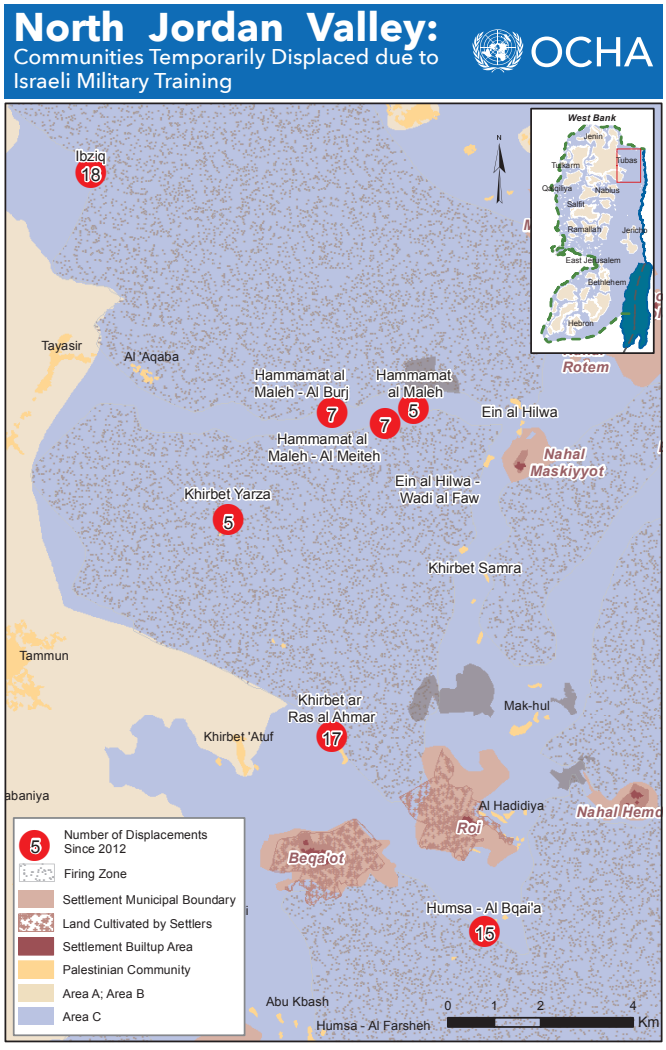
Some communities have been temporarily displaced more than 20 times since 2012.

During May, at least 320 people, half of them children, had to evacuate their homes for up to 12 hours on three consecutive days to make way for a large military training exercise conducted by the Israeli army. The affected families live in four herding communities in the northern Jordan Valley: Humsa al Baqi'a, Khirbet Ras al Ahmar, Ibziq, and Hammamat al Maleh (the latter is split into three separate areas Al Maleh, Al Burj and Al Meiteh).

Although all the communities were served with written evacuation orders a few days in advance, they were not provided with an alternative place to stay for the duration of the exercise. A few of the affected families reported property losses as a result of the exercise, including grazing and agricultural land set on fire by live ammunition and the deaths of several newborn lambs that could not be evacuated or tended.

This incident follows a period of three months during which no similar displacements were recorded. However, Israeli military exercises involving the temporary displacement of entire communities have become systematic in recent years, with more than 100 such incidents recorded since the beginning of 2012. Some communities in the northern Jordan Valley have been temporarily displaced more than 20 times.

Military exercises take place in areas designated as "firing zones" and which cover approximately 18 per cent of the West Bank and 56 per cent of the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea area. A civilian presence in these zones without permission from the Israeli authorities, which is rarely granted, is formally



"This time, we stayed a few kilometres away from our community. We had no shelter or shade to protect us and our children from the hot sun at this time of the year"

A female resident of Humsa al Baqi'a

prohibited. Despite this, there are at least 38 Bedouin and herding residential areas with over 6,200 residents currently located in these regions.[11] Many of the communities affected were present in these areas prior to them being designated as closed during the 1970s.

Resident of Humsa

Additionally, there are eleven Israeli settlement outposts and related infrastructure located either partially or completely in firing zones.[12] However, there have been no reports of similar evacuations affecting residents of these sites in the context of military training.

This type of displacement disrupts the community's livelihoods as people are forced to move with their livestock to unsuitable areas. They sustain losses as a result of the death of animals and burning of pasture land. The exercises often spread panic among children and impede access to schools. Compounded by longstanding restrictions on access to land and services, demolitions and confiscation of property, harassment and settler violence, this practice generates a coercive environment that contributes to putting pressure on Palestinian residents to leave these areas permanently.

"This is the first time I have seen such a huge presence of soldiers and heavy military machinery roaming the area. The training lasted for four consecutive days. We left the community on the first day as I was sick and preferred to go to a doctor. We returned the following day and training was still going on. The whole area was covered in dust."

A female resident of Khirbet Ras al Ahmar

Last year Israeli media reported that a senior officer from the IDF Central Command confirmed that the frequency and scope of military training had significantly increased in recent times, particularly in the Jordan Valley, and that such exercises contribute to the prevention of "illegal construction" in "firing zones".[13]

Under international humanitarian law, temporary evacuations may be undertaken only in the context of active hostilities where the security of the protected population or imperative military reasons so demand.

"The women left the community on a tractor; we cannot walk this long distance with the children; one of the women is pregnant and we have old women as well. This time, we stayed a few kilometres away from our community. We had no shelter or shade to protect us and our children from the hot sun at this time of the year."

© Photo by OCHA

Residents of Humsa al Baqi'a herding their livestock next to the community

FURTHER DECLINE IN DEMOLITIONS AND RELATED DISPLACEMENT IN AREA C AND EAST JERUSALEM

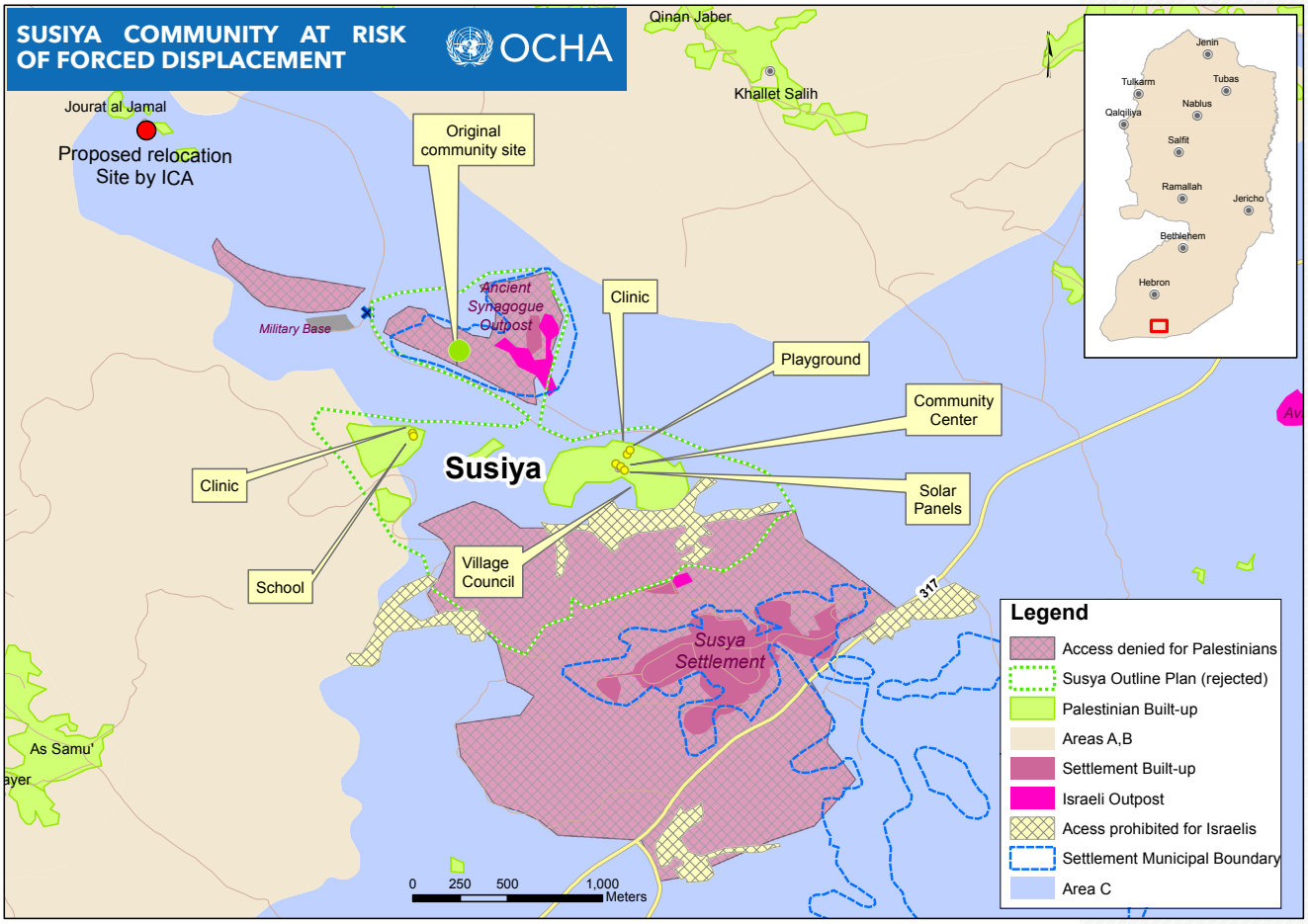
Village in southern Hebron at heightened risk of forced displacement

The number of Palestinian-owned structures demolished or dismantled and seized by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank declined in May for the second consecutive month. Overall, a total of 22 structures were targeted, affecting 267 persons, but not resulting in any displacement.

Eighteen of the affected structures were located in Area C and supported people's livelihoods, including three water cisterns, two water networks, one greenhouse, and six commercial structures. Of the eight affected communities in Area C, one is a Bedouin/herder community and the others are villages. The remaining four structures demolished in May were houses under construction in the Ras al Amud and Silwan neighborhoods of East Jerusalem.

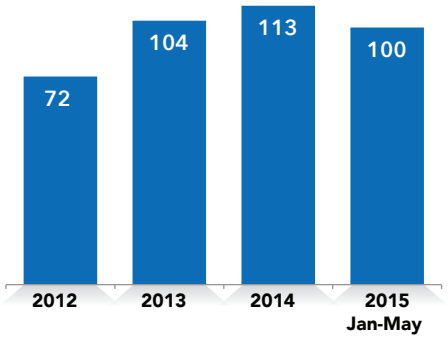
Eighteen of the structures demolished were located in Area C and supported people's livelihoods, including three water cisterns, two water networks, one greenhouse, and six commercial structures.

Four of the structures affected this month were funded by international donors. In the village of Habla (Qalqiliya), in an area isolated by the Barrier, the Israeli authorities seized at least 3,000 metres of water irrigation pipes (counted as one structure) donated to replace old, leaking pipes. Another incident involved the dismantlement and seizure of two donor-funded water networks serving five households in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Jiftlik Abu al Ajaj in the Jordan Valley. The fourth structure was a 800-metre long agricultural fence surrounding 11 dunums of land, destroyed in the village of Husan (Bethlehem), affecting a family of seven, including three children.



In May, the Israeli High Court of Justice rejected a request for an interim injunction to freeze the implementation of outstanding demolition orders in the village of Susiya, in the southern Hebron governorate, pending a ruling on the residents' petition to consider alternative planning. A total of 170 structures located entirely in Area C in Susiya, approximately half of them funded by international donors, have such demolition orders that could be implemented at any moment. The Israeli authorities recently expressed their intention to "relocate" this community to a nearby site, raising concerns about forcible transfer.

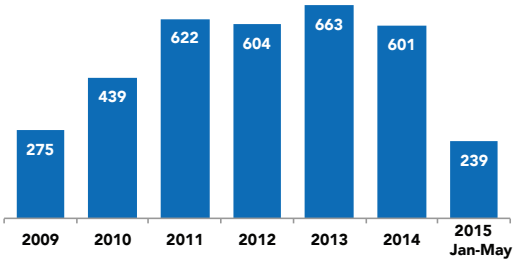
Donor-funded structures served with demolition/ stop work orders



A total of 170 structures located entirely in Area C in Susiya, approximately half of them funded by international donors, have demolition orders that could be implemented at any moment.

Between January and May 2015, the Israeli authorities have demolished or dismantled and seized a total of 239 Palestinian homes and livelihood structures. This is a slight decrease (7 per cent) compared with the equivalent period in 2014. There has been a significant decrease in the number of people displaced as a result of demolitions (260 vs 629 persons) due to greater targeting of livelihood-related structures in 2015 rather than residential structures. As in previous years, the majority of this year's demolitions took place in Area C of the West Bank, mainly in Tubas governorate (86 structures), followed by Jericho (61), Nablus (56) and Jerusalem governorates (43). A third of the structures affected this year were located in eleven herding communities located within or adjacent to areas closed for military training, or "firing zones".

Structures demolished in the West Bank



Since the beginning of 2015, the Israeli authorities have demolished or removed 57 donor-funded structures, a decline of 30 percent from the number of donor-funded structures targeted during the equivalent period in 2014 (81 structures). On the other hand, at least 100 donor-funded structures across Area C have been served with demolition, stop-work or eviction orders since the beginning of 2015, nearly 90 per cent of the number of structures targeted with similar orders in all of 2014 (113 structures).

Endnotes

1. Data on non-refugee impact from Shelter Cluster Factsheet May 2015, http://www.shelterpalestine.org/Upload/Doc/761e7e8a-aecd-4638-b901-97ebebc315ae.pdf. Data on refugee impact from UNRWA Gaza Situation Report 96, http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/gaza-situation-report-96

2. 138,406 out of 169,717 housing units.

3. 11,509 refugee families received cash for rent for the period 1/09/2014 to 31/12/2014; 3,740 non-refugee families received cash for rent from now until 31/12/2015.

4. Due to lack of funding, to date 48,200 families had not received the first tranche for repair works to their shelter and 6,985 had not received the second tranche to continue repairs.

5. Shelter Cluster Report "Gaza Response Update, 11 October 2014" http://shelterpalestine.org/DocumentsDetails.aspx?id=51

6. UDOC - Urban Displacement Out of Camps - is an initiative managed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Content is based on information provided by the Municipality Administrator of Beit Hanoun municipality and a member of the Emergency Popular Committee of Beit Hanoun representing IDPs in that area.

7. "Palestine refugees" are defined as "persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict."

8. The partners are: Baitona Society for Community Development in North Gaza; the Palestine Avenir for Childhood Foundation in Gaza City; the National Society for Rehabilitation in Middle Area and in Khan Yunis; and the Society for Physically Handicapped People in Rafah.

9. See Handicap International, Healing the Wounds, March 2015. http://abwab.ps/PwD_Rights/files/document/file1430209947.pdf

10. This section is based on the regular report of human rights concerns in the ARA in Gaza issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as coordinator of the Protection Cluster.

11. OCHA Fact Sheet: The Humanitarian Impact of Israeli-declared "firing zones" in the West Bank, August 2012. https://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_firing_zone_factsheet_august_2012_english.pdf

12. Settlement outposts located partially or completely in firing zones include Gid'onim 777, Havat Binyamin east, Mitzpeh Keramim, Ma'aleh Hagit; Avigayil, Havat Ma'on, and Mitzpeh Yair. Additional settlement infrastructure includes the Space and Flight School in Ma'aleh Adumim settlement; part of Mevo Horon settlement; a new bypass road east of Beit Aryeh settlement (not opened); and part of the Elyakim Ben Ari quarry.

13. Amira Hass, "IDF uses live-fire zones to expel Palestinians from areas of West Bank, officer admits", Haaretz, 21 May 2014. http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/.premium-1.591881

Annex: Monthly Indicator Tables

Conflict-related casualties and violence[1]

Direct Israeli-Palestinian conflict related casualties

	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	Total	**Total**	**Total**	June	July	Aug	Sep*	Oct	Nov	Dec	**Total**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Palestinian deaths																
Gaza	108	**264**	11	6	1550	669	12	4	1	3	**2256**	0	0	1	0	0
West Bank (by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers)	17	**8**	28	7	17	8	4	4	4	2	**58**	2	1	1	5	1
Total	125	**272**	39	13	1567	677	16	8	5	5	**2314**	2	1	2	5	1
Of whom are civilians[2]	62	**136**	32	8	1059	454	16	8	5	5	**1573**	2	1	2	5	1
Of whom are female	3	**23**	1	0	207	87	3	0	0	0	**300**	0	0	0	0	0
Palestinian injuries																
Gaza	468	**1485**	83	39	10,500		3	7	8	20	**10739**	4	2	10	10	13
West Bank (by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers)	1647	**3175**	3881	287	2210	640	206	282	1000	330	**6023**	118	165	165	213	258
Total	2115	**4660**	3964	326	13,735		209	289	1008	350	**17147**	122	167	175	223	271
Of whom are civilians	2054	**n/a**	3959	324	NA	NA	206	291	984	347	**NA**	122	167	175	223	271
Of whom are female	151	**n/a**	158	26	2142		4	24	6	5	**2286**	6	2	14	10	7
Israeli deaths																
Israel, Gaza and West Bank	11	**7**	4	3	71		0	2	8	0	**85**	0	0	0	1	0
Of whom are civilians	11	**3**	2	3	5		0	2	6	0	**17**	0	0	0	1	0
Of whom are female	0	**1**	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	**2**	0	0	0	0	0
Israeli injuries																
Israel, Gaza and West Bank	122	**345**	151	5	2437		22	32	55	15	**2629**	8	5	13	12	11
Of whom are civilians	56	**60**	74	4	837**		10	19	41	12	**952**	7	2	9	7	8
Of whom are female	3	**7**	10	0	NA	NA	3	6	2	3	**27**	2	0	7	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**	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	**Total**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Incidents leading to Palestinian casualties[4]	120	**98**	**94**	13	25	6	3	6	14	4	**110**	8	6	13	5	6
Incidents leading to Palestinian property/land damages	291	**268**	**306**	17	24	12	5	19	17	18	**221**	17	10	8	8	12
Subtotal: incidents affecting Palestinians	**411**	**366**	**399**	**30**	**49**	**18**	**8**	**25**	**31**	**22**	**331**	25	16	21	13	18
Incidents leading to Israeli Casualties	23	**35**	**38**	1	14	14	9	10	16	10	**89**	6	2	5	7	4
Incidents leading to Israeli Property/land damages[5]	13	**15**	**12**	11	9	7	27	27	20	23	**140**	11	25	9	8	4
Subtotal: incidents affecting settlers	**36**	**50**	**50**	**12**	**23**	**21**	**36**	**37**	**36**	**33**	**229**	17	27	14	15	8

Civilian Palestinians killed or injured by unexploded ordnance in Gaza

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

Source: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Child Protection

Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	Total	Total	Total	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
West Bank	2	**2**	**4**	1	2	2	1	2	0	2	**13**	1	0	0	1	0
Gaza Strip	11	**44**	**1**	1	367	174	3	0	1	1	**548**	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict																
West Bank	308	**427**	**1232**	76	283	201	74	58	113	108	1221	37	31	35	65	46
Gaza Strip	125	**105**	**10**	76	3,306		0	0	1	4	3416	0	0	0	4	2
Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict																
oPt	1	**1**	**0**	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	7	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**	0	NA	N/A	1	0	1	3	7	1	0	3	0	2
Israel	0	**2**	**0**	0	NA	NA	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	202	192	201	128	163	156	152	**185** monthly average	163	182	182	163	N/A
Number of Palestinian children displaced by demolitions																
West Bank, inc EJ	618	**474**	**558**	21	4	83	87	44	70	9	651	66	0	60		
Number of incidents resulting in the disruption of schools[19]																
oPt	na	**321**	**47**	15	0	4	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	4	14	N/A	N/A

Souce: OCHA, Defence for Children Inernational, Israel Palestine Working Group on grave violatons affecting children in armed conflict

Access

Access to healthcare - Gaza	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	2011 Monthly Average	2012 Monthly Average	Mon. Ave.	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Applications for permits to leave Gaza through Erez Crossing[15]	872	**777**	**1148**	1,799	1,093	946	1561	1038	1,636	1,684	1513	1,489	1429	1615	1539	1,814
of which approved	721	**719**	**1010**	1,436	716	783	1307	76	1,292	1,379	1246	1,202	1148	1329	1278	1,529
of which denied	19	**7**	**3**	56	70	20	41	213	44	56	39	52	63	27	18	45
of which delayed [16]	83	**17**	**135**	307	307	143	213	15	300	249	228	235	218	259	243	240

Source: WHO

Movement of humanitarian staff, West Bank	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	2011 Monthly Average	2012 monthly ave	Mon. Ave.	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Incidents of delayed or denied access at WB checkpoint[17]	38	**37.5**	**40.1**	41	12	33	38	31	39	30	29	17	28	54	42	38
Of which occurred at Jerusalem checkpoint	22	**21**	**22.3**	11	3	21	14	4	6	6	8	4	7	6	4	6
Number of staff days lost due to checkpoint incidents	25	**21**	**18.5**	52	10.5	19	26.5	9.5	32	15	25	5.5	13.6	16.2	14.2	12

Source: OCHA

Search and Arrest

	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	Monthly Average	Monthly Average	Mon. Ave.	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Mon. Ave.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Search Campaigns (West Bank)	349	**338**	**316**	767	411	292	353	422	409	409	413	496	348	372	332	469
Palestinians detained (West Bank)	262	**283**	**491**	883	826	472	467	562	631	584	563	618	384	481	400	526

Source: OCHA

Palestinians under Israeli custody (occupation related)[6]	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	Monthly Average	**Monthly Average**	**Mon. Ave.**	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	**Mon. Ave.**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Total as of the end of the month	5326	**4,451**	**4227**	5,318	5,383	5,505	5439	5477	5527	5,528	5258	5549	5609	5591	N/A	N/A
of whom are women	26	**7**	**10**	15	17	17	15	14	15	20	16	20	20	18	N/A	N/A
of whom are administrative detainees[7]	240	**245**	**132**	363	446	473	468	457	461	463	327	455	424	412	N/A	N/A
of whom are detained until the conclusion of legal proceedings	633	**897**	**1062**	1,497	1,577	1,650	1623	1609	1534	1,511	1525	1526	1534	1499	N/A	N/A

Source: Israeli Prison Service (through B'Tselem)

Demolition of Structures

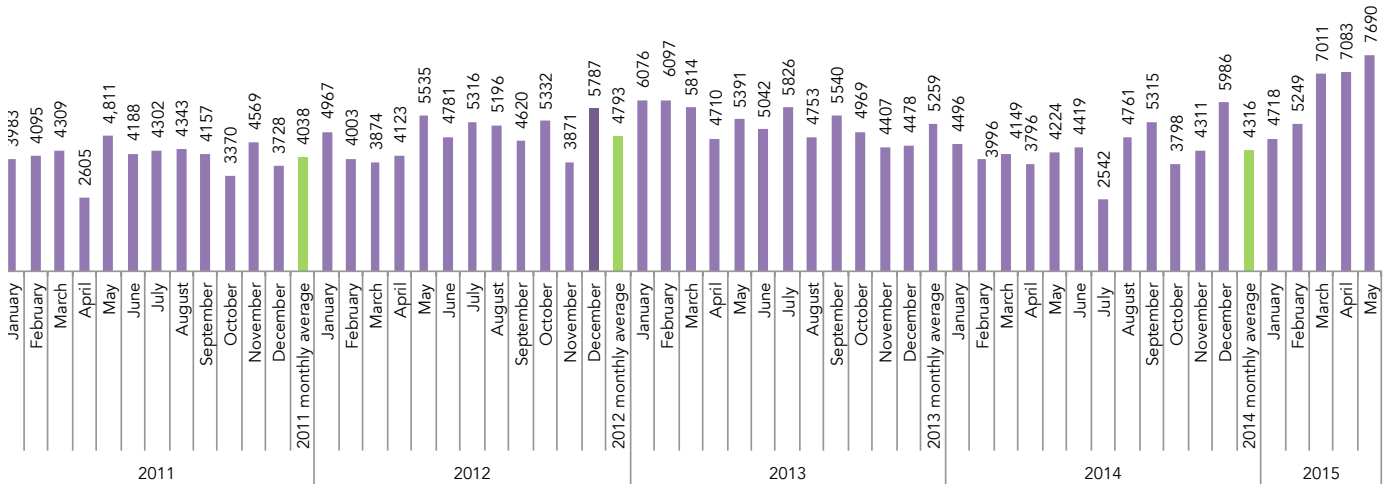
Structures demolished[8]

	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	Total	**Total**	**Total**	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	**Total**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
of which in Area C	571	**540**	**565**	30	6	25	58	27	37	24	493	76	15	77	21	18
of which in East Jerusalem	42	**64**	**98**	6	2	5	3	23	11	14	98	5	2	18	2	4
Area A	**NA**	**NA**		**0**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	0	0	0	0	0
Area B	**NA**	**NA**		**0**		**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**5**	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	**622**	**604**	**663**	**36**	**10**	**37**	**62**	**50**	**48**	**38**	**601**	81	17	95	23	22

People Displaced due to demolitions[9]

	2011	2012	2013	2014								2015				
	Total	**Total**	**Total**	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	**Total**	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
of whom were displaced in Area C	1006	**815**	**805**	42	0	98	122	67	102	10	969	117	0	110	25	0
of whom were displaced in East Jerusalem	88	**71**	**298**	0	0	20	15	30	34	8	208	0	0	0	0	0
Area A	**NA**	**NA**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**16**	**5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**32**	0	0	0	0	0
Area B	**NA**	**NA**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	**1094**	**886**	**1103**	**42**	**11**	**140**	**142**	**97**	**136**	**18**	**1215**	117	0	110	25	0

Truckloads of goods entering Gaza from Israel[18]



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 terriroty Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2015 as of 26-June-2015

Cluster	SRP 2015	
	Total request in USD	% of funds received
Coordination and Support Services	23,235,547	24%
Education	20,330,672	20%
Food Security	324,430,436	23%
Health and Nutrition	21,212,516	32%
Protection	51,935,541	37%
Shelter/Non-Food Items	224,930,156	37%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	39,213,897	43%
Total	**705,288,765**	**31.9%**

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.