

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

AREA C VULNERABILITY PROFILE

The Vulnerability Profile Project (VPP), launched in 2013, is an inter-agency exercise designed to identify vulnerabilities in Area C¹. This feature provides previously unavailable data on Area C of the West Bank, including the most comprehensive information on physical protection, access to land and livelihoods, water and sanitation, education and health.

According to the VPP, an estimated 297,900 people² live in 532 residential areas in Area C, comprising some of the most vulnerable communities in the West Bank in terms of humanitarian needs.³

It is the first in a series of products featuring data and analysis that will be available to the public.

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A rehabilitated cistern, Zatar, Bethlehem Governorate.

Photo by Marco Longari/FAO



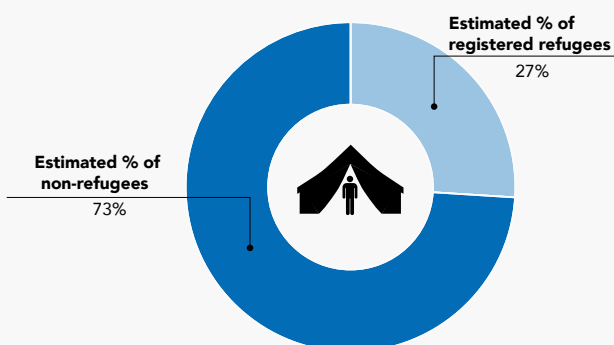
Communities and Residents

The VPP includes detailed information on 532 residential areas⁴ located in Area C of the West Bank. Some of these residential areas are located entirely (i.e. 100 per cent) in Area C, but, in many cases, the area is part of a bigger community, part of which lies in Area A or B. The tables below provide the breakdown of available data in terms of geographic location, type of community and amount of built-up area located in Area C.

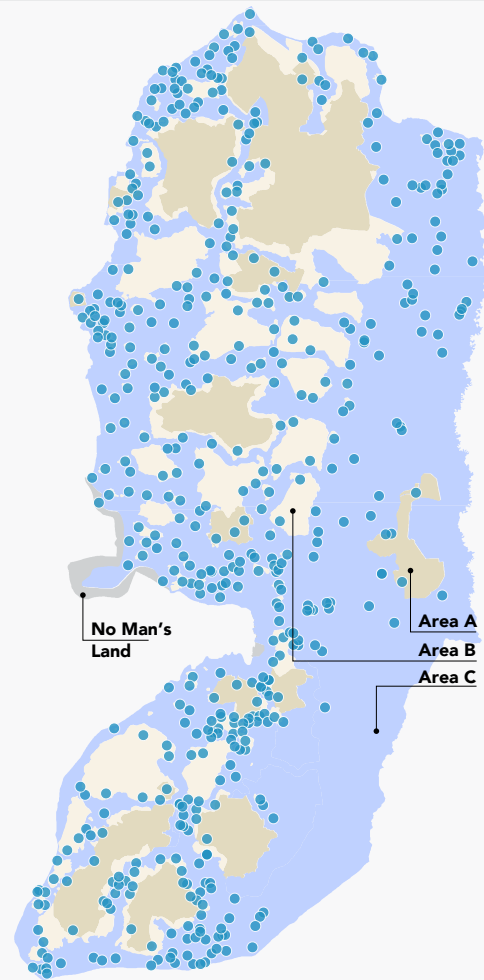
1. AREA C: RESIDENTIAL AREAS/ RESIDENTS BY GOVERNORATE

Governorate	Residential Areas	Estimated Residents
Bethlehem	57	37,777
Hebron	122	67,850
Jenin	54	20,879
Jericho	24	10,067
Jerusalem	70	73,515
Nablus	37	9,583
Qalqiliya	31	9,598
Ramallah	61	36,448
Salfit	25	11,822
Tubas	27	2,736
Tulkarm	24	17,625
Grand Total	532	297,900

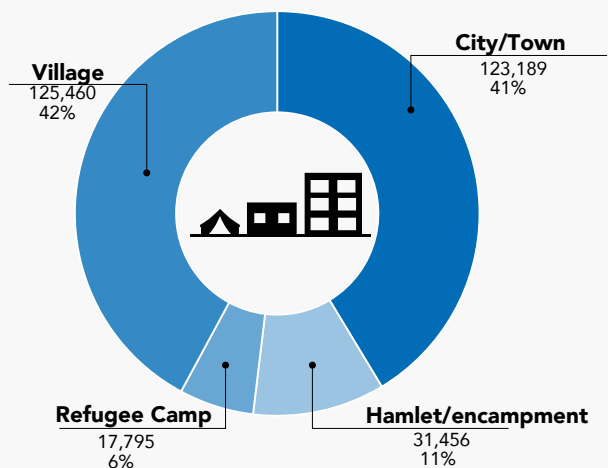
RESIDENTS BY REFUGEE STATUS



WEST BANK: VISITED RESIDENTIAL AREAS



ESTIMATED NUMBER OF RESIDENTS BY TYPE OF COMMUNITY



2. PERCENTAGE OF BUILT-UP AREA IN AREA C

Area C %	Residential Areas	Estimated Residents
Less than 50%	240	175,866
50 - 99%	51	55,018
100%	241	67,016
Grand Total	532	297,900

Select Breakdowns by Community Type

This section sheds light on some of the Palestinian groups and geographical areas that have been targeted with humanitarian interventions, such as Bedouins/herders and communities in “firing zones”, the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea area and the E-1/ Ma’ale Adumim settlement area.

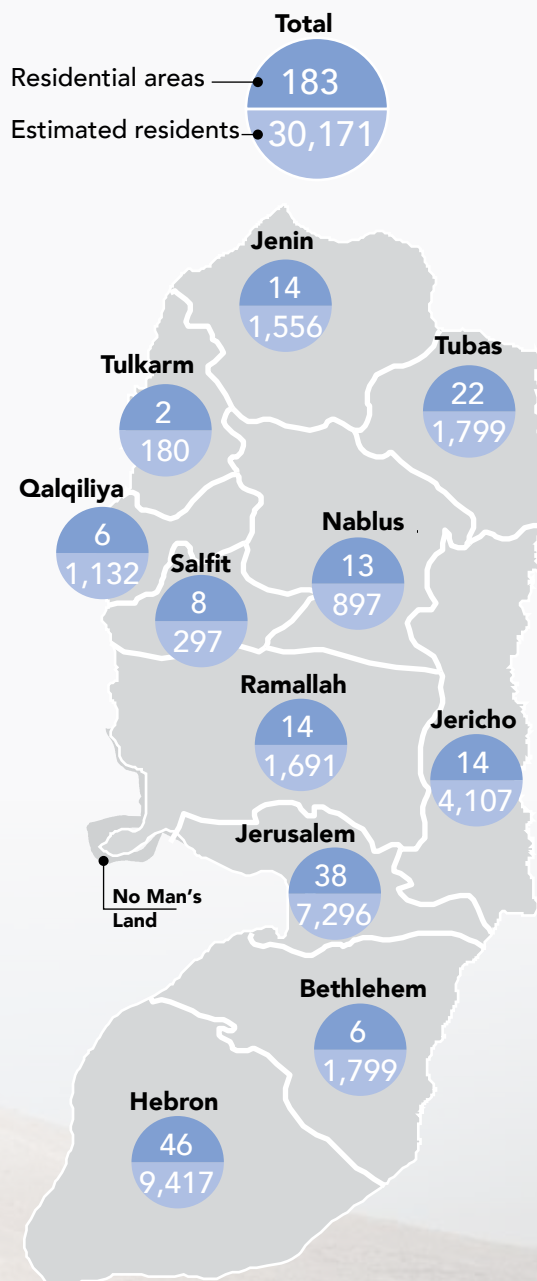
“FIRING ZONE” COMMUNITIES IN THE WEST BANK

Approximately 18 per cent of the West Bank has been designated as a closed military zone for training, or “firing zone”; this is roughly the same amount of the West Bank under full Palestinian authority (Area A, 17.7 per cent).

Most communities located in or nearby the “firing zones” have existed for decades, many of them before the designation of these areas as such. The vast majority (78 out of 88 communities) depend on herding and farming as their main source of income. Over 80 per cent of the communities reported a decrease in their number of livestock during the last two years due to a number of Israeli measures, including restrictive planning and zoning, settler violence and military activities.

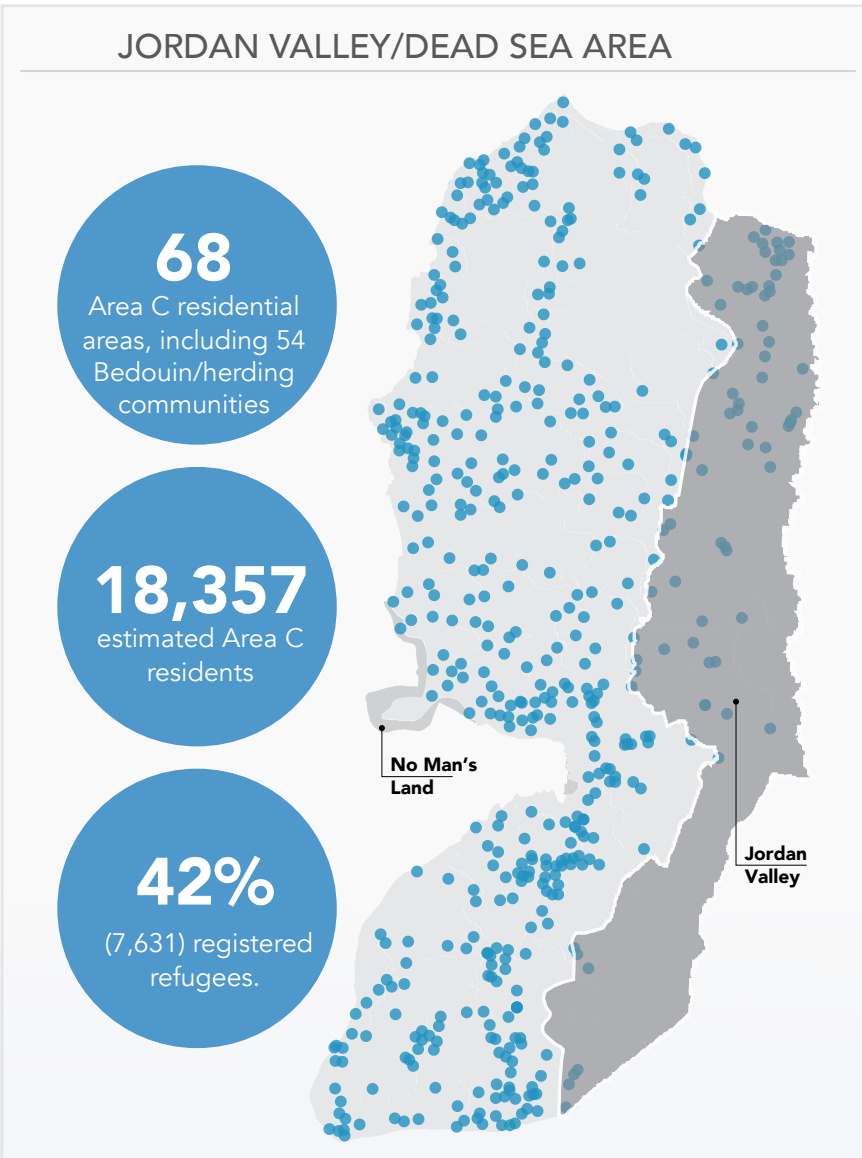
	Within “Firing Zone”		Nearby “Firing Zone”	
	# of communities	Est. Residents	# of communities	Est. Residents
Bethlehem	1	90	4	1,024
Hebron	19	3,736	3	1,095
Jenin	1	115	0	0
Jericho	0	0	14	4,795
Jerusalem	2	358	3	456
Nablus	4	538	8	2,288
Ramallah	3	538	5	580
Salfit	1	29	1	675
Tubas	7	820	12	1,263
Grand Total	38	6,224	50	12,176

BEDOUIN/HERDING GROUPS



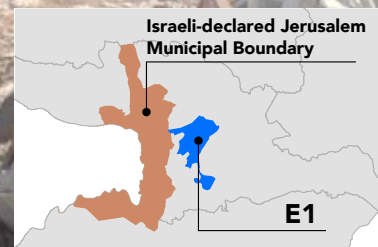
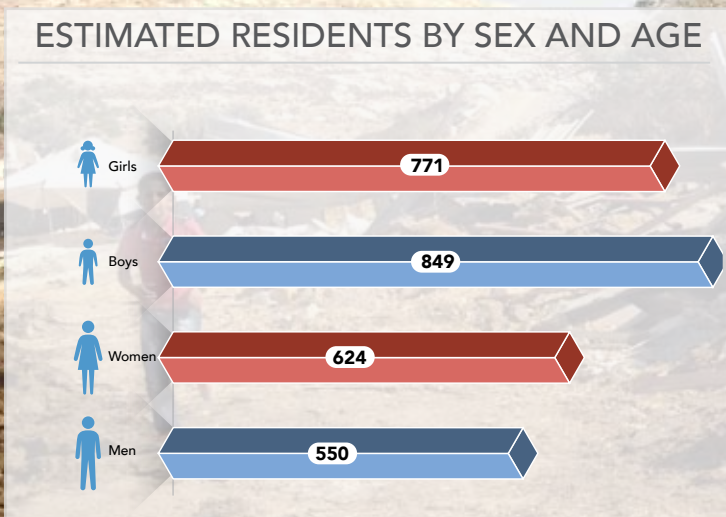
- The Jordan Valley and Dead Sea area covers around 30 per cent of the West Bank.
- 87 per cent of the land is designated as Area C, virtually all of which is prohibited for Palestinian use, earmarked instead for the use of the Israeli military or under the jurisdiction of Israeli settlements.
- There are 37 Israeli settlements, with a population of 9,500, established across the area, in contravention of international law.

Palestinian movement in Area C is controlled and restricted by a complex system of physical and administrative means. While movement between Palestinian cities has generally improved in recent years, these obstacles, including the Barrier, checkpoints, roadblocks, and a permit system, continue to undermine livelihoods and access to basic services, as well as the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance.



E-1/MA'ALE ADUMIM SETTLEMENT AREA

Around 2,800 Bedouins reside in 18 residential areas in the hills to the east of Jerusalem. More than 85 per cent of them are refugees. The communities have all lost access to land due to settlement expansion, most have demolition orders pending against their homes, none have access to the electricity network and only half are connected to the water network. Over 200 families were re-located from the area in the 1990s, some by force. Of these, more than 85 per cent report they had to abandon their traditional livelihoods.

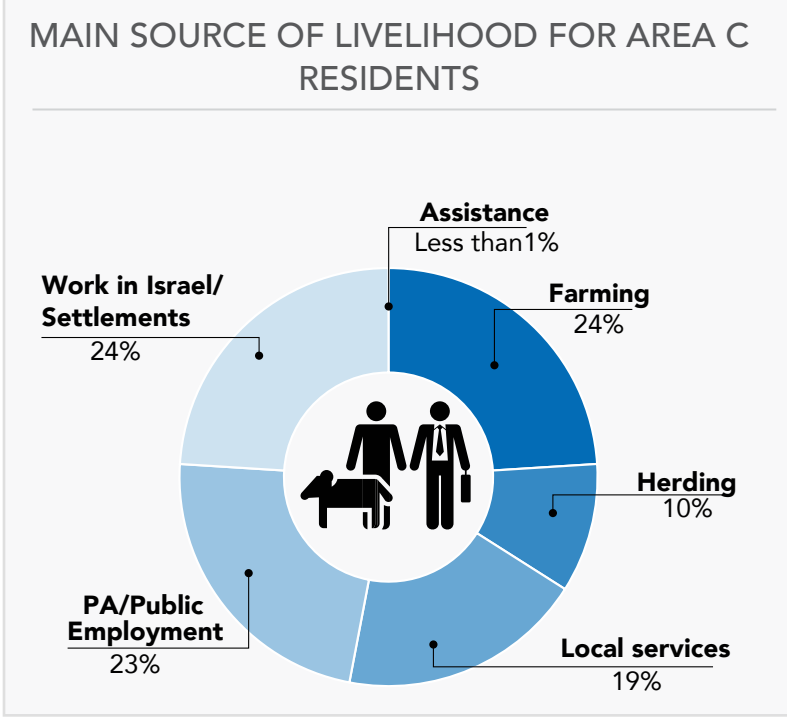


Demolitions in Az Zayyem Bedouin community, Jerusalem Governorate.

Area C in the Strategic Response Plan (SRP)

Area C is one of the main priority areas for humanitarian assistance in the 2014-2016 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) of the humanitarian community in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The VPP data is enhancing the situational awareness of the nature and scope of vulnerability in Area C, which in turn enables clusters to build more focused and targeted response plans.

Among the key drivers of humanitarian vulnerability in Area C are policies and practices applied by the Israeli authorities in the context of the ongoing occupation of the West Bank. These include settlement activity; a discriminatory planning and zoning regime; and restrictions on Palestinian movement and access, including Barrier construction. These measures combine to impede Palestinian access to livelihoods, shelter and basic services and assistance, including health, education and water and sanitation services. In many cases, they contribute to the forced displacement of Palestinians.



- ### SRP Strategic Objectives:
- 1 Enhance the protection of populations in Gaza, Area C, the Seam Zone and East Jerusalem by promoting respect for international humanitarian and human rights law; preventing or mitigating the impact of violations; improving equitable access to essential services; and ensuring the effective integration of protection considerations in service provisions interventions.
 - 2 Help improve the food security and access to livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the oPt, with particular focus on Gaza, Area C, the Seam Zone and East Jerusalem, by improving economic access to food.

MAIN FACTORS IMPEDING ACCESS TO LIVELIHOOD

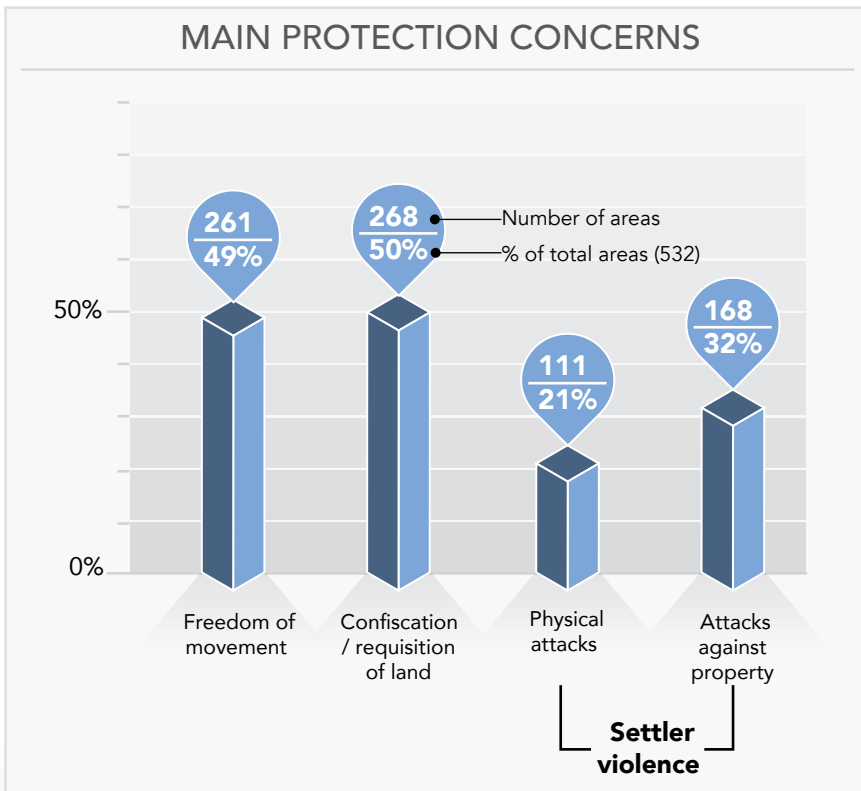
Area C residents report a wide range of impediments affecting access to their livelihoods. Residents identified the following restrictions as remaining the same or worsening in the past two years:

Issue	Number of Areas	Estimated # of Residents	Percentage of Total Areas
Planning and zoning	469	263,247	88%
Access to market/ place of work	322	197,567	60%
Settlement activities	325	179,082	61%
Barrier	198	154,335	37%
Causes of limited access to land			
Closure obstacles	234	174,950	44%
Bypass roads	231	153,934	43%
Military bases	159	105,034	30%
Prior coordination process	144	84,709	27%
Increased fodder price	113	39,664	21%



Yanun al Fauqa, Nablus Governorate.

The residential areas visited by the VPP reported a wide-range of protection-related vulnerabilities. The below are some examples of these:



Israel, as the occupying power in the West Bank, has a legal obligation to protect the Palestinian civilian population and to administer the territory for their benefit. International law prohibits the forced transfer or displacement of civilians and the destruction of private or public property. It also prohibits transfer of the population of the occupying power into occupied territory.

Nearly 70
Palestinian residential areas have outstanding eviction orders.

Over 300
areas indicated that they need additional legal aid.



Photo by OCEHA

Demolitions in Tal al Addasa, East Jerusalem.

About the VPP

In 2013, OCHA and partners launched the Vulnerability Profile Project (VPP), a dynamic, inter-agency tool designed to generate baseline data on a range of humanitarian-related indicators.

Area C has been identified consistently as a priority area for humanitarian assistance in recent years, due to the range of humanitarian needs affecting residents of the area. In spite of these needs, there has been a lack of disaggregated data available on Area C to shape humanitarian responses and advocacy.⁵ The primary goal of the VPP has been

to fill this gap. Unlike previous surveys designed to deepen understanding of Area C issues, which targeted communities entirely located in Area C, the 2013 VPP targeted all Palestinian communities that have any part of their residential area in Area C.⁶ Active partners in the VPP included members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the State of Palestine Ministry of Local Government (MoLG). The process has also been closely coordinated with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to ensure that data sets are complementary.

The VPP includes basic information on a range of humanitarian indicators related to physical protection, access to land and livelihoods, water and sanitation, education and health, among others. The VPP also allows

for dynamic data analysis and prioritization of issues and areas, through the use of weighted indicators. The VPP provides humanitarian and development agencies, as well as others, with the most comprehensive data collection on Area C available to date.⁷

Palestinian communities in Area C are among the most vulnerable in the West Bank. In particular, demolitions and forced evictions deprive people of their homes and disrupt livelihoods, leading to entrenched poverty and increased aid dependency. The impact on children can be particularly devastating, including depression, anxiety and symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.



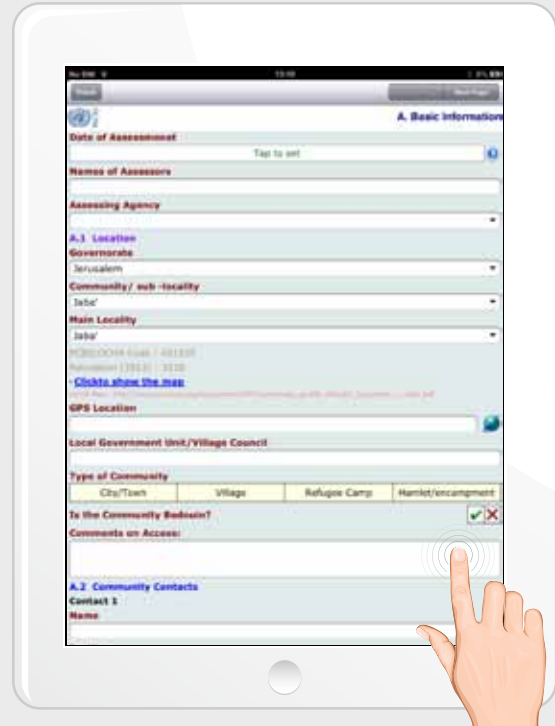
METHODOLOGY

The VPP is based on key informant interviews with community representatives using a uniform questionnaire that was developed in coordination with members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). In most cases, the key informant was appointed by the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), usually the Head of the Village or Municipal Council. In Bedouin and herding communities, field contacts were used to arrange meetings with the mukhtar, or recognized community representatives. Each field team was lead by field staff possessing in-depth knowledge of the areas in question.

Questionnaires in Arabic were distributed by MoLG focal points in advance, along with aerial photos of each community showing the Area C portions of the community and basic data on the location. The latter helped guide the discussion, and served as a resource against which information provided by key informants could be cross-checked. Information was also cross-checked against other available data, for example, number of registered electricity metres or water connections.

The data collection phase was carried out between June and September 2013 by nine teams led by OCHA field staff, working in parallel four days per week. Data was entered directly into an electronic form, which was transferred to a main server daily. Questionnaires were also filled out manually.

Upon completion of the data collection phase, data processing took place including cleaning the data, defining variables, verifying data against other available data sets and assessments in order to enhance the information. In addition, general and tailed analysis based on indicators and ranking tools were produced.



Endnotes

1. The division of most of the West Bank into Areas A, B and C was agreed in the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and was intended to last no more than five years. The built-up area of Palestinian communities does not correspond to the administrative division of Areas A, B and C. Moreover, between 1995 and 2000, the divisions changed multiple times following the phased re-deployments of the Israeli military from some areas and the gradual transfer of authority to the newly-created Palestinian Authority. Since 2000, there have been no official changes to these areas.
2. For the purpose of humanitarian planning, the VPP contains information on people/communities affected by different levels of vulnerability and humanitarian need, and which, may be targeted with humanitarian responses. Figures for affected persons do not represent population figures, which rest solely under PCBS's purview.
3. See OCHA oPt Fact Sheet, "Area C of the West Bank: Key Humanitarian Concerns," January 2013.
4. Residential areas in the VPP are geographically referenced or PCode-linked to the PCBS locality list to ensure compatibility between data sets.
5. See note 1 above.
6. In 2008, OCHA and UNRWA carried out a vulnerability study, gathering information on communities located entirely in Area C. In 2010, OCHA and partner organizations carried out a more comprehensive "community profile", which collected more detailed information on communities with 50 per cent or more of their built-up area in Area C.
7. Please note that these figures may change slightly as additional data sets are integrated into the VPP from existing data sources.

