



THE MONTHLY HUMANITARIAN MONITOR

JULY 2011



Photo: H Minch, EAPPI, June 2011

Palestinian woman sits on the rubble of her demolished home in Al Hadidiya.

July Overview

This month, forced displacement continues to be of increasing humanitarian concern, with news of the Israeli Civil Administration’s (ICA) intention to relocate some twenty Bedouin communities, placing over 2,300 people, primarily refugees, at risk. This is of particular concern because the affected communities, which had lived in the area for generations, are being moved to accommodate the expansion of the Ma’ale Adummim bloc of settlements. For the Bedouin communities, this has resulted in recurrent demolitions and ongoing demolition orders on homes, animal shelters and basic infrastructure, including schools. As a result, their natural growth has been hindered and their essential services neglected, as the surrounding settlements develop and expand, with plans for their future incorporation onto the ‘Jerusalem’ side of the Barrier. The site proposed for their relocation, Al Ezzariya, already accommodates

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over 300 Bedouin families who were relocated in the 1990's to make way for the expansion of Ma'ale Adumim settlement. Under these circumstances, the forced displacement of protected persons is prohibited under International Humanitarian Law. Additionally, it is feared that the planned relocation will further endanger the Bedouin's way of life, in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

These and other herder communities throughout Area C of the West Bank are also confronted with a serious water scarcity created by the absence of adequate infrastructure and compounded by the low average rainfall during the 2010/2011 rainy season. Water consumption among these communities is estimated to be less than 30 litres per capita per day, below the 100 litres the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends. The limited rainfall has resulted in a decrease in the amount of cereals planted, a reduction in domestic fodder supply, and greater recourse to expensive tankered water to replenish cisterns. In some communities, the scarcity has been compounded by the demolition of water harvesting structures by the Israeli authorities over the past year, due to the lack of a building permit.

The lack of adequate access to water and sanitation services is a concern also in the Gaza Strip. After relative calm in recent months, July witnessed a significant increase in rockets launched by Palestinian factions and airstrikes by the Israeli air force. In addition to civilian casualties, Israeli airstrikes have affected the already vulnerable water and sanitation infrastructure in Gaza, damaging an agricultural well and water tanks. Despite the announced easing of the blockade by the Israeli authorities in June 2010, the entry of materials needed for the implementation of water and wastewater infrastructure projects remains impaired, particularly for middle and small scale

projects: materials for 17 water and sanitation projects are still awaiting approval from the Israeli authorities to improve or repair Gaza's deteriorated water and sanitation infrastructure.

The restrictions on the import of building materials also impact the education sector in Gaza. Overcrowding is the main concern with 80 percent of government schools and 90 percent of UNRWA schools operating double shifts. In recent months the Israeli authorities have approved the construction of 42 new schools for UNRWA. However, due to delays in the disbursement funds pledged at the Sharm el Sheikh international donor conference in March 2009, the building of 33 schools has been temporarily delayed.

Classroom shortages are also the main challenge facing East Jerusalem schools, with many existing facilities substandard or unsuitable and pupils accommodated in rented houses that do not meet basic educational and health standards. Despite the pressure on the municipal school system, which is unable to absorb all school-going children in East Jerusalem, the development of alternative schools is systematically impeded by the discriminatory, restrictive planning and zoning implemented by the authorities. This discriminatory policy likewise restricts Palestinian education in Area C, where many schools are built without permits (currently 18 schools have been served with demolition orders), or are housed in structures that are unsafe or lack proper hygienic facilities. Because of the shortage, children often travel long distances or cross military checkpoints to reach school, contributing to the reported high drop-out rates in affected schools, particularly among female children. Children's right to education in the oPt is also affected by armed conflict, with a greater frequency in incidents resulting in damage or threats of damage to schools documented in the first half of 2011, as compared to the same period in 2010.

Bedouin communities at risk of displacement due to an Israeli 'relocation plan'

This month the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) informed OCHA about its intention to 'relocate' Bedouin communities from strategic areas throughout Area C, with priority given to those spread in the Jerusalem periphery. This comes amidst a sharp increase in demolitions since the beginning of the year, during which, 387 Palestinian structures were demolished due to lack of permit and 755 people were displaced (as of 31 July).¹ This is more than twice the number of people displaced and a 40 percent increase in structures demolished compared to the equivalent figures in 2010. Over a third of the structures demolished in 2011 were located in Bedouin communities.

There are at least 20 Bedouin communities with a population of approximately 2,400, (mostly refugees) located east of Jerusalem. These have lived in the area for generations, but are now at risk of displacement due to the ICA's 'relocation plan'. Fourteen (14) of them have been displaced at least once since 1948.² In recent months, two of these communities, Wadi Abu Hindi (350 people) and Al Muntar (300 people), have received demolition orders on virtually all existing structures. In the case of the former, if the orders are implemented, it would be the second time that the community is completely destroyed since 1997.³

In another community, Khan al-Ahmar (pop. around 500), some 10 residential structures are awaiting a final decision on their demolition, while the community's school has a final order that can be implemented at any moment. Moreover, the adjacent settlement of Kfar Adumim has recently filed a petition with the Israeli High Court of Justice requesting it to order the ICA to prevent the opening of the latter school in the upcoming school year that begins in September 2011.⁴

The Bedouin communities in the Jerusalem periphery already face a dire humanitarian situation. Their natural growth has been hampered, necessary infrastructure development prohibited and their traditional way of living endangered. Restricted access to resources (fodder, water, markets) and essential services (health, education), combined with periods of drought during the last few years have overstretched the coping mechanisms of the communities, some of which are trapped in a vicious circle of mounting debts. The communities usually live in basic shelters (tents and metal shacks) and are not connected to the water or electricity networks.

In a recent media article about its 'relocation plan', an ICA spokesperson stated, "They will get land for free, electricity, water, which will probably improve their situation... They can't keep moving from place to place and land is limited. This is the only solution with the Bedouin."⁵ The site proposed by the ICA for relocation is in Area C next to Al Ezzariya town (Area B), where over 300 Bedouin families were relocated in the late nineties, to allow for the expansion of the Ma'ale Adumim settlement. Even though their housing is no longer at risk of demolition, these families have consistently reported a wreckage of their traditional way of life due to lack of access to grazing land, as well as health problems, attributed to the proximity of their houses to a landfill.

The area targeted for the evacuation of the Bedouin communities, has been the object of major plans issued, but largely not implemented, by the Israeli authorities, including the Barrier and the E1 project. Under the approved route, the entire area will be left on the 'Jerusalem side' of the Barrier, separating it from the rest of the West Bank. The E1 Master Plan, approved in the late nineties, entails the creation of an Israeli urban continuum between the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim and East Jerusalem. The area is also planned for the expansion and linkage of smaller settlements in the area (Qedar, Kfar Adumim, and Almon), and is considered of strategic importance to guarantee the Israeli

control of Highway No. 1 linking Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.⁶ If implemented, these plans would prevent the urban growth and development of the Palestinian towns and neighborhoods in the area, and disrupt the territorial contiguity of the West Bank, essentially bisecting it into two completely separate territories.

The demolition of private property and the forced displacement of protected persons (with narrow exceptions), as well as the transfer of civilians from the territory of the occupying power to an occupied territory are all prohibited under International Humanitarian Law.⁷ Israel's policies regarding the Bedouin population in the West Bank are also inconsistent with the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.⁸

Herder communities in Area C severely affected by water scarcity

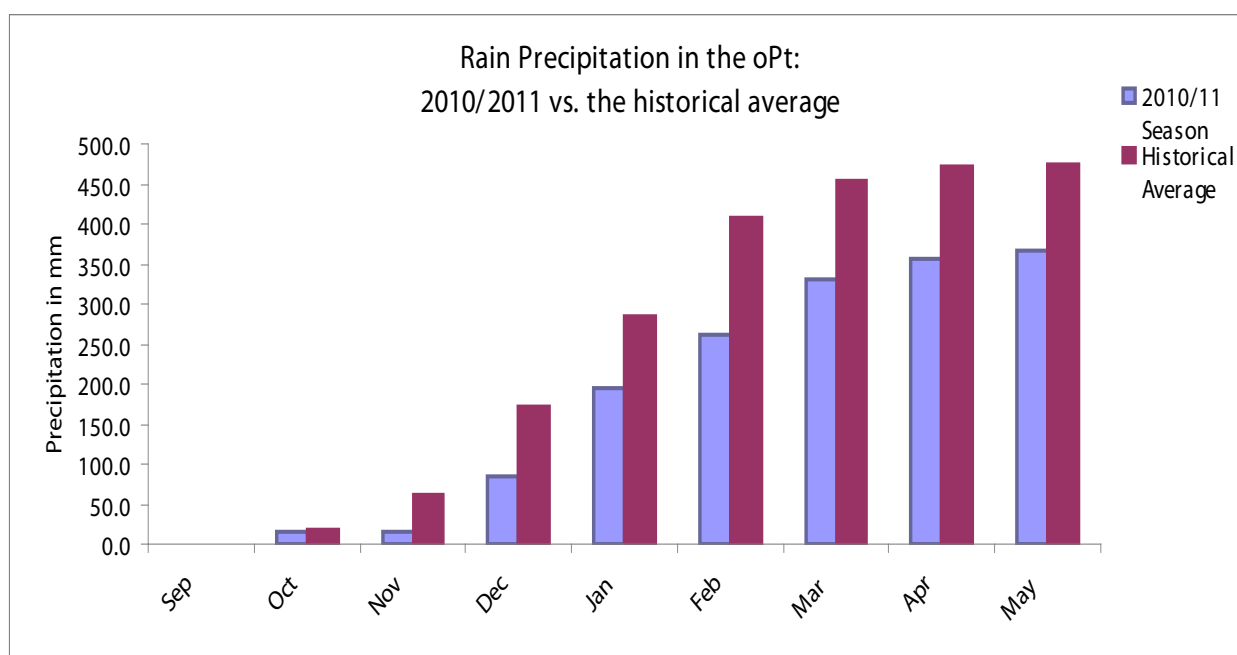
Many parts of the oPt are facing severe water shortages this summer. The average rainfall during the 2010/2011 season was only 72 percent of the historical average, with many semi-arid areas in the Eastern slopes of the West Bank⁹ experiencing precipitation levels below 50 percent (see graph below).¹⁰

Water shortages have especially affected farmers and herders living in Area C in parts of the southern

and northern West Bank and the Jordan Valley, which have experienced three consecutive years of below-average rainfall, and where restrictions on water projects and infrastructure imposed by the Israeli authorities are stricter. Water consumption among these communities is estimated to be less than 30 litres per capita per day--well below the 100 litres the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations. By comparison, Israeli settlements consume approximately 270 litres per capita per day.

A rapid assessment carried out by WASH agencies among Area C communities found a higher degree of vulnerability compared with 2010. As rainfall averages decrease, there is a corresponding decrease in the area of cereals planted, which results in a reduction of domestic fodder supply. In an assessment carried out in April 2011 by the Ministry of Agriculture only 60 percent of the surfaces normally planted with cereals (barley and wheat) were planted.¹¹ The limited rainfall has also resulted in households only being able to fill cisterns at one third of available capacity, forcing them to purchase larger amounts of tankered water, which is up to three-four times more expensive than water delivered by the water network.¹²

Further compounding the problem is the demolition of cisterns by the Israeli authorities due to the lack



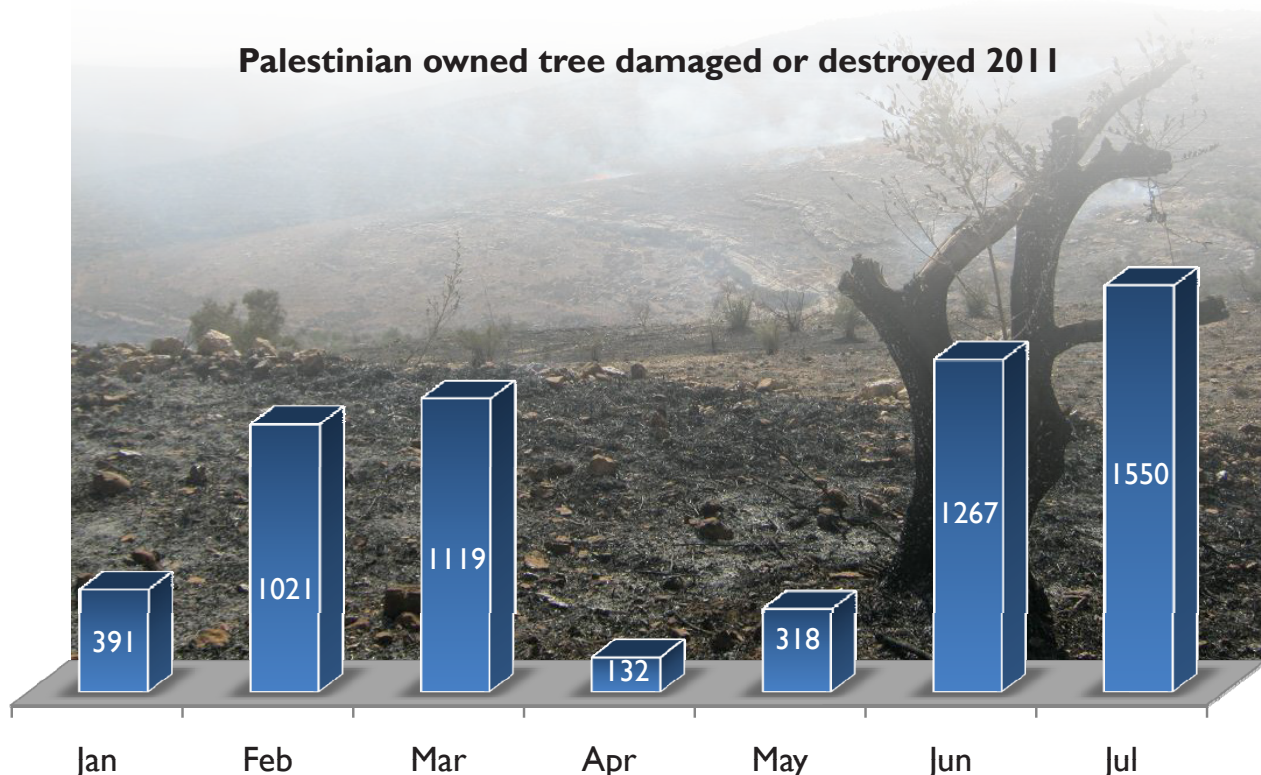
of building permits. From January 2010 to date, 44 cisterns (primarily for harvesting rainwater) and 33 wells have been demolished, half of which were recorded this year alone (20 cisterns and 15 wells in 2011) affecting nearly 14,000 people, over half of whom are children.¹³ Most structures demolished in 2011 were the principle livelihoods means of livelihood the most vulnerable families in the West Bank, pushing them deeper into poverty. This results in the loss of their primary coping mechanism especially in times of water scarcity.

The discriminatory zoning and planning regime governing Palestinian communities living in these areas, implemented by the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA), is made evident when compared to the preferential water resource distribution provided to Israeli settlements located in the same areas. For example, approximately 9,400 Israeli settlers live in the Jordan Valley region, and consume around 45 Million Cubic Metres of water a year.¹⁴ This is almost a third of the quantity of water allocated to the 2.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank.¹⁵ Currently, a response to the dire situation is being jointly coordinated by WASH and Agricultural Sectors in the framework of the MoA led Water Scarcity Task Force. The response

comprises the provision of water and fodder to communities most affected, in addition to seed distribution to replenish the stock of cereal seeds for the coming planting season. The response, which will be implemented in July 2011 (when the need for subsidised fodder is greatest), is supported by ECHO, the Government of Italy, the Government of Canada and OCHA Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) and Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF).

Settler-related violence on the rise

Violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians and their property continued during the month with 18 incidents leading to casualties or property damage recorded. So far this year there have been 237 such incidents, approximately 46 percent above the figure for the equivalent period in 2010. In addition, there is evidence suggesting that the scope of the property damage is increasing over the past several months. In July, 1,550 Palestinian-owned trees were reported to have been damaged or destroyed, with nearly three quarters of them burnt in a single incident on 15 July in the village of Burin (Nablus governorate). Since the beginning of 2011, OCHA has recorded a total of 45 attacks on Palestinian trees, allegedly perpetrated by Israeli settlers, which involved the



uprooting, burning or vandalizing of some 5800 trees, severely undermining the livelihoods of Palestinian farmers.

According to Burin's head of the village council, no complaint was filed with the Israeli Police following the latest incidents, as these complaints almost never lead to the prosecution of perpetrators. The tendency to refrain from complaining to the Israeli Police is reinforced by the hurdles facing those Palestinians who choose to do so, including the need to reach police stations located within Israeli settlements.

When complaints are filed, investigations are rarely met with success by the Israeli police. Approximately 90 percent of the Israeli police investigations into such offenses in recent years ended in failure, as files are closed on the grounds of either a "lack of evidence" or "perpetrator unknown". In some cases complaints were lost and never investigated.¹⁶ Of 97 complaints related to the vandalization of Palestinians' trees occurred between 2005 and 2010, followed up by the Israeli human rights group Yesh Din, none has to the filing of an indictment against suspects, including 72 cases closed on grounds of

BURIN CASE STUDY

Yusef Ali Kados is 77 years old, and his family has lived in Burin for generations. For thirty years he worked as a primary school teacher, and has raised ten children. Over the past ten years, his olive trees have been set on fire on three occasions by the settlers. He is now left with only the 45-50 trees that are planted in front of his house. His olive trees, planted east of the private road leading to the Yizhar settlement, were amongst those burned two weeks ago by settlers. He lost all 350 of his olive and 50 of his almond trees, these were the last surviving trees on his land.

"For ten years now we have been suffering from settlers burning the trees. We have also been attacked when we try to harvest the olives. When the trouble started ten years ago we went to harvest the olives and we were told by the settlement security not to come there anymore. When the olive trees were burned this last time, I sent my son to see because I am too old. He told me afterwards that everything was gone, destroyed.

The army supports and provides cover for the settlers. We want them to arrest the settlers. They see the settlers and know what they are doing. If one of us hits a settler then we will be arrested, if a settler hits one of us nothing is done. To defend yourself you must stay silent. I have not made any official complaints. The village council has taken the names of all of those who lost trees and report this to the agricultural ministry in Nablus in the hope of compensation.

These trees provided extra income for the family. We could produce 40-50 jerry cans (18L each) of oil, which we could then sell. Every year there is less oil produced as more and more trees are burnt. These trees took 60 years to grow, if we plant new ones it would take 10 to 15 years to have them mature enough for harvesting. But we cannot plant again because the land is so near the private settlement road.

Trees for me are life. I am 77 years old. I planted these trees myself in 1952. After school I would go straight to the olive trees before I would go home. It pains us in our hearts to see the trees destroyed. The earth is the life of the farmer. My blood is boiling with anger because I see my land burning and I can do nothing".

Testimony given to EAPPI



Yusef Ali Kados is 77 years old, a lost 400 trees due an arson attack by Israeli settlers.

Photo by Yanoun team, EAPPI



Israeli settlers set fire to agricultural land in Burin (Nablus), over a thousand Palestinian-owned olive trees were damaged.

“perpetrator unknown “.¹⁷ The lack of adequate law enforcement has meant that damages caused to Palestinian property by Israeli civilians are being perpetrated under an umbrella of impunity.

Some of the communities who suffered from the loss of trees have been also affected by limited access to their land. A large number of settlements include within their outer limits, or on their vicinity, agricultural land owned and cultivated by Palestinians, which has not been formally expropriated or seized. For the last few years, access to such land has been subjected to the requirement of “prior coordination” with the Israeli District Coordination Liaison offices. This type of coordination, designed to allow the prior deployment of Israeli forces to secure the area while farmers work, is implemented mostly during the olive harvest season (October-November), rendering access at other times uncertain and dangerous. This regime not only penalizes Palestinian farmers, rather than

the settlers, but it has also proven largely ineffective in preventing attacks against trees and crops, most of which occur outside the times allocated through the coordination process. According to information collected by OCHA, a “prior coordination” system is currently in place regarding access to land within, or in the vicinity of, 55 Israeli settlements and settlement outposts, for farmers residing in some 90 Palestinian communities and villages.

Gaza airstrikes result in civilian casualties and destruction of water infrastructure

After two months of relative calm, July witnessed a significant increase in rocket launching by Palestinian factions and airstrikes by the Israeli air force. The escalation began on 7 July, and continued intermittently throughout the month. As a result, three Palestinians were killed and 29 others injured. One of the fatalities and 83 percent of the injuries (24) were civilians not involved in the fighting, including six children and five women. Two Israelis

were also injured – a soldier during an incursion to Gaza, and a civilian driving a military vehicle close to the border.

While most Israeli air strikes appeared to be targeting rocket launching crews, military training bases, and tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border, adjacent civilian infrastructure has been also affected. That was the case of an Israeli airstrike on 17 July at 3 am in Beit Hanoun town. In addition to the injury of seven civilians, including four children, this attack resulted in the destruction of a 60-year-old agricultural well, as well as in damage to nine water tanks belonging to five households in the adjacent neighborhood, serving some 60 people.

The already vulnerable water and sanitation infrastructure serving the Gaza Strip population has been increasingly affected by Israeli attacks in recent months. In addition to recurrent incidents of damage to domestic and irrigation equipment, in March 2011, the Khuza'a municipality warehouse was hit by an airstrike that destroyed a large quantity of essential water and sanitation materials and spare parts. The following month, the Al-Mintar water reservoir in Gaza City was also hit, leaving 30,000 people in eastern Gaza city with no water for three days.

The targeting of civilians and civilian property is prohibited under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Parties to an armed conflict must also take all necessary precautions to prevent or minimize civilian casualties and damage to civilian objects, and avoid, to the extent possible, locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas. Following the incident on 17 July, the Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene Group for oPt stated that *“Israel as the occupying power has to ensure that the Palestinians have access to essential services... what we keep witnessing is the opposite – civilian infrastructures, in particular water-related facilities, are often hit during Israeli airstrikes, depriving people of indispensable services.”*

Access restrictions continue to impede rehabilitation of water infrastructure in Gaza

Despite the easing of the Gaza blockade announced by the Israeli authorities over a year ago (20 June 2010), entry of materials needed for the implementation of water and wastewater infrastructure projects continued to be impaired, particularly for middle and small scale projects.

KHALAF INFILTRATION BASIN AT JABALIA REFUGEE CAMP, A SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECT AWAITING APPROVAL FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS

In 2008, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) received a grant (USD 1.4 million) from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to construct an infiltration basin in the Khalaf Area in North Gaza Governorate. The project aims at preventing the mixing of sewage with rain water to mitigate the pollution of the aquifer, prevent flooding and reduce health risks and environmental hazards in the densely populated low-lying areas in north Gaza. Approximately 150,000 people are expected to benefit from the project.

The project has still not been implemented due to Israel's refusal to approve the list of materials required. The first application for the project materials was submitted to the Israeli Authorities in Mid-2009, and several follow-up letters were sent by the PWA, UN agencies, the Swedish Consulate, with no response from the Israeli side. Several meetings were later held with Israeli officials to discuss the reasons behind the delay, the last of which was in January 2011 with the presence of UN representatives. Ahmed Hassan, the Construction Supervision Manager at the PWA warns that the ongoing delay will expose the affected population to floods and waterborne diseases.

Iyad Yousif Alfairy, 34, lives in Mashrou' Al-Alami area in the town of Jabalia, in a house which lies approximately 70cm below the street level. In winter, sewage manholes overflow, causing floods to enter Iyad's house. Iyad's family can't sleep during rain for fear of flooding, and his children are often ill due to sewage entering their house.



Iyad lives with 14 other family members in the same house.

Photo by: EWASH/ATF

This month, 69 truckloads of WASH-related materials coordinated by Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), the Coastal Municipal Water Utility (CMWU) and the UN could enter the Gaza Strip. While the volume of WASH materials that entered has significantly increased following the easing of the blockade, the large majority of these materials (93 percent) were for three large-scale projects (North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment Project, Gaza Central Sewerage Project, and ANERA WASH project).

However, when excluding these three flagship projects, less than one fifth of the materials requested were allowed into Gaza since the easing announcement. As a result, there are 77 million dollars worth of materials needed for 17 water and sanitation projects, which await approval from the Israeli authorities to enter the Gaza. The prolonged delays are preventing the implementation of projects urgently needed to improve or repair Gaza's water and sanitation infrastructure.

Protecting education in armed conflict

Humanitarian concerns regarding the right to education in the oPt and Israel

In situations of conflict and instability, education can be both life-saving and life-sustaining. A protected and safe educational environment provides a sense of normalcy and facilitates the transmission of key safety messages and life skills. As the new school year approaches, there are a number of concerns related to the right to education in the oPt. These range from classroom shortages to school demolitions, unacceptable or inadequate school conditions, compromised access for students and teachers, and recurrent attacks that occur during hostilities that cause damages to schools and other educational infrastructure.

Armed conflict continues to have a negative impact on the right to education in the oPt, with attacks during armed hostilities or other conflict-related

On 12 July, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 1998 during its Annual Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, increasing protections for children in situations of armed conflict. Resolution 1998, which was unanimously adopted by UN Security Council, expands the criteria for including parties to conflict in the Secretary-General's Annual Report to include *those parties to armed conflict that engage, in contravention of applicable international law: in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals of in recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals.*

violence resulting in damages to schools or other education facilities with greater frequency as compared to the equivalent period last year. In the first half of 2011, there were 29 documented incidents of attacks resulting in damage or threats of damage to schools, compared with 16 incidents in the equivalent period in 2010.¹⁸

Continuing hostilities between the Israeli military and armed Palestinian groups in the Gaza Strip have affected the students of both populations: In Gaza, eight armed attacks resulted in Palestinian schools being damaged, including seven damaged as a result of Israeli air strikes. In southern Israel, a 16-year-old Israeli boy was killed when armed Palestinian militants fired a missile at an Israeli school bus near the border between Israel and Gaza, and two incidents of Palestinian rocket fire caused damage to school infrastructure in southern Israel.

Two thirds of the incidents in the West Bank affected schools located in Areas A and B; some of them occurred in the course of Israeli military raids on school premises and resulted in children being exposed to tear gas inhalation, frightened or injured by sound bombs, or arrested within their schools. Two schools were attacked by Israeli settlers, one of them involving setting fire to a room in Huwwara Boys' Secondary School in Nablus.

School demolitions, or threats of demolition, are among the most serious attacks on education in the oPt. This year, part of a school was demolished in the Area C village of Dkeika (Hebron), and in 2010, one school in the community of Khirbet Tana was demolished for the sixth time. OCHA has documented six schools with pending demolition orders in East Jerusalem, and 18 schools with demolition orders in Area C (six of which were issued this year).

The lack of schools in many small communities in Area C means that children often must travel or walk long distances to reach the nearest school. In some communities, such as those in the northern Jordan Valley or in closed areas behind the Barrier, children must cross military checkpoints to reach school. To reduce the exposure to delays and harassment, and to save on transportation costs, during the school week, many children from those remote communities stay in towns where the schools are located, and return home only on weekends. Access constraints have also contributed to the reported high drop-out rates in affected schools, particularly among female children.¹⁹

In East Jerusalem, almost half of the classrooms in Jerusalem Municipal educational institutions attended by Palestinian students (647 out of 1,398) were considered to be 'non-standard' in 2010.²⁰ To partially address these difficulties, double shifting is common, and schools are often forced to hold classes in rented houses that do not meet basic educational and health standards.²¹ Despite the pressure on the Jerusalem municipal school system, it is almost impossible for alternative schools to obtain Israeli-issued building permits, and sometimes they are forced to build without a permit, and running the risk of receiving demolition orders and heavy fine.

Furthermore, it is estimated that anywhere between 4,300 and 5,300 pupils are not enrolled in any educational institution.²² According to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), many fail to complete the secondary educational cycle, with the post-elementary dropout rate in municipal schools estimated as high as 50 per cent.²³

Israeli administrative discrimination between East and West Jerusalem

While there are only two municipal preschools in East Jerusalem, with a combined enrolment of 55 children, in West Jerusalem there are 56 municipal pre-schools. Another 1,900 Palestinian children attend private facilities, with relative high annual tuition fees, from NIS 5,000 to 8,000 per child per year.

Classroom shortages are also the main challenge facing the education sector in the Gaza Strip. The area is among the most densely populated areas in the world, with 56 percent are children under the age of 18, and their numbers are growing. The ban on the import of building materials imposed by Israel in 2007 as part of the blockade is among the main reasons for the current shortage of classrooms. Approximately 80 percent of government schools and 90 percent of UNRWA schools run double shifts. As a result, students often have to be accommodated in schools far from where they live, and classroom time has been reduced by almost one third. Even with double shifting, schools are overcrowded, with an average of 39 pupils in a class.²⁴ These difficulties have had a severe negative impact on learning outcomes.²⁵ Furthermore, during 2011/2012 school year, an estimated 40,000 Palestinian refugee children eligible to attend UNRWA schools had to be referred to Government schools because of the lack of adequate facilities.

To address the classroom shortages for the next five years, 130 new government-run schools, and 100 new UNRWA schools are needed. According to UNICEF, although it could have supported the building of 500 classrooms in PA schools, the funds to implement the construction were reallocated to other projects because the building materials could not enter into Gaza as a result of the blockade. In the case of UNRWA, in recent months the Israeli authorities have approved the construction and the import of the required materials for 42 new schools. However, due to delays in the disbursement of funds pledged at the Sharm el Sheikh international

donor conference in March 2009, the building of 32 schools has been temporarily delayed.

Under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law, Israel has the duty to respect the right to education of all children in the oPt.²⁶ From this derives the obligation to allocate adequate resources and space, as well as allow for access to materials needed for the construction and upgrading of schools. In addition, Israel should take measures to prevent violence affecting schools, and avoid disruptions to the educational process, either by its military forces or its citizens. Furthermore, IHL expressly prohibits the destruction of property belonging to individuals or communities, except when absolutely required by military operations.²⁷ When hostilities occur, all parties to a conflict must take all precautionary measures to avoid or minimize harm to the civilian population and infrastructure.²⁸

Access of humanitarian staff

During the first seven months of 2011, international NGOs and the UN agencies reported a total of 372 access incidents (38 in July), nearly the same figure as in the equivalent period in 2010 (379). These incidents have taken place despite a variety of measures and coping mechanisms implemented by humanitarian organizations, including reliance on long detours to avoid problematic checkpoints, the request of permits regarding access of staff to Gaza

and East Jerusalem, and the provision of collective transportation for staff accessing East Jerusalem, among others.

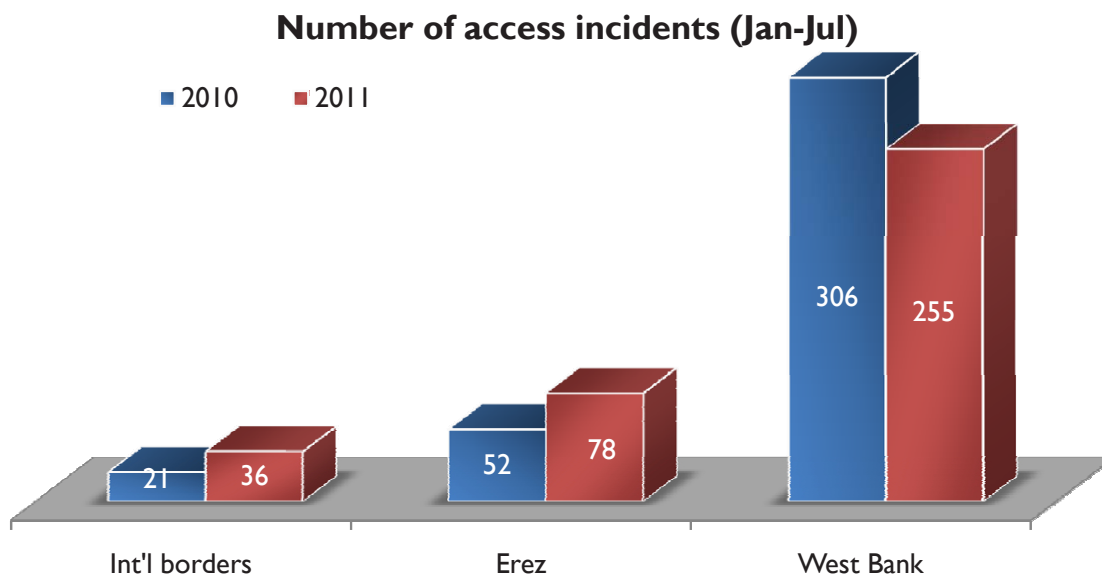
West Bank

Nearly 70 percent of this year's incidents occurred at West Bank checkpoints, most of them controlling access to East Jerusalem. The majority were triggered by demands by Israeli security personnel to perform internal searches of UN vehicles, in violation of the UN Convention on Privileges and Immunities.

A UN survey conducted in February 2011 revealed that each working day, 385 UN vehicles carrying approximately 970 UN staff are required to cross Barrier checkpoints, most of them on the Jerusalem periphery, in the course of their duties. However, due to a variety of constraints (see table), less than a third of the vehicular checkpoints along the Barrier (11 out of 34) are normally accessible by UN staff. This limitation requires UN staff to use detours resulting in additional travel time and transportation costs, particularly affecting those agencies functioning from, or providing assistance to beneficiaries living in East Jerusalem or in rural areas between the Barrier and the Green Line (the 'Seam Zone').

Gaza

Of the total number of access incidents reported in 2011, 78 (13 in July) occurred at the Erez Crossing, including four incidents involving strip searches.



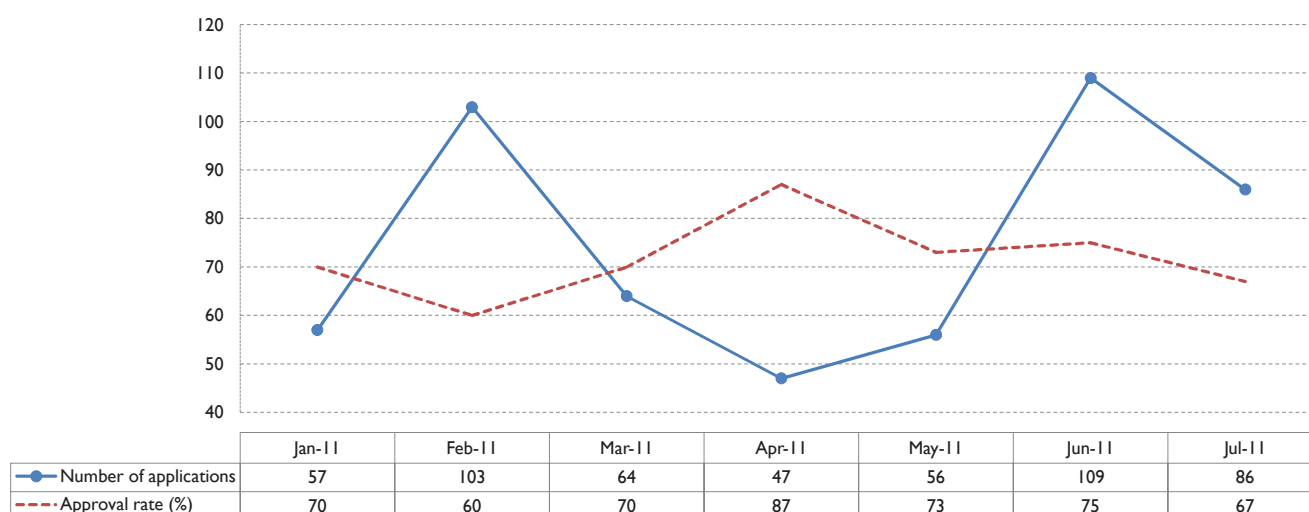
Type of constraint	Description of constraint	Number of checkpoints
Prior coordination	Checkpoints where prior coordination or permits are required to cross. These include access to some vulnerable seam zone communities.	12
Searches	Checkpoints run by the Israeli Crossing Point Administration, where vehicles are searched unless a Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) card holder is present. Staff without MFA cards are expected to undergo personal searches, a policy that affects all UN national staff and some international staff.	7
'Back to back' procedure	Commercial crossings only. The UN is coming under increasing pressure to use these checkpoints for the transfer of goods. This requires prior coordination, vehicle searches and 'back to back' transfers.	2
Security concern	A checkpoint where UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) have advised staff to avoid due to security issues.	1
Banned	Only available to IDF and settlers	1
Total		23

This month UN agencies submitted 86 permit requests for national staff members to enter or exit the Gaza Strip via Erez, of which 58 (67 percent) were approved, two were denied and the remaining 26 were delayed, resulting in them missing their planned trip. All the requests denied and delayed were submitted on behalf of staff members with Gazan IDs. Overall, the rate of approval in July is lower than the monthly average rate during the first six months of 2011 - 72 percent – as well as the average rate in the first six months of 2010 before the Israeli announcement on the easing of the blockade, which stood at 76 percent. This is despite

the commitment made by the Israeli authorities in that announcement to 'streamline the movement of employees of humanitarian aid organizations'.

International NGOs are also facing difficulties in obtaining permits for their national and international staff to enter and exit Gaza. Some staff have been waiting since March for permits to enter Gaza. Of the requests facilitated by OCHA, the average approval time was 19 days. However, generally the average time for permits to be approved is 27 days.

Gaza Entry/Exit Permit Requests



Endnotes

1. An additional 127 people, including 81 children, were displaced due to settler violence in Ramallah governorate (al-Baqa'a).
2. At least 12 communities have pending stop-building and demolition orders, eight have eviction orders, and four have evacuation orders.
3. In the 1980s, all structures in Wadi Abu Hindi were issued with demolition orders by the ICA. Since that time, there has been a succession of eviction notices and demolition orders until complete destruction in 1997. The case was taken to the Israeli High Court and the community's possessions were reinstated on the same area of land. In 2009, orders were issued to Wadi Abu Hindi informing them that the route of the wall had been changed and would pass through the centre of the community. Whilst the case is pending in court, orders reminding the community that the land has been confiscated for the re-routing of the Wall are issued yearly. Between February and May 2011, structures in the community have again been issued with stop-building/demolition orders by the ICA.
4. The reasons cited by the settlers for requesting the demolition are: the school is built within the mater plan for the Kfar Adumim expansion, the school is less than 100 metres from Highway 1 in breach of an order of 1996, and the school is built on state land without a permit.
5. Tom Perry, "Palestinians fear for ancient West Bank water source," *Reuters* (Rashayida, West Bank), 28 July 2011.
6. B'Tselem and Bimkom, *The establishment and expansion plans of the Ma'ale Adumim settlement: Spatial and human rights implications*, December 2009, p. 4.
7. Add reference to articles I Geneva Convention.
8. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Art. 8 states: "1. Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture. 2. States shall provide effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for: (a) Any action which has the aim or effect of depriving them of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities; (b) Any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources; (c) Any form of forced population transfer which has the aim or effect of violating or undermining any of their rights; ..."
9. Jericho, Dura, Bethlehem and Hebron
10. Ministry of Agriculture, May 2011
11. The Ministry of Agriculture estimated the 2010-2011 cereal production at 30,400 MT, vs. 50,500 MT on average since 2007. This is equivalent to 60% of the average historical production.
12. WASH Cluster, April 2011
13. OCHA, July 2011
14. B'Tselem, *Dispossession & Exploitation: Israel's policy in the Jordan Valley and northern Dead Sea*, (May 2011).
15. *Ibid.*
16. For regular monitoring on the lack of enforcement, see the website of Yesh Din, <http://www.yesh-din.org>. For background, see Yesh Din, *A Semblance of Law, Law Enforcement upon Israeli Civilians in the West Bank*, 2006, and OCHA, *Unprotected: Israeli Settler Violence against Palestinian Civilians and their Property*, December 2008.
17. Yesh Din 2005 – 2010 Data Sheet. Available at: http://www.yesh-din.org/userfiles/file/datasheets/YESH%20DIN_Eng.pdf
18. Data provided by the Israel/OPT Working Group on Grave Violations against Children
19. OCHA, West Bank Movement and Update, Jordan Valley Section, upcoming in September 2011.
20. Knesset Research and Information Centre, *The Education System in East Jerusalem: Classrooms and Curricula*, May 2000, cited in ACRI, *Ir Amim, Failed Grade*, p. 6. 'More than a quarter of all of the nonstandard classrooms (188 of 647) are defined as classrooms in an 'unsuitable condition,' about one fifth (157) are defined as being in a 'fair condition' and only 155 are in a 'suitable condition'; another 147 nonstandard classrooms operate in rooms intended to be 'appendix rooms.' *Ibid.*
21. *Ibid.*
22. ACRI, *Ir Amim, Failed Grade: Palestinian Education System in East Jerusalem 2010*, August 2010, p. 2. The lower estimate is from the Knesset Education Committee, the higher number from the Jerusalem Municipality.
23. Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), *Human Rights in East Jerusalem: Facts and Figures*, May 2010, p. 48, citing Jerusalem Municipality data. The corresponding dropout rate for Jerusalem's Jewish sector is 7.4 percent. The drop-out rate, as defined by the municipality, is determined by a pupil being absent from school

for a specified number of days. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the drop-out rate for boys in *Waqf* schools in East Jerusalem is 6.5 percent compared with 2.8 percent in Ramallah. <http://www.acri.org.il/pdf/eastjer2010.pdf>

24. The optimum ratio is 30 students per classroom for basic and 35 for secondary according to government standards
25. For example, less than 60 percent of students attending PA schools have passed their grade four Arabic exam, and less than 50 percent have passed their grade four Math examination .

Also see *Psychosocial assessment of education in Gaza and recommendations for response*, Columbia Group for Children in Adversity and UNESCO, 2010

26. Article 50, 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and Article 13 of International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
27. Article 53, Fourth Geneva Convention
28. Article 52 of the Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency

for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), Al Haq, Badil, Save the Children (UK), Defence for Children International – Palestine Section (DCI-PS), Oxfam GB, Palestine Hydrology Group (PHG), Campaign for the Right to Enter, Action Against Hunger (ACF),

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Annex: Monthly Indicator Tables

Conflict-related casualties and violence¹

Direct Israeli-Palestinian conflict related casualties	2010							2011						
	Total 2010	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Palestinian deaths														
Gaza	72	5	2	11	3	3	13	3	5	15	23	3	2	3
West Bank	15	1	0	3	3	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	87	6	2	14	6	3	13	10	5	15	23	4	2	4
Of whom are civilians ²	35	3	0	9	1	0	2	8	1	6	9	3	2	2
Of whom are female	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Palestinian injuries														
Gaza	286	44	8	15	24	26	38	12	45	55	64	106	1	29
West Bank	1260	41	38	133	123	61	67	131	89	149	129	291	158	138
Total	1549	85	46	148	147	87	105	143	134	204	194	397	159	35
Of whom are civilians	1510	80	44	147	147	87	93	143	121	196	187	397	159	164
Of whom are female	126	4	4	2	23	13	12	16	3	11	9	41	3	18
Israeli deaths														
Israel, Gaza and West Bank	9	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0
Of whom are civilians	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0
Of whom are female	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Israeli injuries														
Israel, Gaza and West Bank	195	0	11	12	5	7	5	5	3	13	10	36	9	3
Of whom are civilians	62	0	1	7	2	4	1	1	0	5	7	7	6	2
Of whom are female	15	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Tunnel-related casualties ³	2010							2011						
	Total 2010	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Deaths	46	1	3	4	3	2	1	3	0	8	0	3	2	3
Injuries	89	9	0	20	3	2	2	8	6	10	1	1	1	5

Israeli-settler related incidents resulting in casualties or property damage	2010							2011						
	Total 2010	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Incidents leading to Palestinian casualties ⁴	79	5	6	4	13	2	3	8	4	22	13	9	8	5
Incidents leading to Palestinian property/land damages	219	17	15	19	47	11	16	21	17	55	17	20	23	17
Incidents leading to Israeli Casualties	32	1	1	4	1	2	0	1	0	1	3	3	3	1
Incidents leading to Israeli Property/land damages ⁵	83	1	1	8	7	15	4	0	1	3	2	3	0	1

Civilian Palestinians killed or injured by unexploded ordnance in Gaza		2010	2011						
		Total 2010	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Palestinians killed	Adults	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Children	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palestinians injured	Adults	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Children	8	4	1	0	0	3	1	0

Source: United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Search and Arrest

	2010							2011						
	2010 Monthly Average	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Search Campaigns (West Bank)	397	366	376	330	453	281	385	393	387	381	454	355	302	464
Palestinians detained (West Bank)	275	150	215	308	245	183	175	274	305	320	258	366	276	269

Source: OCHA


Palestinians under Israeli custody (occupation related)⁶

	2010							2011						
	2010 Monthly Average	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Total as of the end of the month	6219	6157	6011	5936	5847	5741	5672	5642	5550	NA	5352	5335	NA	5398
of whom are women	31	32	32	30	30	33	33	30	31	NA	31	29	NA	29
of whom are administrative detainees ⁷	218	199	189	212	213	205	204	219	214	NA	219	228	NA	243
of whom are detained until the conclusion of legal proceedings	940	850	806	781	737	719	683	621	632	NA	657	630	NA	621

Source: Israeli Prison Service (through B'Tselem)


Demolition of Structures

Structures demolished⁸



	2010							2011						
	Total 2010	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Total West Bank	439	143	49	8	25	34	84	29	69	78	16	29	131	31
of which in Area C	357	130	48	1	23	17	62	20	68	77	16	27	130	29
of which in East Jerusalem	82	13	1	7	2	17	22	9	1	1	0	2	1	2

People Displaced due to demolitions or evictions⁹



	2010							2011						
	Total 2010	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Total West Bank	606	166	55	0	39	53	139	70	105	158	0	134	219	66
of whom were displaced in Area C	478	141	40	0	39	38	85	55	98	154	0	127	218	42
of whom were displaced in East Jerusalem	128	25	15	0	0	15	54	15	7	4	0	7	0	24

Source: Displacement Working Group

Child Protection

Number of Palestinian children killed - direct conflict

	2010							2011						
	Total 2010	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
West Bank	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gaza Strip	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	0

Number of Palestinian children injured - direct conflict

West Bank	282	11	15	26	24	31	5	15	30	37	45	73	19	17
Gaza Strip	50	10	0	0	5	5	7	1	12	20	17	33	0	6

Number of Israeli children killed - direct conflict

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

Number of Israeli children injured - direct conflict

oPt	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Israel	0	0	0	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	289 (mon ave)	284	286	269	256	228	213	221	216	NA	217	211	209	201
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Number of Palestinian children displaced by demolitions

West Bank	297	89	28	0	24	33	59	40	104	63	0	17	131	41
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Number of incidents resulting in the disruption of schools¹⁹

oPt	24	1	0	3	2	1	3	7	5	7	10	5	1	na
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Source: OCHA, DWG, Defence for Children International, Israel Palestine Working Group on grave violations affecting children in armed conflict

Access

Internal West Bank movement obstacles

	2010							2011						
	2010 Monthly Average	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Permanently staffed checkpoints (not including Barrier Checkpoints)	71	64	64	64	64	65	64	64	63	63	63	63	63	62
Barrier checkpoint	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	35	35	35	35	35	35	34
Partially staffed checkpoints ¹²	21	25	25	25	23	23	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	25
Unstaffed obstacles ¹³	519	416	420	420	424	425	426	428	427	429	429	429	429	436
Total	611	505	509	509	511	513	514	551	550	552	552	552	552	523
Flying Checkpoints ¹⁴	414	402	190	758	421	414	513	366	503	454	665	523	477	469

Source: OCHA

Access to healthcare - Gaza

	2010							2011						
	2010 Monthly Average	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Applications for permits to leave Gaza through Erez Crossing ¹⁵	970	947	919	626	976	821	895	935	899	975	825	1076	951	978
of which approved	757	789	770	532	744	650	690	744	784	744	746	982	843	886
of which denied	54	95	87	14	21	17	15	22	21	21	19	22	26	33
of which delayed ¹⁶	158	63	62	80	211	154	190	169	94	211	79	68	82	59

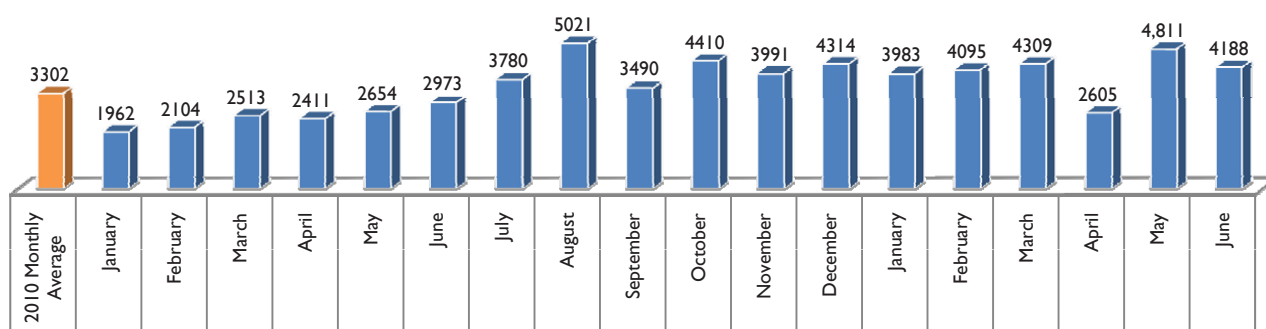
Source: WHO

Movement of humanitarian staff, West Bank

	2010							2011						
	2010 Monthly Average	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Incidents of delayed or denied access at WB checkpoint ¹⁷	44	44	38	41	38	25	60	44	31	31	40	52	53	38
Of which occurred at Jerusalem checkpoint	32	35	26	25	23	14	40	40	22	20	20	36	38	na
Number of staff days lost due to checkpoint incidents	29	18	14	18	31	26	54	60	29	18	14	29	23	na










Source: OCHA

Truckloads of goods entering Gaza from Israel



Source: Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, Gaza

Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP): CAP 2010 and 2011 funding status as of 19 July 2011

Cluster	CAP 2010		CAP 2011	
	Total request in million \$	% of funds received	Total request in million \$	% of funds received
 Agriculture	46.6	24%	39.5	30%
 Cash for Work and Cash Assistance	193	35%	143.8	23%
 Coordination and Support Services	23.3	95%	20.1	35%
 Education	24	17%	16.4	28%
 Food Security	183.2	65%	204.0	31%
 Health and Nutrition	22.4	83%	21.1	44%
 Protection	55.4	55%	39.8	68%
 Shelter and Non-food items	17	62%	21.6	35%
 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	38.6	40%	33.8	27%
Total	603.4	55%	536.4	39%

Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS)

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.