











UNITED NATIONS
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
occupied Palestinian territory

AREA C OF THE WEST BANK KEY HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS UPDATE AUGUST 2014

KEY FACTS

-  Over 60 percent of the West Bank is considered Area C, where Israel retains near exclusive control, including over law enforcement, planning and construction.
-  An estimated 300,000 Palestinians live in Area C in about 530 residential areas, 241 of which are located entirely in Area C.
-  Some 341,000 Israeli settlers live in some 135 settlements and about 100 outposts in Area C, in contravention of international law; the settlements' municipal area (the area available for their expansion) is nine times larger than their current fenced/patrolled area.
-  70% of Area C is included within the boundaries of the regional councils of Israeli settlements (as distinct from the municipal boundaries) and is off-limits for Palestinian use and development.
-  Palestinian construction in 29% of Area C is heavily restricted; only approximately 1% of Area C has been planned for Palestinian development.
-  6,200 Palestinians reside in 38 communities located in parts of Area C that have been designated as "firing zones" for military training, increasing their vulnerabilities and risk of displacement.
-  In 2013, 565 Palestinian-owned structures in Area C, including 208 residential structures, were demolished due to lack of Israeli-issued permits, displacing 805 people, almost half of them children.
-  More than 70% of communities located entirely or mostly in Area C are not connected to the water network and rely on tankered water at vastly increased cost; water consumption in some of these communities is as low as 20 litres per capita per day, one-fifth of the WHO's recommendation.

1. **Most of Area C has been allocated for the benefit of Israeli settlements, which receive preferential treatment at the expense of Palestinian communities,** including with regard to access to land and resources, planning, construction, development of infrastructure, and law enforcement.
2. **Palestinian movement in Area C is controlled and restricted by a complex system of physical and administrative means.** These include the Barrier, checkpoints, roadblocks, and a permit system, which undermine livelihoods and access to basic services, as well as the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver assistance.
3. **The lack of an appropriate planning and zoning system in Area C means that most Palestinians cannot obtain permits for construction or rehabilitation of homes, animal shelters, or essential infrastructure.** Structures, including homes, built without permits are routinely demolished and families forcibly evicted.
4. 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 posttraumatic stress disorder.
5. 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.