

Humanitarian Bulletin

occupied Palestinian territory

JUNE 2016



HIGHLIGHTS

- Over half of Gaza's seashore is severely polluted and unsuitable for swimming due to the shortage of adequate sanitation infrastructure.
- All the health facilities in Gaza damaged or destroyed during the 2014 hostilities have been rehabilitated, with the exception of a totally-destroyed hospital lacking the necessary funding.
- Living conditions in a Jerusalem suburb, Az Za'ayem, deteriorated due to the Barrier and related access restrictions, triggering significant displacement.
- Over 62,000 dunums were ratified as "state land" in 2015, the largest total since 2005; this is a step prior to the allocation of land for settlement expansion.



A mother and son in the orthopedic department at Al-Shifa hospital, Gaza City, October 2015.

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Overview

The precarious living conditions in Gaza increase the danger of a new escalation of hostilities – UN Secretary General

Between 7 July and 26 August 2014, the Gaza Strip experienced the deadliest and most devastating round of hostilities since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967. Two years on, most people and institutions are still struggling to cope with their immense losses. The seven weeks of conflict worsened an already poor humanitarian situation driven by the years-long Israeli blockade and aggravated by the internal Palestinian divide, both of which still remain in place today.

This Humanitarian Bulletin highlights some of the challenges faced by the health system in Gaza; in addition to the enormous regular caseload, approximately 900 people injured during the 2014 war require care for some form of permanent disability, and facilities that were destroyed or damaged are awaiting full rehabilitation. In the Shifa hospital alone, there are currently more than 3,800 patients waiting for surgery, some scheduled for as far in advance as 2018, generating frustration, unnecessary pain and risks associated with delayed care.

Another issue of concern in the Gaza Strip is the lack of adequate sanitation infrastructure, which, compounded by the severe electricity shortage, has resulted in the daily discharge of around 90 million litres of untreated or partially treated sewage into the sea. The contamination of seawater poses a serious health risk, particularly for those using beaches for recreation or consuming seafood obtained from the areas most affected. The precarious infrastructure also generates a constant threat of sewage flooding in areas adjacent to reservoirs and pumping stations, as occurred last May.

During his visit to Gaza on 28 June, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, reiterated his call to Israel to lift the blockade and to the Palestinian leadership to end the internal political divide. While addressing the fragile humanitarian situation he emphasized that "[t]his situation cannot continue. It feeds anger and despair. It increases the danger of a new escalation of hostilities, which can only bring further suffering to the people of Gaza."

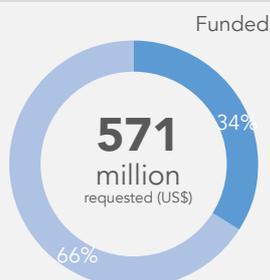
JUNE FIGURES

Palestinian killed (direct conflict)	6
Palestinian injured (direct conflict)	167
Israelis killed (direct conflict)	5
Israelis injured (direct conflict)	30
Structures demolished in the West Bank	16
People displaced in the West Bank	56

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2016

571 million
requested (US\$)

34% funded



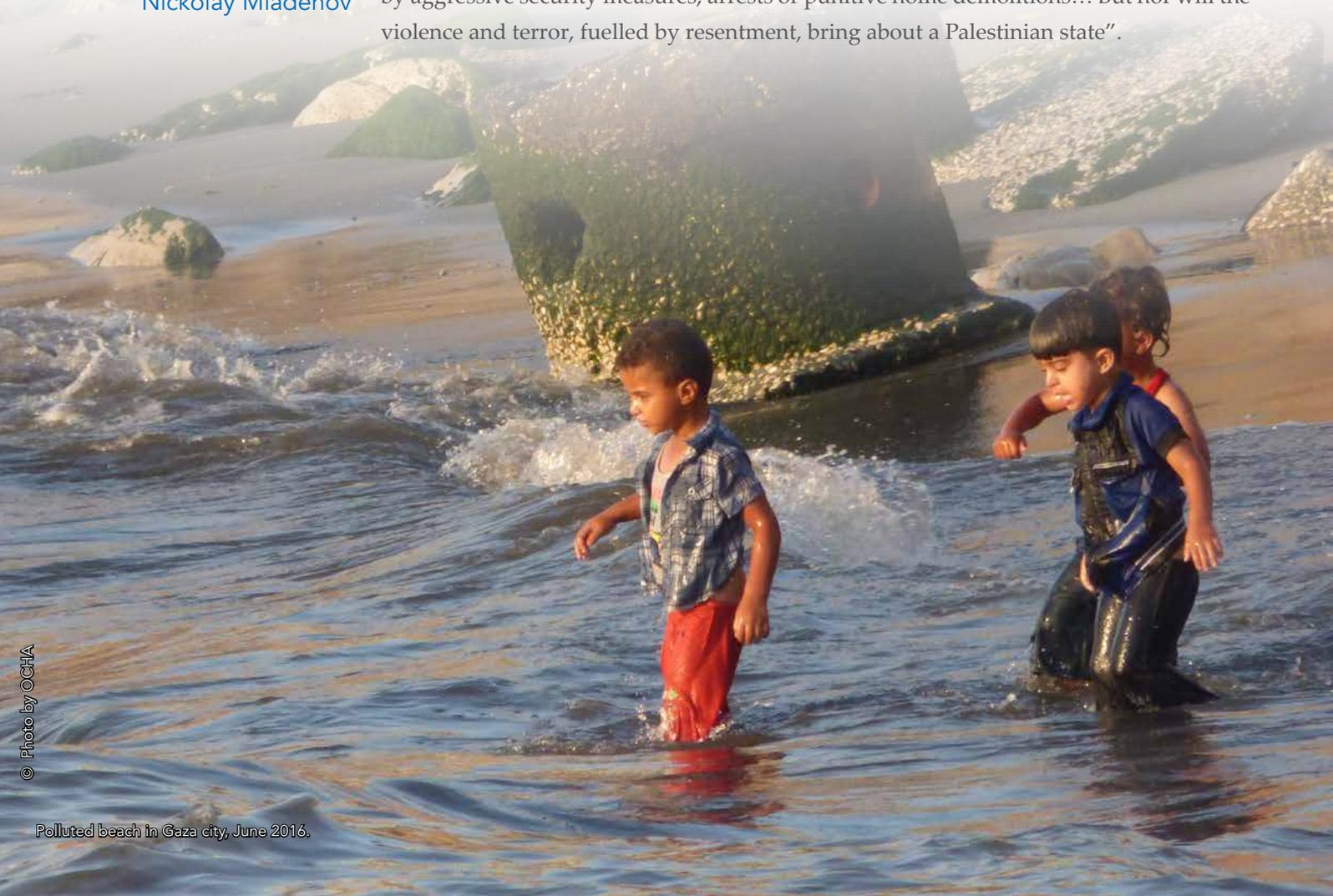
The potential for fresh escalation of violence also exists in the West Bank and Israel, despite a significant decline in attacks and clashes during the second quarter of 2016. This was illustrated in a widely condemned attack perpetrated by two Palestinians on 8 June in a commercial centre in Tel Aviv in which three Israelis were killed. In its wake, the Israeli authorities cancelled over 83,000 permits issued previously for the month of Ramadan, mostly for family visits in East Jerusalem and Israel; the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that this measure may amount to collective punishment. However, the earlier announcement that permit requirements would be waived for West Bank Palestinian males aged above 45 and below 12, and females of all ages, was maintained, allowing tens of thousands to access East Jerusalem for the traditional Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Access restrictions and settlement expansion have been among the main drivers of humanitarian vulnerability and a source of frustration among West Bank Palestinians. This Bulletin addresses the situation in a Palestinian suburb of East Jerusalem, Az Za'ayem, as a result of the erection of the Barrier in 2005 and the recent closure of a main road connecting the village to the city. These measures have forced some 240 families to leave for areas with better access to services and livelihoods. Another article analyses official Israeli data for 2015 indicating a sharp increase in the ratification of "state land" declarations, which is a step that paves the way for the allocation of land for settlement expansion or for the retroactive "legalization" of unauthorized outposts.

In his briefing to the Security Council on 30 June, the UN Special Coordinator Nickolay Mladenov stated: "Palestinian frustration cannot be washed away; it cannot be vanquished by aggressive security measures, arrests or punitive home demolitions... But nor will the violence and terror, fuelled by resentment, bring about a Palestinian state".

"Palestinian frustration cannot be washed away ... But nor will the violence and terror, fuelled by resentment, bring about a Palestinian state".

UN Special Coordinator
Nickolay Mladenov



Polluted beach in Gaza city, June 2016.

Gaza: shortage of sanitation infrastructure raises health and environmental concerns

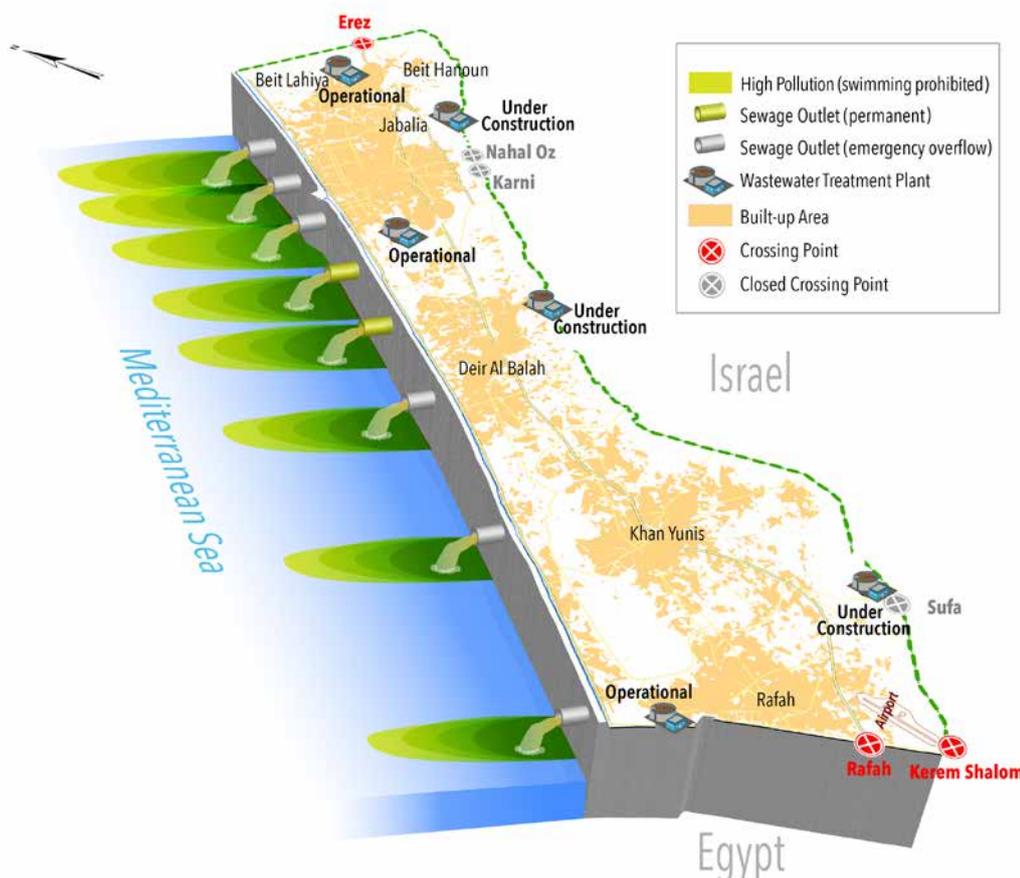
In recent years, the longstanding shortage of adequate sanitation infrastructure in the Gaza Strip has resulted in the discharge of around 90 million litres of untreated or partially treated sewage into the sea every day, posing serious health and environmental hazards. Development of water and sanitation infrastructure has been severely impacted by the import restrictions imposed by Israel in its nine-year blockade of the Gaza Strip. At present, as many as 23 WASH items such as pumps, drilling equipment and disinfectant chemicals are on the Israeli “dual use” list, meaning that entry of such items to Gaza is severely restricted.

This situation is compounded whenever there is a reduction in the already limited electricity supply, which further impacts the quality of the sewage being released into the sea. Reductions in the electricity supply occurred extensively during April and May 2016 when the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) was shut down or operating minimally due to a shortage of fuel needed to run the plant, triggering up to 20 hours of blackout a day.¹

The capacity of the Energy Authority in Gaza to purchase fuel to run the plant has been undermined since the beginning of 2016 following a change in the arrangement with the Ramallah-based Ministry of Finance to provide the GPP with a full exemption on fuel taxes. The scope of this tax exemption has been gradually reduced since January, significantly increasing the cost of fuel.

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Gaza Strip: Seawater Pollution June 2016



Seawater contamination and flooding risk

The contamination of seawater poses a serious health risk to those using beaches as recreational sites, particularly during the summer, and to those consuming seafood obtained from the areas most affected. A recent joint assessment by the Environment Quality Authority, the Civil Defence and the Ministry of Health in Gaza indicated that 52 per cent of the Gaza seashore is severely polluted and unsuitable for swimming, including nearly 90 per cent of the shore in Gaza City.

The precarious nature of existing facilities and power shortages also generates a constant threat of sewage flooding in areas adjacent to reservoirs and pumping stations. This threat materialized on 4 May 2016, when one of the retention walls of a sewage lagoon in Gaza City's treatment plant collapsed following a prolonged power cut, releasing 15,000 cubic meters of raw sewage into a nearby farming area. Some 67 dunums of land planted with fruit trees were damaged as a result, with losses estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture at nearly US\$150,000.

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In another instance, on 13 November 2013, one of the main wastewater pumping stations in Gaza City (which handled 60 per cent of the city's sewage) failed due to a lack of both electricity and fuel to operate backup generators. Over 35,000 cubic meters of raw sewage were discharged over a large area in the neighbourhood of Az-Zeitoun, affecting some 3,000 people.

Current and planned wastewater infrastructure

The Gaza Strip currently relies on four wastewater treatment plants that are working beyond their capacity and/or were constructed as temporary installations. The enormous capacity gaps, which are constantly increasing alongside population growth, are expected to be filled by three new treatment plants (in northern Gaza, Gaza City and Khan Yunis). The completion of these plants has been delayed for several years due to a combination of restrictions, including delays in construction permits and the entry of materials, plus shortages in energy capacity.

As a result of the severe electricity shortages, wastewater service providers (including the plants) rely heavily on back-up generators. However, this coping mechanism is constantly challenged by a lack of fuel, overuse, and impediments to the procurement of additional generators and spare parts classified as dual-use items. Part of the fuel needed to run generators is supplied via a multi-donor-funded emergency program coordinated by OCHA.

The effective treatment of wastewater will not only prevent seawater pollution but will also allow for the re-use of treated water for irrigation. This would contribute significantly to the preservation of the groundwater aquifer, which has been depleted to over-extraction, including by the agricultural sector.

Gaza two years on – the impact of the 2014 hostilities on the health sector

In early July 2014, the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that Gaza's struggling health sector was near to collapse due to the severe shortages of medicines, medical disposables and fuel, and the lack of capacity to expand services to meet population needs. In the days and weeks following that warning, the health sector was confronted with over 11,200 injuries, among them more than 3,800 children, which is the highest number of injuries for such period of time it had ever faced. The challenge to the health system posed by the 2014 hostilities has extended into the present; approximately 900 of those injured sustained some form of permanent disability and require continued attention, while a significant part of the health infrastructure was damaged.

For 51 days, Gaza's main hospital, Shifa, was overwhelmed with thousands of Palestinian civilians brought to its emergency room with injuries, many of them suffering from severe trauma. "It was a difficult experience for both the victims and for the medical staff," stated Dr. Mahmoud Matar, an orthopedic surgeon who is also the head of the limb reconstruction unit at Shifa. "The number and type of casualties were a great challenge. At first, it was life-saving issues, then treatment to prevent disabilities." About two-thirds of all orthopedic injuries treated at Shifa resulted in disability and required rehabilitation: some patients had amputations of upper limbs or lost one or both legs.

"Some patients are still suffering two years after their injury and need ongoing care. Many others are still waiting for prosthetic limbs. The state of prosthetics in Gaza is still very precarious," said Dr. Matar. Most patients need to be referred outside of Gaza, especially those who lost upper limbs. Those who need continuous treatment visit local hospitals and can be referred to Shifa's eight-month-old Complex Fractures Unit for more



*This article was contributed
by the World Health
Organization (WHO)*

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A mother and son in the orthopedic department at Al-Shifa hospital, Gaza City, October 2015.

advanced care and procedures. Referrals to Shifa were necessary after al-Wafa hospital, Gaza's only rehabilitation hospital, was completely destroyed in an airstrike in 2014. The International Committee of the Red Cross has provided important multidisciplinary support for the care and rehabilitation of amputees through the Artificial Limbs and Polio Center, in cooperation with the Gaza municipality.

The conflict also had a major impact on the mental wellbeing of the population. The WHO estimates that 20 per cent of the population (360,000 people) in Gaza may have suffered mental disorders and require some form of mental health support or psychosocial intervention.

The blockade, which limits outside training opportunities, and the internal Palestinian divide, which has left public employees without regular salaries have contributed to the long backlog for surgeries.

The lengthening health care queue

As of June 2016, Shifa hospital had 3,839 registered patients waiting for scheduled operations: 60 per cent are classified as major surgeries of long duration, 35 per cent moderate, and five per cent minor surgeries. Surgical appointments are being scheduled for as far away as 2018.

The long waiting lists have left many frustrated, sometimes in unnecessary pain and facing health risks associated with delayed care. For example, an operation for a woman whose thyroid gland was enlarged with a benign mass was recently scheduled for one year's time although she was in distress and her speech was disturbed. Some patients resort to asking health personnel for favours in scheduling appointments based on their personal connections.

Shortages in skilled personnel for operating room teams, especially anesthesiologists, surgical nurses and technicians, are the main reason for the backlog. This situation is partially a result of the blockade, which limits outside training opportunities, and of the internal Palestinian divide, which has left public employees recruited by the de facto authorities, including health staff, without regular salaries.

Shifa hospital boasts 14 operating rooms, but currently only ten theatres are being used (five for general surgeries, one for cardiac surgery, two for emergencies and two for day procedures). The Ministry of Health was forced to downsize its open heart cardiac surgery service after one of its two specialty surgeons left Gaza. The cardiac unit in the Gaza European hospital was closed, cutting the usual Ministry caseload of 500 patients to only 250 in Shifa hospital, with the remaining heart patients now requiring referrals to outside facilities.



Reconstructing and repairing health facilities

During the hostilities, one hospital (al-Wafa in Gaza City) and three primary healthcare clinics (PHC) – Atta Habeeb, Johr al-Deek and Khuza'a – were completely destroyed, while another 18 hospitals and 60 PHCs were damaged to various degrees. To date, all of these facilities have been or are in the process of being repaired/reconstructed, with the exception of the al-Wafa hospital which requires major funding to proceed with reconstruction. With the blockade on Gaza still in place, the Temporary Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) has played a critical role in facilitating the entry of the building materials required for the rehabilitation of these facilities.

Ten PHCs were identified as requiring expansion and additional equipment to accommodate the increased number of patients and related needs (e.g. laboratory and physiotherapy services), but to date only two (al-Salam and Deir al-Balah PHCs) have received donor funding. The remaining eight (Abasan, Atatra, Hala Shawa, Sheikh Radwan, Rafah, al-Falah, Shouka and Zaytoon PCHs) face significant gaps in their ability to respond to existing health needs in their catchment areas.

Closure of Barrier checkpoint triggers hardship and displacement in a Jerusalem community

The Barrier in the Jerusalem area has transformed the geography, economy and social life of East Jerusalem and its wider metropolitan area. In the areas where it follows the Israeli-defined municipal boundary, the Barrier physically separates Palestinian communities onto either side of what had previously been only a jurisdictional division. Thus, some Jerusalem suburbs that were once closely connected to the city are now walled out, with previously flourishing residential and commercial centres closing down, and families being forced to leave to areas with better access to services and livelihoods.

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Approaching the 12th anniversary of the ICJ advisory opinion

On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The ICJ recognized that Israel 'has to face numerous indiscriminate and deadly acts of violence against its civilian population' and that it 'has the right, and indeed the duty, to respond in order to protect the life of its citizens. [However], the measures taken are bound nonetheless to remain in conformity with applicable international law.'

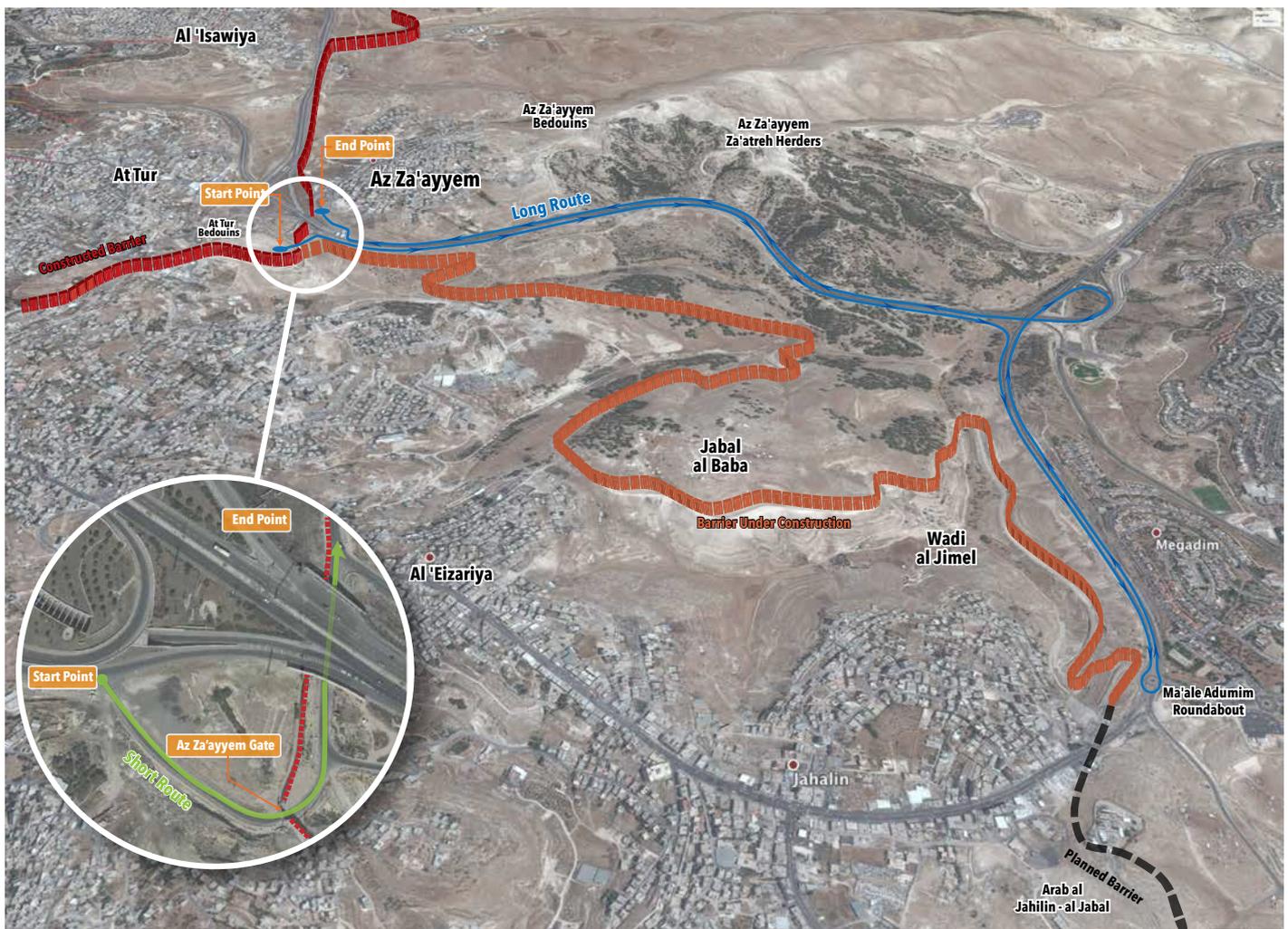
The ICJ stated that the sections of the Barrier route which ran inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, violated Israel's obligations under international law. The ICJ called on Israel to cease construction of the Barrier 'including in and around East Jerusalem'; dismantle the sections already completed; and 'repeal or render ineffective forthwith all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto'.

Whenever the gate is closed, those returning from East Jerusalem must take a 10-km detour, which increases transportation costs by up to NIS 750 a month per household.

This is the case of Az Za'ayem, a town located just outside Jerusalem's municipal boundary.³ It is estimated that over 80 per cent of its approximately 6,000 residents hold a Jerusalem ID card that, under Israeli law, entitles them to enter, work and receive services in Israel and East Jerusalem.⁴ Since September 2000, following the beginning of the Second Intifada, movement between Az Za'ayem and East Jerusalem has been gradually curtailed, culminating in 2005 with the completion of the Barrier in this area in the form of an eight metre-high wall. The resulting access restrictions were partially mitigated by a checkpoint installed on the intersection of the Barrier and the most direct route to the At Tur neighbourhood in East Jerusalem that allowed vehicular movement in one direction (from Jerusalem to Az Za'ayem) around the clock.

In March 2015, the Israeli authorities replaced the checkpoint infrastructure with a metal gate. This was totally closed for the first two weeks and then started to open twice a day: for one hour in the morning and for three hours in the afternoon. Since October 2015, following a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court, the authorities added a third opening, increasing the cumulative opening time to eight hours a day.

Routes for Entering Az-Za'ayem from Jerusalem



Short Route — 0.2 Km

Long Route — 10 Km

Whenever the gate is closed, those returning from East Jerusalem must take a 10-km detour via the entrance to Ma'ale Adumim settlement. The detour extends the journey by 15 minutes for private vehicles and 30 minutes for trucks, with an additional 30-minute delay during rush hours, and increases transportation costs by up to NIS 750 a month per household.⁵

Displacement

According to an assessment by the Az Za'ayem village council, approximately 100 families, all Jerusalem ID holders, left the village in the year following the installation of the road gate and the new access restrictions to the main route into East Jerusalem. Overall, the net outflow from the village since the beginning of the access restrictions in 2000 is estimated at 240 families or 20 per cent of the existing population.⁶

Commercial life

Depopulation resulted in an increase in the number of empty residential units and a related 30-35 percent drop in rental fees. Additionally, since April 2015, ten out of 60 shops in the village have reportedly closed down; those still operating have reported a sharp decline in revenues and an increase in transportation costs charged by their suppliers due to the long detour. The owner of a building materials workshop explained: "The closure of the gate paralyzed our commercial life. My sales dropped by 70 per cent." The owner of a car repair facility added: "I had to lay off four workers, including one of my children, because my revenue has fallen significantly."

"The closure of the gate paralyzed our commercial life. My sales dropped by 70 per cent."

Shop owner from Az Zayyem

Education

Around 400 children from Az Za'ayem who attend schools in the At Tur neighborhood in East Jerusalem now have now to take the detour when returning home outside of the opening hours of the Barrier gate. This requires them to cross a dangerous highway that has previously claimed the lives of a number of people. The closure also impedes access of children residing in At Tur and attending one of the four schools (three primary and one secondary) operating in Az Za'ayem.



Main route connecting Az Za'ayem village with East Jerusalem, May 2016.

Sharp increase in ratification of declarations of “state land”

Ratification is a preliminary stage for settlement expansion

The allocation of public land to settlements and the takeover of private land by settler groups have reduced the space available for Palestinians to sustain their livelihoods in an increasingly fragmented West Bank and have impacted on a range of human rights.⁷ Combined with the unlawful and discriminatory zoning and planning policy applied in Area C and in East Jerusalem, these settlement-related phenomena have undermined the living conditions of Palestinians and rendered them increasingly vulnerable, including to the risk of individual or mass forcible transfer.

Official Israeli data for 2015 released in May indicate that there was a sharp increase in the review and ratification of areas of the West Bank which had been declared as “state land”, mainly during the 1980s.⁸ Under Israeli regulations, ratification is a necessary step for the allocation of land for settlement expansion or for the retroactive “legalization” of unauthorized outposts.⁹ Overall, a total of over 62,000 dunums (or 15,300 acres) were ratified as state land in 2015, the largest total since 2005.

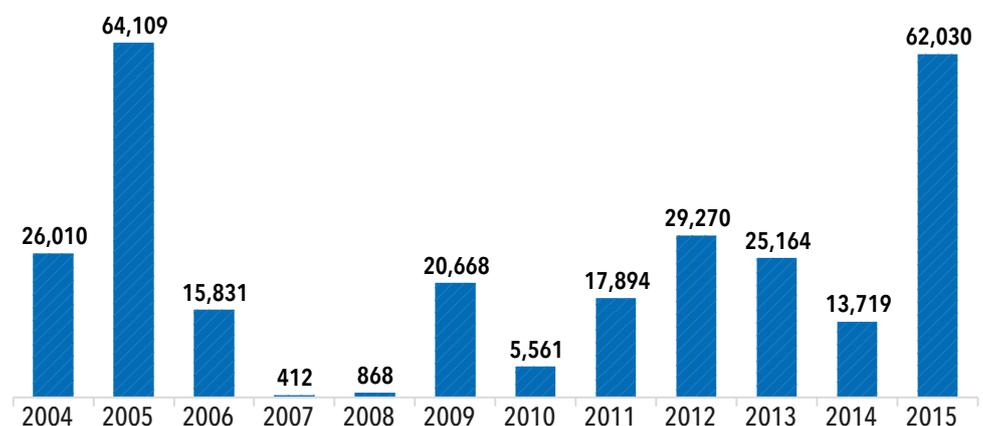
This process is conducted by an Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) body known as the Blue Line Team. While this body is not officially entitled to make new declarations of state land, in practice the revision process has resulted in a significant expansion of the areas included in the original declarations over recent years.¹⁰

Until August 2015, the Blue Line Team’s decisions were not publicly announced. Following a petition by Palestinians filed with the Israeli High Court of Justice, the Court ordered the ICA to notify residents of adjacent villages 45 days in advance of an intended ratification of a state land boundary to allow affected individuals to appeal. Human rights organizations have expressed concern that the level of technical capacity and prohibitive costs required to establish a claim against a revision of boundaries render the new procedure meaningless for most landowners affected.¹¹

“The creation of new facts on the ground through demolitions and settlement building raises questions about whether Israel’s ultimate goal is, in fact, to drive Palestinians out of certain parts of the West Bank...”

UN Secretary-General’s remarks to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 18 April 2016

AREA OF “STATE LAND” DECLARATIONS RATIFIED BY YEAR (IN DUNUMS)



Source: Israeli Civil Administration

Ratification of "state land" in firing zones

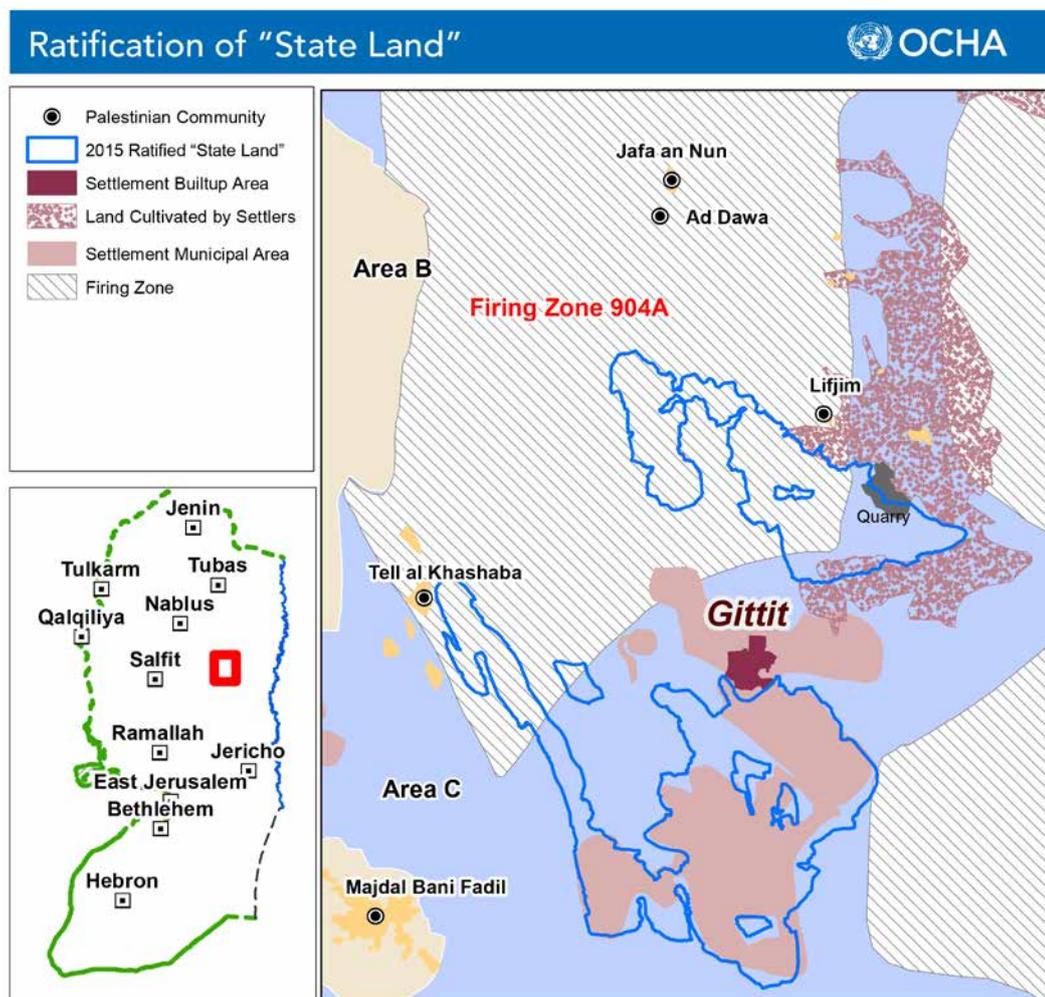
More than half of the areas ratified as state land in 2015 (some 32,500 dunums) are located in areas closed for military training ("firing zones"). Any type of construction or development within the boundaries of a firing zone is prohibited, regardless of the ownership status of the land in question (private or state land).¹² However, in a number of past cases, the Israeli authorities have redrawn the boundaries of firing zones to exclude areas subsequently allocated for settlement development.¹³

Firing zones cover approximately 18 per cent of the West Bank. More than 6,200 Palestinians currently residing in 38 herding communities located within firing zones are subjected to a range of coercive policies pushing them to leave.

One state land ratification carried out in 2015 was related to the settlement of Gitit in the central Jordan Valley. The state land ratified in this area encompasses 5,663 dunums, of which around 40 per cent are already included within the settlement's municipal boundaries, with the rest outside them. Of the latter areas, 2,355 dunums are located within "Firing zone 904A".

The potential expansion of the settlement into the ratified areas, including the reactivation of quarrying activities there, may increase the pressure on four nearby herding communities within the firing zone that are already affected by demolitions,

The potential settlement expansion into the ratified "state land" may increase the pressure on nearby herding communities, already affected by demolitions, access restrictions and severe levels of humanitarian need.



access restrictions and severe levels of humanitarian need. The closest community, Tel al Hashaba (also known as Khirbet Tweil, pop. ~250) has faced 14 demolition incidents since 2012, during which the Israeli authorities demolished 63 structures, including 25 homes, on the grounds that they were built without a permit.

In brief

Palestinian family faces imminent threat of eviction

On 30 May 2016, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected an appeal by a Palestinian family (the Kirresh family) against eviction from a home in the Old City of East Jerusalem, rented by the family for generations, and the transfer of the property to an Israeli settler organization (Ateret Cohanim). As a result, seven people, including a child, were placed at imminent risk of forced eviction. The home is part of a larger residential complex comprising nine apartments, eight of which were occupied by Israeli settlers in July 2010, causing the displacement of seven Palestinian households. Although the entire complex was reportedly sold by the original Palestinian owners to the settler organization, the remaining Palestinian family, which has rented the property since the 1930s, continues to claim a right to remain as a protected tenant.

In recent decades, Israeli settler organizations have intensified their efforts to take control of properties within Palestinian neighborhoods in the so-called 'Holy Basin' area of East Jerusalem – comprising mainly the Muslim and Christian quarters of the Old City, Silwan, Sheikh Jarrah, and At-Tur (Mount of Olives). This practice, which has taken place with the support of the Israeli authorities, has led to restrictions on public space, residential growth and freedom of movement in the areas affected. The continuous deployment of private security guards and police forces to protect the new settlements has also triggered tensions and clashes, and undermined the physical security of Palestinian residents.

Settlement activities in Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem have led to restrictions on public space, residential growth and freedom of movement in the areas affected.



Mazen Kirresh and his granddaughter, May 2016.

Significant rise in agricultural exports and transfers from Gaza

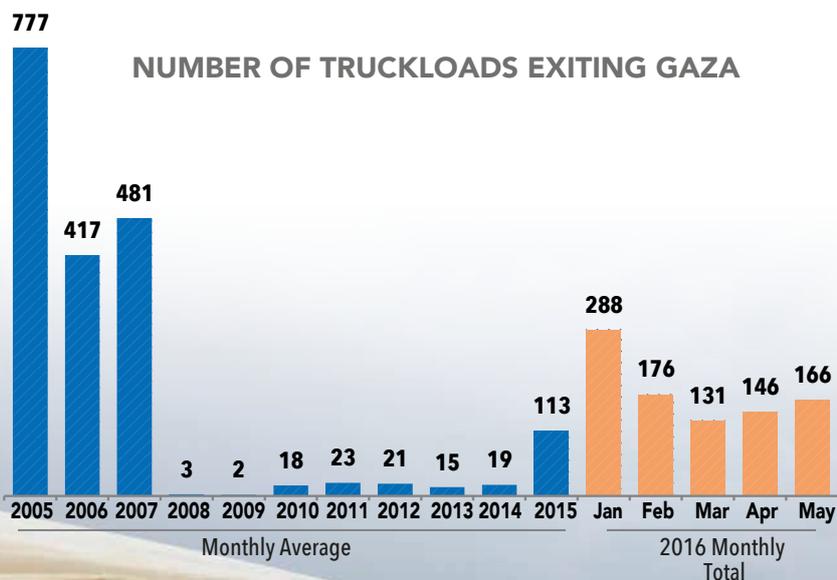
The revenue from agricultural exports and transfers from the Gaza Strip during the first half of 2016 totaled \$5.6 million, representing a three-fold increase compared with the equivalent period of 2015. Around 65 per cent of these revenues came from three types of produce: tomatoes, lemon, and cucumbers. The marketing of Gazan strawberries in the West Bank resumed in January 2016 following a ban by the Israeli authorities during the previous 12 months. Due to the late start (January as opposed to November), the volume of strawberries sold declined by 41 per cent compared with the previous season.

Agriculture accounts for 5.2 percent of the Gaza Strip's GDP and employs 6.6 percent of its workers; as such, agriculture remains a key sector of the Gazan economy. Despite the recent improvement in performance, more consistent and predictable trade arrangements for all destinations and products would allow for improved and more sustainable agricultural productivity.



*This sections was
contributed by FAO*

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Endnotes

1. In recent years the GPP has operated at about half of its capacity and produces nearly 30 per cent (60 MW) of the electricity supplied to the Gaza Strip; the remaining electricity is purchased from Israel (120 MW) and Egypt (30 MW).
2. Another 22 Palestinians died of their wounds after the ceasefire. Casualty figures were consolidated by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights on behalf of the Protection Cluster and adopted by the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014 Gaza conflict.
3. Except for a small area located inside the municipal area.
4. These residents moved to the town from the 1970s onwards in search of accessible housing close to the city's main employment, commercial and service areas.
5. Estimates submitted to the Israeli Supreme Court by petitioners against the closure.
6. This figure includes around 200 families who reportedly returned to the village between 2008 and 2015 to escape high rents in East Jerusalem.
7. Ibid, para 105.
8. Information based on a digital map provided by the Israeli Civil Administration to Dror Etkes following a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
9. The Israeli policy of declaring land as "state land" is based on a controversial interpretation of a provision in the Ottoman Land Code of 1858 that stipulates that the state may take possession of land that is not cultivated for three consecutive years. The policy includes a restrictive interpretation of what constitutes "cultivation" for the purposes of the Code, as well as a range of bureaucratic and legal hurdles undermining the ability of Palestinians to effectively challenge such land seizures.
10. Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and the Occupied Syrian Golan, Report of the Secretary-General, A/HRC/31/43, 20 January 2016, para. 21.
11. Ibid.
12. The only exception to this prohibition concerns construction by persons given the status of "permanent dwellers" of a firing zone by the ICA; this status is rarely given.
13. See, Haim Levinson, IDF Cancels Status of Firing Zone to Enable Expansion of Nearby Settlement, Ha'aretz, 8 March 2015; see also: Kerem Navot, A Locked Garden, March 2015, p. 85.