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

THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE BARRIER

JULY 2012

FAST FACTS

- The Barrier consists of concrete walls, fences, ditches, razor wire, groomed sand paths, an electronic monitoring system, patrol roads, and a buffer zone.
- The Barrier's total length (constructed and projected) is approximately 708 km, more than twice the length of the 1949 Armistice ('Green') Line, which separates Israel from the occupied West Bank.
- Approximately 62.1% of the Barrier is complete, a further 8% is under construction and 29.9% is planned but not yet constructed.
- When completed, some 85%, of the route will run inside the West Bank, rather than along the Green Line, isolating some 9.4% of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- 71 of the 150 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and over 85% of the total settler population are located on the 'Israeli' side of the Barrier's route.
- Palestinians with West Bank ID cards who are granted special permits can only enter East Jerusalem through four of the 14 Barrier checkpoints around the city.
- Around 7,500 Palestinians who reside in areas between the Green Line and the Barrier (Seam Zone), excluding East Jerusalem, require special permits to continue living in their own homes; another 23,000 will be isolated if the Barrier is completed as planned.
- There are about 150 Palestinian communities which have part of their land isolated by the Barrier and must obtain 'visitors' permits or perform 'prior coordination' to access this area.
- Access to agricultural land through the Barrier is channelled through 80 gates. The majority of these gates only open during the six weeks olive harvest season and usually only for a limited period during the day.
- During the 2011 olive harvest, about 42% of applications submitted for permits to access areas behind the Barrier were rejected citing 'security reasons' or lack of 'connection to the land.'
- Despite the presence of the Barrier, Israeli sources estimate that some 15,000 Palestinians without the required permits smuggle themselves from the West Bank to look for employment in Israel every day in 2011 (Israeli Government Special Committee).
- The UN Register of Damage (UNRoD) has to date collected over 26,000 claims for material damage caused by the construction of the Barrier in the northern West Bank.

1. Construction of the Barrier began in 2002, following a wave of suicide bombings inside Israel by West Bank Palestinians. However, **the vast majority of the Barrier's route is located within the West Bank, isolating Palestinian communities and farming land, and contributing to the fragmentation of the oPt**. The inclusion of Israeli settlements, including areas planned for their future expansion, on the 'Israeli side' of the Barrier is the single most important factor determining the route of the Barrier and its deviation from the Green Line.

2. **The Barrier has reduced the access of thousands of Palestinians living in communities located behind the Barrier to workplaces and essential services**. To continue living in their own homes and to maintain family and social relations in the rest of the West Bank they must obtain permits and pass through Barrier checkpoints. The access of service providers to these communities, including ambulances and fire brigades, has been also impaired.

3. **The agricultural livelihoods of approximately 150 communities have been severely undermined due to the permit and gate regime, which restrict their access to farmland behind the Barrier**. The majority of permit applications are regularly rejected on grounds that the farmer failed to prove his 'connection to the land' to the satisfaction of the Israeli authorities. The limited opening of the 'agricultural gates' has forced permit-holders to stop cultivation or to shift from labour-intensive to rain-fed and low-value crops.
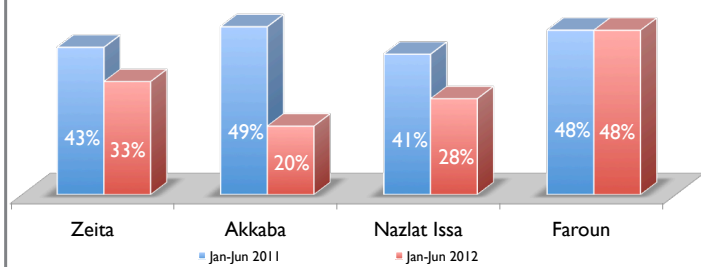
4. **The Barrier has transformed the geography, economy and social life of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, as well as the life of those residing in the wider metropolitan area**. Neighbourhoods, suburbs and families have been divided from each other and walled out from the urban centre, and rural communities separated from their land in the Jerusalem hinterland.

5. In its 2004 Advisory Opinion, **the International Court of Justice established that the sections of the Barrier which runs inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, together with the associated gate and permit regime, violate Israel's obligations under international law**. The ICJ called on Israel to cease construction of the Barrier inside the West Bank; dismantle the sections already completed; and repeal all legislative measures related to that.

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TULKARM: RATE OF APPROVALS OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Farmers who need to access their land behind the Barrier are required to apply for 'visitor permits', with many rejected for 'security reasons' or a lack of 'connection to the land'.

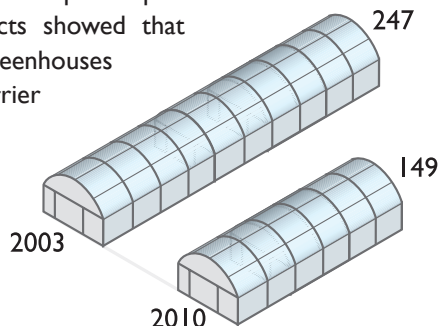|	Zeita	Akkaba	Nazlat Issa	Faroun
Jan-Jun 2011	43%	49%	41%	48%
Jan-Jun 2012	33%	20%	28%	48%

■ Jan-Jun 2011   ■ Jan-Jun 2012

THE BARTA'A ENCLAVE

Eight communities (pop. approximately 6,000) have been severed by the Barrier from their service centre in Jenin. Among other difficulties, this undermines the ability of humanitarian workers and the Palestinian Civil Defence to respond to emergencies within the enclave, due to delays in coordinating access and searches at the Barrier checkpoint.

UNDERMINING AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

A satellite survey of the Barrier's impact in part of the Tulkarm and Qalqiliya districts showed that the number of Palestinian greenhouses on the 'Israeli' side of the Barrier declined from 247 in 2003 to 149 in 2010.
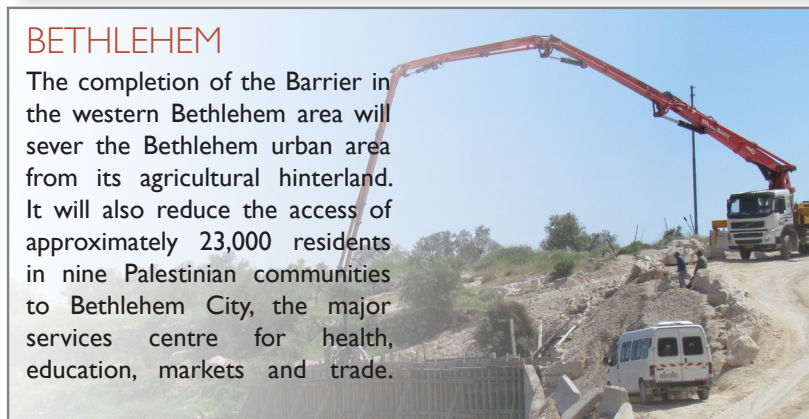
247
2003

149
2010

JERUSALEM: KAFR 'AQAB

Construction of the Barrier in the Jerusalem area has resulted in the physical separation of Palestinian neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem such as Kafr 'Aqab from the urban centre. Residents suffer from impeded access to services on the 'Jerusalem' side of the Barrier, the lack of municipal services *in situ*, a security vacuum and increasing lawlessness and crime.

BETHLEHEM

The completion of the Barrier in the western Bethlehem area will sever the Bethlehem urban area from its agricultural hinterland. It will also reduce the access of approximately 23,000 residents in nine Palestinian communities to Bethlehem City, the major services centre for health, education, markets and trade.

See video: *Walled Horizons - Narrated by Roger Waters (Pink Floyd founding member)*

West Bank

Jenin

Tubas

Tulkarm   Jubara

Qedumim Finger

Qalqiliya

Nablus

Ari'el Finger

Salfit

Bil'in

Ramallah

No Man's Land

1949 Armistice (Green Line)

Jericho

Jerusalem

Ma'ale Adumim Settlement Bloc

Bethlehem

Gush Etzion Settlement Bloc

Hebron

Jordan River

JORDAN

International Boundary

Dead Sea

1949 Armistice (Green Line)

West Bank Barrier
—— Constructed   ···· Under Construction   ···· Projected