



Protection Cluster  
Occupied Palestinian Territory

# Protection Cluster Monthly Update

November 2014

## Highlights from the Protection Cluster Working Group

### Protection Concerns

#### Gaza

- This month witnessed the first Palestinian fatality in Gaza since the end of hostilities as a result of Israeli shooting in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) on land (see ARA section below). According to PCWG figures, 1,549 of 2,257 individuals who died as a result of Operation Protective Edge have been identified as civilians, including 539 children and 306 women. In November, one child was pronounced dead due to injuries sustained during an airstrike on his family's house in Rafah on 21 July.
- According to UNMAS, two accidents from Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) took place on 11 November resulting in five injuries (three men, two boys). This brings the total number of civilian casualties from ERWs in 2014 to 45 (35 injured, 10 killed), including 13 children. The total number of victims post-July 2014 in Gaza is now 33. As rubble removal and reconstruction efforts intensify, the risk of accidents is higher.
- The International Independent Commission of Inquiry (COI), established by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate possible violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the recent conflict in Gaza, was denied access to the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) by the Israeli authorities. The COI held meetings in Jordan from 10-14 November instead. Israel's lack of cooperation with the COI reflects a pattern of non-compliance with independent investigations into human rights violations within the oPt.
- On 10 November, the UN Secretary-General established an internal and independent Board of Inquiry to review and investigate certain incidents that occurred at UN premises in Gaza during the recent conflict.
- In November, at least 17 young Palestinians were reportedly arrested while attempting to cross into Israel. According to media reports, more than 136 cases of Palestinian youth have attempted to cross to Israel since the end of hostilities.
- Heavy rains have exacerbated the humanitarian situation. Flooding in Gaza City forced approx. 50 families to evacuate their homes. Approx. 23,000 IDPs remain at 18 UNRWA Collective Centres in Gaza. Hundreds of families whose homes were damaged or destroyed have held sit-ins in front of UNRWA headquarters protesting delayed reconstruction of their homes.
- Egypt exceptionally opened Rafah crossing on 26, 27 and 30 November to allow for the return of thousands of Palestinians stranded in Egypt since the crossing was closed on 24 October. Hundreds of Palestinians were reportedly stranded in third countries, waiting to fly to Egypt to re-enter Gaza. According to OCHA, around 10,000 Palestinians, including over 1,000 patients in need of urgent treatment, are waiting to exit Gaza.
- Israeli Forces carried out one incursion, which concerned land-leveling activities.

#### West Bank

- The situation continued to be very volatile in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. After a number of alleged attacks on Israelis, the Israeli authorities stated that they would respond with a number of measures, including punitive demolitions of homes of alleged perpetrators, which had resumed in July 2014 after a five-year hiatus. Additional measures appear to be in

municipal laws in East Jerusalem and the removal of residency or family unification permits from spouses of alleged perpetrators of attacks on Israelis.

- OCHA reported that four Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and West Jerusalem. Also, 952 Palestinians, including 104 children and five women, were injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank. Of these, 708 Palestinians (74%) were reported injured during demonstrations and 117 were injured during military operations including search and arrest operations across the West Bank. Two Israeli police officers were killed and another 17 members of Israeli Forces were injured by Palestinians.
- On 5 November, a 38-year-old Israeli Border Policeman was killed and 12 Israelis injured after a 38-year-old Palestinian man from Shu'fat refugee camp ran his car into a Jerusalem light rail train station in East Jerusalem, hitting passengers leaving the train. The Palestinian was shot and killed by Israeli forces.
- On 11 November, a 21 yr old Palestinian man was shot dead during clashes in Al 'Arrub refugee camp over Al Aqsa Mosque.
- On 18 November, two men, aged 22 and 27 years, entered a synagogue in Har Nof area of West Jerusalem with knives, axes and guns, killing four Israelis and one Israeli policeman and injuring 12 Israelis and one Israeli policeman. They were killed in an exchange of fire with the Israeli police.
- Tension between Hamas and Fatah increased in the West Bank due to many arrests made by Palestinian security forces of alleged Hamas activists, particularly after a series of bombings of Fatah members' homes in Gaza on 7 November.
- 46 Palestinian homes and livelihood structures were demolished by Israeli authorities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, allegedly due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits. Of these, 33 were residential structures, displacing 102 people in Area C including 52 children; 9 structures were located in East Jerusalem, resulting in the displacement of 34 people including 18 children.

## Updates from Protection Cluster Sub-Groups

### Child Protection Working Group (CPWG)

- In November, 10 family centers provided child protection services to 750 children. Next month, 13 new family centers will be established. These centers provide child protection services, psychosocial assessment, ERW risk education and outreach to vulnerable children and families. The centers will reach 64,818 children and 18,040 caregivers over the next four months.
- Case management for the most vulnerable children has started with 15 child protection officers from three partners trained in the basic concepts of case management.
- A joint assessment by Tamer and UNICEF of displaced families in the caravan site in Khoza'a has identified more than 100 children in desperate need of proper shelter, warm clothes, child protection services and access to health services. UNICEF will make available tents and winter clothing for the children.

### Working Group on Grave Violations against Children

- The updated number of children injured during the recent hostilities in Gaza is 2,956 (1,938 boys and 1,018 girls). This data was included in the submission to the UNSC Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.



- UNICEF's Children and Armed Conflict Database Officer provided technical support to EAPPI to establish an information management system for violations documented by EAPPI field workers as part of a humanitarian emergency response project.

#### Mental Health & Psychosocial Services Working Group

- The MHPSS WG has established a new monitoring document to track psychosocial interventions. Since the start of hostilities in July 2014, 54 implementing partners have reached 737,386 children and 47,626 adults with psychological first aid and 67,960 children and 4,151 adults have been reached through structured group and individual counseling activities. Significant double counting of interventions is expected due to an overlap of data with the CPWG tracking system, which will be resolved over the coming weeks.
- Training on data entry for 5Ws matrix was conducted for members of the CPWG and MHPSS WG in Gaza to strengthen reporting on child protection and psychosocial interventions.

#### Legal Task Force (LTF)

- At the LTF meeting in Jerusalem, St Yves presented on advocacy and legal developments in relation to the High Court Case involving route of the Wall in Biet Jala. Hamoked presented on a minor positive development regarding child registration cases at district court level as well as developments about five punitive demolition cases. Members agreed to review the LTF's advocacy and legal aid strategy regarding demolitions at the next meeting due some recent developments, including the High Court erasing some petitions, the ongoing seizure of residential structures, and the threat of forcible transfer for large number of Palestinian Bedouin communities.
- On November 6, the Legal Task Force (LTF) in Gaza held its first monthly meeting since the end of hostilities. The meeting included an update by the Shelter Cluster coordinator on the most recent figures for damages and explained the damage assessment process done by UNRWA, UNDP, and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. There was also a presentation on the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM) followed by a discussion covering concerns from LTF members regarding effectiveness and viability of the GRM.

#### Access Restricted Areas (ARA) Core Group

- During October, Israeli forces continued to use enforcement measures in the ARA. On land, one Palestinian was reportedly killed and six others were injured. On 22 November, a 32 year old Palestinian farmer was shot in the back by Israeli Forces while farming near the fence in northern Gaza. On 14 and 21 November, three Palestinians were reportedly shot and injured while throwing stones at by Israeli Forces near al-Shuhadaa' cemetery in northern Gaza. On 23 November, a boy (17 yrs) from Rafah was reportedly shot in the chest and injured while with friends in al-Shouka village, southeast of Rafah. On 29 November, Israeli forces shot and injured a Palestinian (20 yrs) east of Jabalia and a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, west of Beit Lahia, both about 100 meters from the fence.
- At sea, Israeli enforcement measures continued, including the use of warning shots at Palestinian fishermen. On 9 November, Israeli naval forces reportedly opened fire at Palestinian boats off the shore of Rafah in two separate incidents; two boats were burned as a result. On 15 November Israeli naval forces reportedly opened fire at another boat off the shore Rafah, and the boat sustained severe damages. On 17 November, another boat was reportedly destroyed and sank off the shore of Rafah as a result of Israeli fire. No incidents of arrest and detention of Palestinian fishermen were reported.

#### Settler Violence Core Group (SVCG)

- At the SVCG meeting on 12 November, OHCHR reported that, 84 hotspots communities collectively identified by the SVCG were covered by 17 protective presence actors during the Olive Harvest. According to OCHA, there was a sharp decrease in

settler violence incidents affecting the olive harvest in 2014 as compared to 2013. The number of trees damaged during the harvest also radically decreased (81% reduction).

- OCHA registered 31 settler-related incidents: 17 property incidents resulted in the damage of 49 Palestinian-owned vehicles; 14 additional incidents resulted in the injury of 23 Palestinians including four children. Also, 38 incidents were reported against Israeli-settlers by Palestinians: 22 property incidents resulted in the damage of 23 settler-owned vehicles; 16 additional incidents resulted in the killing of two Israeli settlers, including a child (17 yrs) and a woman, and 29 injured.
- 10 November, a young Palestinian man stabbed three Israeli settlers near the entrance of Alon Shevut settlement. One Israeli woman (25 years) died of her wounds and two Israeli men (25 and 50 years) were wounded. According the media, the alleged perpetrator is seriously wounded and hospitalized.
- PU-AMI reported that there was a Raise of tension east of Burin, near Beit Sabe' house, Burin Village council and residents confirmed that Israeli settlers had broken 2 street lamps belonging to the village council and a wooden electricity column discovered to be cut down.

#### Advocacy Initiatives

##### Reports, outputs and events by HCT AWG and PCWG members

- The HCT Advocacy Working Group's (AWG) efforts in November focused on the risk of forcible transfer of Palestinian Bedouins; identifying joint advocacy priorities concerning the post-ceasefire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip; and evaluating AWG advocacy activities in 2014. November also saw reinvigorated advocacy on occupied East Jerusalem in response to increased tension and violence. Activities included support for the East Jerusalem Task Force (EJTF), led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, including assistance in preparing a 'snapshot' with key indicators and work on joint messages. The EJTF held three coordination meetings in November.
- Advocacy around the risk of forcible transfer for Bedouins included a series of coordinated field visits for the diplomatic community with the aim of covering all at-risk communities by January. Gaza-related advocacy included a round of consultations with Gaza-based partners to inform the strategy and action plan development process for AWG advocacy.
- WHO issued a [newsletter](#) on 26 November on persons with disabilities following the conflict.
- The UN General Assembly issued a [press release](#) on 6 November addressing issues arising from the conflict in Gaza.
- UN Special Rapporteurs issued a [joint press release](#) on 25 November on punitive demolitions.
- OHCHR published [briefing notes](#) on Israel/oPt on 18 November.
- PU-AMI, Al Haq, Yesh Din, B'Tselem, MdM, NRC & EWASH participated in lobby meetings in Brussels and Paris. Decision-makers were asked to take concrete action on issues of displacement/forcible transfer, Israeli control of Area C, Nuweimah plan, damages and demolition, settlement expansion, land access restrictions, settler violence and the ongoing blockade, accountability, and reconstruction for Gaza.
- PU-AMI published a [short video](#) of an advocacy conference held in March 2014 on settlements and settler violence.

#### Key Dates for December 2014

Gaza:	West Bank:
CPWG – 9 December	PCWG – 18 December
PCWG – 17 December	SVCG – 22 December
LTF- 11 December	

#### For additional information, please contact:

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