



Protection Cluster
Occupied Palestinian Territory

Protection Cluster Monthly Update

December 2014 and January 2015

Highlights from the Protection Cluster Working Group

Protection Concerns

Gaza

- December 2014 witnessed the most serious escalation of violence since the ceasefire agreement marking the end of the July-August hostilities. On 24 December, a member of a Palestinian armed group was reportedly killed and another injured east of Khan Younis, after an Israeli soldier was injured near the fence. There were frequent incidents of Palestinians being fired upon in the Access Restricted Areas (ARA) both on land and at sea (see the ARA section). Ten people, including six children and three women, were injured as a result of two incidents involving Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs) in Gaza City and Jabaliya on 4 and 11 December respectively. On 25 December, a 15 year old boy was pronounced dead as a result of wounds sustained on 30 July, during the July-August hostilities.
- During January, Israeli forces carried out one land-levelling incursion in the ARA on land, and continued to shoot at Palestinians in the ARA both on land and at sea (see the ARA section). Egyptian forces reportedly shot and killed one Palestinian, injured another and arrested four others. On 2 January, a 17 year-old Palestinian was reportedly shot and killed by Egyptian forces east of Rafah city while allegedly trying to cross into Egypt with three others. On 23 January, Egyptian naval forces reportedly opened fire at a Palestinian boat that crossed into Egyptian territorial waters: one Palestinian was reportedly injured and another arrested, and the boat was confiscated.
- The large-scale displacement caused by the July-August hostilities continues to raise a number of protection concerns. Approximately 11,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in UNRWA collective centres, and tens of thousands have been forced to live in crowded conditions with host families, in damaged houses, and in pre-fabricated and temporary structures. Although around 40,000 individuals had been authorized to buy construction materials – the import of which is severely restricted by Israeli authorities – through the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, less than 40% of them have actually been able to purchase materials due to lack of finances. On 27 January, UNRWA warned that it could not sustain rental subsidies and other support for IDPs due to lack of funds: some 90 families returned to collective centres fearing they would be unable to cover their rent.
- On 16 December, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected a petition submitted by [human rights organizations](#) in September 2012 against the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and other administrators with regard to the policy that has prevented Palestinian residents of Gaza who have submitted compensation claims against the Israeli military, as well as witnesses, from entering Israel to attend court hearings. This decision appears to effectively deny the complainants access to courts in Israel and to potentially result in the dismissal of their civil lawsuits.
- Rafah crossing was closed throughout December, except for three days. During 2014, Rafah crossing was closed for a total of 207 days (57% of the year). Despite Israel's apparent easing of restrictions for Palestinians exiting Gaza at Erez crossing, the current activity at the crossing remains insufficient to meet the needs of the Gaza population, severely impacting their enjoyment of a range of human rights. As of the end of 2014, around 17,000 registered people, including at least 1,000 patients in need of urgent treatment, were still waiting to exit Gaza. According to WHO, an additional 1,000 patients are unable to return to continue their treatment inside Gaza. While access to healthcare

in Egypt has provided an important alternative for Gaza patients in the past, this access has been restricted since July 2013.

West Bank

- In December 2014, two Palestinians (including a child) were killed by Israeli forces. On 16 December, a 21-year-old man was killed during an Israeli search and arrest operation in Qalandiya refugee camp. On 29 December, a 16 year-old boy was killed and another 16 year-old boy injured on the main road between Osarin and Za'tara CP. In addition, on 10 December, Palestinian Minister Ziad Abu Ein died during a confrontation between Israeli forces and demonstrators during an olive tree planting protest against illegal Israeli settlements in Turmus'aya village. During December, 326 Palestinians, including 108 children and 5 women, were injured by Israeli forces. Of these, 255 (78%) were reported injured during demonstrations and another 56 (17%) injured during military operations.
- In January 2015, two Palestinians (including a child) were killed by Israeli forces. On 14 January, a 17 year-old boy from Yatta town was shot and killed near Gush Etzion settlement. On 31 January, a 19 year-old man from Burin was shot and killed near Yitzhar settlement: another Palestinian was injured and arrested. During January, 120 Palestinians, including 36 children and 2 women, were injured by Israeli forces. Of these, 50 (42%) were reported injured during demonstrations and another 38 (32%) injured during military operations.
- During December 2014, Israeli authorities demolished 38 Palestinian homes and livelihood structures (24 structures in Area C, 14 structures in East Jerusalem), allegedly due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits. As a result, 18 people were displaced, including 9 children. In 2014, a total of 493 structures were demolished in Area C displacing 969 Palestinians, and a total of 98 structures were demolished in East Jerusalem displacing 208 Palestinians.
- During January 2015, Israeli authorities demolished 86 Palestinian homes and livelihood structures (32 residential structures), allegedly due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits. 81 structures were located in Area C (31% in Jericho district), displacing 117 people including 66 children; 5 structures were located in East Jerusalem with no displacement.
- On 27 January, the Israeli army closed the northern entrance of Ar-Ram town (East Jerusalem) with cement blocks, disrupting freedom of movement for residents and disrupting commercial activities (as Ar-Ram serves as a commercial and services centre for neighbouring villages). It is noteworthy that the Israeli army blocked the same entrance for two weeks earlier in 2014. St. Yves wrote to the Israeli military commander of the West Bank on behalf of the Ar-Ram municipality, requesting the justification of the closure and the reopening of the entrance.

Updates from Protection Cluster Sub-Groups

Child Protection Working Group

- In December 2014, the CPWG in Gaza focused on strengthening the child protection emergency response capacity, in particular through improved case management. On 9 December, a workshop on the foundations of child protection and case management principles was conducted for 15 child protection officers from three partner organizations, and a package of case management tools was piloted. On 16 December, the CPWG and GBV Working Group conducted a workshop with management-level participants from key stakeholders to determine the way forward for the roll-out of case management. By the end of December 2014, the CPWG had assisted 867,982 children and

54,510 adults since 27 August 2014 through 26 organizations and 57 implementing partners.

- In January 2015, the CPWG in Gaza continued to strengthen child protection capacity in Gaza and adherence to Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action. As part of the roll out of the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action in Gaza, the CPWG disseminated a self-assessment survey on child safeguarding to members. Based on the results of the self-assessment, the CPWG recognized a need to strengthen adherence to Standard no. 2. On 6 January, the CPWG held a workshop on child protection human resources aiming to strengthen adherence to Standard no. 2 through the development of child safeguarding measures among members of the CPWG in Gaza. Between 11 and 20 January, the CPWG and GBV Working Group conducted a joint Training of Trainers (TOT) on case management and information management. The TOT aimed to provide a common understanding of the global guidelines and to strengthen case management services for child protection and cases of gender-based violence in Gaza. Participants (including MOSA, MOEHE, national and international NGOs) committed to roll-out the training within their own agencies over the coming month(s).
- In Gaza, 23 Family Centers are currently functional, providing core child protection services, psychosocial assessment, ERW risk education and outreach to vulnerable children and families. Caregivers of children attending the centers are also targeted through awareness rising sessions on child protection and ways to support the psychosocial development of their children. 13 Family Centers managed by Ma'an Development Center are currently providing child protection services to 19,454 children (11,048 girls and 8,406 boys). Additionally, 6,020 caregivers (4,377 females and 1,643 males) have received awareness rising sessions on child protection. The remaining 10 Family Centers are managed by Tamer institute for Community Education and are serving a total of 9,387 children (4,457 girls and 4,930 boys) and 1,632 caregivers (1,302 females and 328 males).
- On 4 January 2015, UXO risk education radio spots started being broadcasted on four radio stations widely listened to in Gaza. Until February 2015, each radio station is broadcasting 5 spots a day on a staggered time schedule to ensure children and caregivers have access to these messages.

Working Group on Grave Violations against Children

- In December 2014, the WGGV focused on verifying and documenting instances of grave violations against children reported during the last quarter of 2014 for the compilation of inputs to the Global Horizontal Notes. From October to December 2014, 577 incidents related to grave violations against children were documented, affecting at least 13,722 children. This shows an overall decrease compared to the previous quarter, while the level of tension remained high in East Jerusalem as a result of clashes, search and arrest operations and demolitions.
- In January 2015, the WGGV worked on verifying and documenting instances of grave violations and on the drafting of inputs to the annual report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict. The WGGV focused on accurately documenting and reporting instances of killing and injuring, attacks on schools and hospitals, child recruitment, denial of humanitarian access, ill-treatment of children in military detention and displacement. Upon completion of the drafting and review by members of the WGGV, the inputs to the SG report will be submitted to the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict in February 2015. [See also the Legal Advice Group section below.]

MHPSS Working Group (Gaza)

- As of January 2015, the MHPSS WG reported that 75,017 children and 8,024 adults had been reached through structured group and individual counselling activities since the beginning of the escalation of hostilities in July 2014.

Legal Task Force (West Bank)

- On 15 December 2014, the family home of the man suspected of shooting Rabbi Yehuda Glick received an administrative demolition notice issued by the Jerusalem Municipality. On 19 November 2014, a punitive order had been issued for the partial demolition and partial sealing of the home's ground floor, in which the suspect lived. Following a [petition by HaMoked](#), the Israeli High Court of Justice forbade execution of the military order pending conclusion of the proceedings. A judgment has not yet been issued.
- In December 2014, following a legal intervention by HaMoked, Israeli authorities partially opened DCO checkpoint to private Palestinian traffic, after many years of claiming that this was impossible for security reasons.
- Following a statement by the Israeli Minister of Defense that that the construction of the Wall through Battir is not a priority, on 4 January 2015, the Israeli High Court of Justice issued its final ruling on the petitions against the construction of a Wall through Battir. The court removed the petitions from its docket and ordered the Ministry of Defense to inform the petitioners, the Battir Village Council and Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME), at least 60 days before it intends to resume the construction of the Battir segment of the Wall, so that they may submit new petitions.
- On 12 January 2015, the Israeli Military Commander issued "Eviction of Trespassers" military orders to 15 Bedouin households residing in the Wadi Qelt Kaabneh community, located on the Jericho periphery. Inhabitants were given 48 hours to comply. The community's lawyer filed an objection with the Israeli Civil Administration, which has confirmed that it will not execute the orders until the objections have been considered. If the objection is rejected by the ICA, it is likely that a petition will be submitted to the Israeli High Court of Justice.

Access Restricted Areas (ARA) Core Group

- During December 2014, 15 Palestinians, including four children, were reportedly injured as result of Israeli enforcement of access restrictions in the ARA on land. Fourteen were shot and injured in three separate incidents on 5, 12 and 19 December while taking part in demonstrations near the eastern cemetery east of Jabaliya on Friday, and also in one incident on 28 December near Beit Hanoun. On 26 December, a 15 year-old boy was shot and injured east of Jabaliya while trying to approach the fence. The Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights reported that the boy was arrested by Israeli forces and admitted to a hospital in Israel. Israeli Naval Forces continued restricting access of fishermen to fishing areas beyond the imposed 6NM limit by using live fire as well as detaining fishermen or confiscating their boats. One fisherman was injured and 12 others were arrested by Israeli Naval Forces. Five boats were confiscated and two others were damaged.
- In January 2015, four Palestinians were reportedly injured as result of Israeli enforcement of the ARA on land. In three incidents on 2, 16 and 23 January, four Palestinians were shot and injured while reportedly throwing stones at Israeli forces positioned along the fence, east of Jabaliya. At sea, Israeli Naval Forces shot and injured four fishermen and arrested seven others (including two children). During these incidents, two boats were destroyed on 3 and 26 January, another was damaged, and one boat was confiscated.
- Restrictions imposed by Israel on Palestinians' access to land near the fence and to the sea continue to undermine the security and livelihoods of Palestinians. These restrictions arbitrarily impede access to significant farming and fishing areas and their enforcement exposes civilians to serious physical risk.

Settler Violence Core Group

- In December 2014, OCHA registered 16 settler-related incidents affecting Palestinians: 13 incidents of property damage resulted in the damage of 50 Palestinian-owned trees and 9 Palestinian

owned-vehicles; 3 incidents resulted in the injury of 4 Palestinians. Another 23 incidents affecting Israelis were recorded: 15 incidents of property damage resulted in the damage of 13 Israeli-owned vehicles; 8 incidents resulted in the injury of 12 Israeli settlers, including 3 children.

- In January 2015, OCHA registered 25 settler-related incidents affecting Palestinians: 17 incidents of property damage resulted in the damage of 5,543 Palestinian-owned trees and saplings and 14 Palestinian-owned vehicles; 8 incidents resulted in the injury of 8 Palestinians, including 2 children. Another 17 incidents affecting Israelis were recorded: 11 incidents of property damage resulted in damage to 11 Israeli-owned vehicles; 6 incidents resulted in the injury of 10 Israeli settlers, including a child.
- On 3 January, a group of armed settlers tried to detain 5 Palestinian herders next to Itamar settlement (Nablus), sparking clashes; Israeli forces who arrived at the site fired live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas canisters at the Palestinians, injuring two of them.
- At the SVCG meeting on 22 December 2014, members debriefed on efforts during the olive harvest; Yesh Din briefed on a new project providing access to legal assistance to prevent settler violence in East Jerusalem; and OHCHR briefed on settler violence south east of the city of Hebron.

Legal Advice Group

- On 29 January 2015, the Legal Advice Group met to discuss legal aspects in relation to the inputs of the Working Group on Grave Violations against Children to the Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children in Armed Conflict for 2014. In particular, LAG members considered various legal dimensions regarding the criteria for listing of parties in the annexes to the SG's Annual Report, and its possible application to the situation in the oPt in 2014. The available guidance on the listing criteria was presented, including legal thresholds regarding the need to demonstrate a "pattern" of violations in respect of a party to a conflict. Views were exchanged on the application in the oPt of these criteria with regard to three of the four categories of grave violations for which parties may be listed, with specific references to cases presented to the LAG. These categories are: killing and maiming of children; attacks on schools and hospitals; and child recruitment. Following the LAG, UNICEF reported back to the WGGV on the discussion to help guide the formulation of inputs to the SG's Annual Report.

Protection Mainstreaming

- In January 2015, the Senior Protection Officer deployed by ProCap to support the Protection Cluster conducted two Training of Trainers workshops on protection mainstreaming in Gaza and the West Bank. The workshops targeted representatives of all clusters and sectors, focused on how to integrate protection in programmes in a practical manner, and covered technical content as well as skills for delivery. Participants committed to deliver protection trainings in the following 6 months either within their organizations or their cluster/sector.

Advocacy Initiatives

Reports, outputs and events by PCWG members

- In the West Bank, coordinated advocacy around the risk of forcible transfer for Bedouin communities continued and included a regular HCT AWG+ advocacy coordination meeting with HCT members and civil society partners. A series of coordinated field visits for the diplomatic community, led by AIDA, was also launched in December with the aim of covering all at-risk communities between December and February 2015.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator issued a public [statement](#) on 23 January calling for an immediate halt to demolitions and forced displacement in the West Bank.
- On 20 January, the Humanitarian Coordinator led a diplomatic field visit to Gaza, organized by OCHA in cooperation with

UNRWA, and with participation of Protection, WASH and Shelter cluster partners. Some 20 diplomats from 9 countries participated. The focus of the visit was winterization and the pressing needs of the thousands of displaced in Gaza. A joint HC-UNRWA [statement](#) was released following the field visit.

- In relation to the July-August 2014 escalation of hostilities in Gaza, B'Tselem released a [new report](#) on the legal and moral implications of the Israeli policy of attacking residential buildings in the Gaza Strip. Amnesty International issued a [report](#) on Israel's destruction of landmark multi-storey buildings in Gaza. Physicians for Human Rights-Israel posted the [findings](#) of an Independent Medical Fact-Finding Mission in Gaza.
- In relation to the Access Restricted Areas in Gaza, Al Mezan issued a [press release](#) on 7 December, condemning attacks by Israeli forces on land and at sea. PU-AMI published a [factsheet](#) addressing lost crops and insecurity in the ARA.
- Gisha published a [cheat sheet](#) providing figures on the impact of the Gaza closure.
- In relation to gender-based violence, UNFPA and CFTA published the final [report](#) of the GBV Sub-Working Group assessment of the conditions and rights of girls and women displaced during the escalation of hostilities in Gaza in July and August 2014. UNFPA and CFTA produced a [short film "Meramyeh"](#) presenting stories of women during the escalation of hostilities in Gaza and covering key issues in relation to GBV, such as delivery, displacement and living conditions in the shelters.
- On 14 December, the Christian Peacemaker teams issued a [statement](#) on the closure of schools in Hebron due to the use of teargas and rubber-coated bullets by Israeli forces against children.
- On 16 January, 32 international aid and development agencies sent a [public letter](#) to the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, requesting a real change in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.

Key Dates for February 2015

Gaza:

- CPWG – 23 February @ UNICEF Gaza
- PCWG – 4 February & 24 February @ OHCHR Gaza
- ARA Core Group – 17 February @ OHCHR Gaza

West Bank:

- PCWG – 26 February @ OHCHR Ramallah
- Ad hoc PCWG (East Jer) – 19 February @ OCHA Jerusalem
- SVCG – 3 February @ OHCHR Ramallah
- LTF – 23 February @ NRC Jerusalem
- WGGV – 4 February @ OHCHR Ramallah

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