

0.6 M PEOPLE VULNERABLE TO FOOD INSECURITY



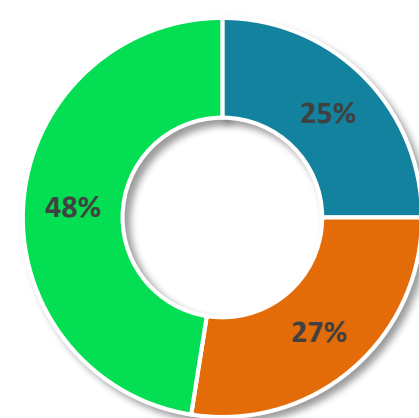
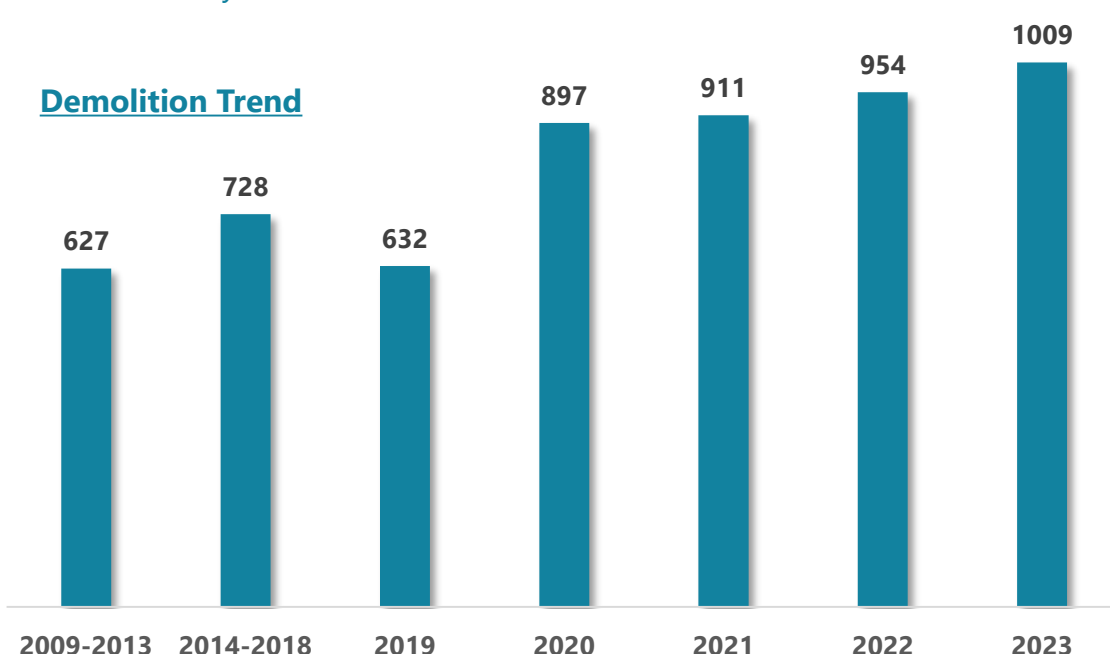
Escalating Settler Violence and Economic Disruption: A Comprehensive Overview of the Impact on Palestinian Communities in the West Bank.

The escalating settler violence and economic disruptions in the West Bank have led to new challenges with implications for poverty. The displacement, economic setbacks, and workforce reductions have pushed segments of the population into vulnerability.

Crisis Unveiled: Escalating Displacement, Economic Turmoil, and Varied Impacts on Palestinian Communities

- Increased displacement:** Since October 7, at least 143 Palestinian households have faced displacement due to settler violence and access restrictions. OCHA has documented 308 settler attacks against Palestinian homes since October 7, with a weekly average of 39 incidents during this period. This marks a notable increase from the average of 21 incidents recorded between January 1 and October 6. Between January 2023 and October 7, 753 structures have been demolished, averaging 75.3 per month. In the last two months, the average has increased to 124 monthly demolitions, with 8% of the structures related to agriculture and 13% related to livelihoods.
- Economic turmoil:** Persistent invasions disrupt economic activities, causing job losses and diminished incomes. The irregular distribution of salaries for PA employees, coupled with these economic challenges, has led to a decline in purchasing power. Urban residents may struggle to afford a diverse diet due to this economic strain, impacting food availability and prices.
- Shutdowns and economic downturn:** Nearly a third (29%) of economic establishments faced complete or partial closures, while a staggering 82.6% reported a decline in monthly performance attributed to recurrent invasions and raids. A notable 7.2% of these enterprises disclosed direct attacks, leading to damage of fixed assets or owned goods. Over 94% of establishments witnessed a substantial sales decline, exceeding 54% of their monthly sales. The impact is especially pronounced at the governorate level, with Nablus, Salfit, and Bethlehem ranking as the most affected areas, each experiencing a significant decline in sales (MoNE).
- Varied commodity sales eroded:** Industries spanning furniture, clothing, fresh meat, fruits, vegetables, cleaning materials, electrical tools, building materials, and cosmetics experienced a pronounced decline. Contrastingly, there was an uptick in sales for essential food commodities, including rice, sugar, flour, canned goods, vegetable oils, and legumes. In tandem, the report indicates that over 30% of these establishments were compelled to undergo substantial workforce reductions. Hebron, Jenin, and Salfit emerged as the most significantly affected governorates, each witnessing a noteworthy decrease in employment levels by at least 60% (MoNE).
- Workers capacity:** The inability of approximately 150,000 individuals to return to work in Israel is expected to have a far-reaching impact on the West Bank's economy. This situation is expected to push more people into poverty, impeding their capacity to meet their basic needs. The projected annual income, hovering around 3 billion USD, contributed by these workers in Israeli markets forms a substantial share (15%) of the overall national income in the West Bank. This economic setback is foreseen to erode the affected populace's purchasing power and intensify reliance on aid, presenting a formidable economic terrain fraught with concerns regarding resilience and sustainability.
- Curfew imposed in some areas:** The prolonged curfew imposed by the Israeli military on 11 neighborhoods in Area H2 in Hebron since the beginning of the war in Gaza in October, is significantly impacting food security. The closure of businesses and stores due to the curfew has confined about 750 families to their homes. Limited movement for residents on specific days and times. This disruption hinders access to work and basic needs, posing the basis for increasing food security crisis among the affected residents. The uncertainty surrounding a return to normalcy further exacerbates the challenges faced by the community.

Demolition Trend



■ Area AB ■ East Jerusalem ■ Area C

Demolished Structures by Area (since January 2023)

Impact on Agriculture



- **Decreasing production:** West Bank farmers grapple with sales challenges and dwindling cultivation. The closure of the West Bank, coupled with stringent checkpoints and road access restrictions, intensifies the struggles of local farmers attempting to sell produce within the region.
- **Decreasing importation:** As of the final week of November, the constraints on importing production inputs have led to a significant decrease in cultivated land compared to last year. For instance, onion cultivation has plummeted from 5,000 to 2,700 dunums, while potato cultivation has dropped from 14,000 to 4,000 dunums (MoA).
- **Farmers' challenges:** West Bank farmers' compounding challenges, from sales obstacles to dwindling cultivation and unharvested groves, contribute to an overarching economic downturn. The ramifications extend beyond the immediate losses, impacting the broader economic landscape. This calls for comprehensive and immediate intervention to mitigate these impacts and strengthen the resilience of the West Bank's agricultural sector.
- **Olive harvest:** More than 95,000 dunums of olive groves remain unharvested due to restricted access. In the Jerusalem governorate, over 80% of olive groves were rendered inaccessible, and Tulkarem, Qalqilya, and Nablus also experienced substantial percentages of inaccessible land at 27%, 27%, and 26%, respectively. More than 80% of the olive groves in Jerusalem governorate were not accessible (MoA-Nov.2023).
- **Quantifiable Olive production Setback:** Farmers have suffered an average loss of more than 1,200 metric tons of olive oil this year, resulting in a direct financial setback of 10 million USD. Farmers are concerned that the current closures may affect upcoming agricultural activities such as ploughing, pruning, and weeding. Given these challenges, a collaborative advocacy effort is imperative to address the agricultural sector's ramifications and uncertainties.
- **Breeders' challenges:** Breeders face challenges accessing grazing lands and water resources. As well as economic and physical difficulties in obtaining essential agricultural inputs. Livestock owners and herders urgently need protection from systematic settler attacks, assistance to address property destruction, and measures to ensure unrestricted access to pasture areas, all aimed at reducing their vulnerability and preventing displacement.

Planned/Ongoing response

- **WFP** has already started to scale up their food assistance activities through food vouchers, - planning to reach 161,000 people in December in coordination with MoSD. In close coordination with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Labour, WFP seeks to provide one-time multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to the group of workers and the small number of medical patients with companions from Gaza who are stranded in the West Bank as a result of the war in Gaza. Every individual will receive 700 NIS (equal to USD 1,001,584 / month (one time off) to cover essential needs. The value of the assistance value was determined by the West Bank Cash Working Group (CWG).
- **TAAWON**, in partnership with **The Union of Charitable Societies**, distributed 400 food vouchers in the Jenin city neighbours, including the Jenin refugee camp, targeting vulnerable people significantly affected by the continuous invasion of the camp,
- **OXFAM**, **the American Friends Service Committee** are addressing the essential food requirements of Gazan workers stranded in the West Bank, focusing on two primary governorates, namely Jericho and Ramallah
- The **Ministry of Agriculture** (MoA) has commenced the distribution of over 16,000 metric tons of barley to cater to the needs of animals throughout the entire West Bank. This initiative aims to enhance flock productivity and mitigate mortality rates, thereby bolstering the resilience of breeders.
- **FAO** plans to distribute time-critical agricultural input to farmers and livestock holders.
- **CARE**, in collaboration with **PARC** and **WeWolrd** (aka GVC) in partnership with **ESDC**, plans to distribute over 620 metric tons of barley to communities affected by recurrent settler violence. These areas face high risks and restricted access to inputs, making this intervention crucial for sustaining livelihoods in Area C.