



The Israeli authorities remove part of a donor-funded network supplying water to eight communities in Massafer Yatta (Hebron), 28 October 2020. Photo by Alliance for Human Rights.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Removal of donor-funded network disrupts water supply to over 1,000 people in herding communities.
- Requisitioning of structures without prior notice continues.
- Freeze on the demolition of inhabited homes in East Jerusalem holds.
- Punitive sealing in Ya'bad village (Jenin) displaces a family of ten.

OVERVIEW

Latest development: On 3 November, the Israeli authorities demolished 83 structures in the Bedouin community of Humsa Al Bqai'a, in the northern Jordan Valley, displacing 73 people, including 41 children. This is the largest number of people displaced in a single incident since March 2016, and the largest number of structures demolished in a single incident since OCHA started monitoring demolitions in 2009.

In October, the Israeli authorities targeted 47 Palestinian-owned structures, displacing 41 people and otherwise affecting the livelihoods or access to services of over 1,200 others. All structures, except for one sealed on punitive grounds, were targeted due to a lack of building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain. This month witnessed 16 consecutive days in which no demolition or seizure was recorded, resulting in a 24 per cent decline in the number of affected structures, compared with the monthly average in 2020 (62).

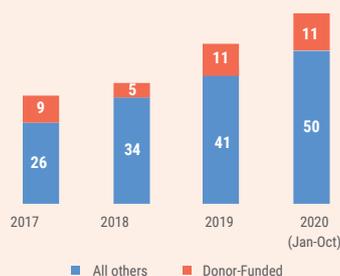
Of the structures targeted in October, twelve had been provided as humanitarian aid, for a total cost of nearly 25,000 euros. A donor-funded water cistern serving a school in Ramallah was issued a demolition order.

Three of this month's incidents occurred in the Massafer Yatta area of Hebron, which is declared closed for Israeli military training ('Firing Zone 918'). The Israeli authorities have been seeking for years to evict the 1,400 Palestinians residing in 14 herding communities in this area, on the grounds that they are residing illegally in a closed military area.

In one of these incidents, on 28 October, the Israeli authorities removed part of a donor-funded network supplying water to eight communities in Massafer Yatta. The demolition resulted in a complete disruption of water distribution to over 1,000 people, including 630 children. As a result, these communities have had to rely exclusively on the delivery of tankered water, at a cost of about NIS 40 (10 euros) per cubic metre compared to NIS 6 (1,5 euros) they paid for the piped water.

STRUCTURES DEMOLISHED/SEIZED

Monthly Averages



SEPTEMBER FIGURES

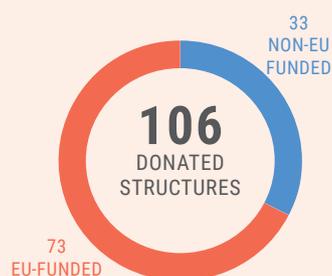
STRUCTURES TARGETED

East Jerusalem	4
Area C	42
Area B	0
Area A	1

PEOPLE IMPACTED

Displaced	41
Affected	1,223

ASSISTANCE DEMOLISHED/SEIZED IN 2020



The continuous targeting of water and sanitation structures amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic remains of serious concern, with the vulnerability of affected people further compounded by the onset of winter.

Fourteen (14) of the structures targeted in October were dismantled and seized without prior notice, based on military regulations that allow for the summary requisition of structures defined by an Israeli Civil Administrator (ICA) inspector as “movable.”

Another 11 structures, including one donor-funded residential shelter, were demolished on the basis of Military Order 1797, which allows for the removal of unlicensed structures deemed as “new”, as soon as 96 hours of the issuance of a “removal order” (in practice, implementation has taken around two weeks).

Both practices - requisitions without notice and expedited demolitions - have been on the rise since the beginning of 2020, accounting for approximately 40 per cent of all targeted structures. They leave people with little or no possibility to object the targeting of their properties and, in some cases, their displacement, before any administrative or judicial instance.

Four uninhabited structures were demolished in East Jerusalem, two by the authorities and two by the owners, following the issuance of demolition orders. As of end-October, about a half of the 145 structures demolished in East Jerusalem in 2020 were demolished by their owners, to reduce the fines and expenses imposed by the municipality.

On 21 October, the Israeli authorities punitively sealed part of a home in Area A of Ya’bad village (Jenin), belonging to a Palestinian indicted for the killing of a soldier during a search-and-arrest operation in May. A family of ten, including seven children, was displaced as a result. So far in 2020, six homes have been demolished or sealed on punitive grounds, a practice that human rights officials have declared collective punishment, which is absolutely prohibited under international law.

WEST BANK DEMOLITIONS / SEIZURES / SEALINGS

	Structures demolished	People displaced*		People Affected**	
		All	Children	All	Children
East Jerusalem	4	0	0	27	10
Area C	42	31	15	1,196	587
Area A	1	10	7	0	0
TOTAL	47	41	22	1,223	597

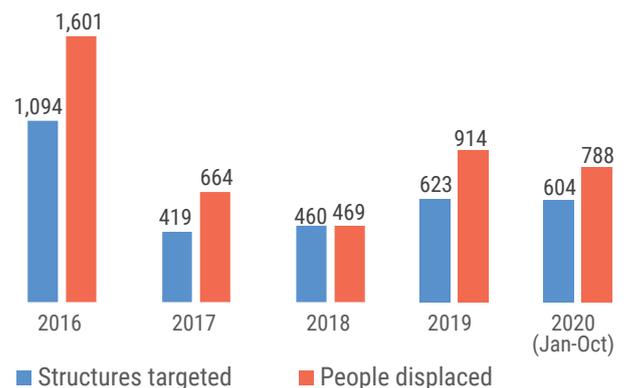
* Includes all people who had a structure used as their habitual place of residence demolished.

** Includes all people who had any of their property, other than their residence, demolished. Displaced and affected are mutually exclusive categories, i.e. people counted under the former are not included in the latter.

MONTHLY AVERAGES OF STRUCTURES TARGETED AND PEOPLE DISPLACED



TOTAL STRUCTURES TARGETED AND PEOPLE DISPLACED



DEMOLITION/SEIZURE OF DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES

Date	Community	Governorate	Type of structure	Number of structures	Type of incident	Estimated cost in euros
28 October	Isfey al Fauqa	Hebron	Transmission water pipeline	1	Demolition	752
26 October	Al Muhaajir	Salfit	Agricultural stone wall	1	Demolition	N/A
21 October	Nahhalin	Bethlehem	Residential structure, livelihood structures, incl. feeding troughs, cattle barriers and fencing	3	Seizure	6,722
21 October	Al Khadr	Bethlehem	Residential structure	1	Demolition (MO1797)	11,593
21 October	Al Jiftlik-abu al 'Ajaj	Jericho	Mobile latrine, residential tent	2	Seizure	1,007
19 October	At Taybe	Hebron	Livelihood structure	1	Seizure	836
18 October	Ar Rakeez	Hebron	Residential structure	1	Seizure	657
18 October	Khirbet al Fakhiet	Hebron	Residential structure	1	Demolition	3,184
1 October	Al 'Isawiya	Jerusalem	Agricultural structure	1	Demolition	N/A
Total				12		24,751

DEMOLITION OR STOP-WORK ORDERS AFFECTING DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES

Date	Community	Governorate	Type of structure	Number of structures	Type of incident	Estimated cost in Euros
28 October	Wadi as Seeq	Ramallah	Water cistern for school	1	Demolition order (MO1797)	11,920
Total				1		11,920

TARGETED DONOR-FUNDED AID STRUCTURES

