

PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES AT RISK OF ERASURE.

Amid escalating settler violence and access restrictions across the West Bank

29

NGOs surveyed in the first week
of September 2026

20

international NGOs

9

national Palestinian NGOs

11

West Bank governorates, all
covered by their work

Executive summary

This snapshot is based on a survey of 29 international and national NGOs¹ conducted in the first week of September and covering the previous six months, from March through August 2026. While the results do not capture every NGO operating in the West Bank, they reflect the persistently constrained operating environment and impact on Palestinian communities.

Israeli policies in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are pushing Palestinians deeper into humanitarian crisis. State-backed settler violence is escalating sharply, targeting Palestinians in their homes, on the roads and on their land.² Combined with military raids, settlement expansion, demolitions and movement restrictions, these policies and practices are further consolidating annexation of the occupied West Bank, forcibly displacing communities and making it increasingly difficult for Palestinians to remain on their land.

For humanitarian organisations, the consequences are immediate. Needs are rising while the space to respond is shrinking. Staff and partners face attacks and threats, routes are closed or too dangerous to use, and communities are increasingly cut off from essential assistance and services. National and international NGOs are consistently being forced to delay, relocate, scale back or suspend services, while adopting alternative ways of working to maintain operations

wherever possible. Despite reducing their visibility to mitigate risk, they continue to face attacks. At the same time, many of these organisations are facing shrinking budgets as donors reduce funding, forcing cuts to essential services for families in need.

As Israeli elections approach, the government is not restraining these dynamics, and instead is allowing them to accelerate. Political measures and increasingly extreme rhetoric are emboldening settlers and entrenching impunity, leaving already displaced and isolated communities to face even greater danger.

“Intensity and breadth of Israeli attacks and restrictions are far more today than they were 6 months ago. Before, it was usually one place, one specific measure. Now it’s every place, every measure.”

Humanitarian worker in the West Bank³

¹ Specifically, 20 international and nine national Palestinian NGOs. Collectively, the organisations work across all 11 West Bank governorates.

² At least 88 Palestinians ([OCHA, 4 Sep 2026](#); [11 Sep 2026](#); [18 Sep 2026](#)) have been killed and about 1,900 injured by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank since the beginning of 2026. More than 2,600 Palestinians have been displaced so far this year due to settler attacks and related access restrictions. ([OCHA](#))

³ Given the threat of retribution facing humanitarian groups for speaking publicly, some organisations and staff have requested not to be named publicly.

KEY FINDINGS

Share of the 29 NGOs surveyed, March to August 2026

90%

report that humanitarian conditions had **worsened since March 2026**

93%

expect further deterioration over the next six months. None expect improvement.

69%

Settler violence is the most severe and fastest-escalating driver of humanitarian need: 69% give it the **maximum severity rating**, while 59% identified it as the fastest-escalating threat.

97%

faced **humanitarian access challenges** imposed by Israeli forces or settlers

79%

report that their own **staff, volunteers or partners** had been attacked, threatened or harassed

66%

report the **complete displacement** of at least one community where they work

69%

report that at least one community they work in had become **effectively unreachable** for routine service delivery

01 SETTLER VIOLENCE

State-backed settler violence⁴ is driving displacement and obstructing aid

Nearly all surveyed organisations (90%) classified state-backed settler violence as severe. Seventeen of the 29 organisations, 59%, identified it as the single fastest-escalating threat.

The findings further demonstrate how Israeli military control and settler violence are closely intertwined, together obstructing humanitarian operations. Of the 27 organisations reporting access constraints, 74% identified settlers acting alongside or under the protection of Israeli forces as a direct cause.

“During the implementation of our project activities and interventions in one of the targeted areas, our team came under siege by Israeli settlers and the Israeli army. This restricted the team’s movement and prevented them from safely leaving the site, posing a direct threat to the safety of our staff and affecting the implementation of the planned activities.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

Settler attacks⁵ **increasingly target the resources** that Palestinian communities rely on to remain on their land, including community infrastructure, homes, water

sources, agricultural projects, livestock and grazing lands. This destroys livelihoods, increasing **food insecurity**⁶ and humanitarian needs and places communities under sustained pressure to leave.

“Settler attacks and the arbitrary decisions of Israeli authorities regarding evictions and demolitions have come to pose an existential national threat to Palestinians... The targeting of livelihoods, including homes, water sources, and agricultural projects, has significantly undermined the Palestinians’ ability to remain steadfast and sustain themselves in the targeted areas.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

Humanitarian-supported services and livelihoods projects are also being targeted. In July, Israeli settlers damaged a dairy factory supported by a humanitarian organisation in Masafer Yatta, disrupting production and harming the livelihoods of the mainly female workforce and local producers who depend on it. These incidents show how state-backed settler violence simultaneously drives displacement, increases humanitarian needs and obstructs the response.

⁴ On state-backed settler violence, see [OHCHR](#).

⁵ Settler attacks have reached record levels, with more than 1,600 incidents documented in the first eight months of 2026, affecting 275 Palestinian communities, nearly double the number of communities affected in 2020 and approaching the total recorded for all of 2025. ([OCHA](#))

⁶ World Food Program estimates 900,000 Palestinians in the West Bank are food insecure ([WFP](#))

02 ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Israeli restrictions are obstructing humanitarian operations

Humanitarian operations are being squeezed by an expanding system of Israeli movement controls, military operations and state-backed settler violence. Of the 27 organisations reporting access issues, 93% encountered gates, roadblocks, earth mounds, reinforced checkpoints or roads damaged during Israeli operations. Another 89% cited military operations or closed military zones, while the same proportion faced settler threats or violence along routes or at destinations. And 74% reported access constraints involving settlers accompanied or protected by Israeli forces.

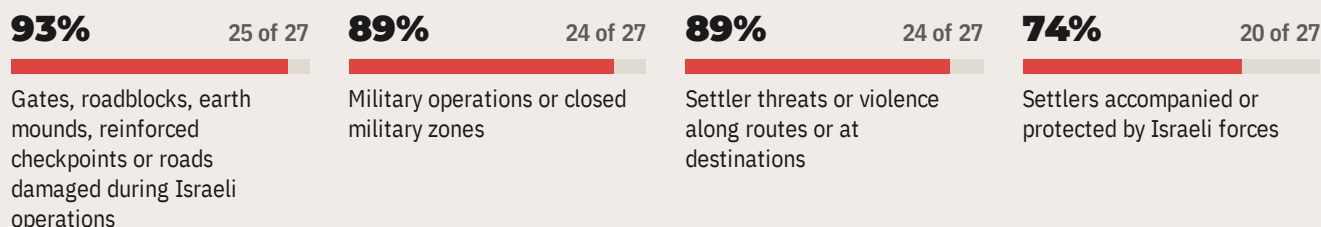
Routes close without warning, humanitarian workers are attacked, and entire communities can suddenly be cut

off from assistance. At least sixteen organisations had cancelled planned movements after determining that they were too dangerous to undertake. These restrictions mean that services are delayed, relocated or suspended, while staff and partners absorb the cost of longer journeys, repeated rescheduling, lost working hours and increased exposure to violence.

“Increased Israeli checkpoints and movement restrictions have made it harder to reach communities in the northern and southern West Bank where we operate. The worsening economic situation has sharply raised demand for humanitarian assistance alongside psychosocial services, while families losing their homes has added new caseloads and stretched our reach.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS Share of the 27 organisations reporting access issues



03 COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Communities most at risk are becoming unreachable

The communities facing the greatest displacement pressure are also becoming the hardest for humanitarians to reach. Ninety-three percent of organisations identified Bedouin and herding communities in Area C as among the worst affected, followed by residents of northern West Bank refugee camps and farming communities near settlements and outposts. Families displaced more than once face the greatest vulnerability, according to 79% of respondents.

“During an emergency response in Masafer Yatta, Israeli military movement restrictions and settler activity obstructed access routes to Area C communities. This delayed staff, suppliers and the delivery of urgent WASH and shelter assistance to families facing demolitions, displacement and severe water shortages.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

Twenty of the 29 organisations reported that at least one community where they work had become effectively

cut off from routine service delivery. In response, 12 shifted to remote delivery, seven relied on longer routes, referrals or other workarounds, and four stopped delivering altogether. These adaptations cannot fully replace consistent and direct access, particularly for protection, health, shelter and water services.

“Since March 2026, checkpoints, road gates and closures have become more frequent and unpredictable, particularly affecting access to Jenin, Tulkarm and surrounding communities. This has increased travel time, disrupted staff and partner movement, and delayed communities’ access to protection and other essential services.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

“During the [March to August] reporting period, Israeli-imposed closures in Hebron’s Old City prevented staff from reaching communities and forced field activities to be suspended for around 40 days. This disrupted protection and mental health and psychosocial support services for women and children.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

Health care is being delayed and denied

Movement restrictions are delaying and preventing access to essential health care. Nine of the 29 organisations⁷ reported ambulances or patient referrals being obstructed or denied passage at checkpoints, and a different set of 9 organisations reported patients unable to reach hospitals or specialist facilities, including in East Jerusalem. Eight reported cancelled mobile clinics or outreach visits, and six reported attacks on or interference with health workers, facilities, transport or patients. As one humanitarian organisation warned, these barriers mean that “people avoid treatment unless absolutely necessary.”

“Visits to and follow-ups with medically diagnosed individuals were cancelled. Sudden closures of the entrances to Ramallah and Jericho during this period prevented staff from reaching the organisation’s offices in those cities.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

“Women were unable to attend scheduled breast cancer screening and diagnostic appointments at [facility] due to checkpoints, road closures, delays, and limited transportation. As a result, access to screening and diagnostic services was delayed, requiring appointments to be rescheduled and additional follow-up with beneficiaries.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

05 OPERATING SPACE AND FUNDING

Administrative restrictions and funding cuts are eroding humanitarian capacity

Israeli administrative measures are further narrowing humanitarian operating space. Of the 22 organisations that responded to this question, 73% faced registration refusals, delays or conditionalities, 64% reported visa or work-permit delays, and 55% reported staff being denied entry at crossings or airports.

Eleven of the 22 organisations responding were asked to hand over personal data on staff, partners or beneficiaries. Compliance with such requests risks endangering the safety and privacy of the affected individuals.

“The inability of medical experts to enter Palestine due to visa denials significantly impacted the quality of service provided by the organisation.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

These restrictions consume staff time, limit access to specialist expertise and force organisations and Palestinian partners to repeatedly restructure their work. At the same time, 11 of the 29 organisations

reported reductions to their West Bank budgets, while only two reported an increase. Donor cuts and non-renewals of grants were the most frequently cited funding pressure.

Twelve organisations had already redirected funding from development and resilience programmes into emergency response. Longer-term programming is being eroded as emergency caseloads grow, while dwindling resources leave humanitarian organisations less able to tailor interventions to communities’ specific needs.

“We have had visiting staff have their visas revoked by Israeli authorities, we’ve experienced loss of thousands of man-hours dedicated to the registration issue (which is the whole point). ... Due to violent Israeli attacks and maneuvers both by settlers and the army, Palestinian partners have had to constantly readjust, cancel, reschedule, and redefine programs to implement projects.”

— Humanitarian worker in the West Bank

⁷ Findings may underestimate the prevalence of these obstructions among health actors. Of the 29 organisations surveyed, only seven identified health as their primary sector of work, meaning the results may not fully capture the experiences and perspectives of organisations delivering health services.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR THIRD STATES.

1 Use all available diplomatic, legal and economic measures to pressure Israeli authorities to:

- End all state support for and toleration of settler violence, prevent further attacks and ensure that all perpetrators are held accountable.
- Guarantee the safe return of all Palestinians displaced by settler violence, military operations, demolitions and evictions, including more than 34,000 Palestinians displaced from Jenin, Nur Shams and Tulkarem refugee camps.
- Facilitate, rather than obstruct, safe and sustained humanitarian access, and immediately release arbitrarily detained humanitarian workers.
- Rescind the current INGO registration procedures that are hindering humanitarian relief, in accordance with international humanitarian law.
- Reverse legislation banning UNRWA and fully respect its mandate, including by immediately ending all attacks against the agency, its personnel, premises and operations.
- Halt the demolition of Palestinian homes, schools and other vital infrastructure; implement an immediate moratorium on evictions; provide full reparations to those affected; and guarantee non-repetition.
- Rescind all discriminatory administrative, legal and military policies and practices that contribute to a coercive environment, increase the risk of forcible transfer or further entrench the occupation⁸.
- End and reverse all unlawful settlements, in accordance with the ICJ Advisory Opinion and UN Security Council Resolution 2334. This includes rescinding approvals and tenders for the E1 settlement plan and 3,401 settlement units, and halting the expansion and construction of the so-called "Sovereignty Road".

2 Fulfill legal obligations under the ICJ's Advisory Opinion on Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory, reinforced by the UN General Assembly resolution.

States must uphold their duties of non-recognition and non-assistance and take immediate action to halt and reverse Israel's annexation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and bring the unlawful occupation to an end. This must include:

- Banning all trade with and investment in Israeli settlements.
- Halting all transfers of weapons, parts and ammunition to Israel to prevent their use in violations of international law.
- Suspending relevant association, cooperation and trade agreements with Israel in light of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. This includes, for example, the EU-Israel Association Agreement and the UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement.

3 Provide adequate, predictable, flexible and multi-year funding to sustain both emergency and longer-term humanitarian programming across the occupied Palestinian territory.

⁸ The July 2024 International Court of Justice advisory opinion, "Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," found that "Israel's legislation and measures constitute a breach of Article 3 of CERD."

TIMELINE

WEST BANK SIX MONTHS.

Settler attacks, killings, demolitions and displacement, month by month.

1,262

attacks by Israeli settlers resulting in casualties and/or property damage

71

Palestinian fatalities, killed by Israeli forces or settlers

2,195

Palestinians displaced

Six-month totals, March to August 2026: sums of OCHA monthly figures.¹

MARCH

206

settler attacks

21 killed 521 displaced

APRIL

211

settler attacks

11 killed 374 displaced

MAY

207

settler attacks

11 killed 338 displaced

JUNE

224

settler attacks

8 killed 250 displaced

JULY

216

settler attacks

14 killed 445 displaced

AUGUST

198

settler attacks

6 killed 267 displaced

28 FEB–25 MAR 15 attacks on health care, including obstruction of health service delivery.²

10–16 MAR Israeli authorities demolished 17 Palestinian structures in Area C and one in East Jerusalem; Bedouin communities in Area C were displaced, affecting around 200 people; more than 200 Palestinian households in East Jerusalem faced eviction cases.³

20–25 MAR 70 Palestinians faced forced eviction in Batn al-Hawa, Silwan.⁴

31 MAR–6 APR Attacks by Israeli authorities or settlers injured 50 Palestinians, including five women and 10 children.⁵

14–20 APR 37 settler attacks (at least) caused casualties.⁶

21–22 APR 4 Palestinian casualties on 21 April. The next day, Israeli settlers killed a Palestinian man in the Ramallah governorate.⁶

11 MAY Israeli forces killed a Palestinian man in Qalandiya camp in Jerusalem governorate. They fired tear gas during the same operation and entered the UNRWA Qalandiya Training Centre.⁷

16 MAY Settlers displaced more than 130 Palestinians in the Jiljilya area.⁸

LATE MAY Reports recorded an escalation in arson attacks in the West Bank. More incidents carried out by settlers were registered in 4 different governorates.^{9,8}

MAY WHO reported three attacks on healthcare personnel in May alone.¹⁰

9 JUN Humanitarian organisations report that unsafe operational environments, mainly caused by Israeli forces or settler presence, have resulted in obstructions and delays in delivering aid and services.¹⁰

9–15 JUN Israeli forces injured more than 20 Palestinians during raids and other operations; more than 30 settler attacks were reported during the same period.¹¹

LATE JUN Israeli forces demolished a road and residential building in Kafr 'Aqab, East Jerusalem, affecting 2,600 people through damage to essential infrastructure.¹²

JULY Eight Palestinians, including one child, were killed in Jenin, East Jerusalem, and Nablus.¹³

OCHA: Data reveals that July and March saw the highest number of Palestinians killed in settler attacks and related incidents since October 2023.¹³

9 AUG Israeli settlers established a new outpost in Area B, isolating Palestinian families.¹⁴

11–24 AUG Israeli authorities killed three Palestinians in three different governorates.¹⁵

17 SEP The Israeli Ministry of Housing opened a tender of 1,234 housing units in the E1 settlement plan.¹⁶

LATE AUG Israeli authorities breached and announced that they had seized the UNRWA Qalandiya Training Centre in East Jerusalem, putting more than 300 young Palestinian refugees at risk of losing their right to education. Later that day, Israeli forces fired live ammunition and tear gas, injuring at least nine Palestinians in the surrounding area.^{17,18}

SOURCES **1** OCHA, West Bank Monthly Snapshot: Casualties, Property Damage and Displacement: [March](#), [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), [July](#), [August](#). **2** WHO EMRO, [Flash Update](#), 26 Mar. **3** OCHA, [Situation Report](#), 19 Mar. **4** OCHA, [27 Mar](#). **5** OCHA, [10 Apr](#). **6** OCHA, [23 Apr](#). **7** OCHA, [15 May](#). **8** OCHA, [25 May](#). **9** HRW, [20 Aug](#). **10** OCHA, [19 Jun](#). **11** OCHA, [19 Jun](#). **12** OCHA, [26 Jun](#). **13** OCHA, [31 Jul](#). **14** OCHA, [28 Aug](#). **15** OCHA, [28 Aug](#). **16** Reuters, [17 Sep](#). **17** UNRWA, [press statement](#). **18** OCHA, [28 Aug](#).

Monthly figures as first published by OCHA; six-month totals are their sum and may differ from later revisions.



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