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© Photo by Muthana El Najjar

A street in Gaza city after an Israeli airstrike hit a multistory building on 13 November 2018.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Relative quiet returns to Gaza after serious escalation of hostilities in November.
- Significant increase in the supply of water in Gaza following increase in electricity supply from previous 5 to 16-18 hours a day.
- Food insecurity in Gaza affects 68% of households; unemployment at all-time high of nearly 55%.
- Increase in incidents by Israeli soldiers and settlers at Palestinian schools disrupts access to education in West Bank.

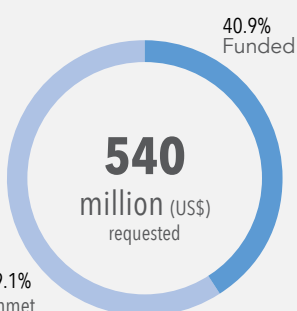
NOVEMBER FIGURES

Palestinians killed (direct conflict)	22
Palestinians injured (direct conflict)	744
Israelis killed (direct conflict)	1
Israelis injured (direct conflict)	22
Structures demolished in the West Bank	61
People displaced in the West Bank	35

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2018

540 million (US\$)
Requested

40.9% funded



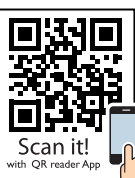
OVERVIEW

The period between 11 and 13 November witnessed one of the most serious rounds of hostilities in Gaza and southern Israel since the 2014 escalation. It resulted in the killing of 15 Palestinians, including at least three civilians (one of them by Palestinian rocket fire), and one Israeli soldier; dozens of homes in Gaza and southern Israel were destroyed or damaged, displacing at least 33 Palestinian and 15 Israeli families. An informal ceasefire was reached on 13 November, with the support of Egypt and the UN, which is still holding. Since then, there has also been a significant decline in violence and related casualties during the ongoing ‘Great March of Return’ demonstrations near the perimeter fence around Gaza, including in the launching of incendiary devices towards Israel.

An additional positive development in Gaza has been the UN import of fuel funded by Qatar, which has provided a welcome, if temporary, improvement in the electricity supply. This has enabled the Gaza Power Plant to operate two additional turbines and allowed the supply of 16-18 hours of electricity a day, compared to less than five previously. As highlighted in the first of this Bulletin’s articles, this has improved the delivery of basic services, particularly in the area of water and sanitation, which witnessed a 40 per cent increase in the supply of piped water and a 20 per cent rise in the production of desalinated water by public plants, among other improvements.

While key and life-saving service providers still depend on donor-funded emergency fuel distributed by the UN to run back-up generators, the amounts required have significantly declined due to the increased availability of electricity. However, as of the time of writing, funding available to maintain the UN-Assisted Emergency Fuel Program has been exhausted and, unless additional contributions are provided immediately, fuel supplies at critical facilities are expected to run out during December.

Support from Qatar has also allowed over 27,000 civil servants, employed by the Hamas-run government in Gaza since 2007, to receive salary payments in early December for the second consecutive month, as part of a US\$90 million commitment to be paid over six months. Over 90,000 people employed by the



PA and Hamas in Gaza have been suffering from either no salary, or irregular salary payments, for several years, a factor that is linked to the internal Palestinian political division and contributes to growing levels of need in Gaza.

Despite these encouraging developments, the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains bleak. Unemployment in the third quarter of 2018 reached 54.9 per cent, the highest rate ever recorded in Gaza, and one of the main drivers of food insecurity. As detailed in another article in this month's Bulletin, the preliminary findings of a comprehensive survey carried out in 2018 indicate that over 68 per cent of households in the Gaza Strip, or about 1.3 million people, are food insecure, a rise of nine percentage points from the equivalent figure for 2014. This is despite the fact that almost 70 per cent of households in Gaza receive some form of food assistance or other forms of social transfers from Palestinian governmental bodies or international organizations.

While the humanitarian situation in the West Bank is less acute than in Gaza, 2018 has also witnessed the continuation of conflict and violence, forcible displacement, and the denial of access to livelihoods, among other concerns. The final item in this month's Bulletin concerns the increase in the number of incidents involving Israeli forces and/or settlers reported near Palestinian schools in the West Bank since the beginning of the school year. Incidents include delays and harassment of children; clashes with Israeli forces; and violent raids and search operations inside schools. Apart from the physical injury and related absence from school, these incidents impact children socially and psychologically by creating anxiety, trauma and harm to their sense of safety, which ultimately makes learning more difficult. The abovementioned two-day escalation in hostilities also led to a disruption in schooling in Gaza and southern Israel.

In his remarks on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the UN Secretary-General said: "Today, in particular, our hearts are heavy with the suffering of the people in Gaza. Approximately two million Palestinians remain blocked in increasing poverty and unemployment, with limited access to adequate health, education, water and electricity. Young people see little prospect of a better future. I urge Israel to lift restrictions on the movement of people and goods, which also hamper the efforts of the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, without jeopardizing legitimate security concerns. I call on Hamas and other militant groups to halt their military build-up in Gaza, including the indiscriminate launching of rockets and incendiary devices directed at Israel. On this International Day of Solidarity, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rights of the Palestinian people and to building a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for Palestinians and Israelis alike."

"Our hearts are heavy with the suffering of the people in Gaza. Approximately two million Palestinians remain blocked in increasing poverty and unemployment, with limited access to adequate health, education, water and electricity."

UN Secretary-General

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

SIGNIFICANT BOOST IN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ACROSS GAZA IMPROVES THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES

On 25 and 28 October, the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) turned on the second and third turbines (of four available) and increased its electricity output from 25 to 80 megawatts (MW). Together with 120-130 MW purchased from Israel and supplied through feeder lines, a total of 200-210 MW of electricity was provided to the Gaza Strip, the highest level in almost two years. This facilitated a supply of 16-18 hours of electricity in a 24-hour period versus less than five hours previously.

Fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) was made available following the provision of funding by the government of Qatar, and also by Israel lifting restrictions imposed on the entry of fuel in October in response to a reported increase in violence during the 'Great March of Return' demonstrations and clashes. Based on the Qatari funding available, the current levels of operation of the GPP are expected to last through April 2019.

The electricity crisis experienced in Gaza over the past decade was aggravated in mid-2017 by measures adopted by the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority in the internal political rift with the Hamas authorities. These measures included cuts in funding for electricity supplied by Israel (between July and December 2017) and for the purchase of fuel to operate the GPP. The situation was compounded by an almost total halt in the supply of electricity from Egypt due to the malfunctioning and inability to repair the relevant feeder lines. In previous years, GPP operation was also undermined when the smuggling of Egyptian-subsidized fuel through tunnels after 2013 came to an end; the limited collection of payments from consumers; the destruction of fuel storage tanks by an Israeli airstrike in July 2014; and restrictions on imports of spare parts, equipment and fuel under the Israeli blockade.

The recent boost in the electricity supply has led to a general improvement in otherwise deteriorated living conditions in Gaza. Expenditure by households and businesses on fuel to operate back-up generators has been reduced and the delivery of basic services, water and sanitation in particular, has improved. It has also reduced the need, at least temporarily, for emergency fuel supplies provided by the UN to avert the collapse of basic services.

Improved water and sanitation services

The increased electricity supply through the grid has had a positive impact on the operation of 280 domestic water wells, 32 water reservoirs relying on booster stations and 2,800 km of water networks. Water production has increased by over 40 per cent (from 140,000 to 200,000 cubic metres a day) and the frequency of the water supply has been boosted, with households receiving water for cycles lasting about eight hours every one to three days.

Expenditure by households and businesses on fuel to operate back-up generators has been reduced and the delivery of basic services, including health, water and sanitation, has improved.



Information for this section was provided by UNICEF, on behalf of the WASH cluster

Given that most piped water is unfit for human consumption, approximately 90 per cent of households in Gaza rely on water purchased from desalination/purification plants across Gaza for drinking and cooking, with piped water used for other domestic purposes. The recent improvement in the electricity supply has increased the volume of water produced by these plants, most of which are operated by the private sector. In the case of the 48 publicly-owned desalination plants operated by the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), the reported increase in production reached over 20 per cent. Desalinated/purified water purchased in containers or tanks is 10-30 times more expensive than piped water and is a heavy burden on already impoverished families.¹ Despite the increased availability of desalinated water, no reductions in prices have been reported.

The boost in the electricity supply has improved the operation of the five wastewater treatment plants, reducing the level of contamination of the sewage discharged into the sea, and the risk of overflow and flooding.

The longstanding electricity deficit, combined with the shortage of adequate sanitation infrastructure, has resulted in the discharge of 100-108 million litres of poorly treated sewage into the sea every day.² This poses serious health and environmental hazards for marine life, the quality of fish consumed in Gaza and for swimming, one of the few recreational activities available to the local population.

The electricity shortage and the hazardous condition of the wastewater treatment plants poses a constant threat of sewage flooding in areas adjacent to reservoirs and pumping stations. This threat materialized on 4 May 2016 when one of the retention walls of a sewage lagoon in Gaza City's treatment plant (Sheikh Ejleen) collapsed following a prolonged power cut, releasing 15,000 cubic metres of raw sewage into a nearby farming area.

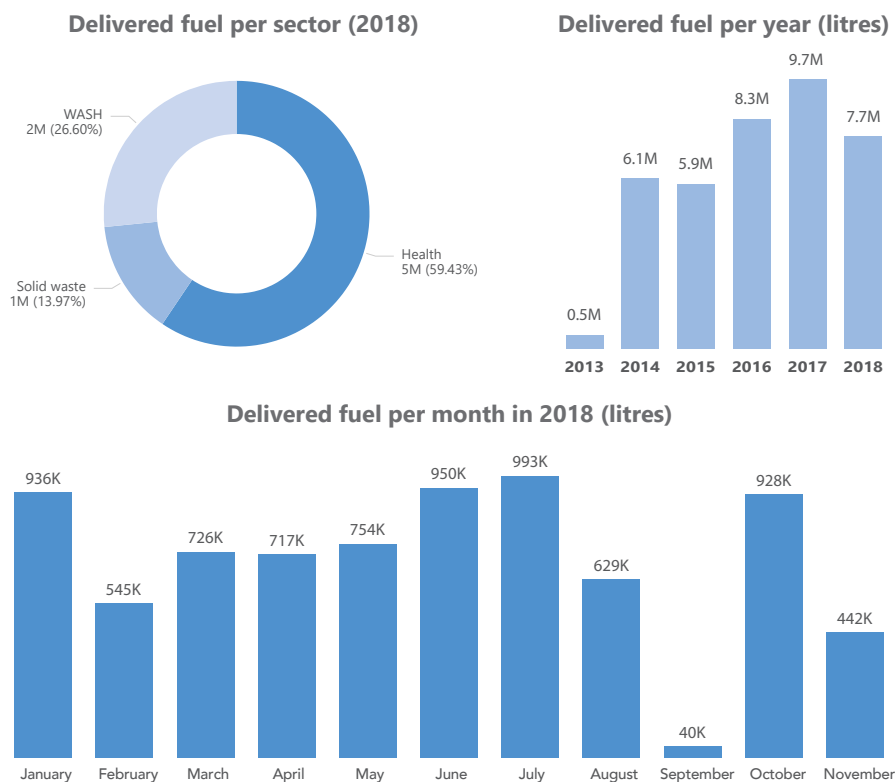
The boost in the electricity supply has improved the operation of the five wastewater treatment plants, reducing the level of contamination of the sewage discharged into the sea, and the risk of overflow and flooding.³



Reduced reliance on emergency fuel

Supported by donors, the UN has been coordinating the delivery of emergency fuel to run back-up generators in the Gaza Strip since 2013. This has ensured that a minimal level of lifesaving health, water and sanitation services have been maintained despite the severe energy crisis. The number of critical facilities requiring fuel support increased from 189 in April 2017 to 249 at present.

UN-ASSISTED EMERGENCY FUEL PROGRAMME IN GAZA



Funding available to maintain the emergency fuel mechanism has been almost exhausted; unless additional contributions are provided distributions are expected to halt by mid-December.

The list of facilities is revised on a monthly basis by the relevant clusters and OCHA on the basis of the availability of electricity, and changing needs and priorities.

Owing to the increased availability of electricity in November 2018, the need for emergency fuel declined, and the amounts distributed during the month have been reduced. Despite this positive development, as of the time of writing, funding available to maintain the emergency fuel mechanism has been almost exhausted; unless additional contributions are provided distributions are expected to halt by mid-December.

OCHA developed a dynamic, user-friendly dashboard, [available online](#), to enable stakeholders to monitor the electricity supply and the emergency fuel programme, and to identify gaps easily.

FOOD INSECURITY IN THE OPT: 1.3 MILLION PALESTINIANS IN THE GAZA STRIP ARE FOOD INSECURE

Over 68 per cent of households in the Gaza Strip, or about 1.3 million people, are severely or moderately food insecure, according to the preliminary findings of the latest Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey (SefSec) carried out in 2018. ⁴ This is despite the fact that 69 per cent of households in Gaza reported in the survey that they receive some form of food assistance or other forms of social transfers from Palestinian governmental bodies or international organizations. The current food insecurity rate in Gaza constitutes a rise of 9 percentage points from the equivalent figure for 2014 (59 per cent), the last time the SefSec was conducted. By contrast, food insecurity in the West Bank stands at nearly 12 per cent of households according to the same survey, down from 15 per cent in 2014.

Food insecurity in the oPt is primarily caused by limited economic access to food. The World Bank forecast economic growth of 1.7 per cent for the oPt in 2018, “declining significantly in per capita terms”. ⁵ In Gaza the economy is “in free fall, registering minus 6 per cent growth in the first quarter of 2018 ... (while) initial indications are that Gaza has further deteriorated in the second quarter.” While the situation in the West Bank is not as dire, “the economy is expected to slow considerably in the coming period”. ⁶

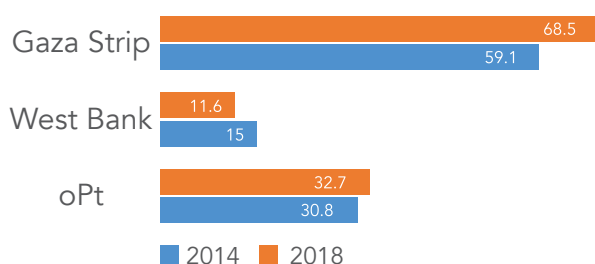
The unemployment rate in the oPt has also increased in recent years and reached nearly 32 per cent in the third quarter of 2018; in Gaza the rate was almost 55 per cent, the highest ever recorded. Of the approximately 244,000 people recorded as “employed” in Gaza, about 62,000 are public employees on the PA’s payroll whose salaries have been cut since March 2017. Another 22,000 are employees recruited by the Hamas authorities who have only received part of their salaries on an irregular basis since 2014: in November some of

The high levels of food insecurity are despite the fact that 69 per cent of households reported that they receive some form of food assistance or other forms of social transfers.



these employees were paid their August salaries from the Qatari funding. Unemployment among youth in Gaza exceeded 70 per cent, and was even higher for females at 78 per cent in the second quarter of 2018. ⁷

Food insecurity by area, in percentages of households



Poverty is one of the main determinants of food insecurity. The 2017 Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey found that the poverty rate in Gaza had increased from 38.8 to 53 per cent since the previous survey in 2011. Nearly two-thirds of the poor, or about 656,000 people, are considered to be living in “deep poverty”. ⁸

The chronic energy deficit has placed additional pressure on farmers, herders and fishermen who are already experiencing an increase in agricultural input costs despite falling vegetable and poultry market prices, putting profitability and sustainability at risk. The electricity crisis made it difficult for households to refrigerate food items and caused increased expenditure and work for women as daily cooking or use of canned food is required. ⁹ The situation has improved with the recent boost to the electricity supply.

Food insecurity has been further jeopardized by the shortfall in funding to UNRWA and decreased support from the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development to the most vulnerable, leading to higher levels of household debt. Due to the timing of data collection, the full impact of these challenges might not be fully reflected in the 2018 SefSec findings, which indicated that the prevalence of food insecurity among refugees in the Gaza Strip is slightly lower (67.3 per cent) than among non-refugees (70.3 per cent).

Cash assistance response undermined due to lack of funding

Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) is increasingly recognised as a major modality of humanitarian assistance. This is particularly true in the Gaza Strip where years of blockade and conflict have decimated exports and private sector investments, making aid and remittances the almost exclusive source of foreign exchange inflow.

In the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the oPt, the humanitarian community appealed for \$130 million for various cash assistance interventions in the Gaza Strip, including \$95 million for food security and \$34 million for temporary shelter cash assistance (TSCA) for those still displaced since the 2014 hostilities. By the end of November 2018, humanitarian organizations had received only \$23 million, or 18 per cent of the requirements. This has prevented the delivery of the majority of the planned

Food insecurity has been further compounded by the cuts in UNRWA funding and decreased support from the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development to the most vulnerable, leading to higher levels of household debt.

Asbita, beneficiary

interventions. UNRWA was forced to halt the distribution of TSCA entirely during the second half of 2018.

The two main modalities of cash assistance in the food security sector have been Cash for Work and Cash for Livelihood interventions. In 2018, UNRWA appealed for \$63.6 million to offer short-term employment opportunities for more than 54,000 people, or the equivalent to over 5.5 million workdays. Such opportunities could have injected millions into the local economy, however, due to underfunding, less than 10 per cent of the appeal target was reached. Another 12 humanitarian partners requested \$5.7 million for Cash for Livelihood, with only \$1.1 million received by the end of November 2018.

Humanitarian organizations received only 18 per cent of the requirements for cash assistance programs in Gaza in the 2018 HRP, as of November.

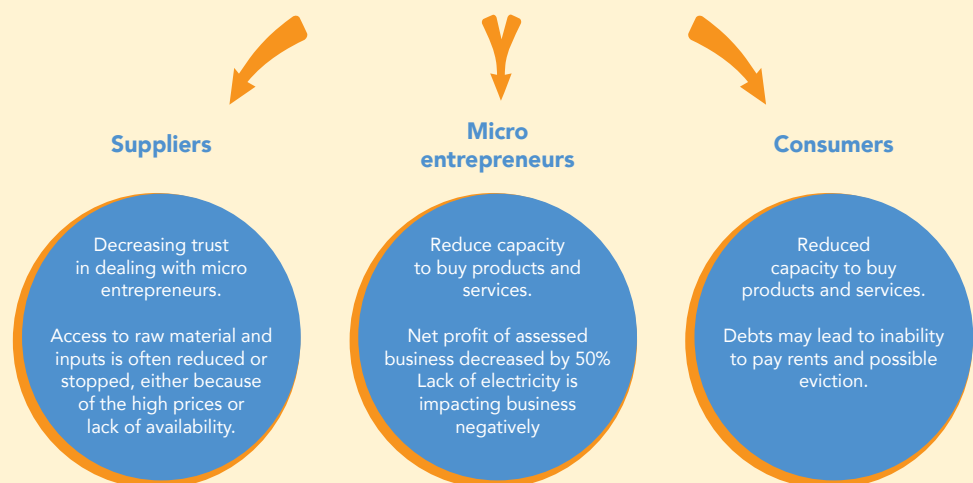
CONSTRAINTS ON MICRO BUSINESSES INDICATIVE OF BROADER LIVELIHOOD CRISIS

Businesses in the Gaza Strip are mostly small, both in terms of the number of employees and the value of their assets. According to a 2017 survey by UNDP, the majority (88.8%) employ one to four workers. This small-scale private sector continues to operate under increasing internal and external stress resulting from the Israeli-imposed blockade and intra-Palestinian political divisions.

In September 2018 Action Against Hunger's Food Security and Livelihoods team surveyed several beneficiaries of its Income Generating Activities to assess the impact of 2018 developments on the performance of the micro businesses. All the interviewees stated that lack of cash in the communities where the businesses are located forces their consumers and themselves to buy on credit.

The survey was conducted on behalf of the Cash Programming Working Group, which operates under the Food Security Sector, to coordinate, promote and facilitate sustainable activities related to Cash Programming in Palestine. The main mandate of the working group is to address all methodologies and standards of Cash Programming related to emergency interventions, medium and long-term food security related programs.

Forced to buy on credit from



CASH ASSISTANCE BENEFICIARY PROGRESSES FROM STRUGGLING TO FEED HER CHILDREN TO GIVING BUSINESS TIPS

Asbita Ali El Masri lives with her son and his wife Wedad and their four children in Gaza city. The family was a selected beneficiary of Action Against Hunger's cash assistance program. The program targets women and aims at supporting small income generating activities (IGA) along with managerial and business plan training in order to increase disposable income for high vulnerable families.

The hostilities had a destructive impact on this family. In 2014, an Israeli "warning" ¹⁰ missile hit the house, killing Wedad's 13-year-old son, and destroying the house except for two rooms. The family was displaced twice in the past, as a result of the 2009 and 2012 hostilities.

'We also lost our sheep, chickens and rabbits', Asbita explains. 'It was the business I took over after my husband's death.'

Since 2014, Asbita and her son's family of four children continue to live in the only two rooms that were not destroyed. Given their poor economic status, Wedad had moved back with her parents for a period of time as it is custom in Gaza, a woman is expected to go back to her own parents' house if her husband is no longer able to cover the family expenses. In such cases, the children would then stay with the father, at his parents' house. However, unlike many couples, Wedad returned to live with her family at her mother-in-law's house.

'It was too hard to be separated from my husband, he is my rock', said Wedad. 'We struggled to keep the children well fed and we reduced our own meals. We did not care about the quality of the food. We just did not want them to go hungry.' She explained.

Even before the last war in 2014, as Wedad gradually took over responsibilities from Asbita who became ill, she went through many rough days to support the family. 'I had to save up to buy milk for my children. Food in general had become more expensive and therefore scarcer since the beginning of the blockade.'

Despite the heavy losses during the last hostilities, the family resumed the sheep rearing business after the war with Action Against Hunger's cash assistance and training. Asbita now takes care of the financial side of things, while the animals are Wedad's responsibility.

'We were taught to make sound business decisions like buying fodder in bulk to ensure availability and avoid sudden price increases. With the first payment, we prepared the barn, and with the second one we bought the sheep.' Said Asbita.

Wedad describes with pride how they are now able to provide their children with vegetables, fruits and even meat up to twice a week. The family has future plans for the business. They want to expand into poultry and rabbits again. 'A friend recently asked me for tips on how to create her own business', Wedad smiles. 'I offered her my business plan!'

"We were taught to make sound business decisions like buying fodder in bulk to ensure availability and avoid sudden price increases. With the first payment, we prepared the barn, and with the second one we bought the sheep".



Asbita and Wedad checking on their sheep which are the base of their business.



This article was contributed by Save the Children on behalf of the Education Cluster

RISE IN INCIDENTS DISRUPTING SCHOOLING ACROSS THE WEST BANK

This school year (since August 2018), the Education Cluster has observed an upward trend in the number of incidents involving Israeli forces and/or settlers reported as taking place in or near Palestinian schools in the West Bank and that disrupt access to and activities at these schools. Incidents recorded include delays and harassment of children travelling to school, at checkpoints and elsewhere; clashes in the vicinity of schools; and violent raids and search operations inside schools.

At least 17 such incidents recorded by OCHA since the beginning of 2018 (up to mid-November) have resulted in injuries to 323 Palestinians, including 225 children. Of these injuries, three were caused by live ammunition, 15 by rubber bullets, and most of the rest due to tear gas inhalation requiring medical treatment.

Apart from the physical injury and related absence from school, these incidents impact children socially and psychologically by creating anxiety, trauma and harm to their sense of safety, which ultimately makes learning more difficult.

In at least 48 schools in Area C and East Jerusalem, insecurity and uncertainty are exacerbated by the risk of demolition or seizure of all or part of the school by the Israeli authorities on the grounds of the lack of building permits.

Through the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), humanitarian partners have appealed for \$3.2 million to implement a range of psycho-social support and protection interventions targeting children living in vulnerable communities across the West Bank; however, only about a third of this request was actually raised. On the other hand, 73 per cent of the approximately \$1.7 million appealed in the HRP for reporting, documentation and advocacy activities in West Bank were raised, allowing a more robust intervention.

As Sawiya al-Lubban school (Nablus)

Located on Road 60, south of Nablus, as Sawiya al-Lubban school is one of 13 schools where pupils face a continuous military presence at the school gates and on the route to school. Between January and September 2018 there were 24 settler and military-related incidents at this school, bringing the total in the past four years to 89, with the frequency of incidents rising steadily. Many of such incidents have involved raids by Israeli forces on the school, often accompanied by Israeli settlers, in response to settlers' claims of stone throwing by students from the school premises or its vicinity. Children and staff report that they are often forced to take longer journeys to avoid harassment by soldiers and settlers. The presence of the soldiers is viewed by some pupils as provocation and has led to clashes that disrupt classes and place children at risk of physical harm.

Between January and mid November 2018, 225 Palestinian children were injured by Israeli soldiers or settlers in or near schools in the West Bank .

On 14 October 2018, the Israeli military issued an order closing the school on the grounds that children had thrown stones at soldiers; this claim was refuted by the school administration. Despite the order, the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), along with the school and parent council, decided to open the school the following day. A heavy military presence that day resulted in confrontations between the Israeli soldiers and school staff and pupils, with soldiers firing tear gas and sound bombs. Classes resumed on 16 October.

STUDENTS ARRESTED FOLLOWING CLAIMS OF STONE THROWING



Seventeen-year-old Mohammed (real name withheld) is an A-grade student in his twelfth year at As Sawiya al Lubban Secondary School. On his way home after school on 12 November 2018, he was detained by Israeli soldiers along with 11 other students. They were accused of throwing stones at Israeli yellow-plated vehicles passing on Road 60.

“It was really difficult and saddening to see my mother crying and begging the Israeli soldiers to free me- it’s an image I cannot erase”, said Mohammed.

After two hours, during which they were questioned and searched, all the students were released, apart from Mohammed who was placed in the military vehicle and taken near the village of Sinjel, around 10 km from the school.

“The soldiers took me out of the jeep, uncovered my eyes and brought me before a female Israeli settler. She had her mobile in her hands and was showing them photos. They started threatening me and saying that I would see my picture while throwing stones, and that I would go to jail. I was not worried at the time because I had not thrown stones.”

“Regardless, they handcuffed and blindfolded me. This time, they forced me to lie down on the floor of the jeep and took me to the Israeli military base in Huwwara [Nablus]. At this point I was really frightened. All I could think about was them [the Israeli soldiers and settlers] falsely pinning a crime on me and throwing me in jail...not finishing my last year in school...not attending university.”

After being detained for six hours, Mohammed was handed over to the Palestinian Police, who took him back home.

“[T]hey handcuffed and blindfolded me. This time, they forced me to lie down on the floor of the jeep and took me to the Israeli military base in Huwwara [Nablus]. At this point I was really frightened”

Mohammed, 17-year-old student

Urif Boys' School (Nablus)

Urif is one of six Palestinian communities in Nablus governorate with a total population of about 21,000. The community undergoes systematic violence and harassment originating from the Israeli settlement of Yitzhar and its surrounding outposts.¹¹

On 7 November around 50 Israeli settlers, reportedly from Yitzhar, some of them armed and accompanied by Israeli soldiers, approached Urif Boys' School during the school day. Clashes broke out with the students. Eleven Palestinians, including three students, were injured, four of them (all adults) shot with live ammunition or rubber bullets.

In two separate incidents on 10 and 17 October, the school had to be evacuated. In the first incident the school was attacked by settlers with stones; the second incident was the threat of an attack. On 18 October, Israeli settlers, reportedly from the settlement of Yitzhar, armed with axes and stones entered the village and threw stones at the school, causing children to flee. While pupils were leaving the school, soldiers fired tear gas, causing 15 children and 21 staff to require medical treatment. At least seven children and one teacher were injured by rubber bullets.¹²

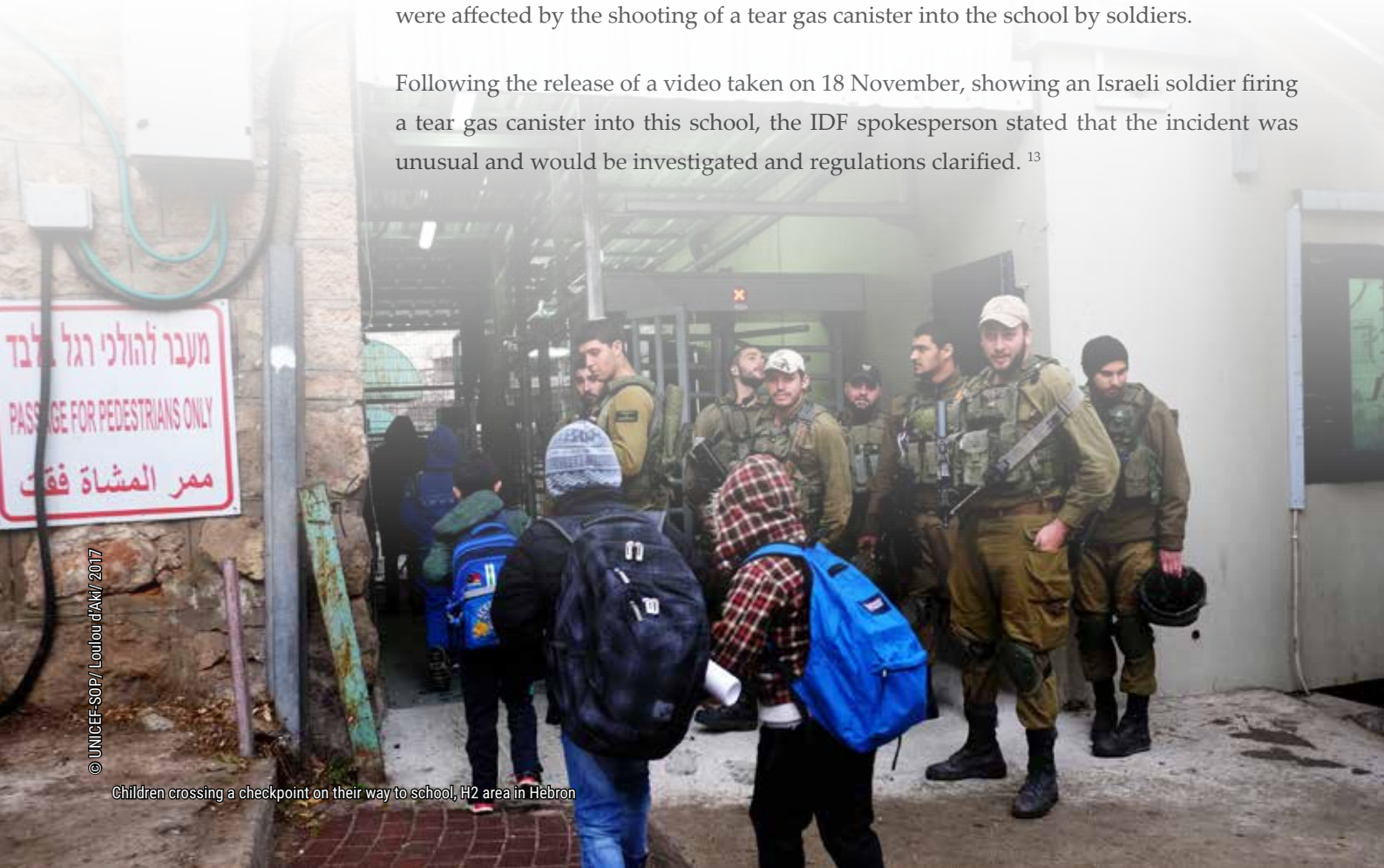
On 7 November around 50 Israeli settlers, reportedly from Yitzhar, some of them armed and accompanied by Israeli soldiers, approached Urif Boys' School in Nablus during the school day and clashed with students.

Hebron city

In recent months, several schools in the H2 area of the city reported multiple incidents of tear gassing, particularly at Hebron Elementary School. These incidents cause physical injuries and spread panic among pupils and teachers.

An Nhada school for boys in Hebron city reports frequent incidents caused by the regular Israeli military presence. In one incident on 25 October, several children and teachers were affected by the shooting of a tear gas canister into the school by soldiers.

Following the release of a video taken on 18 November, showing an Israeli soldier firing a tear gas canister into this school, the IDF spokesperson stated that the incident was unusual and would be investigated and regulations clarified.¹³



Across Hebron governorate, around 4,200 pupils have their journey to school obstructed by checkpoints every day, frequently facing harassment, intimidation and delays that result in lost school time.

Bethlehem governorate

The Al-Khader school complex in Bethlehem governorate comprises eight schools and three kindergartens. A regular military presence frequently leads to confrontations, tear gas being fired and the loss of school time. There have also been several incidents in Sa'id Al A's school and Tuqu' school in Bethlehem where soldiers have entered the school premises and clashed with children.

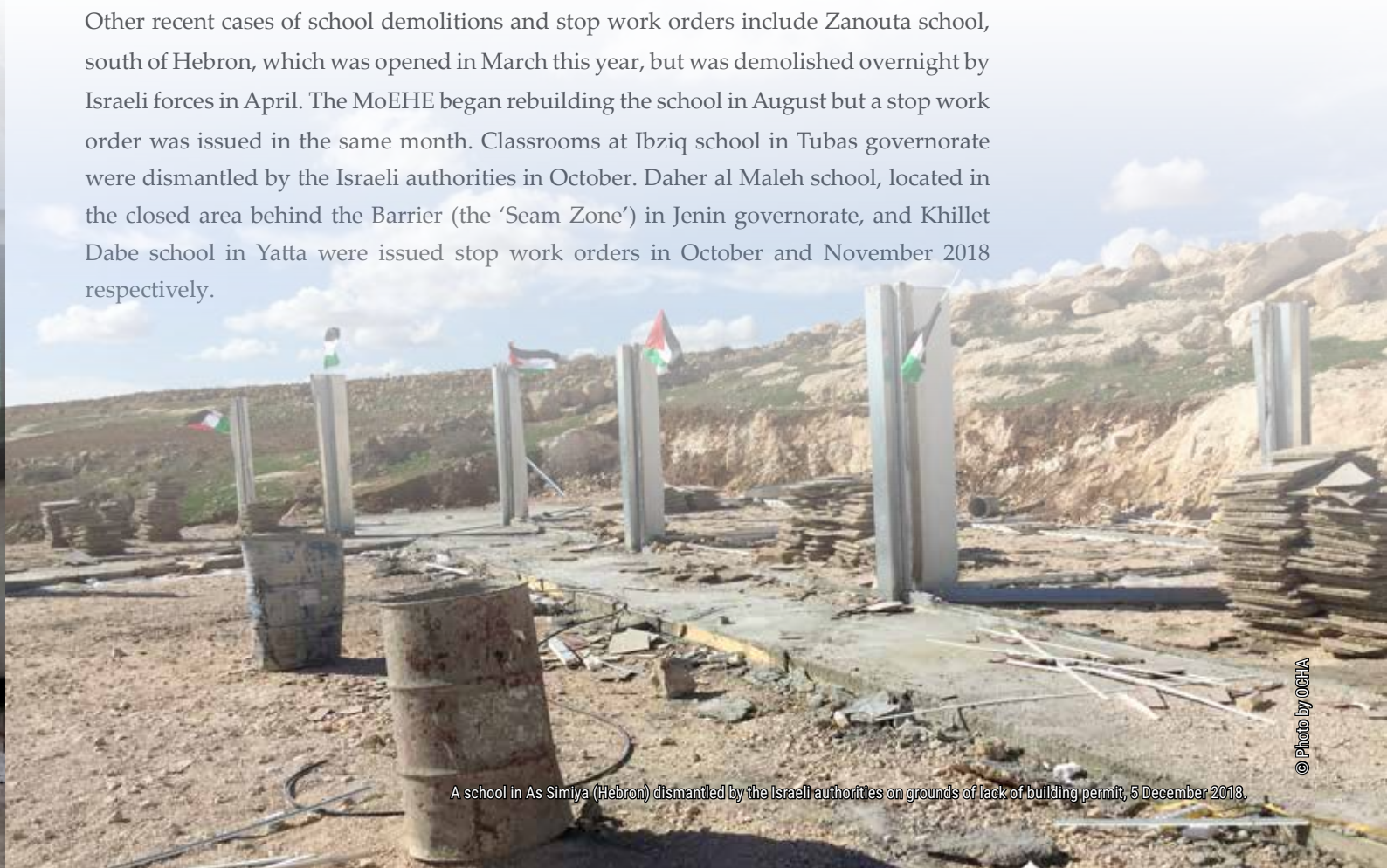
At risk of demolition

The demolition of schools and classrooms not only represents a loss of educational opportunities for children, but the impending threat causes anxiety that is detrimental to children's learning. According to the Education Cluster, four of the 48 schools under threat of demolition have received stop work or demolition orders in the past three months.

Khan al Ahmar school in Jerusalem governorate, which serves children from five Bedouin communities, has been under threat of demolition since 2009. In September 2018 the Israel High Court of Justice issued a final ruling to allow the demolition of the school, along with the rest of the Khan al Ahmar/ Abu al Helu community. While the demolition has been temporarily postponed, the threat has had a considerable impact on children, disrupting their schooling and affecting their mental health and wellbeing.

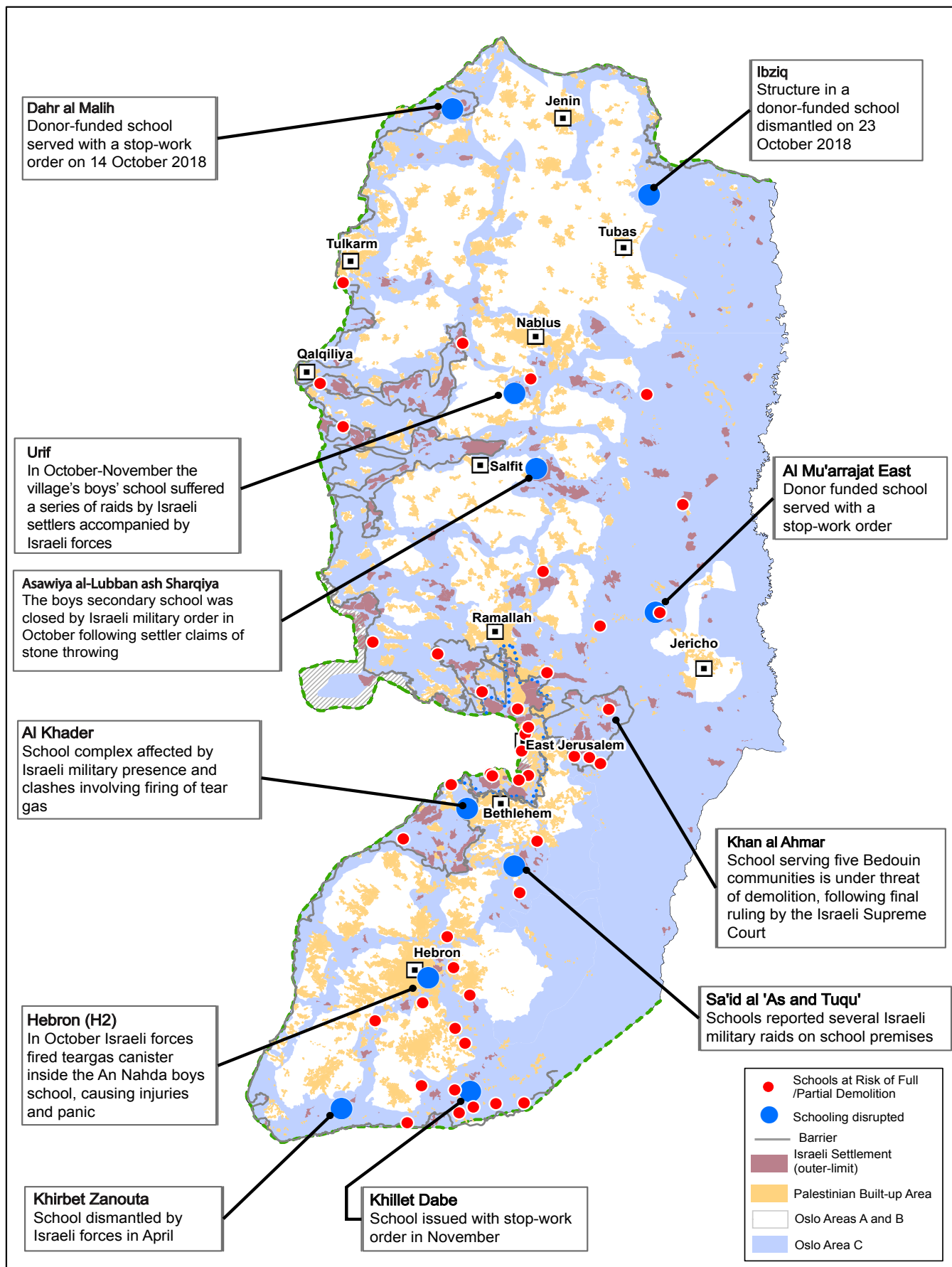
Other recent cases of school demolitions and stop work orders include Zanouta school, south of Hebron, which was opened in March this year, but was demolished overnight by Israeli forces in April. The MoEHE began rebuilding the school in August but a stop work order was issued in the same month. Classrooms at Ibziq school in Tubas governorate were dismantled by the Israeli authorities in October. Daher al Maleh school, located in the closed area behind the Barrier (the 'Seam Zone') in Jenin governorate, and Khillet Dabe school in Yatta were issued stop work orders in October and November 2018 respectively.

Four of the 48 schools under threat of demolition have received stop work or demolition orders in the past three months.



A school in As Simiya (Hebron) dismantled by the Israeli authorities on grounds of lack of building permit, 5 December 2018.

PALESTINIAN SCHOOLS AT RISK OF DEMOLITION, & SCHOOLING DISRUPTED IN OCT-NOV 2018



ENDNOTES

1. For further information about the contamination of the Gaza aquifer and related health hazards, see OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, October 2018.
2. For further information about the sanitation challenges facing Gaza, see OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, October edition published on 16 November 2018.
3. In April 2018 a large modern plant (North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment), under construction for a decade, came into operation with a maximum capacity of 35,600 cubic metres per day. Unlike other plants, it benefits from a dedicated electricity line from Israel that allows it to operate almost continuously.
4. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and Food Security Sector, Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey 2018 Preliminary results.
5. World Bank, Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 27 September 2018, para. 1. "Moreover, there are significant downside risks to this forecast, especially with concerns surrounding the Israeli legislation to reduce clearance revenues, and the potential for increased tensions to spill over into unrest in Gaza."
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid. para. 15.
8. Poor people are defined as those living on less than \$4.6 per day, including social assistance and transfers, the minimum to cover basic household needs. Every second person in Gaza, over one million people, is now considered poor, including over 400,000 children. According to the survey, without social assistance and transfers, the poverty rate in Gaza would have reached nearly 60 per cent, and deep poverty more than 42 per cent.
9. GBV Sub-Cluster (2017). The Humanitarian Impact of Gaza's Electricity and Fuel Crisis on Gender-based Violence and Services, May 2017.
10. "Warning missiles", also referred to as "roof knocking" refer to small missiles fired by the Israeli forces with the stated objective of warning inhabitants to evacuate ahead of the firing of larger missiles or missiles with higher impact. More information can be viewed in 6 March 2013, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1 and S-12/1, A/HRC/22/35/Add.1.
11. For an in-depth analysis of patterns of violence around Yitzhar settlement, see Yesh Din, Yitzhar – a case study, August 2018.
12. "Protection of Civilians Report: 6-19 November 2018, published on 23 November 2018 by UNOCHA. Accessed at <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-report-6-19-november-2018>
13. In its initial response the spokesperson denied that the soldiers fired tear gas canister at the school, but it retracted following the release of the video. Berger, Yotam. "Israeli Army Denied Soldiers Threw Gas Canister into Hebron School. Then a Video Surfaced." Haaretz, December 6, 2018.