

EDUCATION-RELATED INCIDENTS IN OPT

Semi-Annual Report (JANUARY - JUNE 2023)



OVERVIEW

In the first half of 2023, the Education Cluster recorded:

 **423** Education-related incidents
Affecting

 **179** Schools
(152 public, 23 UNRWA, and 4 private)

 **54,608** Students
(26,000 of them females)

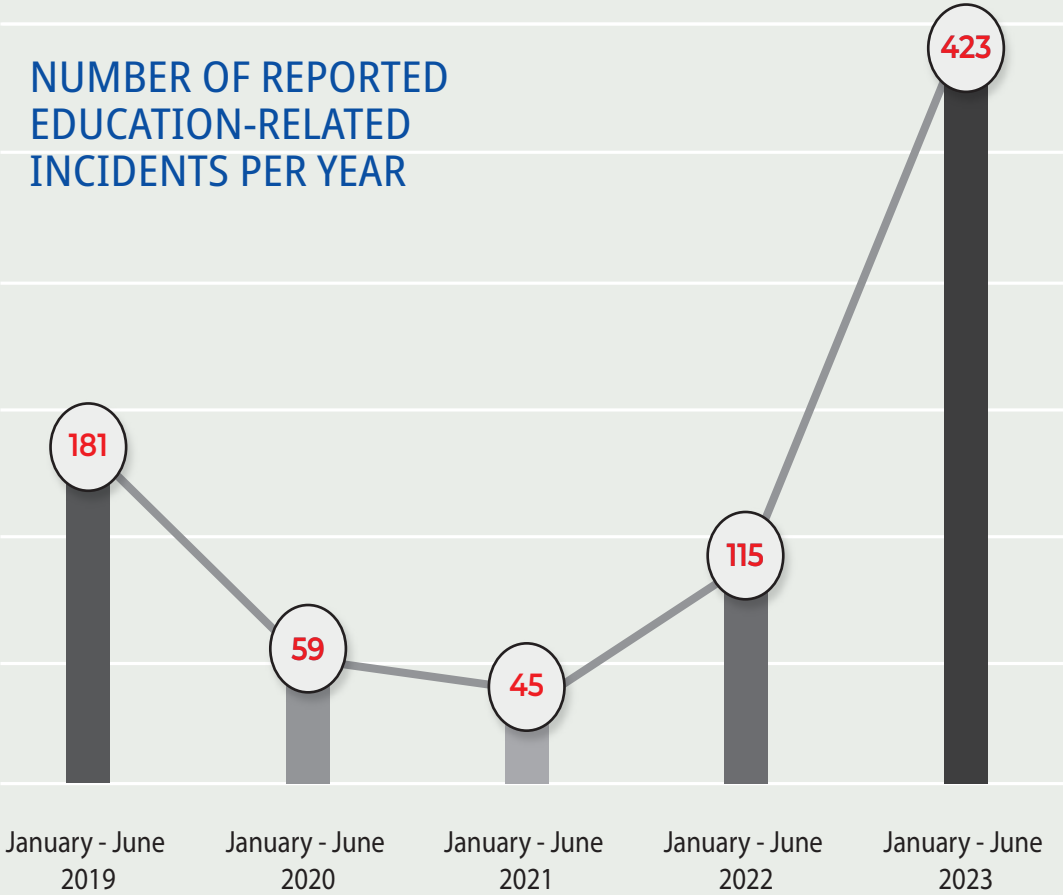
 **2,624** Teachers
(1,165 of them females)

 **21** kindergartens
(2 public KGs, and 19 private KGs)

 **2,466** Students
(1,259 of them females)

 **152** Teachers
(138 of them females)

NUMBER OF REPORTED
EDUCATION-RELATED
INCIDENTS PER YEAR



This represents a **significant increase** in the number of incidents targeting schools and students compared to the the same period of 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019.

19,838 
Class-minutes
were lost

The increase in the number of recorded incidents in the first half of 2023 in comparison to previous years is attributed to the increase in Israeli military operations, including into Palestinian villages in Area A and B, and the extensive movement restrictions on Palestinians which have been imposed by Israeli authorities, limiting access to basic services including education. This period has also seen an increase in the severity and frequency of settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem*.

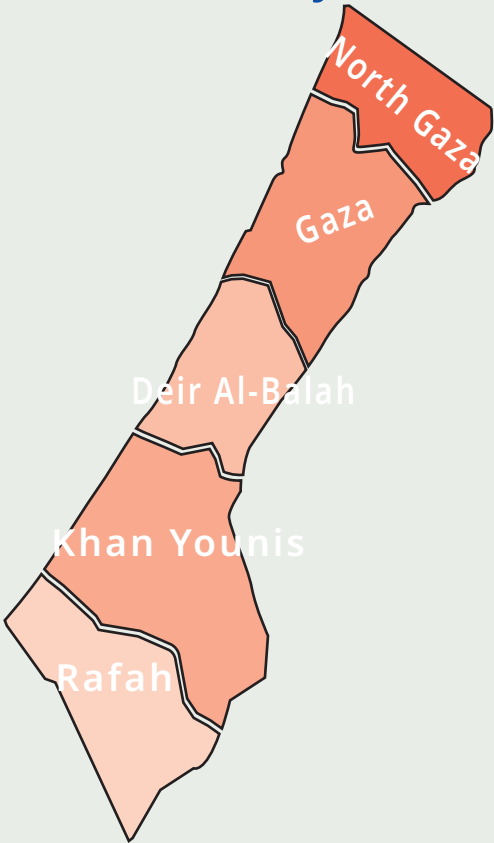
*Data Source: OCHA, KEY FACTS AND FIGURES JANUARY – JUNE 2023



MOST GOVERNORATES AFFECTED

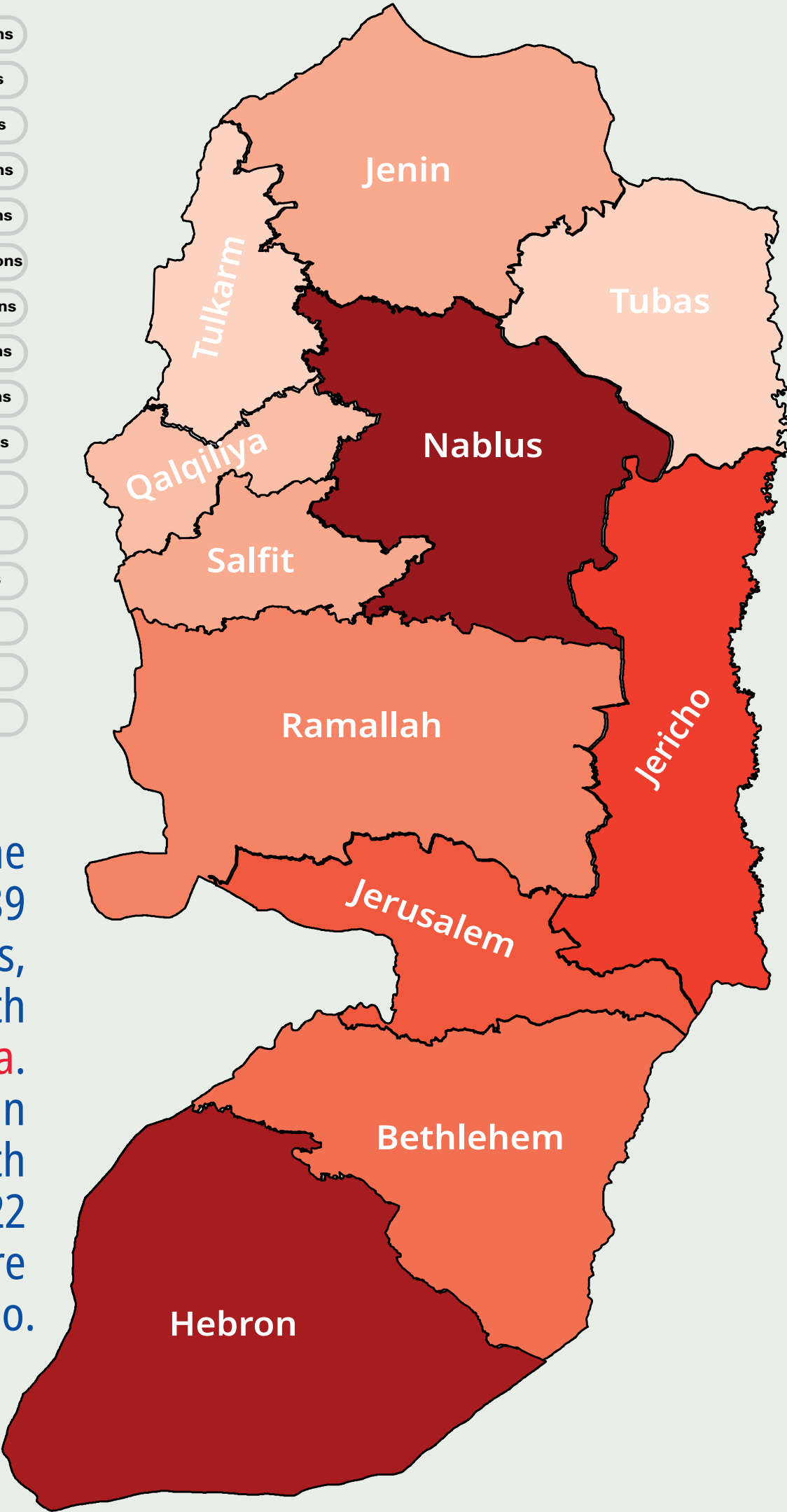
| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nablus (mainly south Nablus villages) | 89 Incidents/8,078 persons |
| Hebron (mainly H2) | 81 Incidents/3,110 persons |
| Jericho | 69 Incidents/3,171 persons |
| Jerusalem | 37 Incidents/2,066 persons |
| Bethlehem | 26 Incidents/3,788 persons |
| North Gaza | 26 Incidents/16,653 persons |
| Ramallah | 24 Incidents/2,508 persons |
| Gaza | 17 Incidents/10,134 persons |
| Khan Younis | 13 Incidents/2,848 persons |
| Jenin | 12 Incidents/1,426 persons |
| Salfit | 10 Incidents/5 persons |
| Qalqiliya | 7 Incidents/448 persons |
| Deir Al-Balah | 5 Incidents/1,957 persons |
| Rafah | 3 Incidents/521 persons |
| Tulkarm | 2 Incidents/300 persons |
| Tubas | 2 Incidents/219 persons |

Nablus Governorate recorded the highest number of incidents at 89 incidents affecting 42 schools, mainly in **Nablus City** and south Nablus villages such as **Huwwara**. **Hebron Governorate** mainly in the **H2 Area** comes in second with 81 reported incidents affecting 22 schools. While 20 schools were affected by 69 incidents in Jericho.

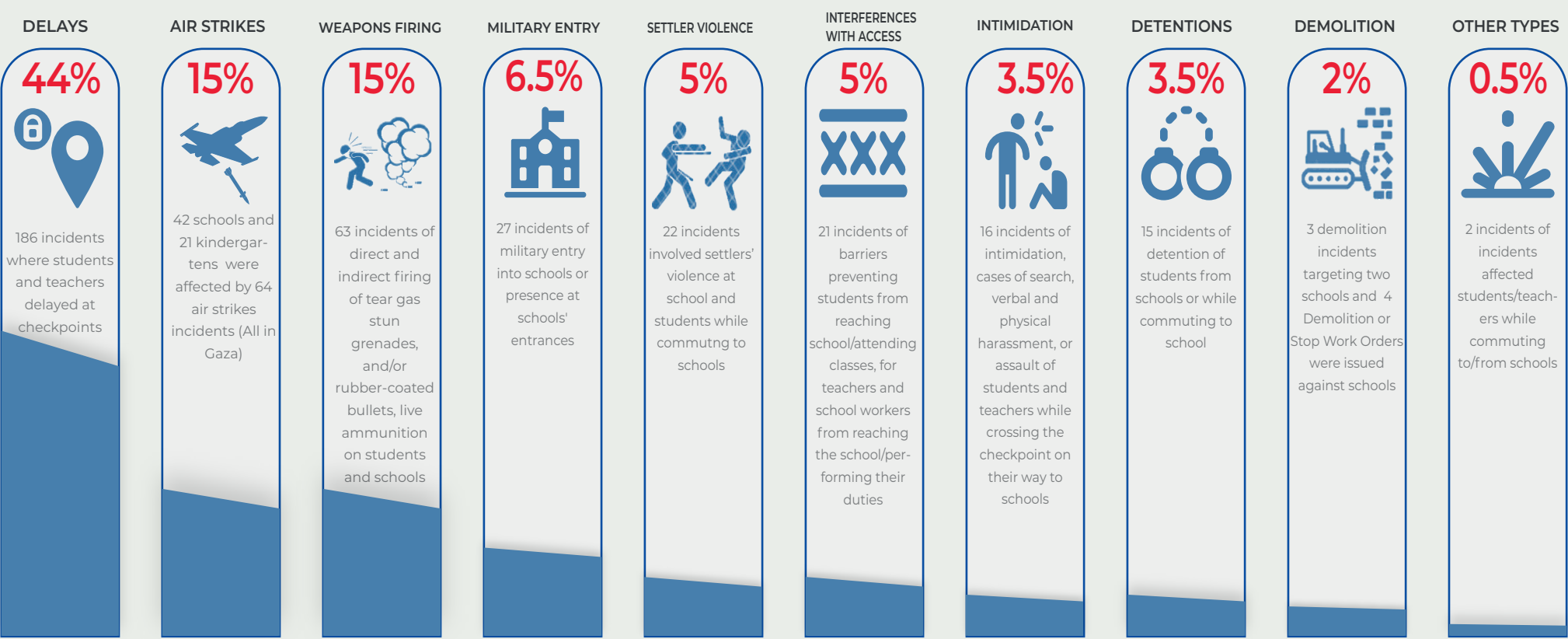


In the West Bank, the majority of recorded incidents have occurred in **Area C** (238 incidents), while 60 in the **H2 area** of Hebron and 34 in **East Jerusalem**.

In the **Gaza Strip**, 64 reported incidents affecting 42 schools and 21 kindergartens with 33,399 students (18,749 females) and 1,332 educational staff (843 females).



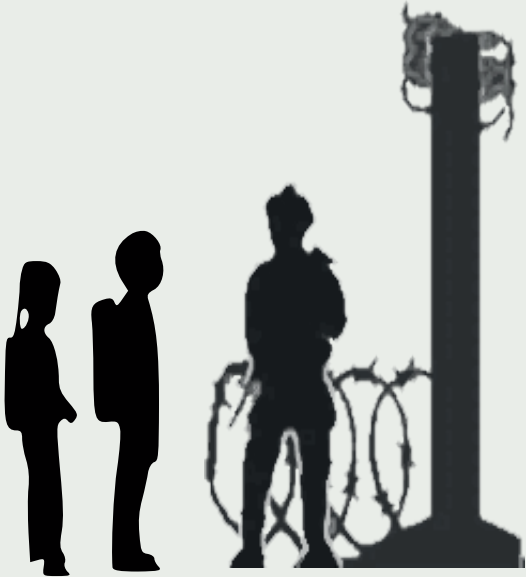
TYPES OF EDUCATION-RELATED INCIDENTS



DELAYS AT CHECKPOINTS

Almost **44 percent** of the reported education-related incidents in the first half of 2023 (**186** incidents) involved students and/or educational staff being delayed at Israeli military checkpoints (CPs) while commuting to/from schools.

The most affected governorates affected by the delay at CPs are **Nablus** (26 schools) and **Jericho** (17 schools) with **68%** (127 incidents) of the recorded incidents.

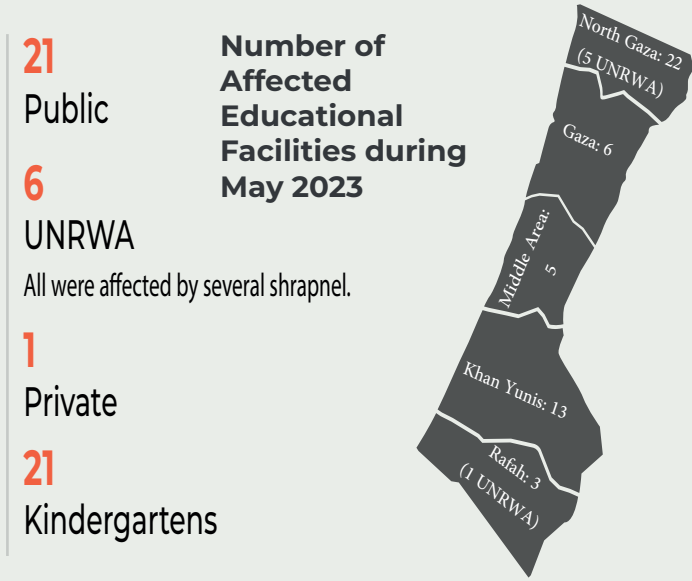


Around **7,600** students (3,588 females) and **463** teachers female teachers and school staff (263 females) were affected.

OTHER WEAPONS FIRING (AIR STRIKES) INCIDENTS



Education facilities were affected by the Israeli air strikes on the Gaza Strip with **64*** reported incidents affecting **42** schools and **21** kindergartens with **33,399** students (18,749 females) and **1,332** educational staff (843 females).

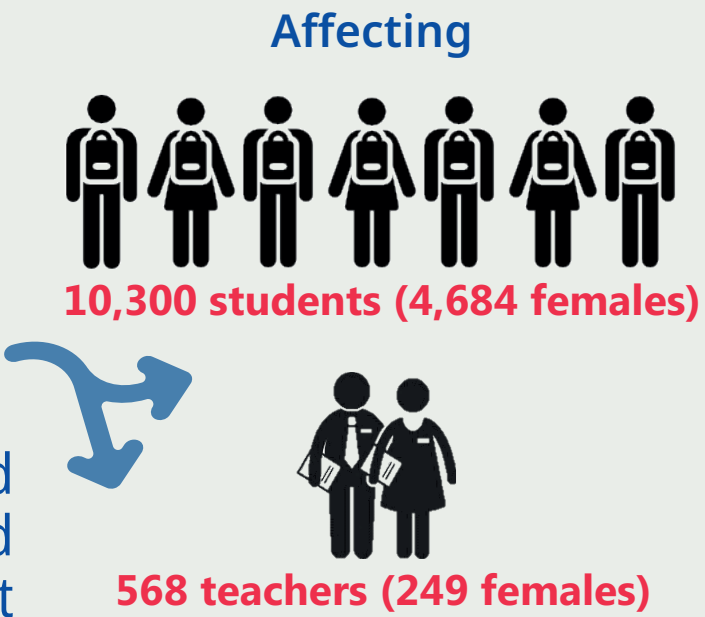
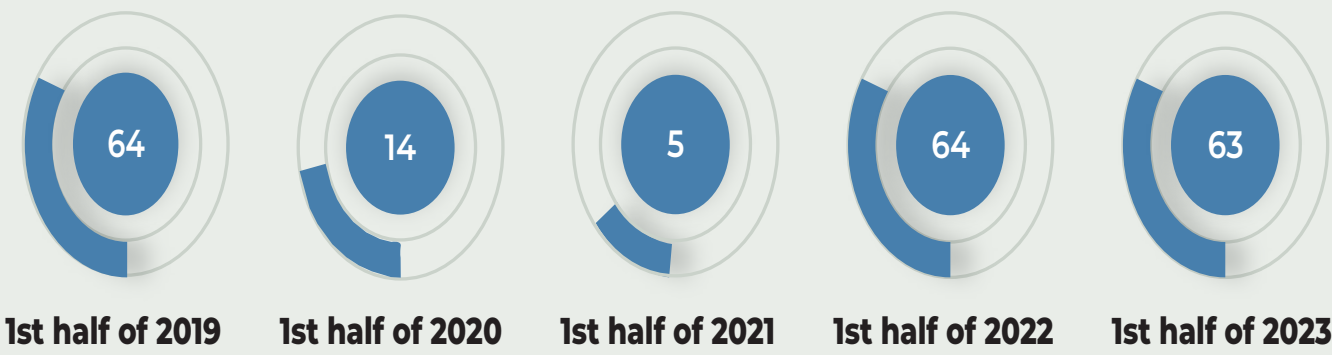


The vast majority of these incidents were recorded during the **May 2023 escalation**, where **49** educational facilities sustained damage. Six schools **sustained moderate damage** (including cracks in the roof and/or cracks in the walls – building body, and infrastructure) while others sustained minor damages. More than 600,000 Palestinian students lost more than **5 learning days** due to these incidents.

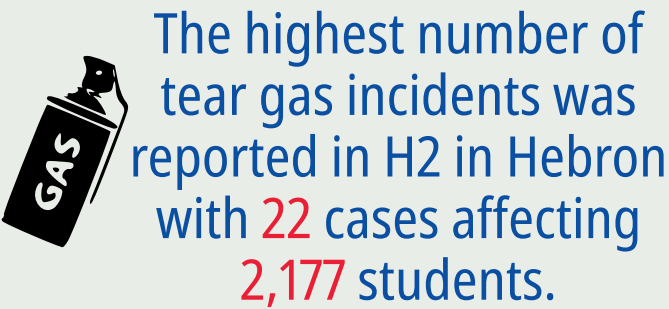
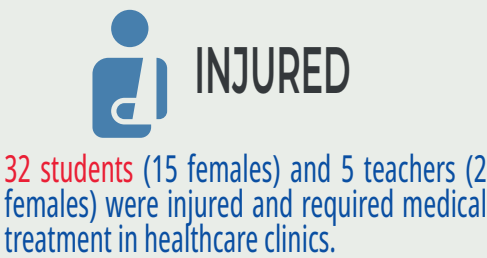
*Some incidents affected more than one education facility, while some facilities were affected by more than one incident. Therefore, the number of incidents and number of affected facilities are not the same.

WEAPON FIRING INCIDENTS

tear gas, stun grenades, live shot/ammunition, and rubber-coated metal bullets



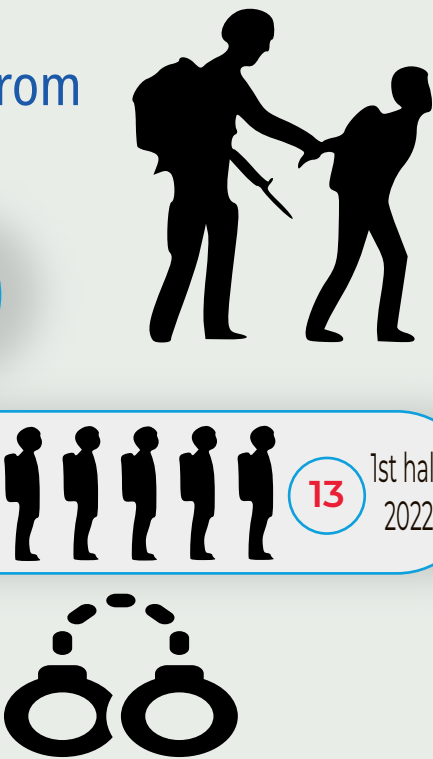
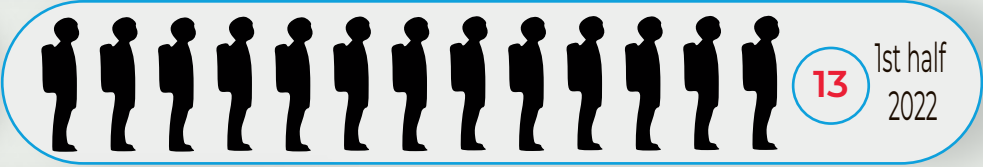
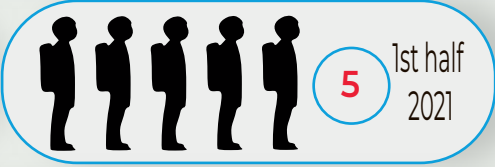
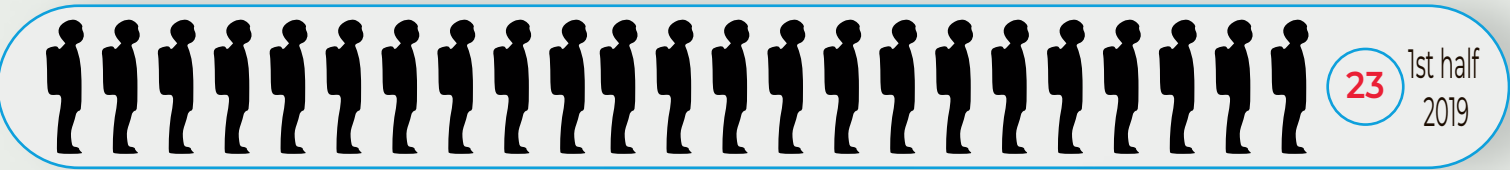
63 incidents were recorded in the first half of 2023 involved firing tear gas canisters, stun grenades, rubber-coated bullets, and/or live ammunition directly or indirectly at schools' premises and/or students while commuting to schools.



The total number of students affected (10,300) by these incidents shows a significant increase in comparison to previous years, as 6,880 students were affected in the first half of 2022, 617, 1,271, and around 4,500 in the first half of 2021, 2020, and 2019 respectively.

DETENTION/ARREST OF STUDENTS

19 students and One teacher were either briefly detained or arrested from their schools or while commuting to/from the schools.



MILITARY ENTRY TO SCHOOLS

In the first half of 2023, the education cluster recorded 12 incidents where Israeli forces entered schools' premises, in 5 of these incidents they caused damage to school facilities or properties such as main gates and classrooms' doors. Only 4, 3, 3, and 7 similar incidents were recorded in 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019 respectively.



*Based on OCHA Protection of Civilians database, 29 school-aged Palestinian children were killed during the first half of 2023.

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SETTLERS' VIOLENCE

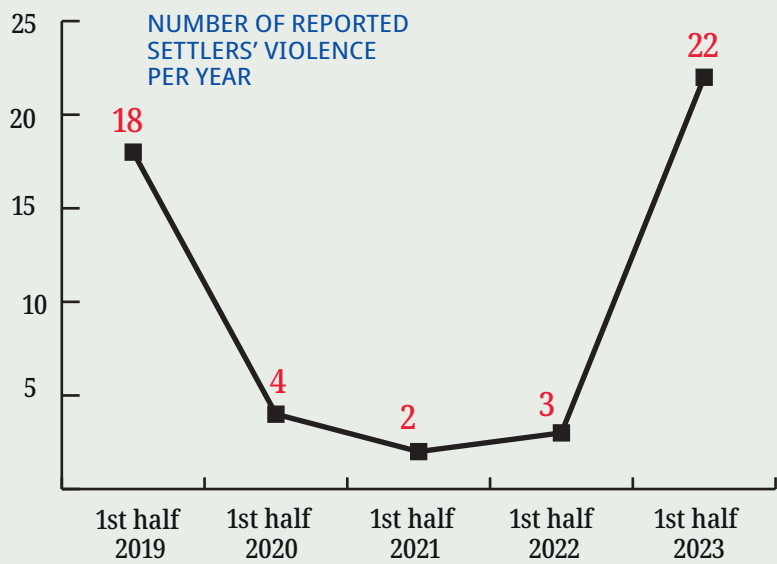
including cases of settlers' entry to school and/or damaging or vandalizing school buildings, attacking students and teachers or intimidating them while commuting to school.

22 settler violence incidents, The highest number was reported in south Nablus villages and the H2 area in Hebron.



2,700 students (675 female) and **193** teachers (84 female) were affected.

In **eight** of these incidents, settlers caused **damage** to schools' properties and premises.



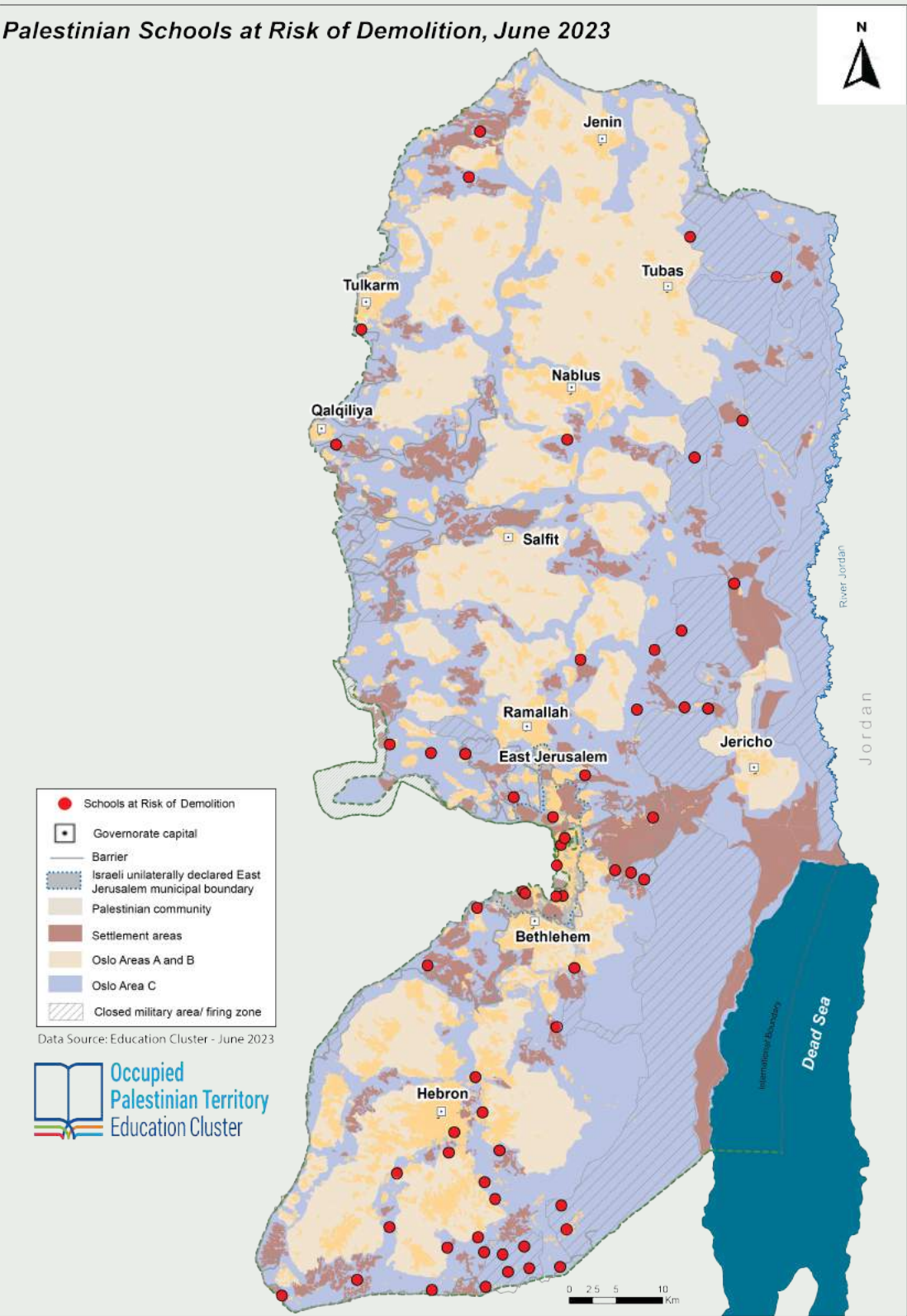
SCHOOLS' DEMOLITION AND STOP WORK ORDERS

In the first half of 2023, Israeli Authorities carried out **THREE DEMOLITION INCIDENTS** (demolition or confiscation) targeting **two schools** (Altahadiy 5 Co-education School in Jub adh Dhib and Isfy Basic Co-education School). In total, **61** students (38 females) and **15** teachers and school staff (8 females) were affected by these incidents.

Moreover, the Israeli Civic Administration issued **4 MILITARY ORDERS** (Demolition-Stop work orders) targeting **three schools** (Tahadi - Badiyat Ramallah Mixed School in Wadi as Seeq, Umm Qussa Mixed Basic School, and under construction Maeen Girls Basic School). In total, **294** students (228 females) and 25 teachers and school staff (19 females) are affected by these orders.

According to the Education Cluster database for schools under threat of demolition , it is estimated that at least **60* SCHOOLS** (52 schools located in Area C and 8 located in East Jerusalem) under partial or full demolition orders or have received stop-work orders. These schools serve around **6,800 students** in the most vulnerable areas of the West Bank.

Palestinian Schools at Risk of Demolition, June 2023



*Ein Samia Basic Co-education School was demolished after the period covered by this report.

ADVOCACY MESSAGES AND KEY ASKS TO MEMBER STATES

Israeli policies and restrictions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, jeopardize children's safe access to school. Member states are urged to advocate with Israeli authorities the importance to fulfill their obligations to ensure safe access to education for all children in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, wherever they are. Israeli authorities should be urged to halt all demolitions and to cease attacks and threats of attacks on education and to refrain from actions that impede safe access to education.

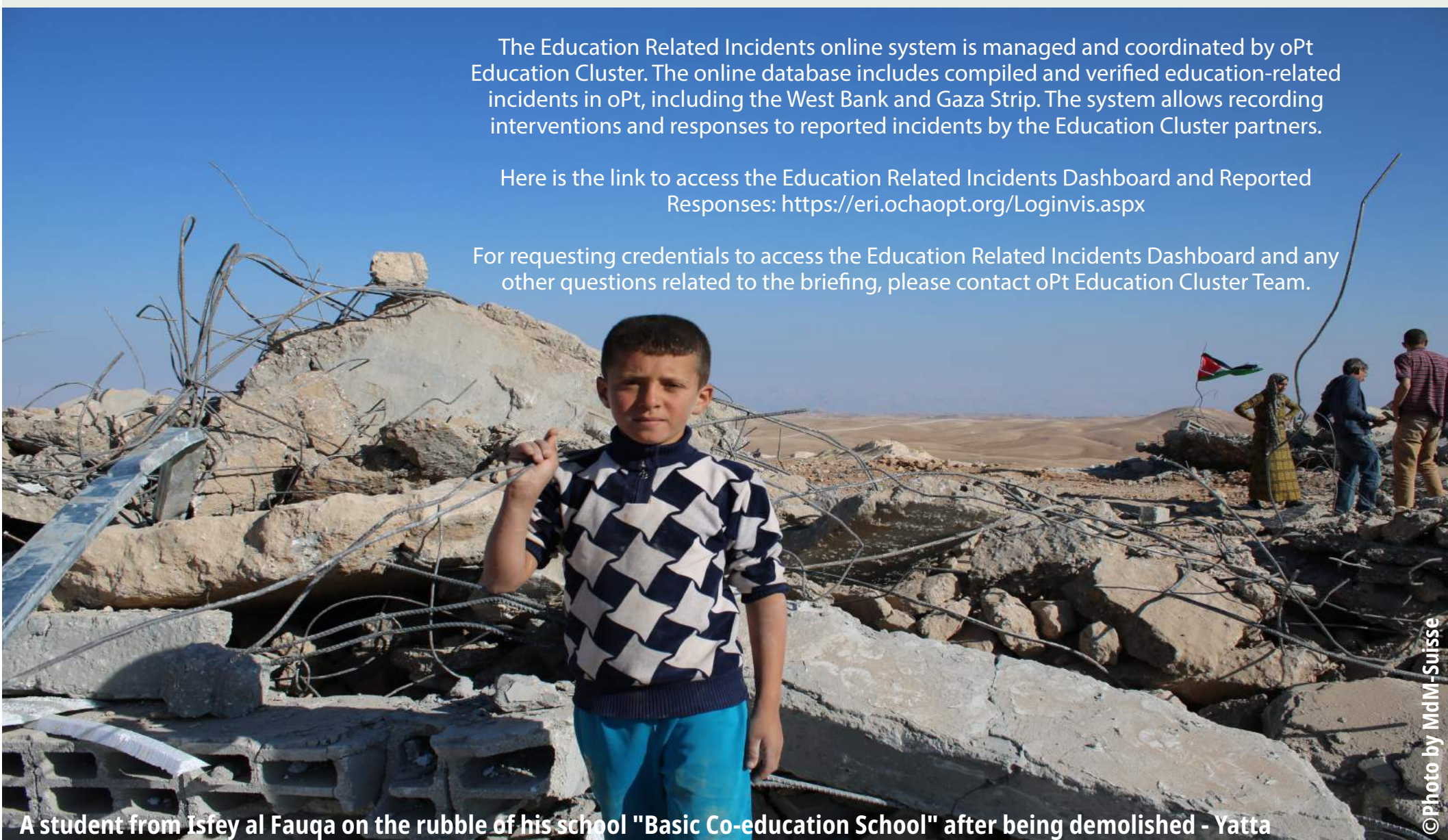
- All children have the right to safely access education, which is enshrined in international humanitarian and human rights law, including the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Israel bears the primary obligation to meet the needs of the protected population and has in particular the obligation to facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children.
- The demolition, destruction, or confiscation of schools and educational infrastructure constitutes a grave violation against children in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1612 and related resolutions.
- The obligation to ensure the right to education should be implemented alongside other important provisions of IHL, particularly in the Fourth Geneva Convention. These include, among others, the prohibition of the destruction of private or public property, unless absolutely necessary for military operations (Article 53); the prohibition on individual or mass forcible transfers, including within the occupied territory (Article 49); and the occupying power's obligation to facilitate the rapid, unimpeded and impartial delivery of relief to civilians in need and assist personnel to the fullest extent practicable in carrying out their relief missions (Article 59, 60, 63).

All parties to the conflict should safeguard, protect, respect, and promote the right to education and to respect the civilian character of schools and educational facilities in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The Education Related Incidents online system is managed and coordinated by oPt Education Cluster. The online database includes compiled and verified education-related incidents in oPt, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The system allows recording interventions and responses to reported incidents by the Education Cluster partners.

Here is the link to access the Education Related Incidents Dashboard and Reported Responses: <https://eri.ochaopt.org/Loginvis.aspx>

For requesting credentials to access the Education Related Incidents Dashboard and any other questions related to the briefing, please contact oPt Education Cluster Team.



A student from Isfey al Fauqa on the rubble of his school "Basic Co-education School" after being demolished - Yatta