

LIFE AFTER FORCIBLE TRANSFER

Household assessment finds forcibly displaced Palestinian households are not recovering - conditions, needs and future outlook remain bleak.

More than two years after the sharp escalation in Israeli settler violence and other coercive pressures across the West Bank, Palestinian households displaced from Area C communities continue to face insecurity, economic hardship, and significant challenges. Evidence from the first survey of these communities - 233 displaced households - shows that displacement has become a protracted condition rather than a temporary disruption. Most families remain unable to return home, have lost access to the land and livelihoods on which they depended, and continue to face the risk of further displacement.

Key Findings

- Displacement has accelerated dramatically since October 2023, increasing more than fourfold. Settler violence is still the main factor forcing families to relocate.
- 49% of households fear renewed eviction within the next six months, highlighting continued exposure to coercive pressures and onward displacement
- 86% report living conditions worse than those in their communities of origin, with many residing in temporary shelters that are physically unsafe and legally insecure.
- 68% experienced livelihood loss following displacement, primarily due to loss of access to land, pasture for grazing, and herding resources.
- 74% reported that household income after displacement was insufficient to cover basic needs – whether totally (46%) or rarely sufficient (28%).

- Only 6% expect to return to their communities within the next year, reflecting the persistence of insecurity, settler violence, land confiscation, and restricted access.
- Livestock support, shelter assistance, water, electricity, and livelihood recovery remain among households' highest priorities.

This assessment demonstrates that forcible transfer is generating long-term humanitarian and protection consequences that extend far beyond the initial temporary forced displacement.

Key Messages

Forcible transfer is ongoing

Displacement from vulnerable Palestinian communities is not an isolated humanitarian incident but an increasing phenomenon in the West Bank. It occurs within the broader coercive environment characterized by settler violence, eviction threats, movement restrictions, demolitions, and loss of access to land.

Displacement does not provide safety

Many households continue to face insecurity, additional displacements and eviction risks, and inadequate living conditions after displacement, underscoring the need for sustained protection and assistance.

Displacement is protracted - return remains largely impossible

The overwhelming majority of displaced households cannot safely return due to ongoing settler presence, insecurity, and restricted access to land and property.

Humanitarian support must move beyond emergency response

The protracted nature of displacement requires longer-term investments in shelter, livelihoods, legal protection, and community resilience alongside immediate humanitarian assistance.

Key Asks

To Israeli Authorities

- Fulfil its obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian and human rights law by preventing forcible transfer and ensuring protection of Palestinian civilians.
- End policies and practices that contribute to coercive environments, including settlement expansion and legalization of outposts, demolitions, displacement, movement restrictions, and barriers to access to land and services.
- Ensure accountability for settler violence and provide effective protection for communities at risk.
- Require the Israeli security forces to implement Israeli Court rulings declaring that the displaced communities should return to their original locations.
- Extend and enforce to Area C the Israeli military prohibition against Israeli settlers entering Palestinian residential and agricultural areas.

To Third States and the International Community

- Increase diplomatic engagement to address the drivers of forcible transfer, particularly the issue of unchecked settler violence.

- Uphold international law. Forcible transfer is a grave breach of the 4th Geneva Convention. State parties to the Convention are obliged to hold to account those committing these breaches.
- Support monitoring, documentation, and accountability efforts related to displacement and protection violations.
- Maintain political attention to Palestinian communities at risk of displacement and advocate for safe access to land, services, and livelihoods.
- Demand that Israeli authorities allow the return of all displaced Palestinians and implement Israeli Court rulings that the displaced communities should return to their original locations.

To Humanitarian Donors

- Sustain funding for communities at risk of forcible transfer and households already displaced.
- Increase flexible, multi-year funding to address the protracted impacts of displacement.
- Prioritize integrated programmes that combine protection, shelter, livelihood recovery, and basic service support.

To Humanitarian and Development Actors

- Expand longer-term support for displaced households, including shelter solutions, livestock and livelihood assistance, legal aid, and protection services.
- Strengthen area-based approaches that address both immediate needs and the structural consequences of displacement.
- Ensure displaced households remain visible within humanitarian planning and response frameworks.