Balasan Initiative
for Human Rights

BEYOND THE RUBBLE:

Socio-Economic Dispossession and the Gendered Impacts of Israeli Home Demolitions Policy in the West Bank

Since late 2023, the occupied West Bank has witnessed an alarming surge in Israeli administrative, punitive, and military demolitions, which has escalated the forced displacement of Palestinians, their economic dispossession, and the erosion of their family and community life. Women and girls face heightened impacts, including increased caregiving burdens, loss of privacy, and greater exposure to gender-based violence.



ISRAELI DEMOLITIONS IN NUMBERS *

Escalation from 2023 onwards

- **1,177** Palestinian structures demolished or seized by Israeli authorities across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2023.
- **2,296** Palestinians displaced as a result of demolitions, including **1,057** children in 2023.
- **439,875** Palestinians directly or indirectly affected by demolitions in 2023.
- **1,074+** demolitions documented since 7 October 2023, primarily in the northern West Bank.
- **~1,400** demolition orders issued after the Israeli military operation 'Iron Wall' began in the northern West Bank in January 2025.
- **~30,000** Palestinians remain forcibly displaced from northern West Bank refugee camps.
- **46%** of structures demolished in the first half of 2024 were residential; **28%** agricultural and **17%** livelihood-related.
- **63%** of displaced Palestinian women reported increased physical, practical, and psychological burdens following demolition.

* All data, statistics, and figures are duly sourced in the BIHR report: "BEYOND THE RUBBLE: Socio-Economic Dispossession and the Gendered Impacts of Israeli Home Demolitions Policy in the West Bank.

Sept. 2026

ECONOMIC DISPOSSESSION

Home demolitions destroy not only homes but also livelihoods, assets, and household economic security.

LOSS OF LIVELIHOODS

- Productive assets demolished
- Land-based livelihoods
- Women's economic independence
- Food security

DEBT & DEPENDENCY

- Pre-demolition fines and fees
- Accumulating debt
- Post-demolition costs
- Enforced dependency



SOCIAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

FAMILY

- Overcrowding
- Family ties strained
- Loss of privacy

COMMUNITY

- Displacement
- Broken social ties
- Loss of belonging

CHILDREN

- Sleep problems
- Concentration difficulties
- Social withdrawal
- Developmental regression

MENTAL WELLBEING

- Trauma based stress & anxiety
- Fear & insecurity
- Depression

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

- Interrupted schooling
- Longer travel
- Settler harassment
- Greater barriers to education for girls

GENDER-SPECIFIC IMPACTS

CARE

Increased unpaid care work
Heavier domestic burden
Care for children & dependents

SAFETY & DIGNITY

Loss of privacy
Gender-based violence & harassment risks
Restricted mobility

ECONOMIC AUTONOMY

Loss of home-based income
Loss of productive assets
Reduced employment

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Increased unpaid care work
Heavier domestic burden
Care for children & dependents

This document has been produced with the support of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. The views expressed herein are those of the BIHR and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung.

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