

61,000



UNRWA registered refugees in Hebron City out of a population of 200,000

7,000



Palestinians live in closed or restricted areas of H2, an estimated 20% are refugees

120



Physical obstacles to freedom of movement in H2 restricted area including

21

Regularly manned checkpoints

88%



Of schoolchildren in H2 have to cross checkpoints on their way to school

59%

Of them face weekly harassment at checkpoints

48%



Of households have had settlers attack their homes

44%

Of households need protective measures (nets, gates, fencing)

Background

- The Hebron Protocol of 1997 divided Hebron into H1 and H2 areas. H1 (80%) is under Palestinian civil and security control. H2 (20%) is under Israeli military control and Palestinian civil control, with roughly 33,750 Palestinians and 800 settlers (exact settler numbers are unknown).
- Hebron is a holy city to both Muslim and Jewish people and among the few Palestinian cities, where Israeli settlements exist inside the city, right next to Palestinian residents, resulting in heightened tensions, movement restrictions, high degrees of surveillance, and heavy ISF presence.
- Since Israel unilaterally ended the mandate of the civilian monitoring force Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) in January 2019, there has been a gap in protective presence in H2. This was compounded by the COVID crisis as travel restrictions decreased the presence of international volunteers.
- After the departure of TIPH, Palestinians living in H2 have felt increasingly vulnerable in the face of settler violence and military control including home searches, occupation of homes, and detentions and arrests. Levels of settler activity remain high in H2, including takeover of Palestinian buildings by Israeli settlers and settlement expansion

Access to UNRWA Services

- **UNRWA Hebron Boys' School** is located in the non-restricted part of H2, next to PA schools, in the vicinity of CP 160 and Abu Reesh CP, where clashes are frequent. The school currently has more than 600 students at grades 1-9.
- UNRWA Hebron Boys' School is regularly exposed to tear gas and sound bomb use, including canisters landing inside the installation. Between March and June 2022 alone, 36 tear gas canisters landed inside the premises. This leads to disruption of the school day as breaks and outdoor activities have to be cancelled, classes relocated, or the students evacuated through the security exit. The school has been identified as a priority by the **Protection and Neutrality Department (PND)** for protective presence and civil-military coordination interventions.
- **UNRWA Hebron Health Centre** is in H1, but bordering Tel Rumeidah area of H2 and close to Qarantina CP leading to Shuhada street with restricted Palestinian access. The centre serves refugees both from H2 and H1. Movement restrictions and security concerns are major impediments for access from inside H2.
- **UNRWA's Crisis Intervention Unit** provides emergency response protection services to vulnerable refugee families in H2, including in Wadi al Hussein near the Kiryat Arba settlement. This includes case management, psychological first aid, assistance to help repair damages incurred during ISF operations or due to settler violence, and referrals to specialized services. PND coordinates CIU access to H2 with ISF, and escorts CIU workers, when required by the security situation.