

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

Advocacy Strategy for 2019 – 2021

The HCT's Advocacy Strategy was formulated based on widespread consultations with humanitarian and other partners across the oPt that took place between December 2017 and February 2018, culminating in a national-level advocacy workshop that involved the participation of 60 representatives of UN agencies, international and Palestinian NGO, as well as in meetings of the HCT Advocacy Working Group during the formulation of this document. This advocacy strategy¹ covers the three-year period following its endorsement. It will be updated as the situation requires.

Context and Rationale

The humanitarian context of the oPt is unique amongst today's crises. It remains directly tied to the impact of prolonged military occupation and unresolved refugee problem and is driven by the systematic denial of Palestinian rights and continuing conflict. In 2018, one in two Palestinians, or an estimated 2.5 million people, are in need of gender responsive humanitarian assistance throughout the oPt for all women, men, girls and boys.

The Gaza Strip faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Eleven years of Israeli blockade and recurrent outbreaks of hostilities between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups have resulted in entrenched levels of food insecurity, reduced or restricted access to essential services, poverty and dependence on humanitarian aid as well as eroded basic infrastructure, livelihoods and coping mechanisms. The massive rise in Palestinian casualties in Gaza since 30 March, in the context of demonstrations occurring as part of the 'Great March of Return', has had a catastrophic impact, particularly on the already-struggling health sector, and given rise to serious concerns over excessive use of force by Israeli soldiers. The intra-Palestinian political divide between authorities in Ramallah and Gaza has exacerbated the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza, with a deepening of the ten-year crisis; measures affecting civil service allowances, electricity supply and medical payments were imposed by the Palestinian Authority (PA) in 2017. Despite a reconciliation agreement signed in October 2017 between Fatah and Hamas, the internal divide remains unresolved and continues to impact the Gaza population's access to essential needs and services.

In the West Bank, continuing Israeli settlement expansion and the destruction of homes and livelihoods, alongside other human rights violations, remain major sources of frustration and conflict, and have led to a heightened risk of forcible transfer for many Palestinians in Area C, East Jerusalem and the H2 part of Hebron city. The exhaustion of legal proceedings in the case of Khan al Ahmar – Abu al Helu and steps towards the mass demolition of community structures, in particular, underscored the continuing threats, in a context where it is near impossible for Palestinians to secure building permits. The shift in the US position on Jerusalem in December 2017 led to widespread demonstrations and

¹ Resource mobilization strategies are outside the scope of this document.

casualties among Palestinian protestors, continuing through the actual relocation of its Embassy to Jerusalem in May 2018. The scale and nature of the Israeli security forces' response, including recourse to tear gas in confined and overcrowded refugee camps and regular use of live ammunition raise concerns regarding the excessive use of force in the West Bank too. Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their property have continued to rise since 2017, with the highest level of incidents recorded since 2014. Overall, a pervasive crisis of accountability continues throughout the oPt, with a lack of will to ensure effective remedy for the vast majority of alleged violations of international law.

A series of worrying developments risk further destabilizing the situation and increasing the level of humanitarian needs in the oPt. Of particular concern are: Israeli military orders and initiatives purportedly pursuing annexation of Palestinian territory contrary to international law. or limiting the ability of individual and human rights organizations to challenge the Israeli authorities' demolition or seizure of Palestinian properties in the West Bank; and increasing restrictions on humanitarian operating space and shrinking democratic space throughout the oPt and Israel, alongside a rise in coordinated attacks designed to delegitimize humanitarian action. These occur in parallel to record-low funding levels and an unprecedented financial crisis facing UNRWA, which risk severely limiting the ability of humanitarian agencies to respond to existing and emerging needs.

Against this backdrop, the HCT in the oPt endorses this advocacy strategy, designed to support the Humanitarian Response Strategy (2018-2020) and to strategically leverage the resources of the HCT towards increased respect by all duty bearers for their obligations under international humanitarian law and/or international human rights law.

Priority Issues

The below issues have been agreed as the priorities for HCT advocacy for the period of the strategy:

- **Promoting accountability** for obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- **Lifting restrictions on movement and access** of people and goods and to livelihoods, essential needs and services, natural resources and humanitarian assistance;
- **Preventing forced displacement and forcible transfer**; and
- **Protecting humanitarians' operating space**, including countering efforts to delegitimize humanitarian action.

Long-term Goals and Objectives for 2019-2021

Bearing in mind the HCT's 'theory of change', which focuses on targeting influential actors capable of encouraging compliance with international law by the duty bearers, (see annex) and drawn from the Strategic Objectives of the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018-2020, the HCT is working towards the following long-term goals. During the period of this strategy, the HCT will focus on the below medium-term objectives, as a means of contributing towards the long-term goals:

Goal 1: The rights of Palestinians under occupation, including blockade, are respected, protected and promoted in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Objectives:

- a. UN member states act to ensure respect for Palestinian human rights by Israeli and Palestinian duty bearers, including acting to end policies, including the blockade, that restrict freedom of movement, constitute collective punishment or result in excessive use of force and which undermine the protection of civilians and impede Palestinians' access to livelihoods, essential needs and services, natural resources and humanitarian assistance.
- b. UN member states act to prevent forced displacement and forcible transfer by the occupying power in the West Bank, including by countering policies and practices creating a coercive environment.²
- c. Palestinian duty bearers reverse decisions and lift restrictions that impede the ability of Palestinians in Gaza to have equitable access to essential needs and services, including health, water, sanitation and education, or humanitarian assistance.

Goal 2: Duty bearers and parties to the conflict are held accountable for the lack of respect for international legal obligations that drive humanitarian needs in the oPt.

Objectives:

- a. UN human rights reporting mechanisms are more effectively utilized through improved coordination related to monitoring, reporting and follow-up action in response to possible violations.
- b. UN member states take measures to ensure the full respect of the provisions of the law of occupation enshrined in the Fourth Geneva Convention, in addition to promoting the norms applying to the responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts, including the UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights and adherence to operative paragraph 5 of UNSC 2334.³

Advocacy role of the Humanitarian Coordinator and the HCT⁴

² For factors contributing to the coercive environment, see note prepared by Protection Cluster members.

³ Paragraph 5: "Calls upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967."

⁴ Adapted from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Terms of Reference for the Humanitarian Coordinator (2009) and the IASC Standard Terms of Reference for Humanitarian Country Teams (February 2017).

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) should promote the respect of international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to the conflict and human rights duty bearers, by coordinating the advocacy efforts of relevant organizations and using private and/or public advocacy as appropriate;

The Humanitarian Country Team should promote respect for international humanitarian and human rights law by all parties to the conflict, human rights duty bearers and third states, including contributing to private and/or public advocacy as appropriate. It should support the efforts of the HC to influence Member States, regional organizations, UN entities, civil society, the private sector, the media and other relevant actors.

Areas of Intervention and Action Plan

In working towards the above objectives, the HCT will focus its activities during the period on the below areas:

1. **Influencing** parties to the conflict and human rights duty bearers, and those with influence over the parties (locally and at capital-level) to promote respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, with specific emphasis on the objective areas.
2. **Raising awareness** internationally about the urgency of the crisis in the oPt and the costs of inaction to elicit political and financial support.
3. **Strengthening coordination** with international networks outside the country, internal coordination vis-à-vis capital-level advocacy and **strategize outreach** with media, in order to better influence capital-level discussions, decisions and public opinion.
4. **Partnering** with development and political actors to ensure complementarity of advocacy initiatives and support the addressing of root causes of needs and sustainable solutions.
5. **Listening** to affected men, women, boys and girls and **integrating** their respective views into advocacy strategies, activities and messages.

The table below summarizes the types of activities in which HCT members are engaging to achieve the goals and objectives outlined above. For specific, planned activities, see 2019 Action Plan.

Raising awareness	Influencing parties to the conflict and those with influence	Coordination to optimize capital-level advocacy	Media outreach	Partnering with development and political actors	Listening to affected persons and integrating their views
Develop joint messaging/ analysis on issues of humanitarian concern	Bi-lateral meetings/correspondence between partners and the Israeli authorities	Mapping key networks in target countries	Proactive engagement with traditional and new media (print, radio, TV, online and social media).	Engagement with UNSCO on key issues of concern / areas of cooperation.	Meetings with affected persons on advocacy-related issues (including men, women, Palestine refugees, PWDs)

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Coordinated social media campaigns	Bi-lateral meetings/ correspondence between partners and the Palestinian authorities	Reaching out to networks in target capitals and establishing direct links	Facilitate visits for international journalists	Engagement with development actors	Amplify voices of affected persons through inclusion of their views in public and private advocacy products, including social media content, and ensuring their voices are included in advocacy events.
HC statements on behalf of the HCT, in line with HCT messaging	Joint HC/HCT briefings (field and office-based) to Member States on specific issues	Sharing of information / key messages / key concerns with capital-level networks, particularly in advance of strategic opportunities	HC/HCT press briefings	Proactively share HCT key messages with political and development actors	Translate core products in Arabic and ensure wide dissemination of information products, including with affected persons featured, if applicable
Infographics created for Facebook and Twitter to highlight the key humanitarian messages.	Bi-lateral meetings with Members State representatives locally (Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv) and at capital-level, including briefings of the HC and other senior leaders of the HCT to COHAFA, MAMA and other relevant EU-fora.		Periodic dissemination of HCT media focal points to local and international media		Empowering affected persons to undertake their own advocacy, through including them in capital-level visits and meetings with targets.
Public reporting on issues of humanitarian concern	Ensure key issues of humanitarian concern covered in Security Council briefings		Dissemination of resources related to issues of humanitarian concern to journalists (e.g. data, online tools, etc.)		Building capacity of affected persons to undertake community-led advocacy and of CBOs to enhance their role in showcasing the voices of affected populations.
Ensure key targets receive information	Field and office-based briefings to visiting delegations, including				

products and are on key mailing lists	Parliamentarians, government representatives and civil society groups				
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Targets

The below Member States/entities have been identified by the HCT as targets for the period of the strategy, given their status as: a party to the conflict and/or human rights duty bearer; member of the UN Security Council between 2018 - 2020; key donor (e.g. significant investment) in the oPt; active regional actor. Among the below are Member States/entities who have taken positions condemning violations of IHL and IHR in the oPt, with whom the HCT will work to further these efforts, as well as Member States that have, to date, refrained from engaging in a supportive manner on oPt issues, or blocked efforts, to protect Palestinians. Targets will be updated as needed, according to developments, including countries prioritized for capital-level advocacy. *For more information and rationale, see HCT AWG Targets Matrix.*

- Israel, Palestinian authorities (the Palestinian Authority and Gaza authorities);
- Regional actors: Turkey, Qatar, the Emirates, Jordan and Egypt (particularly relevant for advocacy related to Gaza)
- Quartet Members: the EU, US, Russia and (UN – see below);
- Chair of the AHLC: Norway
- Other UN Security Council members between 2018 – 2020 (Belgium; Cote D'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Equatorial Guinea; Germany; Indonesia; Kuwait; Peru; Poland; South Africa);
- Holders of the EU Council Presidency (2019 – 2021): Romania, Finland, Croatia, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia;
- UN Human Rights bodies/officials (Special Rapporteurs, Human Rights Council, Treaty Monitoring Bodies).
- Others not included above:
 - o Switzerland, Sweden (key allies on a range of issues of humanitarian concern);
 - o Netherlands (particular interest in Gaza blockade issues);
 - o United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France (among other issues, they, along with Germany, issued rare joint statement on Khan al Ahmar)

Select Success Indicators (*where available, indicator data to be disaggregated by age and sex*)

The indicators below have been suggested by HCT members. The AWG is discussing other suggested indicators that are not yet systematically monitored and may be included upon agreement on how to make measurable.

	Select Indicators, Baselines and Focal Points for Monitoring
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Goal 1	The rights of Palestinians under occupation, including blockade, are respected, protected and promoted in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.
<i>Objective A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased timely approvals for patient access by the Israeli or Egyptian authorities for patients and other humanitarian cases (WHO)⁵ - Increase in movement and access indicators for Gaza (baseline, 2017 averages; OCHA Gaza Crossings Monthly Report); - Decreased # of open-fire incidents in ARA at sea and land, excluding demonstrations (baseline, 213 shooting incidents at sea and 297 shooting incidents on land in 2017, ARAWG); - Expansion of fishing area in Gaza (baseline, 6-9 NM, OCHA); - Decreased # of live ammunition injuries during demonstrations and other policing operations in WB/GS (baseline, 2017 monthly average, MoH data Gaza and OCHA PoC database); - Increased # of targets calling for a lifting of the blockade of Gaza/full implementation of UNSC 1860 (baseline, 0, OCHA based on AWG inputs); - Increased approval rating for national staff permits to exit Gaza (baseline: 2017 average, ACU) - Increased # of Member States and institutions taking action to preserve space for local and international humanitarian organizations to operate and advocate, including in response to attempts to discredit specific humanitarian partners (baseline, 0, OCHA based on inputs from AWG); - Reduced # of attacks on health care (including patients, staff, transport and facilities (Baseline: 197 attacks (according to WHO definition and monitoring) in 1st half of 2018)) - Decrease in the number of incidents of interference with education (baseline: tbd, UNICEF); - Decrease in number of children killed or maimed (baseline: 2017, CAAC); - Decreased reduction of fishing areas and closure of Kerem Shalom on punitive grounds (baseline, TBD).
<i>Objective B</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decrease in # of forced evictions and demolitions (baseline; 2017 monthly average, OCHA) - Increase in # of target states condemning demolitions, efforts to relocate Palestinians or acting to counter measures related to the coercive environment, including demands for compensation (baseline; 0, OCHA based on inputs by AWG members); - Reduced # of incidents of settler violence leading to casualty or property damage (baseline: 2018 average; OCHA PoC database); - Increased # of Member States investing in, and/or increased funding for, projects/ programming aimed at promoting rights and protecting vulnerable community's presence in Area C; East Jerusalem and H2 (baseline; 2019 HRP, OCHA);

⁵ Baseline for patients through Erez: 59% approval rate for 1st half of 2018, WHO; baseline for Rafah: 750 crossed for health reasons in the first half of 2018; baseline for East Jerusalem: 88% (2017 data – not disaggregated for 2018).

<i>Objective C</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PA financial approvals for medical referrals improved (<u>Baseline: average of 2,499 referrals per month for Gaza for 1st half of 2018 (data not yet available for West Bank this year – in 2017, the average number of referrals per month was 6,203, WHO)</u>); - Increase in percentage of essential medicines and disposables at zero stock (<u>Baseline: 47% of essential medicines at zero stock (less than a month’s supply remaining Baseline: 27% of essential medical disposables at zero stock (less than a month’s supply remaining, WHO)</u>) - Salaries of civil servants paid regularly and/or resumed at full-scale (<u>baseline: 15,000 post-2007, paid irregularly at 40%-60% + 65,000 paid at 30%-50% reduction since March 2017; Gaza Ministry of Finance/OCHA)</u>); - Reduction of delays in transfer of social allowance for vulnerable families by MoSD (<u>baseline: 330 USD every three months</u>) - Decreased rate of teacher absenteeism at PA schools (<u>baseline: 63% (May 18); Education Cluster</u>);
Goal 2	
<i>Objective A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased # of joint submissions to UN HRC special procedures (<u>baseline, 0, OHCHR/PCWG</u>); - Increased # of joint statements by UN Special Rapporteurs on oPt issues (<u>OHCHR/PCWG</u>); - Increased number of joint submissions to treaty bodies (shadow reporting) (<u>baseline, 0; OHCHR</u>) - Treaty body conclusions in line with / reflect oPt protection analysis (<u>baseline, 0; OHCHR</u>)
<i>Objective B</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased # of Member States issuing guidelines on compliance advising companies in line with the UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights (<u>baseline: 21 EU Member States, AIDA</u>); - Increased # of Member States reporting on progress in regards to article 5 of UNSC 2334, as reflected in the quarterly reporting to the Council by the Special Coordinator (<u>baseline: 2, UNSCO website</u>);
Cross-Goal	<i>The below have been identified to measure success of HCT advocacy; more indicators to be added as developed through the AWG.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of Security Council briefings reflecting HCT priority advocacy issues and/or language (<u>UNSCO</u>); - Increase OCHA social media audience (# of FB followers and # Twitter impressions) (<u>baseline: 2018 end-of-year, OCHA</u>); - # of diplomatic actions post HCT advocacy event (<u>baseline: 0, OCHA, based on post event surveys</u>);

ANNEX I: HCT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Strengths

NGOs: Strong advocacy capacity, networks and resources; strong stand on issues of concern, outspoken about violations; local and capital level presence including access to MoFAs in capitals and the EU, local knowledge, field contacts and presence grant NGOs legitimacy.

UN: Technical expertise and knowledge of coordination mechanisms, ability to influence, high-level outreach, credible voice - i.e. 'UN says...', official UN statements, reports and data perceived as giving weight to an issue, ability to influence senior UN leadership, including the SG, on policy issues in the oPt and language used, access to mechanisms like UNSC;

HCT: Capital-level influence and some access to Tel Aviv diplomats as a collective, access to decision makers, complementarity, credibility, can counter the Israeli narrative, powerful facts-based voice, unique access to data-collection and field-based evidence, first responders in emergencies, representation of different sectors.

Weaknesses

NGOs: limited resources and less access to some decision-makers, some challenges to maintain independence, can be lack of coordination with and inclusion / engagement of Palestinian NGOs;

UN: Special role vis-a-vis Member States and lack of UN position on some 'asks' can limit ability of UN HCT members to endorse some advocacy lines.

HCT: Local civil society not well represented, limited outreach to Israeli and Palestinian publics, not always clear who the HCT's audience is, differing mandates and positions of HCT members, difficult to reach consensus, lack of consistency at times between HQs and oPt, political factors, limited resources, lack of follow-up.

**SWOT ANALYSIS:
HCT in the oPt**

Opportunities

NGOs: Strong link to global civil society, well placed to influence global publics to pressure their governments to comply with IHL, can complement HCT or UN efforts by using stronger language, going one step further;

UN: Access to UN bodies (Security Council inputs; Human Rights bodies); viewed as reliable source of information.

HCT: UNSC 2334; human rights database; Palestinian access to ICC and other treaties can create increased opportunities for accountability, change of climate internationally, esp. shift in public opinion in Europe, current Israeli government may compel some third states to reconsider how they engage with Israel, social media opportunities to access broader audiences.

Threats

NGOs: May face increased access restrictions and other operational consequences, if they too outspoken, including visa restrictions; Potential loss of funding due to shrinking democratic space and the attacks on their legitimacy in Israel/Palestine; potential shift in donor positions following attacks on NGOs; lack of joint priority setting with Palestinian NGOs;

UN: Breach of Privileges and Immunities; threats to funding.

HCT: New US administration shifting positions; threats/cuts to funding; regional dynamics, shrinking humanitarian space, too strong messaging can impact operations as can too weak messaging, funding threats, donor restrictions, lack of joint priority setting with NGOs, including with PNGOs, deteriorating security environment, public fatigue concerning disasters and human-interest stories, 'competition' with other disasters in the region (both for funding and public attention), low credibility in the eyes of the Israeli public and lack of engagement with Israeli audiences, lack of policy impact, continued stalemate due to lack of progress of Palestinian reconciliation, increased targeting of Area C.

ANNEX II: Calendar of potential advocacy opportunities

MONTH	POSSIBLE DATES
	1 January: New Year's day
January	3 Jan (1979): Anniversary – Israel's ratification of CERD (signature on 7 March 1966)
	8 January: Christmas day (Orthodox)
	15 January (1997): Hebron Protocol signed
	27 January: UN Holocaust Memorial Day
February	2 February: World Day of Social Justice
	25 February (1994): – Commemoration of the Hebron Mosque Massacre
March	March: Regular session of Human Rights Council (3 weeks' period) / SG to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 2334 (2016)
	8 March: International Women's Day
	19 March: AHLC Meeting
	21 March: Palestinian Mother's Day / <u>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</u>
	22 March: World Water Day
	23 March: Palestine Marathon (Bethlehem)
	26 February-23 March 2018: <u>37th session of the Human Rights Council</u>
	30 March: Palestinian Land Day
30 March-7 April: Passover	5 April: Palestinian Child's Day
	6 April: <u>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace</u>
	7 April: World Health Day
	9 April (1948): Deir Yassin Massacre
	12 April: <u>Holocaust Memorial Day (starts at 11 Apr)</u>

	17 April: Palestinian Prisoners Day
	18-19 April: Israel Independence/Memorial Day (starts on eve. Of 17 April)
	22 April: International Earth Day
	30 April (2003): Publication of the Road Map
May	1 May: Labour Day
	2 May (2014): The Fourth year anniversary of Palestine’s signature of human rights treaties
	3 May: World Press Freedom Day/ (2011) Cairo Agreement
	4 May (2011): Cairo Agreement
	12 May: Jerusalem day
	14 May: EU Foreign Council Conclusion anniversary (progress made?) e?)/ Israel’s Independence Day
	15 May: Nakba Day /International Day of Families
	16 May: International Day of Living Together in Peace
	17 May: <u>World Telecommunication and Information Society Day</u>
	19-20 May: Jewish Shavout
	28 May (1964): PLO was founded
	29 May: <u>International Day of UN Peacekeepers</u>
	June: Regular session of Human Rights Council (3 weeks’ period)
June	1 June: Global Day of Parents
	Gaza blockade anniversary
	4 June: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
	5 June: World Environment Day
	5-10 June: Anniversary of the 1967 war/start of occupation
	12 June: <u>World Day Against Child Labour</u>

	15 & 18 June: Eid Al Fitr
	19 June: <u>International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict</u>
	20 June: World Refugee Day
	23 June: International Widows' Day
	25 June: Anti-Apartheid Day
	6 July (1951): Anniversary – Israel's ratification of the Geneva Conventions (signature 8 Dec 1949)
July	7 July (2014): Four year since the beginning of Protective Edge
	9 July (2004): Anniversary of the ICJ Wall Advisory Opinion
	11 July: <u>World Population Day</u>
	11-25 July (2000): Camp David Summit
	15 July (2006): Hamas takeover of Gaza/ World Youth Skills Day
	30 July: <u>World Day against Trafficking in Persons</u>
	12 August: Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions / International Youth Day
August	19 August: World Humanitarian Day
	22-23 August: Eid Al Adha
	19 August: World Humanitarian Day
	26 August: Ceasefire of 2014 hostilities/ "Protective Edge Operation" (2014
	September: <u>Regular session of Human Rights Council (3 weeks period) -TBC by OHCHR</u>
September	September (2005): Gaza disengagement
	8 September: <u>International Literacy Day</u>
	10-11 September: Jewish New Year
	11 September: Al Hijra/Islamic New Year
	12 September: Islamic New Year

	12 September (2005): Gaza disengagement
	13 September (1993): Signing of the Oslo Accords
	15 September: International Day of Democracy
	21 September (1921): US Congress endorses Balfour Declaration (1921)/ International Day of Peace
	18-19 September: Yom Kippur
	21 September: International Day of Peace
	28 September: <u>International Day for Universal Access to Information</u> / (2000): Start of Second Intifada/ (1995) Oslo II signed
	29 September: (2000) Beginning of Second Intifada
	1 October: International Day of Older Persons / World Habitat Day
October	2 October: International Day of Non-Violence
	3 October (1991): Anniversary – Israel’s ratification of ICESCR (signature 19 Dec 1966) / ICCPR (signature 19 Dec 1966) / CAT (signature 22 Oct 1986) / CEDAW (signature 17 Jul 1980) / CRC (signature 3 Jul 1990)
	5 October: World Teachers’ Day
	6 October (1973): Yom Kippur War/War of 1973 begins
	11 October: International Day of the Girl Child
	12 October: Four year since the Cairo Donor Conference on Gaza Reconstruction (2014)
	15 October: International Day of Rural Women
	16 October: World Food Day
	17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
	24 October: United Nations Day
	26 October (1994): Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty
	2 November: International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists / (1917): Balfour Declaration
November	4 November (1994): Assassination of IL PM Yitzhak Rabin
	6 November: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

	10 November: World Science Day for Peace and Development
	11 November (2004): Yasser Arafat died
	15 November (1988) – Yasser Arafat declared Palestinian Independence
	16 November: International Day for Tolerance
	20 November: Universal Children’s Day
	22 November (1974): (1973) Security Council adopted resolution 338 / PLO granted observer status at the UN
	25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
	29 November: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People / Anniversary of the Partition Resolution (1947) / Anniversary of Palestinian UN observer state resolution
	3 December: International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December	5 December: World Soil Day
	6 December: 1 year since Trump’s Jerusalem speech and decision on US embassy move (2017)
	8-9 December (1987) Start of First Intifada; 8 December: Anniversary of the establishment of UNRWA (1949)
	10 December: International Human Rights Day
	20 December: International Human Solidarity Day
	25 December: Christmas day
	27 December (2008): Operation Cast Lead

ANNEX: Theory of Change for the oPt (2015)

1. Vision of Success

A situation where Palestinian human rights, including the right to self-determination, are respected and protected.

- 2. Overall goal:** End of occupation and full compliance with international law, culminating in the ability of Palestinians to undertake self-sustaining livelihoods, thereby removing need for international humanitarian assistance.

3. Influential Actors and Ideal Behaviour

HCT members have identified a range of influential actors, who, if engaged in the identified ideal behaviour, contribute to the realization of the HCT's vision of success. (see chart 1 for the actors and the ideal behaviour).

4. Main impediments to the realization of the vision of success?

- a. Israel's prolonged military occupation and related policies, namely:
 - i. Fragmentation of and within the oPt, including political, economic, and social separation;
 - ii. Blockade of the Gaza Strip;
 - iii. Measures that may lead to illegal annexation/de-facto annexation in the West Bank (inc. settlement activity, restrictions on movement and access, destruction of property, displacement and forcible transfer, Israeli legislative and administrative initiatives, etc.) etc.)
- b. Lack of empowered Palestinian unity government:
- c. Lack of accountability for violations of international law by all parties to the conflict.

5. How does change occur?

- a. Duty bearers fully respect international humanitarian and human rights law.
- b. In the continued absence of such full respect, influential actors promote compliance:
 - i. 3rd states and multi-lateral institutions (e.g. EU) utilize economic, legal, political and social avenues to incentivise all parties to act in accordance with international law;
 - ii. State of Palestine achieves political unity and develops institutions;
 - iii. Business community operates in accordance with UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
 - iv. Israeli voters, including Palestinians, advocate for respect of rights in the oPt;
 - v. In line with UNGA resolution 67/19 of 29th November 2012, specialized agencies and organizations of the UN continue to support and assist the Palestinian people towards the early realization of their rights, and ensures that its own behavior supports the vision of success;
 - vi. International media reframes the narrative to focus on root causes of conflict.

- 6. Recognizing that, while it is the primary duty bearer and most influential actor towards the vision of success, Israel is the least likely to initiate action on policy change, what will compel other influential actors to work towards our vision of success?**
- a. They must understand the problem, its impact and its various costs (financial, political, of inaction, etc.);
 - b. There must be clarity on the applicable legal frameworks and legal responsibilities (both in terms of international law, but also in terms of domestic legislation, bilateral agreements or guidelines);
 - c. They must want to act, be it legally, politically, or otherwise (e.g. because doing so is important to meet their own policy objectives, because they realize failure to act may be a failure to comply with their own obligations, because their publics require this, etc.);
 - d. They must have the data and analysis they need to formulate appropriate policy recommendations and push third States and multi-lateral institutions to follow them.