



Land Issues in the West Bank

December, 2019

Issue number: 1

What is land settlement?

It is the process of settling ownership and titling issues related to land and water. More specifically, according to Article (3) of the Law of Settlement of Lands and Waters No. (40) for the year 1952, "the Settlement of lands and water deals with all persons, bodies and associations who have the right of disposition or the right of ownership or the right of usufruct in the lands and water whether such rights were recognized or disputed.

The Land and Water Settlement Commission (LWSC) in Palestine was established as an independent body in March 2016 to accelerate the land settlements processes in the West Bank and support the Road Map for Reforming the Palestinian Land Sector that was endorsed by the Palestinian Cabinet in 2017.



Dubai, UAE - February 2018

LWSC has the legal, financial and administrative independency and capacity to achieve its objectives, which were formulated by virtue of Law No. (7) of 2016 with a view of registering, documenting and resolving all issues and claims related to any right or benefit in land and water in Palestine.

UN-Habitat support to LWSC

UN-Habitat provided technical and financial support to LWSC since its establishment. During November-December 2017, with financial assistance from the Development Operations Cooperation Office (DOCO) under its initiative to support Innovations in Policy, Programming and Operations through the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNSCO) in Jerusalem an 'On-the-Job Training on Community Mapping of Land Rights in Area C of the West Bank to LWSC's land commissioners and staff took place.

The training was curated by the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and aimed at training LWSC staff on mapping of land rights using the Social Tenure Domain Model in order to strengthen the capacity of national government in Palestine to identify, respect, protect, and fulfil the land rights of Palestinian communities in Area C through participatory mapping methodologies at the local levels .

LWSC Achievements

- Signing 213 memorandum of understanding to undertake land settlement processes in cities and villages in the West Bank.
- Completion of land settlement of about 765,840 dunums in the West Bank.
- Issuing 174 settlement announcements for the cities and villages of the West Bank.
- Establishing 107 settlement offices in the West Bank
- Launching of Geo-Gate: LWSC's Interactive Mapping Gate (<https://gis.lwsc.ps/>)

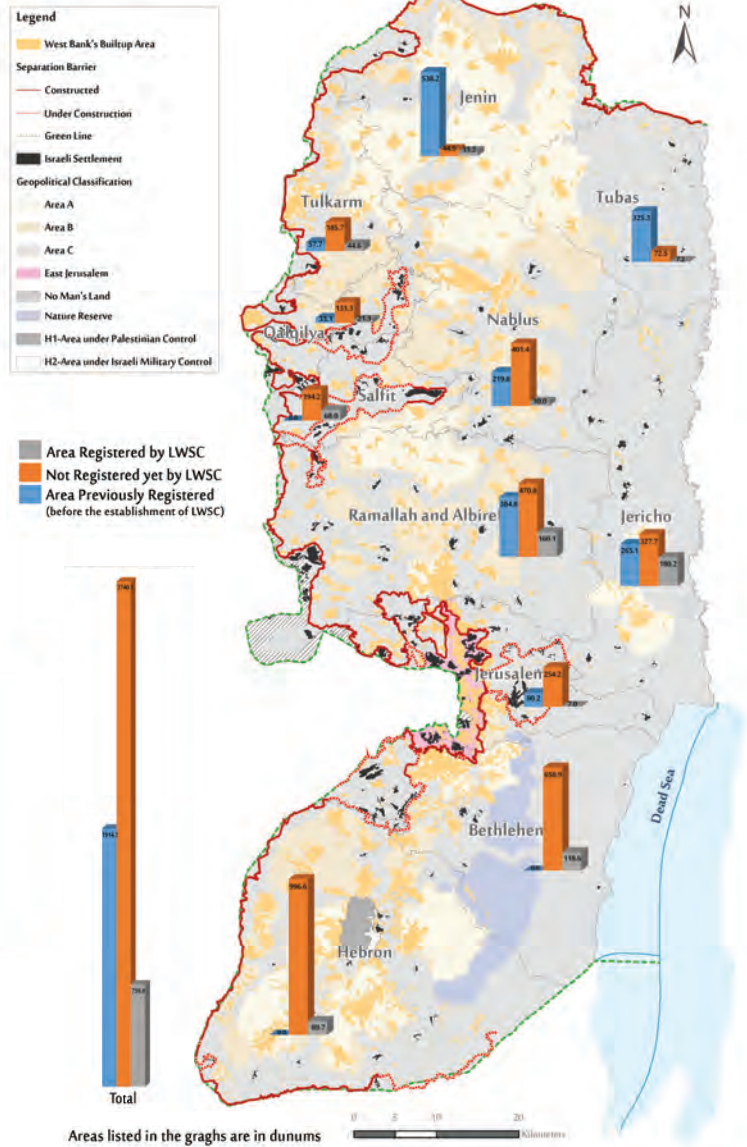
This data is according to LWSC in October 2019.

In 2018, UN-Habitat/GLTN supported the participation of the LWSC in the First Arab Land Conference hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai. UN-Habitat/GLTN with financial support from the EU supported the Palestine First International Land Conference that took place in Ramallah, Palestine. The support to good land governance in Palestine was presented, along with advocacy messages to protect land rights of Palestinian communities in the West Bank, especially in Area C as articulated in the land Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely: SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 11, and SDG 15.

In September 2019, EU and UN Habitat signed off a new project called "Achieving Planning and Land Rights in Area C, West Bank – Palestine (2019-2030)" that aims to support improved resilience of Palestinian communities in Area C through achieving land rights. The project will support efforts to record and analyze the social tenure relationship of people and land as well as the social services/amenities that the inhabitants of a certain location can access, with focus on communities at risk of displacement in the Israeli occupied Area C of the West Bank.



Bilin - Ramallah - December 2017



The Project is Funded by
EUROPEAN UNION



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Palestine First International Land Conference



Land is well featured in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the framework for monitoring them explicitly includes land indicators under Goals 1, 5, 11 and 15.



Good land governance contributes to the achievement of human rights, including:

Right to own property



Right to adequate housing



Right to adequate food



Right to be protected from forced evictions



The role of land, with its social, ecological and economic functions, has been well articulated in the final document of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), as it calls for:

Access to public land and property



Prevention of forced evictions



Responsive land policies



Land-based revenue and financing tools

