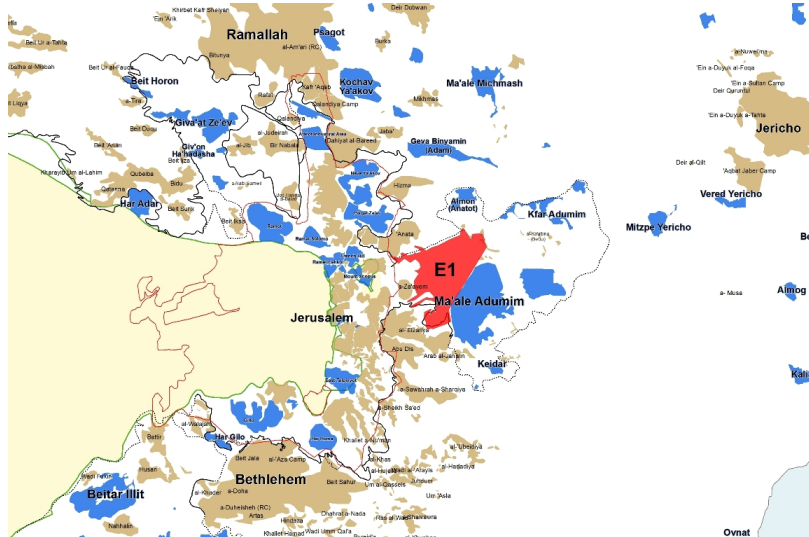


## Settlement Construction in E1



### What is E1?

E1 is an area of undeveloped land, approximately 4.6 square miles, to the east of East of Jerusalem, the anticipated capital of the Palestinian state in a Two-State Solution.

Located beyond the Green Line, and stretching deep into the West Bank, E1 currently serves as a vital corridor for Palestinian communal life, connecting Ramallah and the northern West Bank to Bethlehem and the southern West Bank, and likewise between all of these areas and East Jerusalem.

### Significance of E1

Plans for settlement construction in E1 are referred to as "doomsday settlements" because of the significant threat development in this area poses to the future of a Two-State Solution.

- E1 is the only buildable land remaining that is large enough for the natural growth of East Jerusalem, the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank, making it crucial for the future economic and social development of the city and for a Palestinian state.
- Settlement construction in E1 would isolate East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, threatening the territorial contiguity necessary for a viable independent Palestinian state with a capital in East Jerusalem and would prevent the development of a central metropolitan area between Ramallah, East Jerusalem, and Bethlehem.
- Israeli development in this area would divide the north of the West Bank from the South, preventing the establishment of a contiguous Palestinian state and delivering a significant blow to the prospects of a Two-State Solution.

- Building thousands of housing units in E1 would also lead to the displacement of the Bedouin communities who currently live in this area, the most well-known of which is Khan al Ahmar.

### **What's currently going on?**

Frozen for years, the government of Israel is taking the first significant steps to implement plans to build 3400 settlement units after then-Prime Minister Netanyahu instructed the Higher Planning Council of the Civil Administration in 2020 to advance review of the plans in an effort to secure electoral points.

Hearings to review objections to construction in E-1 began in the fall of 2021. Then, in early January 2022, further review of the plan was indefinitely postponed.

Few steps remain before the plan can receive final approval. Should Israel one day proceed with the hearings, the objections to the plan will likely be rejected. Following this, the final step requires the approval of the Minister of Defense on the convening of the Higher Planning Council and also on the final approval of the plan. Once approved construction will begin.