

To Exist is to Resist



MA'AN Development Center

Eye on Jordan Valley

May 2007

FACT SHEET

One Edition



A Palestinian farm in Jiftlik.



A Palestinian farmer whose house was demolished in Attouf.

Introduction

The Jordan Valley is located in a stretch of land (about 401 km²) that lies adjacent to the Jordan Valley up to the base of the mountain ridge, east of the West Bank. It runs from the Sea of Galilee in the north to the Dead Sea in the south. The area is rich in agricultural land, warm weather and abundant water sources, offering great economic and political prospects.

The Israeli targeting of the Jordan Valley has been a sensitive issue since the 1948 "Nakba, or catastrophe, when Israeli occupation strived to maintain the area for its great political, economic, developmental and border importance.

The occupation continued to implement policies of colonization of the Jordan Valley over the decades, dramatically increasing after the second Intifada in 2000. In the midst of international events and the wavering power scale in the world as well as while Palestinians were distracted with internal fighting, Israel focused on more destruction of the Jordan Valley's infrastructure, increased restrictions on movement and further isolation

of Palestinians in and around the area, in an effort to start dividing the area in harmony with Part IV of the 2004 Israeli development plan to colonize and separate the Jordan Valley.

In order to analyze these issues further, this supplement, as a part of the activities of the "To Exist is to Resist" project, hopes to contribute to the empowerment of Palestinians in order to enable them to effectively resist the devastation being caused by the construction of the Wall around the West Bank. The project also aims to enable the Grassroots Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign to better advocate their cause and mobilize the international community to dismantle the Separation Wall. Hence, this supplement includes a detailed fact sheet on the Jordan Valley, serving as a basis of information for the issues affecting the area in relation to Israeli violations of basic human rights and international law as well as policies of isolation and expulsion deriving from the construction of the Separation Wall.

Geography

The Jordan Valley is part of the Afro-Asian Great Rift Valley and is the lowest point on Earth at 380 meters below sea level. The area extends on the eastern side of the West Bank from Ein Gedi in the south, near the Dead Sea to Tel Mekhouz in the north on the Green

Line borders with Bisan and from the Jordan River on the east to the slopes of the river's west bank, accounting for about 2,400 square meters or 28.5% of the total area of the West Bank. After Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley is the second most popular tourist attraction in

the region with over eighty historical and cultural sites. Its pleasant year-round climate, wide green fields and religious and historical sites, which give the area a magical aura and inspiring view, have the potential to foster tourism.

Its location also completes the triangle with Jerusalem and Bethlehem and connects Palestine to Jordan, conveniently attracting tourists worldwide.

Furthermore, the salt and minerals found in the Dead Sea are used for cosmetics and spa therapies that are unequalled by any other natural mineral sources. The Dead Sea contains fifteen times the amount of magnesium found in ordinary sea water, which helps the metabolism of skin cells and serves as an anti-allergen. Other valuable Dead Sea minerals include zinc, bromine, iodine and potassium.

For the Palestinians, the Jordan Valley offers great potential for a viable state in terms of access/location and economic success. Its borders with Jordan are the only foreseeable entrance/exit for a future Palestinian state. Thus, it is the path for Arab-Palestinian communication and the only real option for movement and trade with the Middle East and the rest of the world. And its abundance of water resources, fertile soil and natural minerals offer competitive economic advantages in agriculture, industry and tourism. These same features are the reason Israel has maintained the occupation so forcefully in the area and why the Jordan Valley is such a contentious point of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Thus, despite its advantages and potential, the Jordan Valley has suffered the consequences of isolation and constraint.

Israeli Occupation Policies since 1967: Land Grab and Colonization

Israel's justification for occupying the Jordan Valley has always been security purposes. Thus, consecutive Israeli governments have implemented plans that will grant complete control of the area. Through such policies and acts, Israel continues efforts to eliminate the Palestinian presence in the Jordan Valley and isolate it from the West Bank in order to create facts on the ground before executing a unilateral plan that will exclude the region from the West Bank. The Israeli Cabinet adopted a project to encourage young Israeli couples to settle in the Jordan Valley, including promises and plans to develop the agricultural and tourism levels in the area and to confiscate more Palestinian land for settlement expansion. Israel has also tried to by-pass the 2004 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice, which declared the construction of the Wall in the West Bank illegal, by implementing a series of procedures that guarantee eventual completion of its previous development and settlement plans. In other words, by surrounding the Jordan Valley with checkpoints, closures and roadblocks and confiscating more land for settlements and military bases, Israel is securing segregation to be a fact on the ground. These occupation policies place Palestinians under siege in cantons. The following table shows the distribution of Jordan Valley land according to the Oslo Agreement:

Although Palestinians can still cultivate any land remaining after Israeli confiscation and colonization, Israel prohibits Palestinians from constructing any infrastructure or other development projects, such as reclaiming of agricultural land, opening agricultural roads

or extending irrigation networks. Moreover, Israel continues to confiscate land, demolish homes and prevent rehabilitation of existing houses and roads of the Palestinians, but maintains plans for settlement expansion and infrastructure development for Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley.



Palestinian children stand amidst the ruins of their house demolished by Israeli bulldozers in Jiftlik.



Closed Palestinian farms near the borders.

Classification	Description	Areas	Area (total = 2,400 km ²)	% of total JV area
A	Palestinian Civil & Security Control	Jericho, Al-Uja	85 km ²	3.54%
B	Palestinian Civil Control & Israeli Security Control	Ein al-Beida, Bardala, Fasayel, Marj Na'jeh, Zubeidat, Nassareyyeh	50 km ²	2.08%
C	Settlement Regional Council Control	36 settlements	1200 km ²	50%
	Closed zones	Border line, military bases, natural reserves	1065 km ²	44.37%
Total under Palestinian control			135 km ²	5.62%
Total under Israeli control			2265 km ²	94.37%

Settlements

The first colonization wave hit the Jordan Valley in 1968 when Israel built three settlements: Mehola in the north, Argaman in the center and Kalia in the south. It reflected Alon's Plan, which was developed in July 1967 by former Labor Party leader Yeg'al Alon to offer solutions to help Israel overcome the "demographic danger" by building settlements in the West Bank, particularly in areas with little Palestinian presence. Mehola settlement was the first such effort in the Jordan Valley to support Alon's Plan. It was built on lands confiscated in Bardala and Ein al-Beida for the purpose of military bases, state or absentee land.

Settlement activity accelerated in the early 1970s until the early 1980s, in which Israel built more and more settlements for agricultural, industrial, religious or military purposes. And since the 1990s, the number of settlements increased from 11 to a total of 36, accommodating more than 6,200 settlers. The area currently covers 1,200 dunums and is continuously expanding into Palestinian land. The following table gives a detailed description of the settlements in the Jordan Valley:

No.	Settlement	Area (dunum)	Year established	Population	Activities
1	Mehola	233	1968	362	Palm trees, dates, spices, medical herbs, citrus, flowers, vegetables, turkey, chicken, loquat, pomegranate, herbal animal feed
2	Gif'at Salit		2002	4 families	N/A
3	Shedmot Mehola	609	1979	516	Palm trees, dates, spices, medical herbs, citrus, flowers, vegetables, turkey, chicken, loquat, pomegranate, herbal animal feed, raising cows
4	Rotem	50	2001	18	Olives, Palm trees, dates
5	Hemdat		1997	140	Grapes, flowers, medical herbs, spices

No.	Settlement	Area (dunum)	Year established	Population	Activities
6	Ro'i	264	1976	117	Grapes, flowers, medical herbs, spices, citrus
7	Bek'out	675	1972	156	Grapes, turkey, figs, flowers, palm trees
8	Hamra		1971	132	Onions, tomatoes, artificial flowers, genetically treated seeds
9	Mekhora		1973	120	Land warranty, vegetables, flowers
10	Argaman	833	1968	166	Herbs, roses, grapes, land warranty for Zbeidat village (140 dunums for 250 shekles, about \$62)
11	Meswa	817	1970	136	Grapes, dates, flowers, vegetables, palm trees
12	Hill 777		1999	12	
13	Giv'at 'Olem		1998	0	
14	Hill 836		1998	95	
15	Yavit	1066	1980	99	Mifkash Restaurant, palm trees, eggplants, land warranty
16	Ma'ale Efraym	714	1970	1423	City of employees, carpentry, blacksmith, cartoon factory, plastic, religious school, air conditions, washers, refrigerators, clothes, print and commercial materials
17	Gitit		1973	191	Medical herbs, flowers, vegetables, grapes, palm trees
18	Petsa'el		1975	215	Grapes, Qat, flowers, palm trees, medical herbs, bananas, citrus
19	Tomer	366	1978	281	Cherry, pepper, artichoke, dates, bananas
20	Gilgal	650	1970	164	Agricultural search, grapes, lemons, cloning of palm trees, green grass, turkey, cows
21	Nativ Hagidud	1037	1976	127	Grapes, vegetable warranty, corn, yellow melons, palm trees
21	Niran	225	1977	49	Kibbutz, chicken, grapes, dates, banana, eggs, raising calves
23	Yitav		1970	156	Al Uja Falls, palm trees, grapes, vegetables, roses
24	Mezray Karmim		2001	1367	
25	Kokhaf Hashahar		1977	1449	
26	Ma'ale Shlomo		1999	9 families	
27	Southern Ma'ale Shlomo		2003	0	
28	Naomi	425	1982	130	Medical herbs, vegetables, dates, flowers, grazing herbs
29	Mifot Jericho		1999	20	Palm trees
30	Mezray Yeriho		1978	1563	Vegetables, flowers

No.	Settlement	Area (dunum)	Year established	Population	Activities
31	Verd Yeriho		1980	156	
32	Mol Nefo	66	2001	One (1) woman only	Government services, packing house, exports, storage refrigerators
33	Beit Ha'arava	25	1980	83	Palm trees on sewage, water melons, yellow melons, onions, grapes
34	Almog		1977	159	Kibbutz, cows, palm trees, water melons, onions, grapes
35	Kalia	417	1968	271	Palm trees, grapes, water melons, ostriches
36	Mezpe Shalom		1971	180	Tourism



Closing grazing fields in the north Jordan Valley

Although Israel has held campaigns to attract more settlers to the Jordan Valley since the early days of occupation, efforts were boosted after implementing the unilateral evacuation plan from Gaza. After evacuating the settlements in Gaza in 2005, Israel took measures to resettle the people in the Jordan Valley.

Israel expanded available grants to facilitate further settlement activity in the Jordan Valley, and settlers in this area enjoy high quality, free services. As a result of this policy, thousands of Palestinian families, particularly in the northern part of the Valley, were issued orders to evacuate their agricultural land and grazing fields to make way for the new Israeli settlements.

For the remaining Palestinian residents, more strict policies were implemented to pressure, terrify and expel them from the Jordan Valley. The following table shows the difference between the residents in the area:



Trench isolating Bqe'a from Tamoun & Tubas

Settlers	Palestinians
<p>75% discount on electricity, utility, communication and transportation</p> <p>Free education, health care, irrigation water</p>	<p>Several Palestinian communities still have no connection to electricity or utility.</p> <p>Communities located in area C have no schools or health centers, because Israel refuses to issue building permits</p>
<p>Every settler is offered a free house</p>	<p>Building is allowed only in Jericho and 5 other locations; any building outside these areas is demolished.</p>
<p>Every family is offered 70 dunums of land as soon as it settles in the Jordan Valley</p>	<p>Land around settlements or military bases is confiscated for "security" purposes.</p> <p>Land owned by Palestinians not registered in the statistics (e.g. dead) is confiscated, even if the inheritors are still alive.</p> <p>Any land that has not been cultivated for 3 consecutive years is confiscated, even if it was closed by military order.</p> <p>The military can offer land under its control to a settlement but can never return it to its Palestinian owner under "Israeli law,"</p>
<p>\$20,000 long-term loan for every settler in the Jordan Valley</p>	<p>"Development endowment" which gave JV farmers loans with high interest rates. Those who could not pay back the loan & interest had to sell their land, other lands were confiscated</p>
<p>Non-government organizations offer huge grants to support individual projects for settlers as well as large strategic projects, such as roads, water lakes that accommodate 10 million m³, etc.</p>	<p>Strategic projects are forbidden. Organizations fund normalization projects and refuse to work on strategic projects</p>
<p>Settlers can get their produce to the local markets within a few hours and can export to any country through Israeli companies</p>	<p>Palestinian farmers can not export their produce freely, nor can they reach the local market easily; it may take them several days to get to the closest local market.</p> <p>Palestinians can never build packing houses in their fields</p>
<p>Any amount of drinking water or irrigation water is available for settlers at any time.</p>	<p>Palestinians have never been allowed to dig or build agricultural wells after 1967, and they are not allowed to build lakes or recondition their buildings.</p>

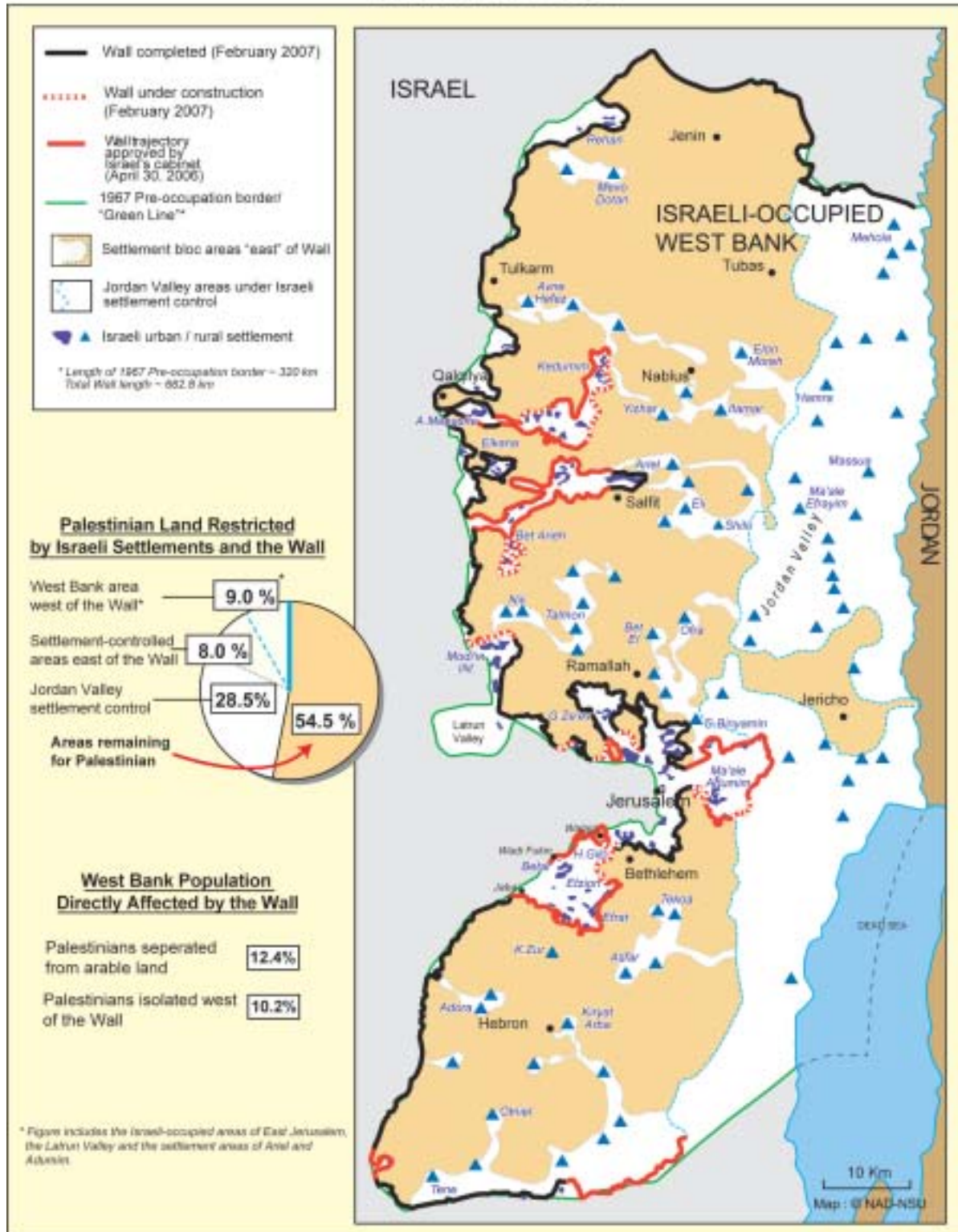
Eastern Segregation Wall

In 2003, then Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon officially announced plans to isolate the Jordan Valley by building an eastern segregation wall, which would run along 300 kilometers of the Jordan Valley from the Jabou Mountains in the northwest to Hebron Mount in the south and passing by east Jerusalem.

The Israeli Cabinet's Ministerial Committee adopted the plan, originally developed by Israeli Agriculture Minister Yisrael Katz, and voted to invest NIS 145 million (\$36.25 million) between 2006 and 2008 under the pretext of "agricultural development.

In 2003 a part of the Wall was built from the Jordan River in the east to Matalla village, located east of Jenin, in the west. It segregated 4,000 dunums of Bardala lands in the northern Jordan Valley, in addition to 1,000 dunums of Jenin lands in Raba. Israel left no gates or pathways for Palestinians to reach their agricultural lands, which are located behind the Wall. In fact, Israel gave these lands to settlers to cultivate. In practice, this act isolated the eastern sector of the West Bank, including areas adjacent to the Jordan River, the northern Dead Sea and the eastern slopes of the West Bank.

ISRAEL'S WALL AND SETTLEMENTS (COLONIES) FEBRUARY 2007



<http://www.nad-plo.org/news-updates/wall%20map%20februaryNegotiationsSupportunit2007.pdf>

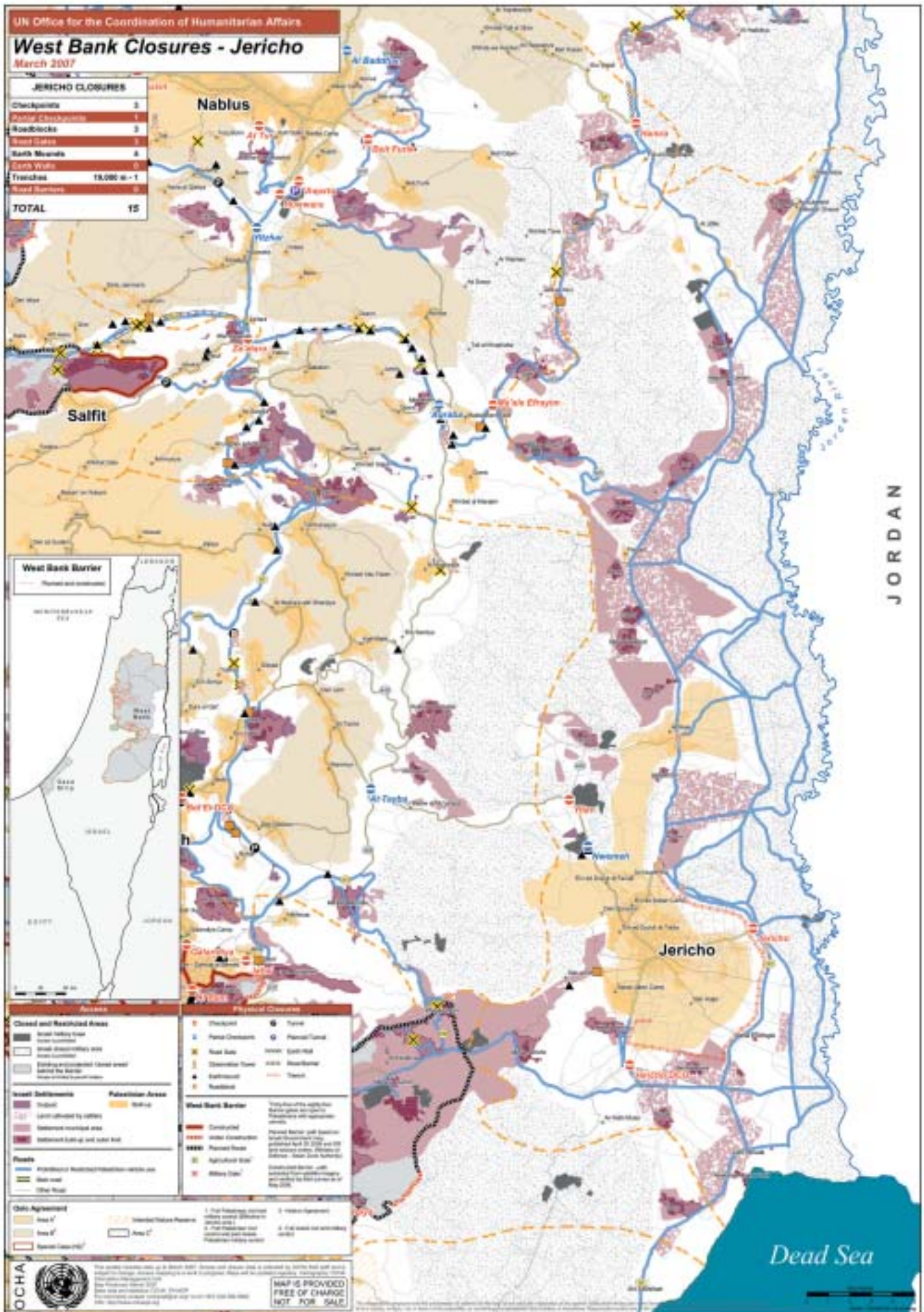
Isolation and Restrictions on Palestinians

On 12 January 2006 Israeli leaders officially announced the isolation of the Jordan Valley from the rest of the West Bank, dropping the status of the Jordan Valley from final status negotiations. Furthermore, Israel continues its escalation of military procedures in the area by:

- * Imposing strict military procedures on areas inhabited by Palestinians, such as placing watch towers at the entrances of Jordan Valley villages and along Road 90, setting up 24-hour military routes, breaking into villages and houses and imposing regular and continuous curfews;
- * Preventing landowners, whose IDs do not show a Jordan Valley residential address, from reaching their lands, resulting in loss of sources of income and making it easier for Israel to confiscate their land under Israel's "absentee" property law;
- * Preventing Palestinian farmers from selling their produce to Israeli traders at Bardala-Bisan checkpoint (5km away), forcing them to travel 50km more to get to Al-Jalameh trade crossing, increasing the cost and making crops, especially fruits and vegetables, far more vulnerable to damage;
- * Preventing traders from 1948 land from entering Palestinian villages or farms, based on the excuse of "security, creating problems with regard to quality, price and payments;
- * Closing thousands of dunums of pastures and surrounding some with trenches and announcing others as closed military zones;
- * Focusing the colonization project, which ultimately gives Israel complete control over the West Bank by continuing to build settlements along the eastern borders from the Dead Sea in the south to Bisan in the north, with 36 settlements and several military bases; consequently, Israel would control the northern, center and southern parts of the Jordan Valley, which is about 20 km to the west of the Jordan River, in addition to controlling the huge water basin in the area;
- * Issuing military orders that prevent Palestinians who do not have a Jordan Valley address in their IDs from living there and arresting or expelling those whose ID does not show a change of address (additionally, Israeli authorities prevent any change of address in this area);
- * Forcing Palestinians to deal with Israeli Civil Administration for their daily dealings;
- * Restricting movement to and from Jericho by:
 - * Placing 7 checkpoints manned by Israeli soldiers around the city especially outlets to road 90.
 - * Surrounding Jericho with a trench: 30km long, 2m deep, 2-5m wide.
 - * Closing all entrances/ exits to Jericho by roadblocks permanently and controlling movement through two permanent checkpoints.
- * Stopping coordination with the Palestinian Civil Coordination Office in Jericho.
- * Invading Jericho, resulting in killings and arrests of many Palestinians
- * Demolishing and destroying public buildings by curfews and air strikes.
- * Preventing Palestinian vehicles and tourist guides from moving out of Jericho towards the Dead Sea.

Israeli Checkpoint Search Mechanisms

- * *Waiting for long hours under extreme heat or bitter cold;*
- * *Having to put up with the mood of Israeli soldiers;*
- * *Conducting detailed body searches in private rooms, forcing people to take off their clothes;*
- * *Forcing people to abide by age laws, preventing those under 30 from passing through checkpoints on Israeli holidays, official vacations and closures*
- * *Humiliating people by beating them up, making fun of them, playing with their belongings, such as mobile phones, personal wallets and purses, and sometimes confiscating these belongings;*
- * *Preventing people from carrying some household goods under security excuses, such as bread, chemical cleaners, gas bottles and solar cells;*
- * *Preventing people from entering agricultural goods without special permits, such as fertilizers, pesticides, drugs and agricultural tools (i.e., sickles and axes).*



UNOCHA: <http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/westbank-April07.pdf>

During the last few years, Israel has placed 17 roadblocks and checkpoints. It has also imposed more restrictions on movement by limiting access to the area to only those people who reside in the Jordan Valley, as stated on their ID. Other West Bank residents who wish to travel on Road 90 must show special permission from the Israeli Civil Administration. Below is a list of the roadblocks and checkpoints in the Jordan Valley:

No.	Checkpoint	Location	Opening hours		Type	Presence
			From	To		
1	Jericho southern checkpoint	Jericho southern entrance	5am	10pm	Permanent Gate Strict procedures	Military Police D.C.O
	Gate of southern checkpoint	Jericho southern entrance	5am	7pm	Permanent Trade crossing Closed Saturday & Sunday	Military Police D.C.O
2	Dyouk "Na'ran"	North-west of Jericho	6am	5pm	Permanent Gate Strict procedures	Military Police D.C.O
3	New'me	North of Jericho	Closed with cement blocks		Permanently closed	Border guards
4	Taybeh "Caramelo"	North west of Jericho	open		Permanent	Military Police
5	Wadil Qilt	South west of Jericho	Closed with cement blocks		Permanent Gate Trench	Military
6	Hamra "Bqe'a	Al Nassareyya & Wadi Al Bathan	5am	10pm	Permanent Gate Strict procedures	Military Police
7	Tayaseer	Near Tayaseer village	5am	9pm	Trade crossing Permanent Gate Strict procedures	Military Police
8	Ma'ale Efraym "Gate Tate"	Entrance of Efraym settlement	6am	9pm	Permanent Strict procedures	Military Settlers
9	Uja	Mu'arajat road	Daily		Permanent Strict procedures	Border guards
10	Jericho southern entrance	Verd Jericho junction	Daily		Not permanent	Border guards Police
11	Al Khan al Ahmar " Abu George"	Jerusalem – Hizma junction	Daily		Not permanent	Police
12	Der Hijla	Dead Sea – Der Hijla junction	6am	9pm	Not permanent	Border guards
13	Ma'ale Adumim	Entrance of Ma'ale Adumim settlement	6am	9:30pm	Permanent	Border guards Police
			Sat. 9am	Sat. 6pm		
14	07 checkpoint	Entrance of Al Khan al Ahmar	6am	9:30pm	Not permanent	Border guards Police
			Sat. 6am	Sat. 9pm		
15	Bisan – Bardala	On the Green	Open for		Permanent	Border

No.	Checkpoint	Location	Opening hours		Type	Presence
			From	To		
		Line	Israelis only			guards Police
16	Bardala Entrance	Entrance of Bardala village	Open for now		Not permanent cement blocks	Border guards Police
17	Dead Sea	Dead road Sea	Flying checkpoint			Border guards

Israel also turned the Hamra, Tayaseer and Bardala-Bisan checkpoints into “border crossings and equipped them with electronic search rooms, pedestrian and vehicle paths.



Electronic search room at Tayaseer checkpoint



Hamra checkpoint

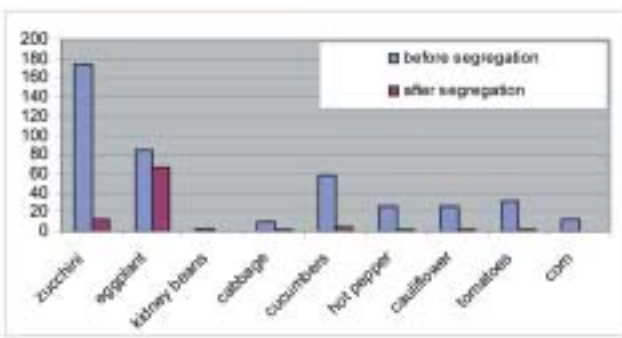
Vulnerable Economy

Agriculture and Markets

The Jordan Valley area heavily utilizes its agricultural prospects, providing 35% of the total produce distributed to the Palestinians. It produces 60% of the vegetables, 40% of the citrus and 100% of the bananas. This agricultural success is associated with the area’s unique location below sea level, which is likened to a giant greenhouse where crops ripe early in the winter.

However, Israel greatly inhibits any further enhancement of the agricultural sector, implementing policies that destroy agricultural activity, confiscate fertile land and control Palestinian exports to Arab markets. The result has been an increasing incidence of Palestinians to work in the settlements. In other words, while it destroys Palestinian agricultural infrastructure in the area, Israel turns Palestinians into low-paid, mercenary workers in settlements, offering no social security, medical care or labor rights. For those who do attempt to maintain their land for agricultural purposes, Israel isolates the farmers from Arab markets, leaving them completely dependent on the Israeli market for exports as well as limiting their internal trade. Marketing of Jordan Valley products to central Palestinian markets is subject to the security situation, the military checkpoints and closures. Under normal circumstances, Palestinian farmers need three hours to get to the West Bank markets, but with the checkpoints, they need at least six hours, making fruits and vegetables more vulnerable to damage. Additionally, Israel has on several occasions prevented farmers from even passing through the checkpoints/crossing, causing products to be returned completely. Since 2000, occupation forces have prevented Israeli trucks from reaching Palestinian fields. Instead, they imposed back-to-back methods of produce transfer, meaning that Palestinian farmers should take produce from the field to Bardala-Bisan crossing on the Green Line where the load is emptied into Israeli trucks and delivered to Israeli markets.

As a result of these restrictions and harsh procedures, the Palestinian farmers’ expenses have increased both on the production level and trade to the markets, including transportation costs. However, the prices have remained the same. Also, the amount of Jordan Valley crops actually making it across the Green Line is dramatically decreasing and causing drops in sources of income. For example, in 2000, 1,900 tons of produce reached Israeli markets; in 2001, only 15 tons were transferred.



Agricultural Barriers Israel imposes on Palestinians in the Jordan Valley

- * Complete dependence on Israeli production components, such as fertilizers, seeds and irrigation networks; it is difficult to find Palestinian alternatives to Israeli goods, meaning that Israeli companies control price and quality.
- * Continued confiscation of agricultural land to complete the eastern segregation zone and expand settlements and closed military zones.
- * Dumping the Palestinian market with Israeli goods produced in settlements, especially during peak production, in order to eliminate Palestinian products that may supply the local markets.
- * Demolition and destruction of infrastructure, such as curettage of agricultural lands, demolition of agricultural barracks and retention of walls, stone terraces and irrigation networks.
- * Prevention of building new wells, reconditioning existing wells and digging deep wells near springs and other Palestinian wells, which prevents water from running to Palestinian fields. The Israeli water company, Mekorot, monopolizes this work.
- * Destruction of livestock sector by imposing high fines on shepherds who let their sheep cross an Israeli zone from which Palestinians are forbidden.
- * Prevention of land owners, who do not have a Jordan Valley residential address on their ID, from reaching or cultivating their lands.
- * Closure of Arab, Israeli and regional markets to Palestinian farmers.



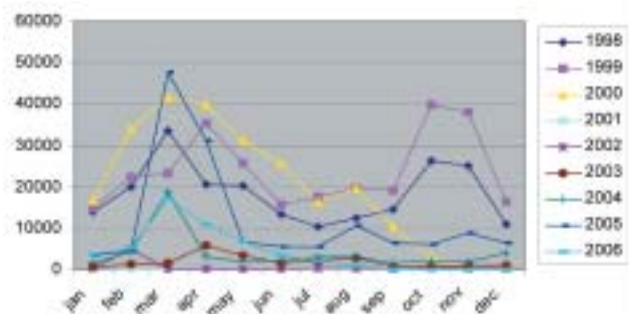
A Palestinian farmer stands near the ruins of an agricultural pool.

Poverty and Unemployment

As a result of all of these restrictions and oppressive policies, Palestinians in the Jordan Valley suffer high rates of poverty and unemployment. The majority of Palestinians in the Jordan Valley live under the poverty line. In 2006, unemployment rates reached 21% in Jericho and Tubas districts, and 20.5% were Palestinian Authority employees who did not receive salaries. Furthermore, despite its agricultural advantages, approximately 53% of Jordan Valley residents in Jericho and Tubas districts were food insecure in 2006, up 10% from 2005.

Occupation Procedures that Inhibit Tourism

- * Strict procedures on checkpoints leading in/out of the valley;
- * Isolation and complete Israeli control of Jericho
- * Military closure and/or destruction of some tourist sites
- * Ongoing Israeli military training and explosions, leaving some sites, such as the Greek Monastery of Hijla, damaged;
- * Prevention of Israeli drivers and tourist guides from entering Palestinian areas, leaving tourists with no choice but to walk on foot or avoid the area;
- * Prevention of Palestinians from holding religious or cultural festivals;
- * Closure of Wadi el-Qilt Road, which leads to the Monastery of St. George;
- * Prevention of Palestinian Authority employees from entering Jericho to watch and document Israeli destruction of archeological sites and theft of archeological pieces;
- * Cancellation of visits to Jericho and its archeological sites from Israeli and international tourist programs;
- * Construction of the Separation Wall, which prevents geographical continuity between the three main tourist centers (Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Jericho);
- * Halt in investment after the second Intifada;
- * Halt in all projects between the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and donor countries and organizations after the Palestinian legislative elections. Projects include annual diggings, reconditioning and rehabilitation of infrastructure.





Water Rights

The Jordan Valley is situated over the Eastern Water Basin. However, Palestinians in the area suffer from the lack of access to water due to Israeli restrictions and copious usage. They are only permitted to use 40% of the water in this basin or approximately 58 mcm of water per year. Since its occupation in 1967, Israel has monopolized, destroyed and exhausted the area's water resources. Over the last four decades, Israel has isolated 162 agricultural wells in the Jordan Valley, prohibiting Palestinians from using them.

With discriminatory allocations, Israel controls where wells can be placed, how deep they can run and how much water can be pumped from them. Consequently, Palestinians are left to use dirty water from unconditioned, neglected water sources, because, oftentimes, untreated settlement water seeps into Palestinian artesian wells and springs.

It also forbids Palestinians from using the Jordan River, which would provide 250 million cubic liters of water per year.



Drinking water in Fasayel al Tahta

Measures of Israel's Control over Jordan Valley Water

- * Isolating and destroying 162 irrigation projects east of Road 90, claiming they were closed for security purposes. Israel also destroyed wide areas of irrigated fields, denying thousands of Palestinians their only source of income—agriculture—and prohibiting any further development or reconditioning of the wells;
- * Preventing Palestinians from using their share of 250 million cubic meters of the Jordan River, destroying Palestinian agricultural projects along the banks. Moreover, Israel closed up to five meters of the western Jordan River and is draining excessive amounts of river and wadi water to feed the huge reservoir lakes it built;
- * Controlling underground water and digging wells at critical depths, which hit the salt beds and cause the water to be salty.;
- * Situating new Jewish-only wells near Palestinian springs, drying out or using much of the Palestinian water. In the past, these wells served the Palestinians with 6 million cubic meters per year, but now Palestinians must buy water from the Mekorot;
- * Closing most areas that have a good capacity to hold water for military zones, natural reserves or other security reasons;
- * Prohibiting Palestinians from digging new or reallocating wells, causing the Palestinian wells to have small depths. Additionally, Israel measures the amount of water used by the Palestinians and imposes fines on those who exceed the allocated amount;
- * Polluting the springs and underground water by not controlling the leakage of sewage water from the settlements.

Furthermore, due to various Israeli restrictions, settlers in the Jordan Valley, who cultivate around 27,000 dunums (6,672 acres) of land, consume about 41 mcm of water per year. They mainly extract Palestinian water sources, in addition to restricting its access to the Palestinians, to cultivate their lands. In contrast, Palestinians cultivate about 53,000 dunums of the valley's land, consuming 37 mcm of water per year. Overall, settlers consume about six times more water than Palestinians.

Israel also fully controls the Dead Sea and denies Palestinian rights to access its water, minerals and shores. Palestinians should have control of 30% of the Dead Sea as its border, but since 1967 they are prohibited from using or investing in the area. Israel has also exhausted Dead Sea water, threatening its existence over the next 20 years. As a result of the lack of water draining into the Dead Sea from the Jordan River and wadis, as well as Israel's excessive pumping of sea water, aerial

photos show the Dead Sea splitting into two separate, smaller lakes. Additionally, Israel is excessively pumping water out of the sea and reserving water coming from the western valleys of the Jordan River, which further exhausts available water and decreases the annual amount of water drained into the Dead Sea.

Living Conditions



A Palestinian looks through the ruins of his demolished house in jiftlik.

Since 1967 Israel has prevented Palestinians from building new buildings or expanding existing buildings. Israel demolished many houses and also prohibited reconditioning or restructuring Palestinian houses built from mud and roofed with corrugated iron. According to the statistics of the Civil Coordination Office in Jericho, the rate of house demolitions and demolition notifications increased dramatically in 2005. In the first three months of 2006, 13 houses were demolished and 14 orders were issued to demolish Palestinian homes. Statistics of house demolitions for the remainder of 2006 is not available due to the strike of public sector employees demanding payment of their salaries and Israel's refusal to coordinate with the current Palestinian government.

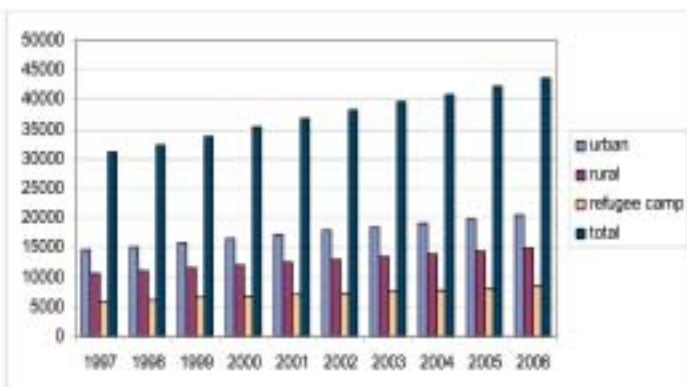
Jordan Valley residents have also been subjected to several Israeli expulsion and killing policies. Between 1948 and 1967, the Palestinian population of the area from Ein Gedi in the south to Bisan in the north reached 320,000. However, once the occupation began, hundreds of Palestinians were killed; dozens of Palestinian communities were leveled; and Palestinian residents were forced to immigrate to Jordan. Currently, only 52,000 Palestinians permanently live in the Jordan Valley.

Other landowners in the area reside in towns throughout the West Bank. Many Palestinians settle in the Jordan Valley only on a seasonal basis, moving down from the mountains to cultivate their lands.

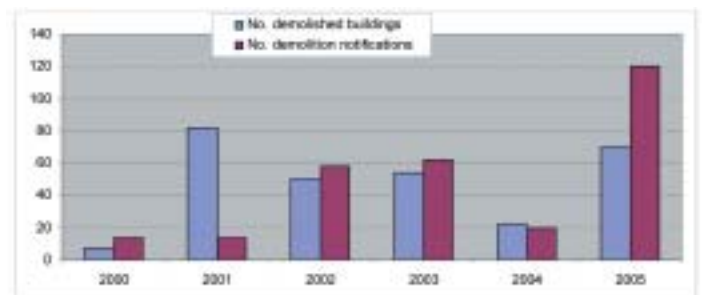
Residential areas are concentrated in Jericho and 24 of its surrounding villages as well as dozens of Bedouin communities. These residential communities fall into three districts: Tubas, Nablus and Jericho.



A Palestinian women from Fassayel shows an Israeli notification to demolish her house.



Population in the Jordan Valley by type of locality.



Statistics of demolished buildings and demolition notifications (2000-2005)

The following tables show the population of the Jordan Valley by locality:

**Estimated Population for Tubas Governed Localities in Jordan Valley by Locality
(Mid-year, selected years)**

Locality	Population mid-year				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Bardala	1577	1626	1675	1724	1773
Ein Al Beida	1081	1114	1148	1182	1215
Kardala	165	170	176	181	186
Al Fareseyya	213	220	226	233	240
Al Maleh	206	213	219	226	232
Hadidiyya	183	189	194	200	206

**Estimated Population for Nablus Governed Localities in Jordan Valley by Locality
(Mid-year, selected years)**

Locality	Population mid-year				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Ein Shibli	198	204	209	215	220
Beit Hassan	1192	1226	1259	1293	1326
Al Nasareyyeh	1354	1392	1430	1468	1506
Al Akraneyyeh	895	920	946	971	996
Froush Beit Dajan	1159	1191	1224	1256	1289

**Estimated Population for Jericho and Al-Aghwar Governed Localities in the Jordan Valley by
Locality
(Mid-year, selected years)**

Locality	Population mid-year				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Marj Na'jeh	767	791	814	838	861
Zbeidat	1340	1382	1423	1464	1504
Marj Ghazal	385	397	409	420	432
Jiftlik	4401	4536	4671	4805	4939
Fasayel	900	928	955	983	1010
Al Uja	4010	4133	4256	4379	4501
Nwe'meh	1165	1200	1236	1272	1307
Ein Dyouk el Fouqa	814	839	864	889	914
Ein Dyouk el Tahta	967	996	1026	1055	1085
Jericho	20,416	21,044	21,669	22,293	22,915
Aqbet Jabr Refugee Camp	6343	6538	6733	6926	7120
Ein el Sultan Refugee Camp	2036	2098	2160	2223	2285
Other localities	76	79	81	83	85
Total population in different areas	51,843	53,426	55,003	56,579	58,147

Note: The above statistics do not include the Bedouin communities.

Health and Education

The Palestinian communities in the Jordan Valley suffer from severe shortage in basic services. Most communities, especially those located in Area C, are not connected to electricity, water, telephone or sewage networks in addition to lacking public transportation.

The development of the Jordan Valley, in terms of the Palestinians, has never been on the agenda, and Israeli has

refused all demands raised by residents to provide these basic services. Consequently, many Palestinian communities still live in harsh, primitive conditions with no access to any kind of service. The following table gives the percentage of those basic services covered in some Palestinian localities in the Jordan Valley:

Locality	% clean drinking water	% water network	% electricity	Internal roads	% Palestinian telephone land lines	% public transportations	% waste disposal	% sewage networks	Classification of built-up areas, according to Oslo
Bardala	70	60	80	20	0	40	60	0	30% B
Kardala	30	30	100	20	0	0	80	0	100% C
Ein el Beida	80	70	100	80	0	60	80	0	50% C
Qa'oun (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Al Himma (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Al Maleh (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	100% C
Al Hulwa (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Al Shak (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Hamsa (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Hadidiyya (Bedouins)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Ein Shibli	0	90	90	10	40	80	60	0	30% B
Beit Hassan	0	90	80	10	40	70	70	0	80% B
Agrabaneyyeh	0	80	80	10	40	70	70	0	80% B
Nassareyyeh	0	60	80	10	40	70	70	0	0% B
Frush Beit Dajan	0	30	Motor	10	40	60	70	0	80% C
Marj Na'jeh	0	0	80	70	0	0	80	0	10% B
Marj Ghazal	60	90	90	90	0	0	80	0	40% B
Zbeidat	40	90	80	80	0	30	80	0	5% B
Jiftlik	30	0	20	0	10	30	30	0	100% C
Fasayel al Tahta	80	90	80	80	90	20	80	0	20% B
Fasayel al Fouka	70	0	60	0	80	0	0	0	100% C
Al Uja	80	20	70	30	90	70	60	0	40% A
Arab Miehah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Arab Trefat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Arab Ka'abneh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100% C
Jericho and its suburbs	80	70	70	65	90	90	95	0	100% A

Health

There are only 24 health clinics in the Jordan Valley, operated by the Palestinian Ministry of Health and civil organizations, such as the Palestinian Medical Relief Committees, Palestinian Red Crescent, Union of Health Work Committees and UNRWA. The clinic buildings, however, are very old and/or poorly constructed from concrete, metal sheets and tents. Israeli policy prohibits the construction of health clinics as it does with housing or other kinds of infrastructure. They also threaten to demolish any illegal building or reconditioning of clinics. Consequently, health services in the Jordan Valley are almost non-existent and, if available, never meet the needs of the population, particularly in emergency situations. And due to occupation policies, civil organizations are limited in capacities and cannot provide dependable primary healthcare. For example, health clinics are only

open 2-3 days/week for about 2 hours/day. Any critical cases or emergencies must be transferred to hospitals in the major cities. And oftentimes, Israeli soldiers place obstacles at checkpoints for medical staff, often forcing them into long, detailed searches. As a result, patients are delayed in receiving medical attention.



A medical relief center in Jiftlik

Education

There are 29 basic and secondary schools located in the Palestinian communities of the Jordan Valley, serving more than 11,325 students. There is a lack of infrastructure and supplies, such as drinking fountains and sanitation facilities, in about 12 schools. Israel also refuses to give permissions to build new schools in most Palestinian communities. According to the sources in the Palestinian Ministry of Education, most Jordan Valley schools lack sufficient classrooms; thus, many students continue their education in classrooms that fail health and safety regulations or travel to schools farther away.

The following table gives a detailed description of the conditions of JV schools:

Locality	School	# students	# teachers	Need for new schools	Need for new classrooms	Need for educational resources	Need for playgrounds	Need for hygienic facilities	Need for clean water
Jericho		3761	195	Need new girls school		lack			Available
	Omar Bin Al Khattab School	43	4				Need playground		
New/meh		372	19.5	Need new basic mixed school		Lack		Available	Available
Al Uja		347	30.5	Need new boys school		Lack		Need reconditioning	Available
	Al Uja Secondary School	77	11			Lack		Need reconditioning & building new units	Not available
	Al Uja Girls School	270	33			Lack		Need reconditioning & building new units	Not available
Fasayel	Fasayel School	310	22			Lack		Need reconditioning & building new units	Not available
Marj Na'jah	Marj Na'jah Secondary Mixed school	217	23		4 classrooms	Lack		Need reconditioning & building new units	Not available
Marj Ghazal		70	13			Lack	Need playground	Need reconditioning	Not available
Zbeidat				Need new girls school				Need reconditioning & building new units	Not available
	Zbeidat Girls School	240	26			Lack		Need reconditioning & building new units	Not available
	Zbeidat Secondary Mixed school	255	27			Lack		Need reconditioning	Not available
Jiftik	Jiftik Secondary School	102	11.5		Need new school	Lack	Need playground		Need reconditioning
Bardala	Bardala Secondary School	240	26			Lack		Need reconditioning	Not available
	Bardala New Girl School	170	10			Lack		Not available	Not available
	Bardala Girls School	80	8			Lack		Need reconditioning	Not available
Ein al Beida		341	20					Not available	Not available



Sewage/Waste Services

Sewage/Waste Services

No sewage network is available for Palestinians living in the Jordan Valley. Instead, each household uses a private septic hole, and the solid waste is either collected by municipal/village tractors, buried or burned. In 2002, the occupation started digging into 500 dunums of Palestinian land east of Road 90, which was confiscated during the early days of occupation for “security purposes. It was later revealed that the land would be used to build a garbage dump for solid, industrial and chemical waste produced in Israel. The location—between Fasayel and south of Al-Jiftlik—was strategically selected because of the direction the wind would blow the smell to avoid the settlements. The waste dumped in this area is extremely dangerous for the local environment, particularly the water resources and public health of nearby communities.



TO EXIST IS TO RESIST

Eye on Jordan Valley

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