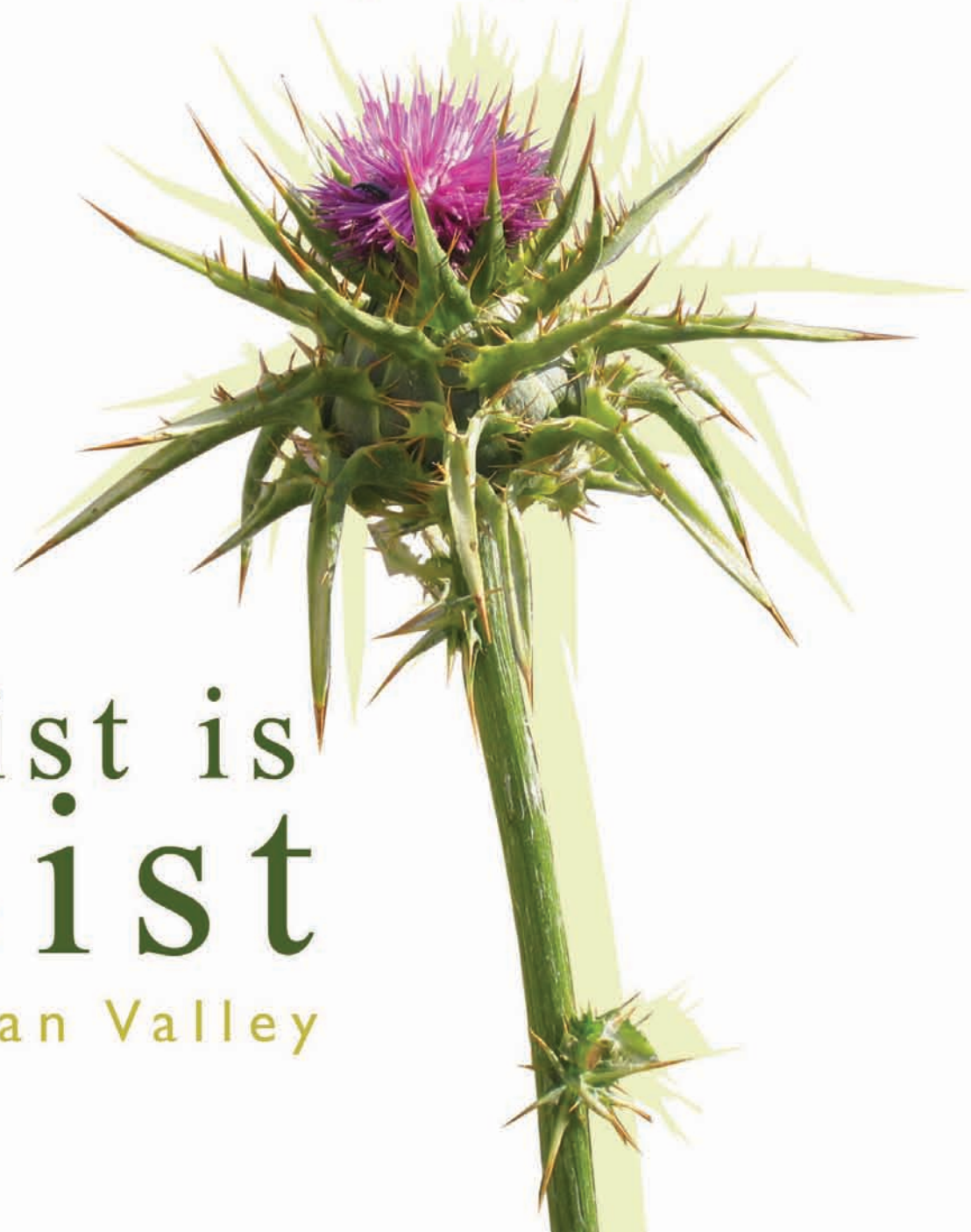


MA'AN Development Center

Jordan Valley Popular Committees



To Exist is
to Resist
Save The Jordan Valley

To Exist is to Resist

Save The Jordan Valley

Dedication

To all the Palestinians of the Jordan Valley who have suffered and struggled to keep their land and resist the Israeli apartheid regime and continue today, stronger than ever, in this struggle, we dedicate this book.

Also to the national and international solidarity groups who work tirelessly for the Jordan Valley's existence, peace, freedom and better future for its residents. And especially to the Save the Jordan Valley campaign whose volunteers work to defend the rights of people to live in dignity and freedom.

Thank you to MA'AN staff members and volunteers from the Save the Jordan Valley campaign for the photographs used in this book.

Contents

Contents

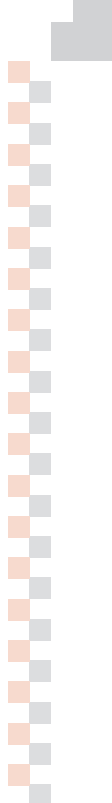
| | |
|---|------------|
| What is the Jordan Valley? | 10 |
| <i>Climate</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Land topography.....</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Life in the Jordan Valley.....</i> | <i>28</i> |
| <i>Water Resources</i> | <i>42</i> |
| <i>Agriculture</i> | <i>52</i> |
| <i>Nature</i> | <i>62</i> |
| <i>The Dead Sea.....</i> | <i>72</i> |
| <i>Tourist Attractions.....</i> | <i>78</i> |
| The Jordan Valley under Israeli occupation | 88 |
| <i>Land Confiscation and Control Over Land.....</i> | <i>92</i> |
| <i>Movement and Access Restrictions.....</i> | <i>98</i> |
| <i>Housing Standards</i> | <i>102</i> |
| <i>Bedouins.....</i> | <i>104</i> |
| <i>Labour</i> | <i>124</i> |
| To Exist is to Resist | 130 |
| Jordan Valley Maps..... | 168 |

JORDAN VALLEY



DEAD SEA





For the Palestinians, the Jordan Valley offers great potential for a viable state in terms of its strategic location and economic success. Its borders with Jordan are the only foreseeable entrance and exit for a future Palestinian state. It serves as the conduit for Arab-Palestinian communication and is the only real option for movement and trade with the Middle East and the rest of the world. Moreover, its abundance of water resources, fertile soil and natural minerals offer competitive economic advantages in agriculture, industry and tourism. It also constitutes the geographical “reservoir” of land where the Palestinians could establish housing projects and public facilities. 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. Despite its advantages and potential, the Jordan Valley has suffered significantly from the consequences of isolation and Israel’s colonisation.

The Jordan Valley has abundant land and water resources, including one-third of the underground water reserves for the West Bank. It is home to predominantly agricultural and herding communities who rely on the land and water resources for their livelihoods. Today, settlements control half of the land of the Jordan Valley, and closed military zones and nature reserves comprise an additional 44 percent. Access restrictions to these areas have had a particularly devastating impact on the Palestinian population that live and work in the Jordan Valley.

Since 1967 the Israeli occupation has continued to implement policies of colonisation on the Jordan Valley, dramatically increasing during and after the second *Intifada* in 2000. In the midst of the *Intifada*, international events and the wavering power scale in the world, Israel focused on further destruction of the Jordan Valley’s infrastructure, increasing restrictions on movement and further isolating Palestinians

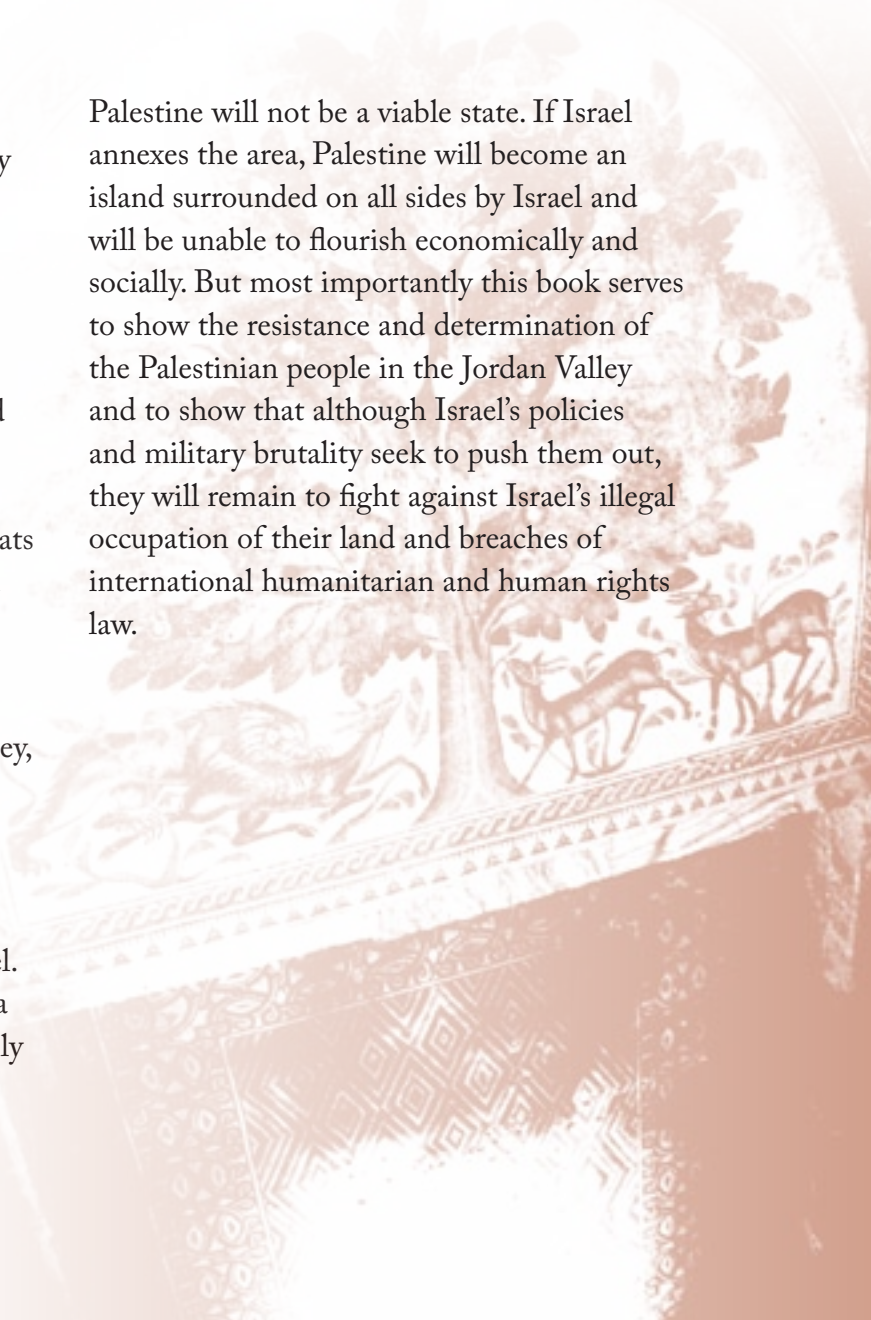


in and around the area in an effort to start dividing the area to develop it for Israeli-only purposes.

Today, due to Israel's policies which have effectively separated and annexed the Jordan Valley, many Palestinians in the area live in poverty as unemployment levels are high and they are prevented from developing the area themselves. The people here live cut off from the rest of the West Bank and face daily threats and humiliation from the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) who seek to create conditions that force the people to leave forever.

This book serves to showcase the Jordan Valley, its beauty, unique landscape, its religious and historical sites, its towns and villages, its people, the daily problems they face caused by the occupation and how the area is being destroyed and completely taken over by Israel. It also aims to illustrate how integral the area is to Palestine, culturally, socially, economically and strategically. Without the Jordan Valley,

Palestine will not be a viable state. If Israel annexes the area, Palestine will become an island surrounded on all sides by Israel and will be unable to flourish economically and socially. But most importantly this book serves to show the resistance and determination of the Palestinian people in the Jordan Valley and to show that although Israel's policies and military brutality seek to push them out, they will remain to fight against Israel's illegal occupation of their land and breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law.



*What is The
Jordan
Valley?*







Climate

The Jordan Valley constitutes its own climatic region within the West Bank. Temperatures are a few degrees higher than other parts of the West Bank. In winter the average temperature is around 15°C, and in the summer it can reach into the low 40s.









Land Topography

The Jordan Valley forms part of the Great Rift Valley. It lies between the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. The Dead Sea, in the south of the Jordan Valley, is the lowest point on earth, at around 400 metres below sea level. The mountain ridge to the west running the length of the West Bank along with the entire valley lying below sea level creates a dramatic and diverse landscape.









The eastern mountain ridge that lends the Jordan Valley its dramatic landscape.



Springs





Fertile agricultural land





The Dead Sea





Desert mountains



Life in the Jordan Valley

The Jordan Valley is rich in culture and diversity of lifestyles. There are rural communities living a mainly agricultural life, nomadic Bedouin communities who lead a pastoral life and the ancient urban community of Jericho which is the oldest city in the world.















*Women making bread using traditional methods.
On the left shrak bread and above taboon.*







Bedouin man grinding coffee with al mebash



Bedouin woman making white cheese










Bedouin children

Water Resources

The Jordan Valley is situated over the Eastern Water Basin and there are an abundance of water resources such as fresh springs and underground water as well as the Jordan River which flows all the way down the valley emptying into the Dead Sea in the south. However, due to Israel's policies on water usage, Palestinians living in the Jordan Valley suffer from a severe lack of access to this water. They are only permitted to use 40% of the water in this basin or approximately 58 MCM (million cubic metres) 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. Water pipes also cut through land where Palestinians live but they are prevented from accessing the water than runs through 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. In line with building restrictions imposed by the (IOF) in Area C, Palestinians are not allowed to build their own wells or reservoirs. Many Jordan Valley residents are not connected to mains water supplies. Consequently, Palestinians use dirty water from unconditioned, neglected water sources, because oftentimes, untreated settlement water seeps into Palestinian artesian wells and springs.







The only clean water they can obtain is either sold in mobile tanks by the Israeli water company Mekorot, at a higher price than Israelis pay, or from Areas A and B in other parts of the West Bank. Israel's determination to limit the supply of water to Palestinians is a gross human rights violation; of their right to access and benefit from their own natural resources as well as the right to health, adequate housing, and equality.





Refilling water from a mobile water tank



Sign stating the funding of a reservoir by 'Hadassah the Women's Zionist Organization of America.' This reservoir diverts water from Palestinians.



Israeli ponds located in isolated areas between Jordan River and border fence.



One of the 162 Palestinian wells isolated and confiscated since 1967.



Drainage of water in Al Maleh Area.

Israeli water pipes passing through a Palestinian village. People can hear the sound of water running through the pipes but cannot drink from it.



Al Awwja Spring drained by Israeli pumping motors.





Israeli wastewater flows through Palestinian agricultural areas.



Agriculture

The Jordan Valley has extremely fertile soil, which when combined with its warm climate and water supply makes it a site rich with agricultural potential. The land here has been used for agricultural purposes for 10,000 years and has served the region with its produce. The fruit and vegetables grown in the Jordan Valley now constitute a significant quantity of the total produce distributed to the Palestinians. Produce grown here includes bananas, dates, peppers, onions, cucumbers, herbs, tomatoes, grapes, aubergines, and melons. However the agricultural potential of the Jordan Valley cannot be fully reached for Palestinians because they have had most of their land confiscated (only 50km² can be used by Palestinians now for agricultural purposes in the entire Jordan Valley), have insufficient water supplies and cannot transport the produce they do produce to market because of road closures and checkpoints. These restrictions threaten the food security of the entire West Bank.







Palm trees in Bardala Village



Tomatoes from Ein Al Beida.



Women at work in Jeftlik village.

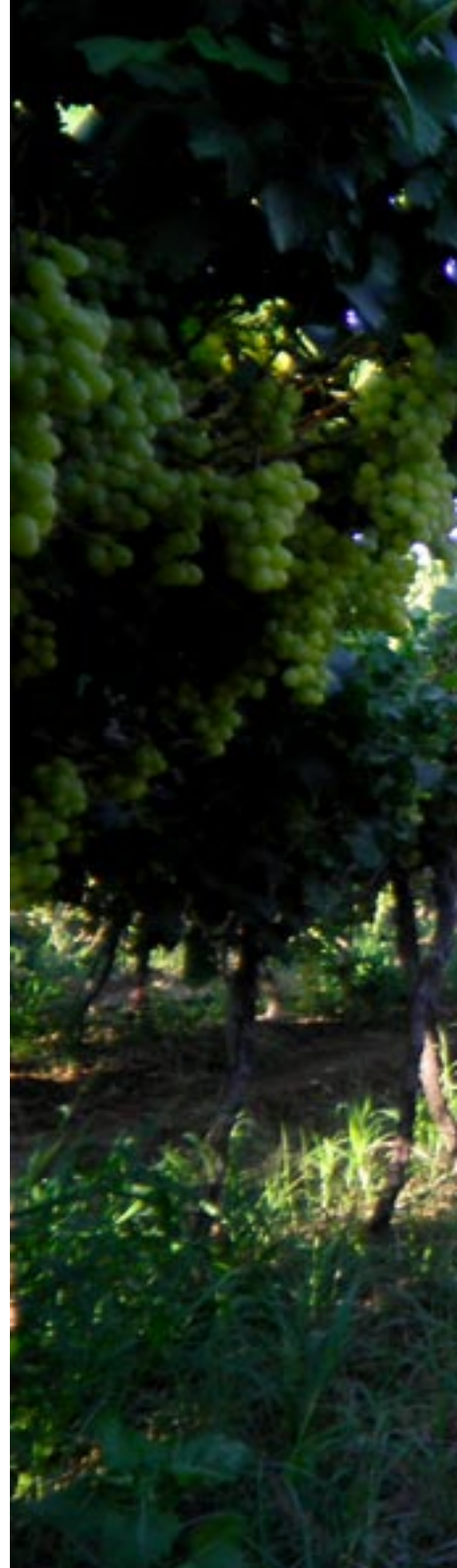






Banana plantation in Jericho.







Vineyards in Ein Al Beida



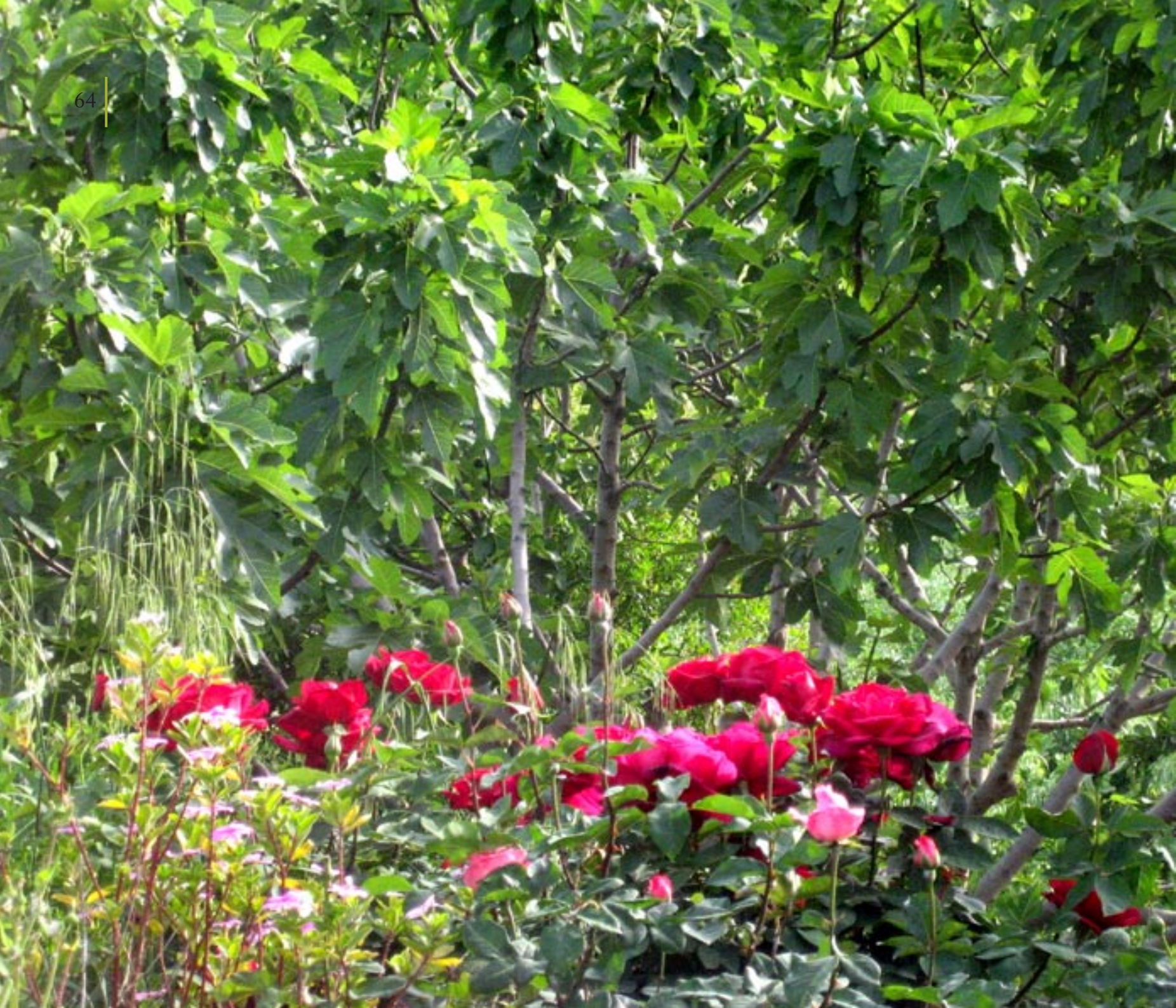
Nature

The Jordan Valley has great biodiversity due to its geographic location, its climate, and its wide variety of habitats. Many migrating birds cross over the Jordan Valley on their way to sunnier climes. It also has a huge variety of wild flowers, animals, and insects.





Thistle



















The Dead Sea

The Dead Sea is famous for its rich salt and mineral deposits, attracting tourists from all over the world to experience the natural spa, coat themselves in Dead Sea mud and float in the water.

The salt in the Dead Sea is partly due to it being below sea level, water only flows into it and not out, creating a build-up of salt as water evaporates. This build-up as well as existing ancient sea floor deposits creates a sea which is 30% solid matter. 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.



Dead Sea mud which is rich in minerals

73





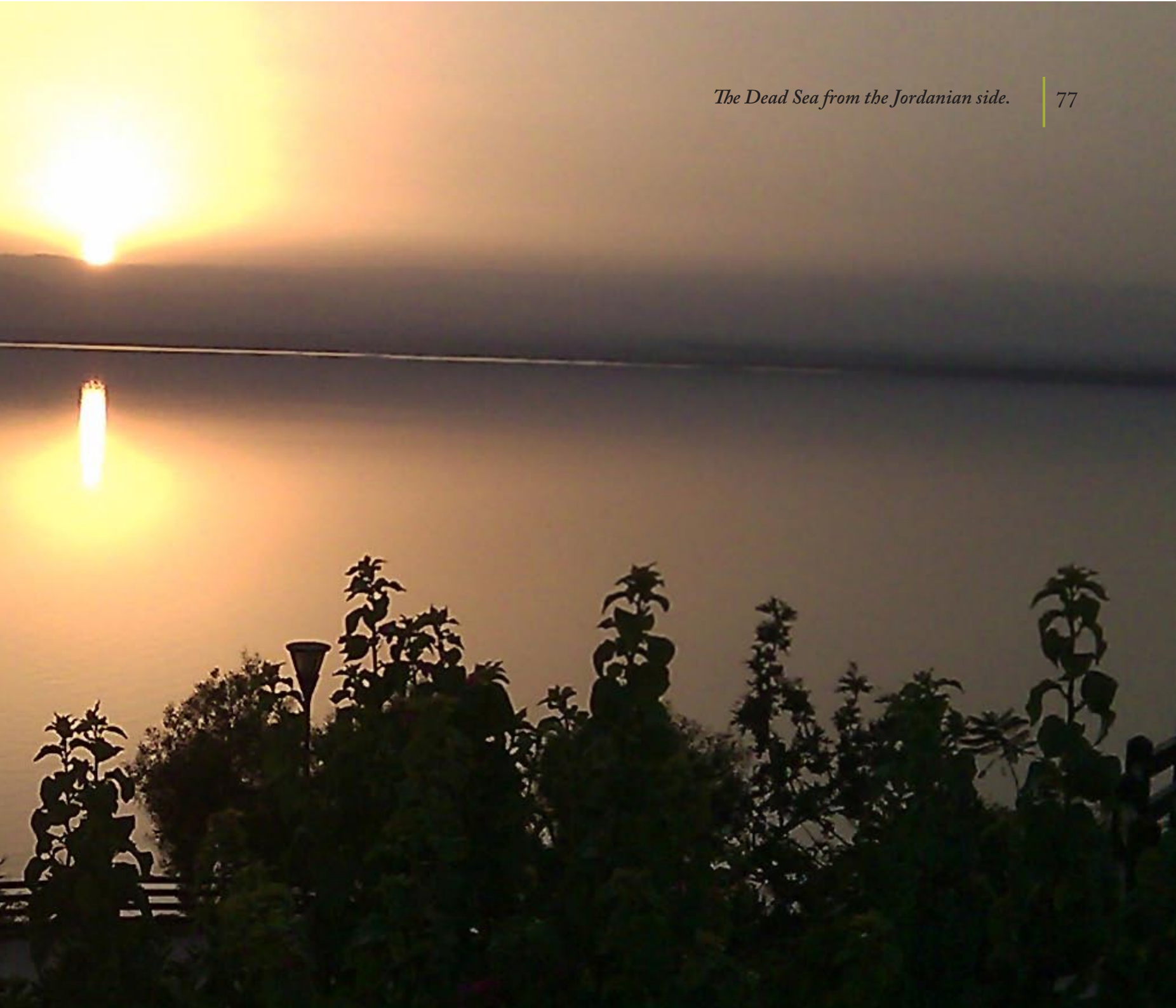


30% of the Dead Sea lies within the West Bank but since 1967, Palestinians have been prohibited from investing in or even using the area. At the same time Israel's exploitative environmental policies, disregard for the effects of industry, and over-development of tourist infrastructure mean that the Dead Sea is now facing a crisis of survival and environmental disaster.

Israel's over-exploitation of the Jordan River for its own agricultural purposes in the Jordan Valley as well as its excessive pumping of sea water have resulted in an insufficient supply of water draining into the Dead Sea making its shores recede. However the main cause behind the continually receding shoreline and what will lead to its eventual disappearance are the Israeli factories built around the Dead Sea, which have already been functioning for years and pump more than 250 MCM from the northern basin of the Dead Sea annually.

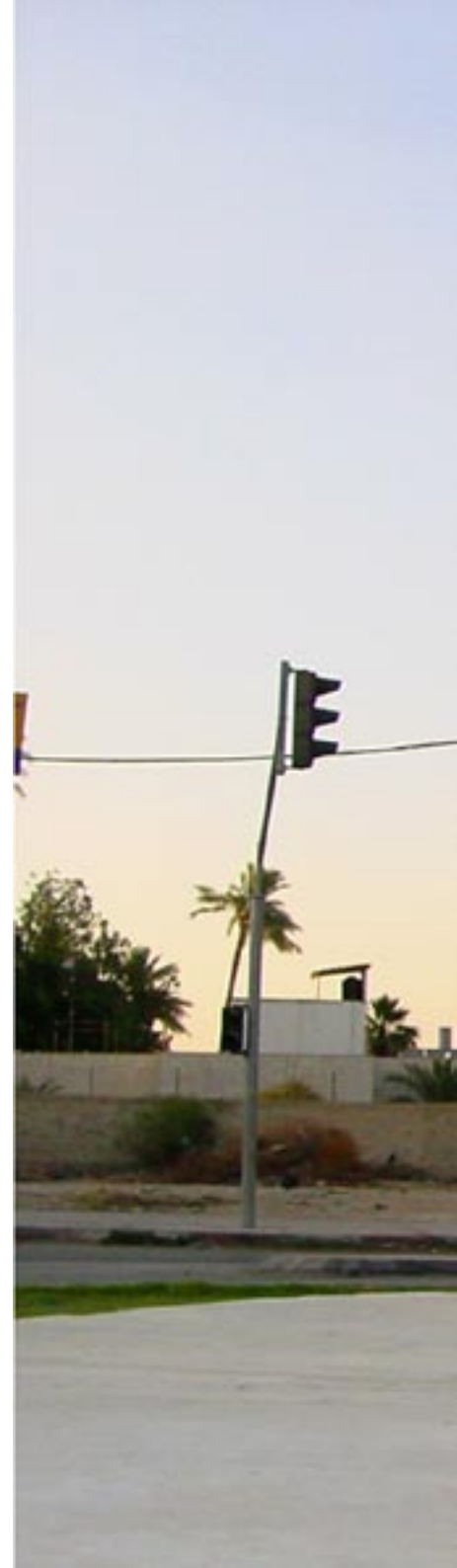
Aerial photos show the Dead Sea splitting into two separate, smaller lakes. The average decrease in the shoreline thus reaches approximately one metre each year, or about ten centimetres per month, even during winter months. Experts predict that the northern basin will continue to recede by 1-1.5 metres annually due to the decrease of water resources feeding into it. In 2009 the level of the Dead Sea reached 423 metres beneath sea level, whereas it reached 413 metres ten years ago, which means that the sea's level has diminished by ten metres within the past ten years.





Tourist Attractions

As well as the Dead Sea which draws thousands of visitors a year, there are a great number of historical and religious sites in the Jordan Valley due to its continual inhabitation over the past 10,000 years. The city of Jericho is the oldest continually inhabited city in the world and still has remains of the earliest settlement located at Tel es-Sultan. Other famous and important sights include the Monastery on the Mount of Temptation, where Jesus is said to have resisted the devil by fasting for 40 days. The Greek Orthodox monastery on this site is connected to the city of Jericho by a cable car. North of Jericho is Hisham's Palace, the remains of an Umayyad winter palace built in 743-744 CE. The palace still retains intact mosaics and ruins of ancient baths. Another important religious site is Al Maghtas on the Jordan River which is revered by Christians for being the location where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. To the West of Jericho is Nabi Musa, where the tomb of the Prophet Moses is located. Nabi Musa was also an important site for pilgrims on their journey to Mecca.















Hisham's Palace



Church bells, Mosque minarets and palm trees in the Palestinian skyline - a symbol of Palestinian unity.






Prophet Moses Shrine south of Jericho.

Jordan Valley under Israeli Occupation





The Jordan Valley has been under complete occupation since 1967. Prior to the 6-day war, the population of the Jordan Valley was between 300,000 and 320,000. The population now stands at 53,000 of which about 70% live in the city of Jericho.

Since 1967, Israel has taken over almost 95% of the Jordan Valley and made it inaccessible to Palestinians. It was in the Jordan Valley that the first settlements were built due to its geo-political importance. The Jordan Valley was seen and is still seen to be strategically essential owing to its location on the border with Jordan, with only a narrow river in between. By locating settlements here, Israel could maintain security and easily expand its economic and political power. Israel has created a 'buffer zone' in the Jordan Valley to protect itself from neighbouring Arab states.

Settlements in the West Bank, particularly in the Jordan Valley were built with the aim of creating permanent facts on the ground. By moving a settler population onto occupied land and creating infrastructure such as settler-only roads as well as extensive agriculture, Israel is cementing its ownership of the land. Israel has recreated the Jordan Valley, both physically and in the public imagination, as Israeli land. It can then use these facts on the ground in future political negotiations, so it can claim full control and ownership of the territory. The fact that the Jordan Valley is an area contiguous to Israel makes claims to land ownership claims more legitimate and easier to maintain.

During the nineties, the area of Jordan Valley settlements increased by 45% but the population only increased by 13%. Settlement farms now occupy a continuous block on the east side of the Jordan Valley, effectively blocking Palestinian farms from the Jordan River and from the country of Jordan. Settlement farms have been built on confiscated Palestinian land and on land from which Palestinians have been forced out. With little finances or power compared to the Israeli state, Palestinians often have no recourse but to acquiesce to the Israeli authorities. In so doing, Israel has created a continuous tract of Israeli-owned land resulting in the further division of Palestine, in effect creating barricades which cut off people from each other, dividing the land and reaffirming Israeli control. Consequently, Palestinian land ownership and membership of a future contiguous and viable Palestinian state is impossible.

By transferring a settler population to the Jordan Valley, Israel can maintain control of large tracts of land easily. Israel legitimises its settlement of the Jordan Valley through the perception that settlers are protecting the land from neighbouring enemy states. Settlements and military outposts are strategically located to serve a number of functions. For example, they may be placed beside or surrounding Palestinian villages, thus preventing expansion and threatening the

very existence of the village or they are located on hilltops, serving a surveillance function by monitoring Palestinian villages below.

Settlement building has not stopped in the Jordan Valley despite it being a complete violation of International Humanitarian Law for the occupier to change the landscape of the occupied territory. These settlements are not built to be temporary as already \$17 billion has been spent on the settlement project in the West Bank. The permanency of Israel's colonialism shows that it sees the future borders of a Palestinian state without East Jerusalem or the Jordan Valley, effectively leaving it as an island surrounded on all sides by Israel. There are now around 11,000 settlers living in about 36 settlements in the Jordan Valley including established settlements as well as many unrecognised outposts (officially unrecognised by the Israeli government, although they do not dismantle them).

Settlements, along with their infrastructure and security measures such as road closures, checkpoints, and land confiscation have had severe detrimental effects for all Palestinians in the Jordan Valley. Palestinians are collectively punished and face a severe security threat from settlers and the military who deny them their human rights and dignity.

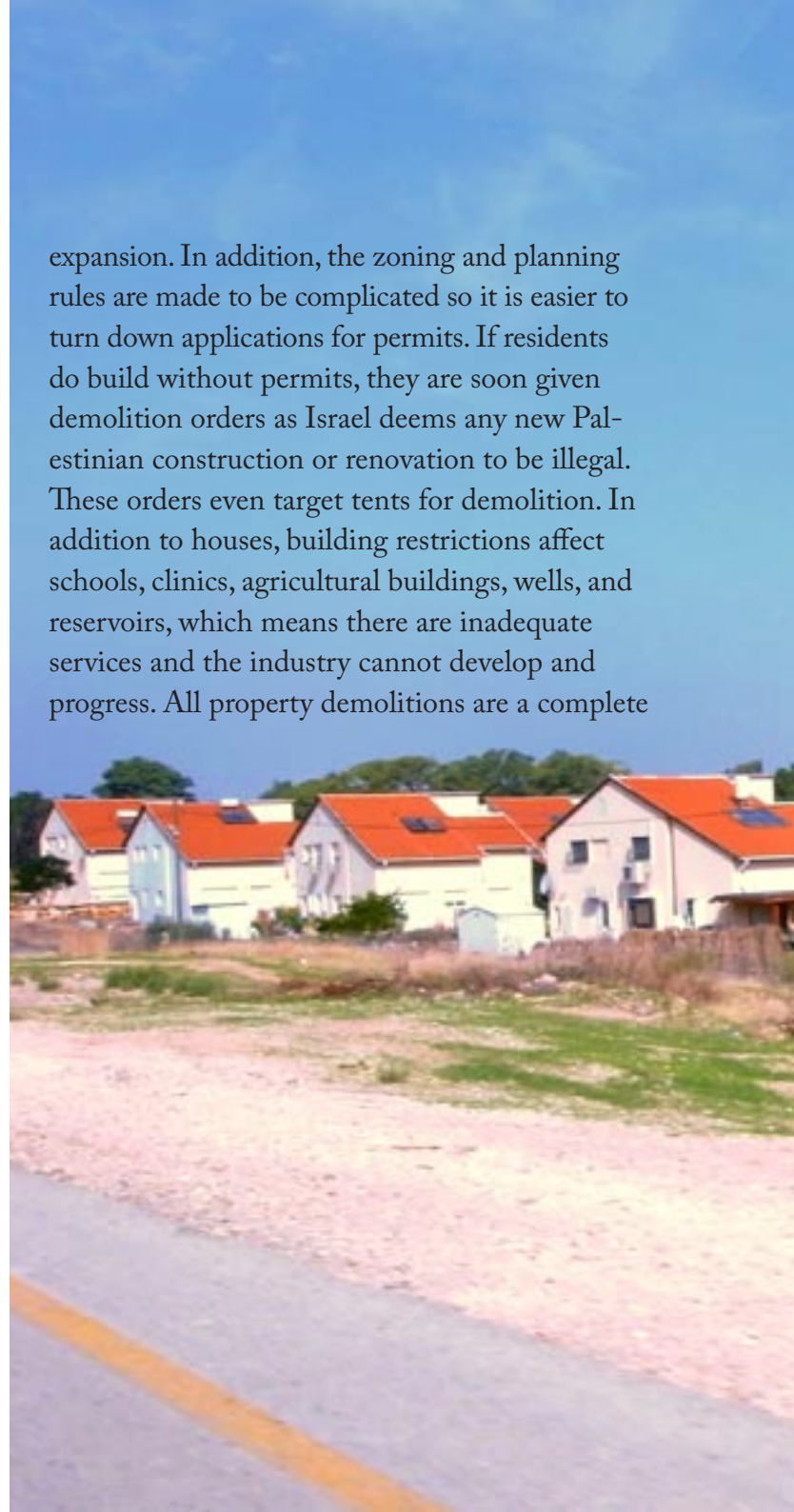




Land confiscation and control over land

Most of the Jordan Valley (with the exception of Jericho and a few villages north of Jericho) is classified as Area C. This means Israel has civil and security control. Palestinians have the right to build on only 20km² of the valley, in areas classified as A and B and can use about 50km² for agriculture. Palestinians living in Area C face severe restrictions on building and development. Palestinians require permits to build in Area C (the Jordan Valley is 94.5% Area C) but these can take years to obtain and are usually turned down because they do not fit Israel's complicated and highly restrictive planning rules for Palestinians. Permits are only given to those building plans which fit into Israeli Civil Administration zoning plans, which are usually in already heavily built up areas. In addition to being banned from building anywhere near military areas and settlements, Palestinians cannot build near the edges of their communities, effectively preventing their

expansion. In addition, the zoning and planning rules are made to be complicated so it is easier to turn down applications for permits. If residents do build without permits, they are soon given demolition orders as Israel deems any new Palestinian construction or renovation to be illegal. These orders even target tents for demolition. In addition to houses, building restrictions affect schools, clinics, agricultural buildings, wells, and reservoirs, which means there are inadequate services and the industry cannot develop and progress. All property demolitions are a complete



violation of international humanitarian law, but Israel continues to distribute demolition orders to property that is in the way of settlement expansion or military training areas. Farmers and shepherds from communities which are located within military zones, of which there are several, are prevented from grazing their animals and are arrested and their animals confiscated if they do so.

As a result, the Jordan Valley has a stagnating population despite the birth rate there being

high. Palestinians are forced out because they have nowhere to build homes, there are insufficient services and because of the inability to develop agriculture and industry. Meanwhile, Israeli settlement building continues in the Jordan Valley. New settlers receive free houses and land and enjoy free high quality services such as education, health care and all the water they need for farming and personal use.





House demolitions in Jeflik village



*After the destruction
of the house*



*Jeftlik man
whose house was
demolished.*





Bedouin tent in Al Maleh and next to it a tent pitched by settlers who demand Palestinian expulsion from the area.



Movement and Access Restrictions

The Jordan Valley has four checkpoints and 100s of kms of roads which are closed to Palestinian vehicles as well as other blockades such as ditches and road blocks. These checkpoints, closures and blockades restrict movement for Palestinians, cut off farmers from their land and separate villages from each other. Palestinians are prevented from travelling directly between two points, making their journey longer and more difficult. Farmers cannot get their produce to market in time meaning their produce is often left to rot. Checkpoints and road closures can be devastating in medical emergencies, especially in the Jordan Valley where there are insufficient health services which force Palestinians to travel great distances. Over 69 women have given birth at checkpoints throughout the West Bank, of which 38 have resulted in stillbirth. Palestinians who are not registered as living in the Jordan Valley are not allowed to move there, even if they own land. These checkpoints around the Jordan Valley prevent Palestinians who are not residents of the Jordan Valley from entering, thus preventing communication and continuity between communities in the West Bank. The most difficult checkpoints are Hamra and Tayaseer where Palestinians can be detained for hours while they are searched and questioned. Checkpoints serve to cut up the West Bank and further annex the Jordan Valley to Israeli control. They prevent Palestinians from accessing land and curb the development of Palestinian areas, further undermining the communities there and making daily life difficult.





Tayaseer Checkpoint where soldiers humiliate Palestinians passing through.

As well as checkpoints and roads, villages within the Jordan Valley are separated from each other by settlements and military training areas. Approximately 95% of the Jordan Valley is now settlements, closed military areas or nature reserves which are geographically continuous Israeli controlled and occupied areas and leave Palestinian villages isolated. The city of Jericho has also been cut off from the rest of the Jordan Valley, further hindering natural development and communication between rural areas and the natural urban centre of the area.

These closures and checkpoints breach freedom of movement, a right which is protected in several international human rights law instruments including the 4th Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The road closures impact on the ability to access other rights such as the right to work, the right to education, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to health and the right to protection of family life.



Bq'a Gate- Palestinians are allowed pass only 2 times a week 15 minutes each time.

Hamra Checkpoint.



Housing Standards

The restrictions imposed by the Israelis on Palestinians living in Area C have created inadequate housing conditions. Palestinians in the Jordan Valley cannot build new houses, nor can they extend their existing houses or renovate them. Communities in the Jordan Valley lack adequate sanitation treatment and are frequently not connected to water and electricity supplies. All these factors create poverty housing conditions; meanwhile, Israeli settlers live in brand new luxury houses with unlimited water and electricity supplies.





Bedouin families living in Al Hadiyeh

Bedouins

Approximately 15,000 Palestinian Bedouin live in the Jordan Valley. The term Bedouin means ‘desert dweller’ but now defines a community of tribes linked by common history, culture, ancestral bloodline, and lifestyle. The Bedouin are a semi nomadic herding people who traditionally live tents made of goats’ hair and move across the land rearing livestock and producing goods such as cheese and milk. Their survival has always been dependent upon living in areas rich in natural resources with water and grazing land, migrating to hillsides in the summer and back down to the valleys in early winter.



Ras Al Awja Bedouins

In the Jordan Valley they are increasingly marginalized due to living mainly in Area C where they face the brunt of Israel's policies and actions aimed at displacing them. Today they live in cramped plastic and metal tents without electricity, water and sewage facilities. Poverty levels are high among this group particularly due to the inability to develop agriculture, closure of grazing land, restrictions on trade and movement and the inability to access services due to being isolated from larger population centres. Many Bedouin communities lie in close proximity to settlements and regularly face harassment from settlers and the IOF who threaten to forcibly remove them from their land and often vandalise their property and land.



Humsa – Bqe'a Area







Jeftlik area.





Construction of new housing units in Mehola Settlement.



Destruction of Palestinian homes near Abu George Junction.

*Schools in an Israeli
Settlement in the Jordan
Valley*





*Schools in Bedouin villages
in the Jordan Valley.*





כאן בונים
 חב' ע.מ.ו.מ. עתאמנה ריינה
 לכניון ופיתוח בע"מ
 טל: 99/8563360 קטע: 06/6566749
 090-218162 090-211788 090-349736

המוסעה האזורית ישיבת בני עקיבא ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית
 בקעת הירדן כפר הרא"ה המרכז התימני

כאן תבנה בע"ה
קרית ישיבת והסדר
"שדמות נריה"
 "ש הרב משה צבי נריה וצ"ל"

6 8 19



Al Ka'abneh School.





Settlers with soldiers participating in the destruction of a well near Froush Beit Dejin.



סכנה خطر
DANGER
שטח אש. הכניסה אסורה!
منطقة إطلاق نار
الدخول ممنوع!
FIRING AREA ENTRANCE FORBIDDEN

Firing zone in grazing areas near Al Maleh.



Mine area.



A 2000 m³ water reservoir for the Israeli Settlement of Araya

A 1m³ water reservoir for Al Ka'abneh School



Palestinian child drinking from a mobile water tank





Settlers redirect the rainwater flow towards Palestinian villages.





Al Maleh spring





Wells for Israeli use only in the Palestinian village of Bardala

Labour

Curbs on the development of the Palestinian economy in the Jordan Valley have forced Palestinians to work on settlement farms, which in turn further undermines their economy. Men, women and sometimes children are hired as day labourers and receive wages way below the minimum wage, have no rights, no holidays nor sick leave, and have to work in dangerous conditions without training and adequate safety equipment.



*Palestinians going to work in an Israeli settlement.
Sign saying houses for rent in Tomer Settlement*







Child Laborer



Packing house for settlement products exported by Carmel and Agrexco.



Settlement plantations surrounded by an electric fence



To **Exist** is to **Resist**

Israel's actions in the Jordan Valley - its bureaucratic and apartheid policies, its brutal military tactics and inhumane treatment of the indigenous population - show that it has no intention of relinquishing control of the area and that it seeks to expel Palestinians from the area. Israel sees the future borders of a Palestinian state without East Jerusalem or the Jordan Valley, effectively leaving it as an island surrounded on all sides by Israel.

Israel's control over the people and expansion of its colonialist project there completely undermine the UN Security Council Resolution 1397, which calls for a two-state solution where "Israel and Palestine live side by side within secure and recognized borders". Israel is continually weakening and damaging Palestine's sovereignty, geographical continuity and economic sustainability, all factors that are essential in becoming a state that can live in peace with its neighbours. Israel has to stop its apartheid and colonialist policies in the Jordan Valley now and allow the area to be part of an independent, democratic and economically viable Palestinian state.





Existence
is
Resistance
البقاء مقاومة

Save The Jor

الأغوار



Jordan Valley Palestinians have lived with over 40 years of this brutal occupation but they are as resilient as ever and continue steadfast in their resistance of the attempted Israeli takeover and destruction of their land and livelihoods. They are committed to remaining on their land and maintaining it as Palestinian land despite Israel's increased efforts to forcibly displace them.

In order to achieve this, the people of the Jordan Valley have become organised into popular committees so they can better establish plans of action and work in conjunction with national and international NGOs and advocacy groups. The main group working with Palestinians in the Jordan Valley at the grassroots level is the Jordan Valley Solidarity Campaign which also works with MA'AN Development Center and international solidarity groups in raising awareness of the situation faced by Jordan Valley Palestinians. It endeavours to resist Israel's colonisation and apartheid activities in the Jordan Valley. Its slogan, 'To Exist is To Resist' emphasises the importance of remaining in the Jordan Valley to resist Israeli apartheid, colonialism and forced displacement.

To support Palestinians in their struggle to remain on the land in the Jordan Valley the Jordan Valley Solidarity Campaign, along with MA'AN Development Center, provide practical support and services working in four areas; national and international advocacy, to draw

attention to a much ignored and overlooked area; providing essential services such as renovations of schools, homes, kindergartens, sanitation units, and playgrounds and play areas, as well as expanding and enhancing existing health clinics and has building a school for the Bedouin community of Fayasel al Fuqa; assistance is also given in emergency situations, for example in floods, droughts or frosts which devastate the already fragile existence in the Jordan Valley and assisting when houses have been demolished by the IOF; and lastly, in capacity building in order to train popular committees and local communities helping them to become more organised, resilient and aware of their rights in the face of the encroaching Israeli occupation. MA'AN also provides small grants to community-based organisations, particularly to youth organisations helping them to build community cohesion and solidarity, important features when resisting the Israeli occupation. This assistance and solidarity activities are aimed at securing Palestinians' existence in the Jordan Valley. By renovating buildings, providing training and advocating on their behalf, MA'AN and the Jordan Valley Solidarity Campaign seeks to promote and assert Palestinian's attachment and belonging in the Jordan Valley and keep the area as part of a future Palestinian state.







Palestinians pray as a form of resistance



An Israeli soldier threatens to shoot.





Old house under renovation by MA'AN and the Save the Jordan Valley campaign

International volunteers reconnecting Al Farsya area with water after the Israelis confiscated their water pumping machines and destroyed the pipe lines claiming that the Palestinians were abusing natural resources.





House renovated by MA'AN.



Palestinian and international volunteers helping to reconstruct Palestinian houses



International groups showing solidarity with Palestinians in the Jordan Valley.



International volunteers work with locals to make mud bricks.













MA'AN distributes water tanks.

*Water fountains
in Jordan Valley
schools installed by
MA'AN, funded
by UNICEF*



*MA'AN distributes
toys for children.*









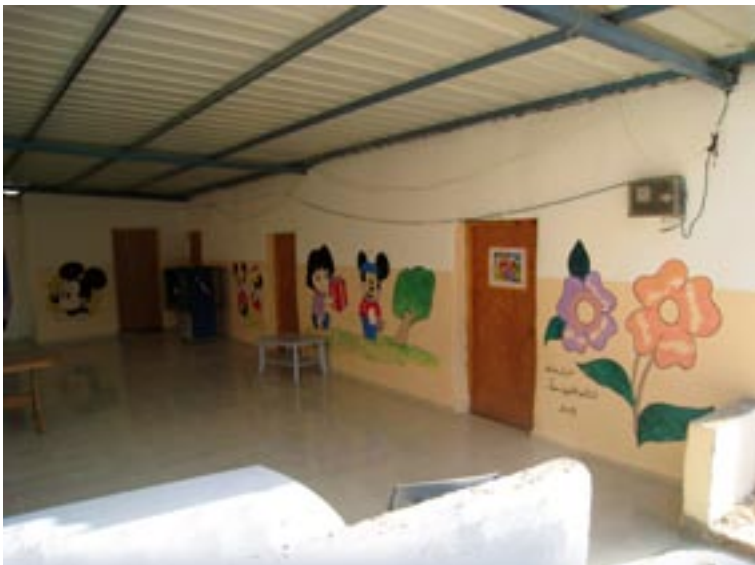
Outdoor playgrounds constructed by MA'AN and funded by the Norwegian Representative Office



Sunshield installed by MA'AN in a Jordan Valley school



Bardala clinic renovated and upgraded by MA'AN and Save the Children UK



Kindergartens renovated by MA'AN and Save the Children UK, funded by EU ECHO





Fayasel al Fuqa school built by MA'AN and funded by the Norwegian Representative Office and Pal Tel.











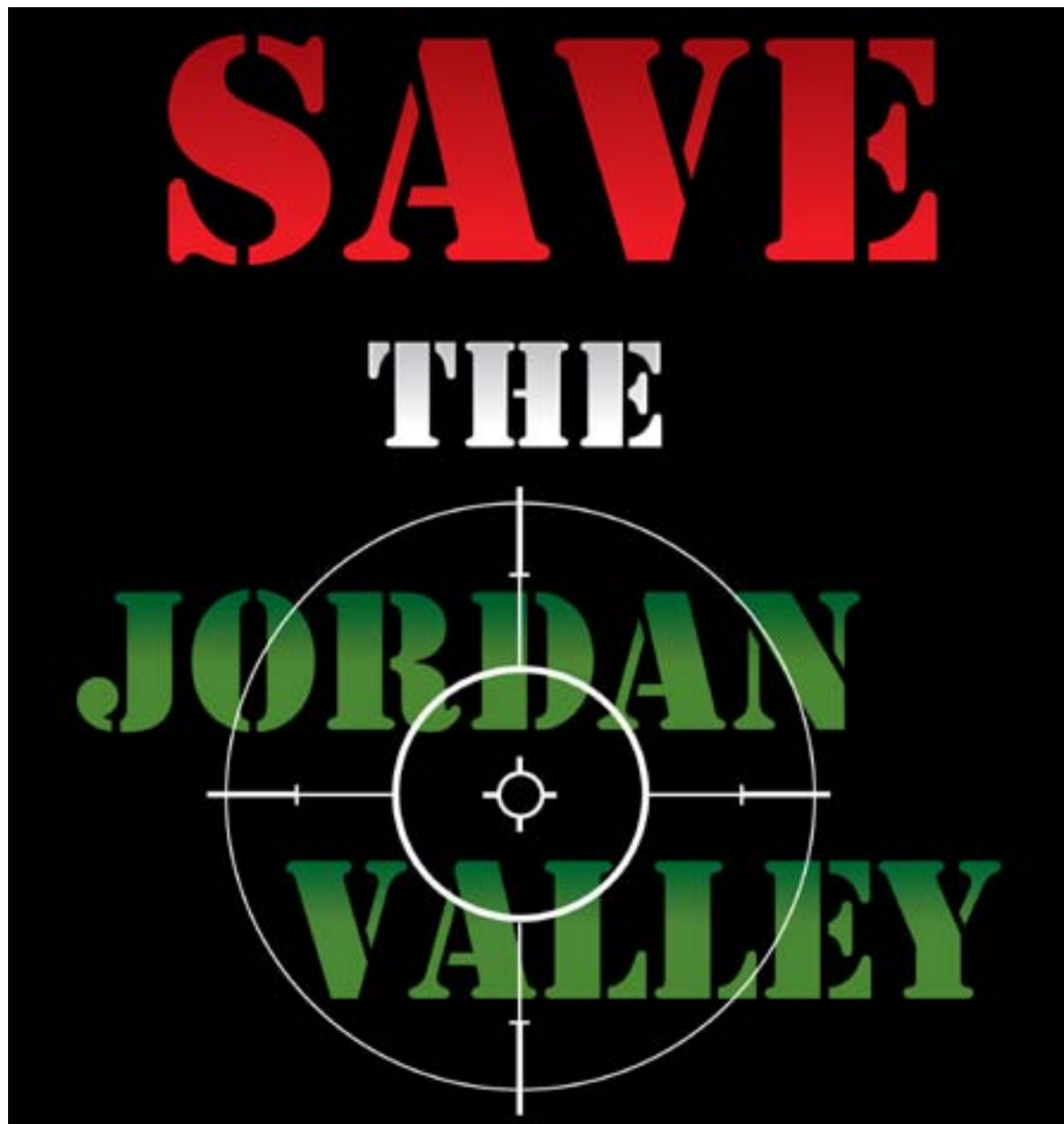


MA'AN and the Save the Jordan Valley campaign distributing kitchen equipment, cool boxes, first aid kits and gas for Bedouin families, supported by the Norwegian Representative Office





First conference for popular committees in the Jordan Valley





First conference to support Bedouins organized by MA'AN, the Save the Jordan Valley campaign and Jericho Governate

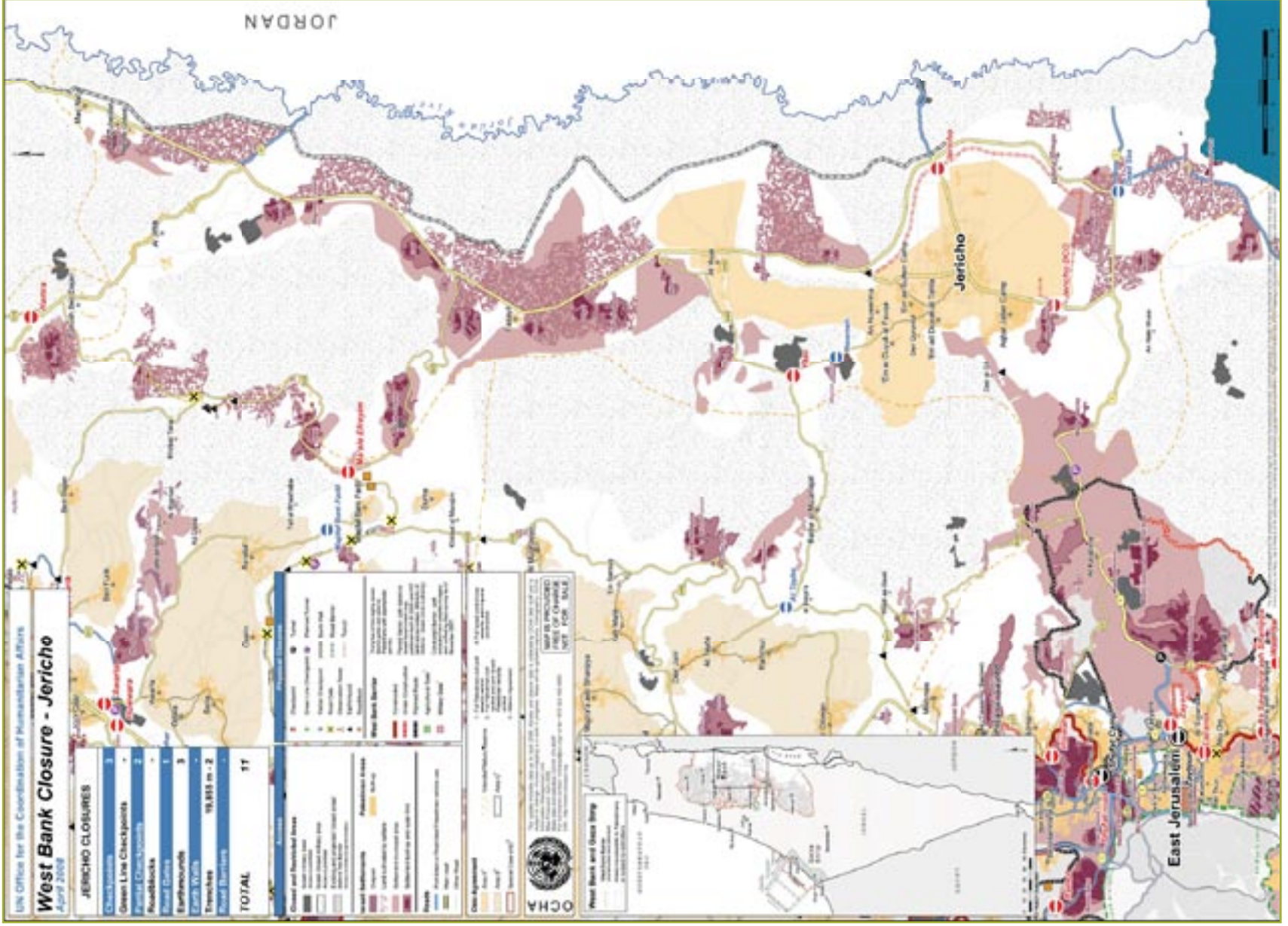


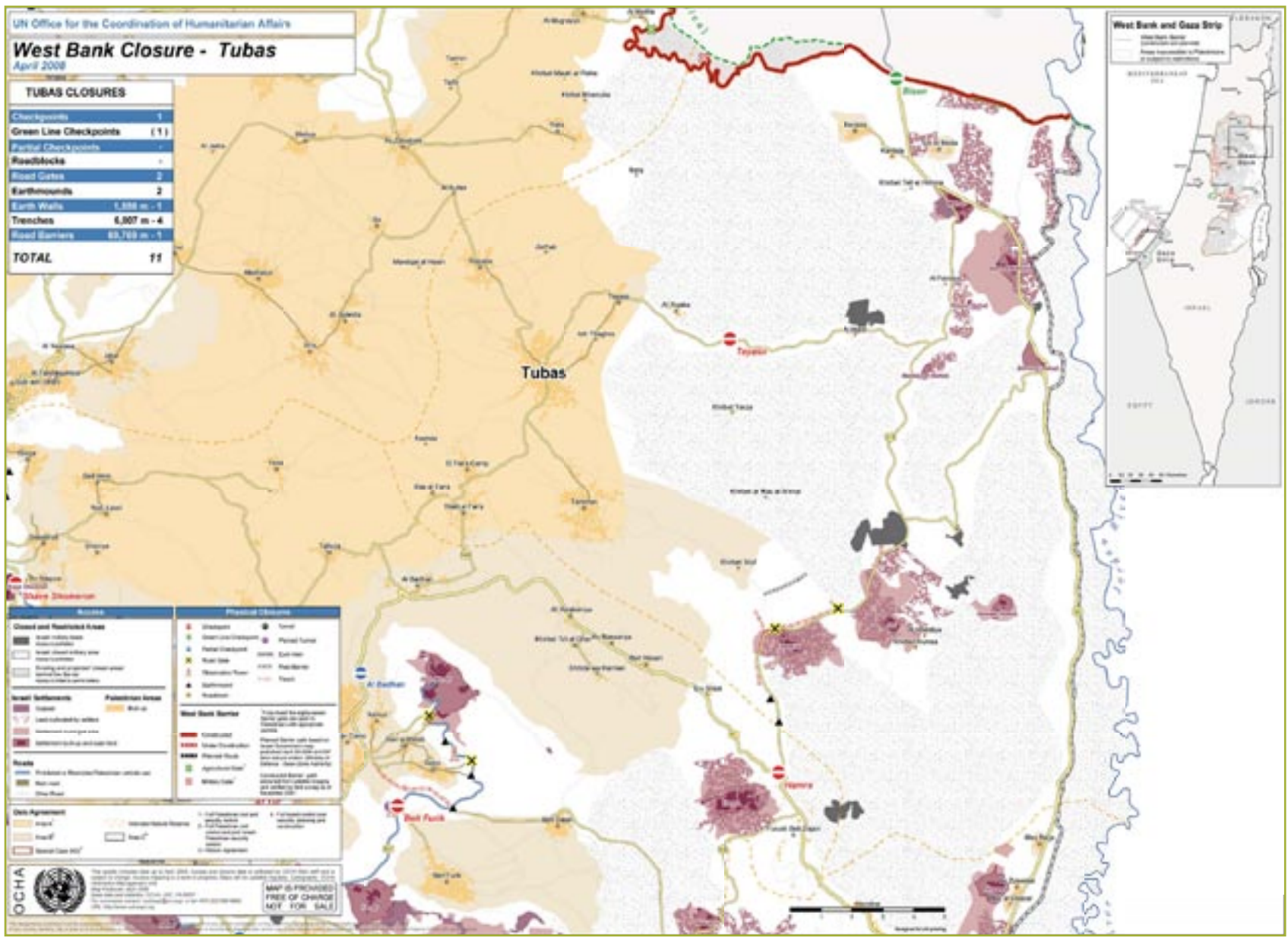


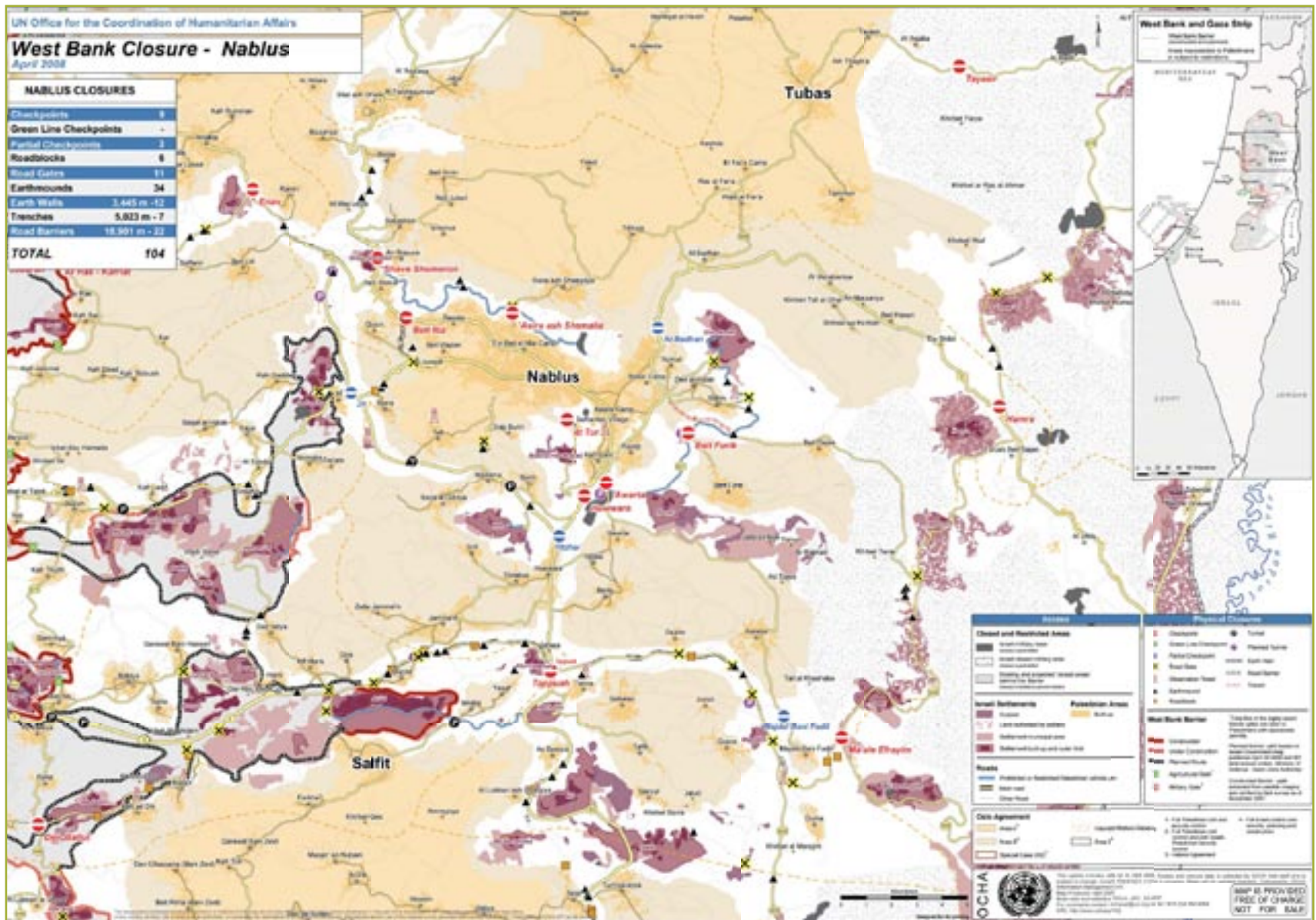
Popular committees participating in an evaluation organized by MA'AN.



Popular committee members working together to identify their communities' needs











MA'AN Development Center

Ramallah Office

Ramallah Chamber of Commerce Building
4th Floor (opposite the Post Office)
P.O. Box 51352 or 51793
Jerusalem
Phone: +972 2 298-6796 / 298-6698
Fax: +972 2 295-0755
E-mail: maan@maan-ctr.org

Gaza Office

Gaza City behind Al Saraya,
Abu Sha'ban Bldg, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 5165
Gaza City
Phone: +972 8 282-3712
Fax: +972 8 282-3712
E-mail: maanc-g@palnet.com
Website: <http://www.maan-ctr.org>



Existence
is
Resistance

Jordan Valley Popular Committees
www.jordanvalleysolidarity.org

This Report was funded by the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority.



Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority