



MA'AN Development Center

# Uprooted Livelihoods

Palestinian Villages and Herding  
Communities in the Jordan Valley

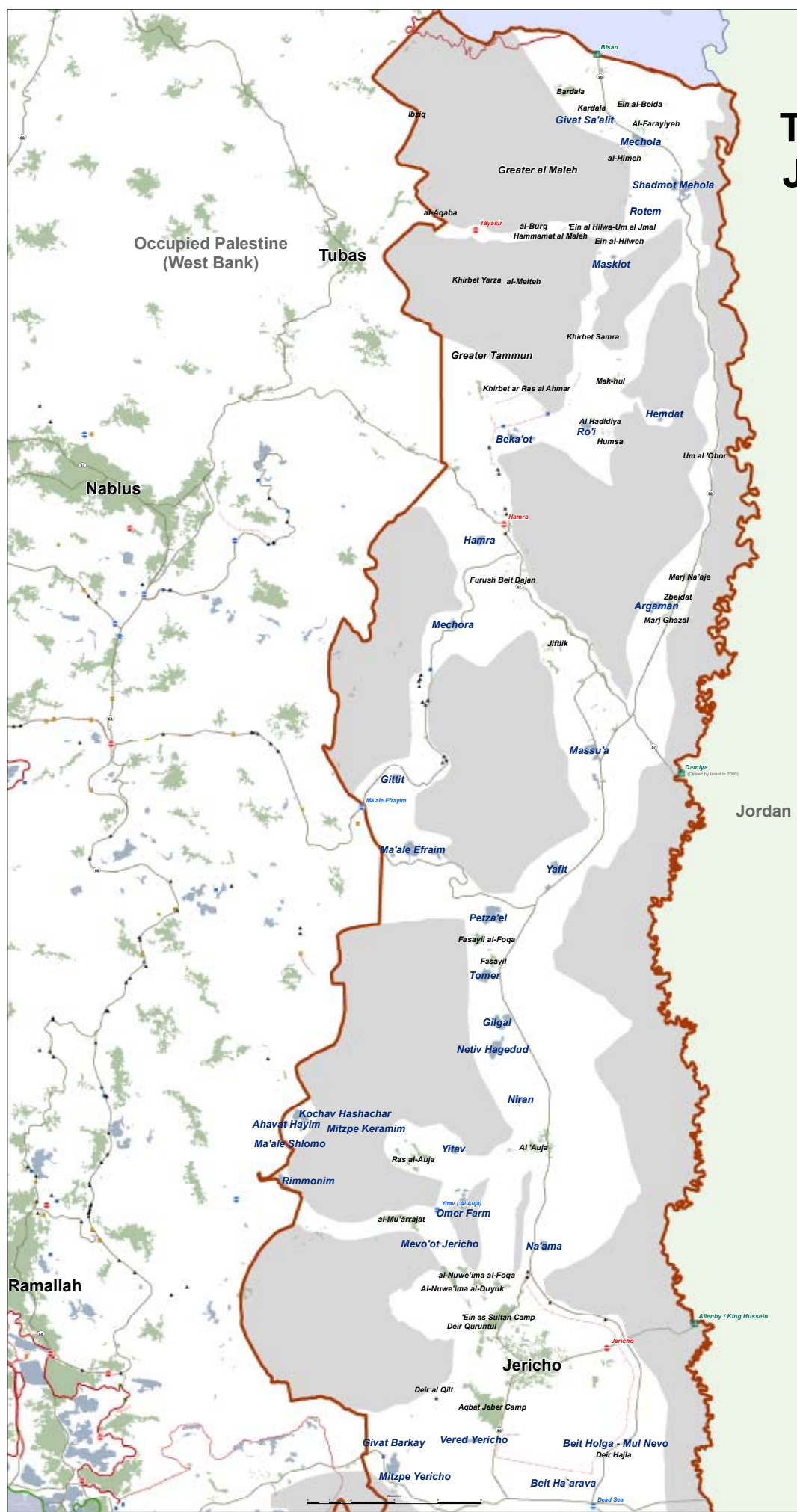
2013







# The Occupied Jordan Valley (Northern Area)



**Overview**

- Jordan Valley Area
- 1948 Armistice Line
- Palestinian Communities
- Main & Bypass road
- Regional road
- Crossing Points

**Israeli Settlements**

- Built up area
- Perimeter
- Cultivated land
- Municipal boundaries

**Israeli Administrative Restrictions**

**Interim Agreement Areas**

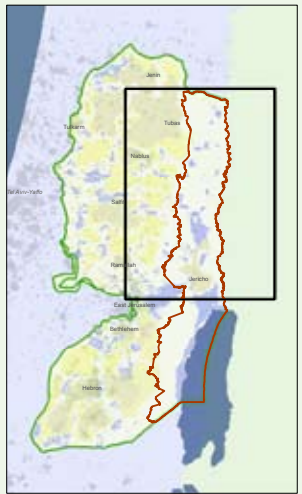
- Area A
- Area B
- Area C
- Closed Military Areas

**Israeli Physical Access Restrictions**

- Green Line checkpoint
- Checkpoint
- Partial Checkpoint
- Roadblock
- Earthmound
- Road gate - closed
- Road gate - open
- Road barrier
- Earthwall
- Trench

**Israeli Segregation Barrier**

- Constructed
- Under Construction
- Projected



Occupied Palestine (West Bank)

Tubas

Nablus

Jordan

Ramallah

Jericho

Beit Ha'arava





# INTRODUCTION

The Jordan Valley consists of the easternmost strip of land in the occupied West Bank, bordering the Jordan River from the Dead Sea in the south to the Beisan crossing in the north. The area comprises 28.5% of the West Bank and is naturally rich in water, fertile land, and other resources. Currently, there are 11,679 Israeli settlers and over 58,000 Palestinians in this vital region, but due to Israeli occupation policies that severely limit Palestinians' access to their land and resources, the living standards between the two communities are blatantly separate and unequal.



Israel restricts Palestinians' ability to build in the Jordan Valley, and also their access to water, land, and resources. This has resulted in a stifling of the Palestinian economy and an extremely high poverty rate for Palestinians in the Jordan Valley. A majority of Palestinian villages and communities highlighted in this fact sheet consume a mere 15-30 liters of water per person per day, while the average Israeli settler in the Jordan Valley uses 487 liters per day. In fact, the 11,679 settlers in the Jordan Valley collectively use as much water as the over 750,000 Palestinians in the entire West Bank. In addition, Palestinians' movement is highly restricted in the Jordan Valley, and they must apply for permits—that are routinely denied—to build any permanent structures. Settlers directly control 50% of the land and the Israeli military controls another 45%, rendering a whopping 95% of the Jordan Valley totally closed off to Palestinian development.

There is a diverse Palestinian population living in the Jordan Valley, ranging from city dwellers in Jericho, to farmers in medium-sized villages, to herders in small villages, to Bedouin in small familial communities. In total, there are 31 Palestinian villages and communities in the Jordan Valley which comprise a total population of 28,177 Palestinians. Twenty three of these villages are located completely in Area C, which falls under full Israeli control. These Area C communities face insurmountable restrictions on their ability to access basic resources, and their ability to build permanent structures, including housing or health facilities, is heavily restricted. This intentional man-made catastrophe must be reversed if the Palestinian population is to pursue self-determination and self-sufficiency using their own resources.

While much information exists regarding the occupied Palestinian territories in general, there is very little that documents the lives of Palestinians in the Jordan Valley. This fact sheet hopes to serve as an important resource providing information about these oppressed communities. Basic statistics such as population,

land access, and demographics are provided, along with a description of each community's history and the major problems that residents face. Each profile includes photos to help acquaint readers with the communities in question. The city of Jericho and the refugee camps of Aqbat Jaber and Ein al-Sultan have been left out as this publication is meant to highlight Palestinian villages and communities outside of the Jericho municipality. In addition, much information about these three localities is available in other publications and reports.

This publication is intended to complement our *Cultivating Dispossession* fact sheet, which profiles the 31 Israeli settlements and 7 outposts in the same area. Together, these publications highlight to a great degree of detail the vast disparity in livelihood and access to resources between Palestinian villages and Israeli settlements, sanctioned and enforced by the Israeli government and military.

In order to collect the information documented in this publication, over 100 interviews were conducted with village residents and heads of village councils. Because information about these villages is not as centralized as it is with settlements, it can be very difficult to obtain. Many numbers are estimates; for example, "total land area" refers to the number of dunums traditionally considered to belong to a certain community, meaning there may be occasional overlaps between villages. On the other hand, "accessible land area" refers to the amount of land actually accessible to the community after Israeli restrictions and land confiscations. It should also be noted that prices for tanks of water apply only to the villages that receive their water in tanks. Villages that receive their water from the Israeli national water carrier, Mekorot, pay 2.6 NIS for a cubic meter of water, whereas Israeli settlers pay a fraction of this amount. Considering the time and investment put into the interviews, along with reviewing a number of maps and governmental documents, the margin of error for the presented figures is minimal.



# Al-Aqaba

## *Background*

Palestinian communities have lived in the caves and valleys of the area of al-Aqaba for thousands of years. At the end of the British Mandate and beginning of Jordanian rule, local residents began to build mud house structures and to use rain-fed agriculture, leading to the sedentarization of this community in what was to become the village of al-Aqaba. Most Palestinians of this region are herders, and since 1948, an increasing number have engaged in animal husbandry. After the Israeli occupation began in 1967, the greater al-Aqaba area was taken over by the Israeli military and a number of military bases were established. While the bases have since been removed, al-Aqaba continues to be used for Israeli military exercises.





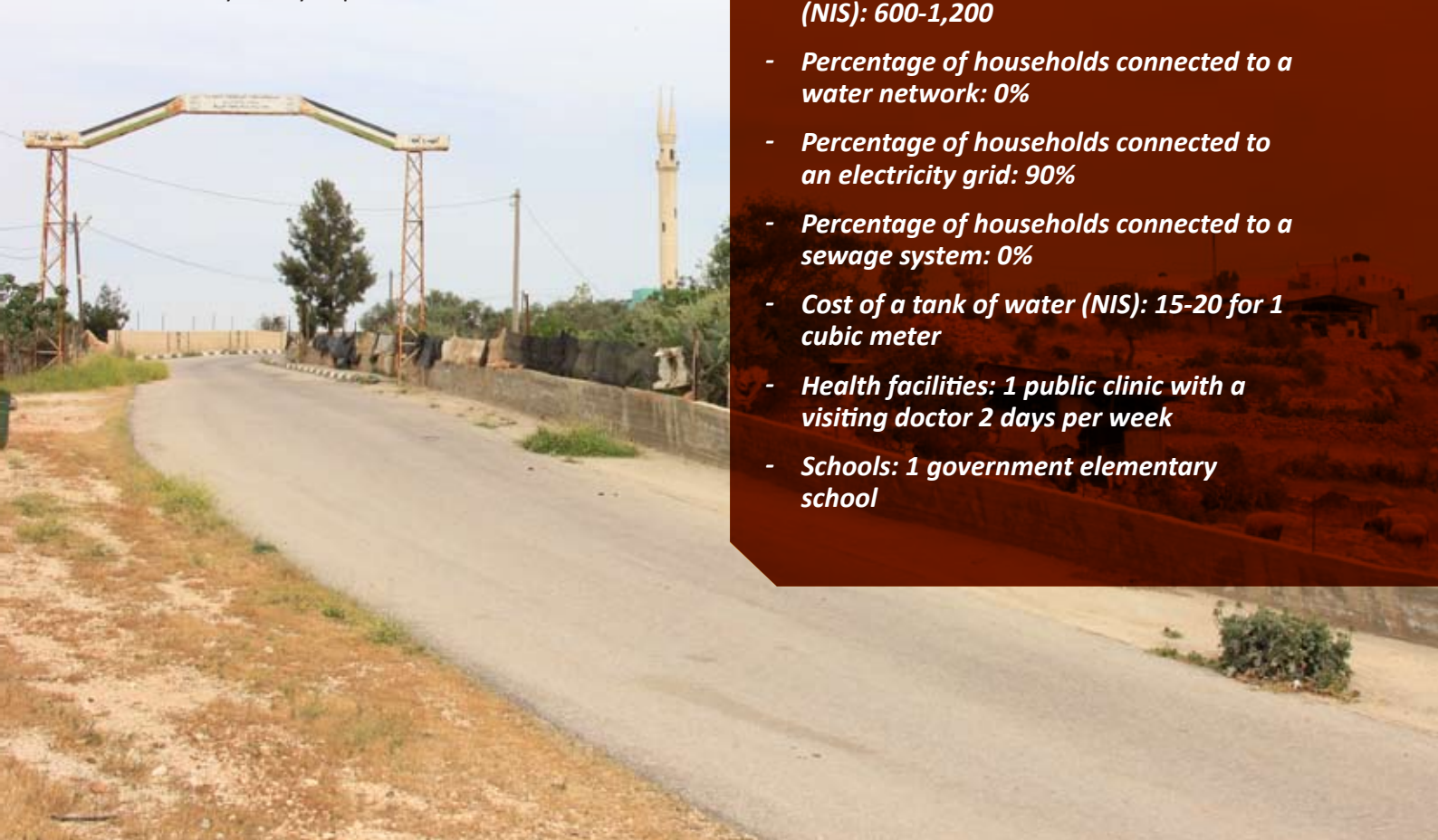
## Facts and figures

### Main problems facing the community

Since 1967, the government of Israel has confiscated around 90% of al-Aqaba's land. Local Palestinians previously grew peas, wheat, barley, and onions on a large scale, but can now only engage in small-scale farming. The Israeli army regularly carries out military exercises in the area, creating fear within the Palestinian community and destroying their crops. Movement restrictions are also a primary challenge. The main road leading to the village, used for civilian movement and for transporting agricultural products to neighboring villages, was demolished by the Israeli army in 2011. The Tayasir checkpoint imposes yet another restriction on movement, making the export of crops from the Jordan Valley nearly impossible.



- **Governorate: Tubas**
- **Population: 300 (180 M; 120 F)**
- **Average household size: 7**
- **Total land area (dunums): 3,500**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 316**
- **Nearby settlements: None closer than 10 kilometers**
- **Main employment sectors: rain-fed agriculture, animal herding, government**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 600-1,200**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 0%**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 90%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Cost of a tank of water (NIS): 15-20 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Health facilities: 1 public clinic with a visiting doctor 2 days per week**
- **Schools: 1 government elementary school**





# Al-Auja

## *Background*

The village of al-Auja is located just north of the city of Jericho. The village was named al-Auja after the spring in the area that traditionally supplied much of the Jordan Valley with water. Al-Auja has been inhabited by families for centuries due to its ideal geographic location outside of Jericho and close to the Jordan River. Many of the people living there based their livelihood in agriculture, specifically growing bananas, dates, and vegetables.

The Israeli army began to target al-Auja after the occupation in 1967 due to its agricultural potential and water resources. The settlements of Yitav and Niran were established on many thousands of dunums of al-Auja's land, which completely destroyed the economy of the village. In addition to the confiscation of land and natural resources, the Israeli government's drilling of deep wells directly diverts water from al-Auja for irrigation in the agricultural settlements.





## Facts and figures

### Main problems facing the community

Nearby settlements have confiscated 8,000 dunums of al-Auja's land. One settler confiscated over 1,500 dunums and continually harasses the herders in the area. The State of Israel has forbidden the herders from bringing their animals into the hills that are deemed too close to settlements.

Though bananas, vegetables, and dates are the main agricultural products in al-Auja, farmers face major challenges in terms of access to water. In addition to the village 8,000 dunums confiscated, there are another 1,500 dunums that have not been cultivated due to a lack of resources, namely water. Due to Israeli restrictions, most employed persons work in nearby settlements for very low wages (approximately 70 NIS per day) with no benefits.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 5,000 (2,000 M; 3,000 F)**
- **Average household size: 6**
- **Total land area (dunums): 25,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 4,000**
- **Nearby settlements: Niran, Yitav, Omar's farm, Netiv Hagedud, Gilgal, and Na'ama**
- **Main employment sectors: settlements, farming, herding, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 1,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 public clinic, 1 charitable clinic, 1 private pharmacy, 1 private dentist**
- **Schools: 6 government schools for grades 1 through 12**







# Bardala

## *Background*

The original residents of Bardala, a village established in the Ottoman era, relied on rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihoods. During the British Mandate, the villagers drilled a well in the area, known as the Bardala well, which greatly enhanced the capabilities of local farmers. During the 1967 War, the Israeli military forcibly transferred Palestinians from nearby villages into Bardala, as well as to Jordan and Tubas.





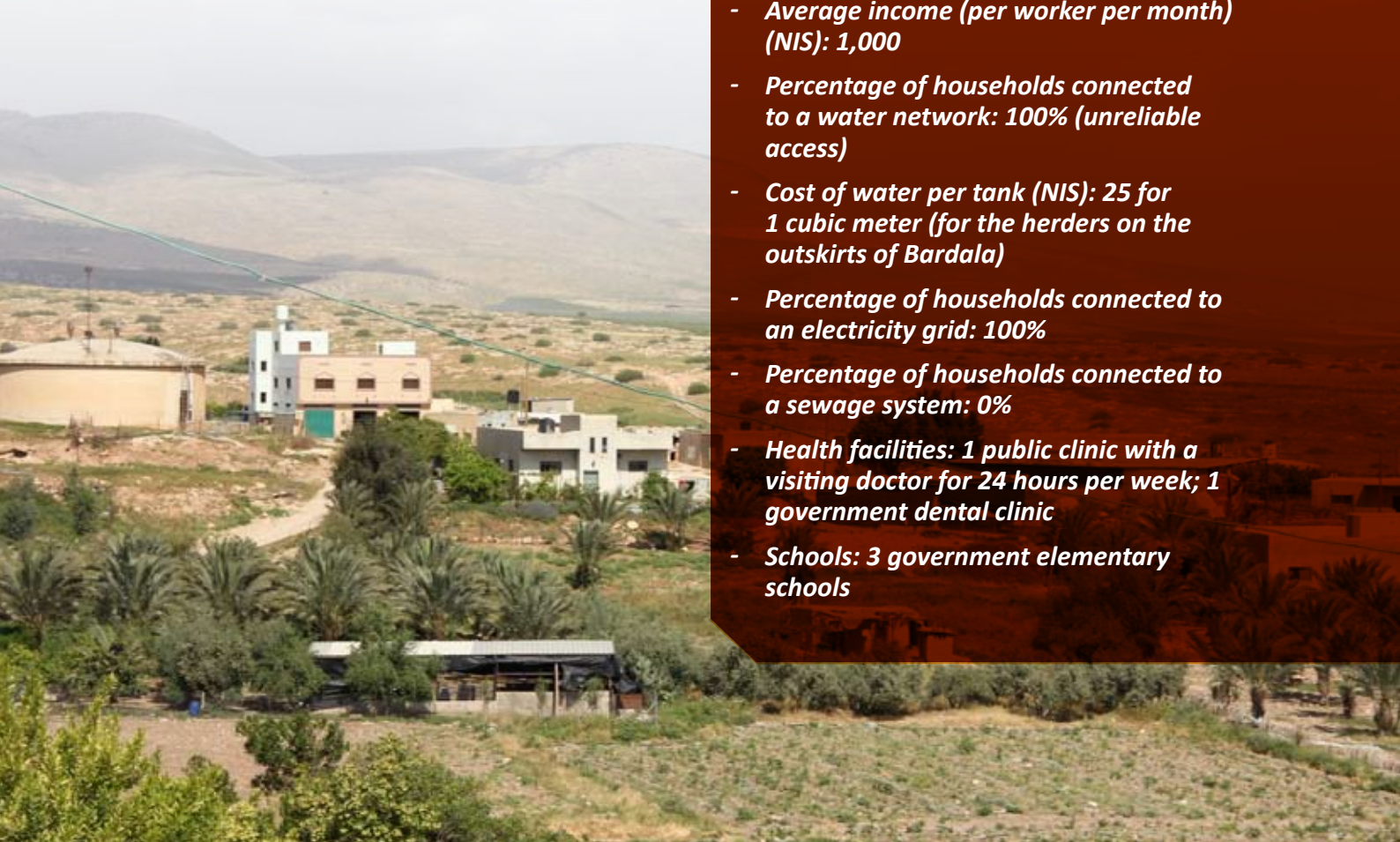
### **Main problems facing the community**

Due to water restrictions and the high price of agricultural inputs, Bardala residents are not able to utilize all of their agricultural land, the majority of which is located in Area C. This increases the possibility that their land will be confiscated by Israeli authorities. Without alternative options, residents are obligated to purchase piped water from the Israeli water company, Mekorot, which is subject to consumption quotas.

## **Facts and Figures**



- **Governorate : Tubas**
- **Population: 2,000 (1,200 M; 800 F)**
- **Average household size: 6**
- **Total land area (dunums): 15,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 8,000 agricultural, 500 built-up**
- **Nearby settlements: Mehola, Shadmot Mehola, Givat Sa'alit, and Rotem**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, animal herding, and settlements**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 1,000**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100% (unreliable access)**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25 for 1 cubic meter (for the herders on the outskirts of Bardala)**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 public clinic with a visiting doctor for 24 hours per week; 1 government dental clinic**
- **Schools: 3 government elementary schools**





# Deir Hajla

## *Background*

The monastery of Deir Hajla was built by Saint Gerasimus in the year 455 AD. In Christianity, it is believed this is where the Virgin Mary stayed after giving birth to Jesus. The church used to be a popular tourist attraction but this is no longer the case.

The village of Deir Hajla now suffers a water crisis, as settlement water expropriation has dried out local water resources for local residents.





## Facts and figures

### *Problems facing the community*

Traditionally, local workers and clergymen engaged in agriculture and herding, but have faced a multitude of land and water restrictions in recent years. The Israeli army and Israeli Civil Administration officials regularly harass residents.



- *Governorate : Jericho*
- *Population: 42 (17 M; 25 F)*
- *Average household size: N/A (village home to workers and clergymen only)*
- *Total land area (dunums): 452*
- *Accessible land area (dunums): 138*
- *Nearby settlements: Beit Holga, Beit HaArava, and Almog*
- *Main employment sectors: farming, animal herding, and tourism*
- *Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 2,500*
- *Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100%*
- *Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A*
- *Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%*
- *Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%*
- *Health facilities: closest clinic is 7 kilometers away in Jericho*





# Ein al-Beida

## Background

Like Bardala, Ein al-Beida is a village that was established during the Ottoman era by Palestinian farmers and herders. The name, Ein al-Beida, originates from the name of a local water spring that supplied the village with fresh water for drinking and agriculture.

After the 1948 Nakba and the drawing of the Green Line, the Israeli government confiscated large swaths of land from the village of Ein al-Beida. During the 1967 War, much of the population—the landowning class in particular—was forcibly transferred to Jordan. At the end of 1967, over half of the land of Ein al-Beida was confiscated for the creation of the first Israeli settlement in the West Bank, Mehola. Palestinian residents were told that the civilian settlement would be there for only five years, after which the land would be

transferred back to them. Over four decades later, the settlement remains and no land has been given back to the Palestinian community.

Ein al-Beida is an agricultural community. Its main cultivated crops are vegetables, citrus trees, and bananas. Other residents earn a living from animal husbandry.

*“During the 1967 War, much of the population—the landowning class in particular—was forcibly transferred to Jordan.”*



### **Main problems facing the community**

Four thousand dunums of land have been confiscated from the village of Ein al-Beida, and an additional 500-600 dunums of land remain uncultivated due to a lack of water resources. Both local and international NGOs are hesitant to pursue development projects in the agricultural sector because of the quotas placed on water. A lack of local control over natural resources has forced many farmers to work on nearby agricultural settlements.

## **Facts and figures**



- **Governorate : Tubas**
- **Population: 1,450 (725 M; 725 F)**
- **Average household size: 6-8**
- **Total land area (dunums): 7,668**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 637 in Area B, largely built-up; 2,500 dunums of agricultural land**
- **Nearby settlements: Mehola, Shadmot Mehola, Rotem, Givat Sa'alit and Maskiot**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, settlements, animal herding, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 1,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS) : N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 clinic, 1 health care center with a visiting doctor for 24 hours per week, 1 dentist, 1 ambulance (all public)**
- **Schools: government school for grades 1 through 12**



# Fasayil

## Fasayil al-Tahta

### *Background*

The original village of Fasayil was established in the late Ottoman era as a winter residence for animal herders traveling around historic Palestine. The village historically covered an area of around 24,000 dunums. Before and during the 1948 war, the area became home to refugees, West Bank Palestinians, and Jordanians alike. During the 1967 war, the overwhelming majority of Fasayil residents were forcibly transferred to Jordan, and a small minority to other parts of the West Bank.

After the start of the Israeli occupation in 1967, many Palestinians were forcibly transferred to the Jordan Valley due to Israeli restrictions in the South Hebron Hills. When Israeli forces arrived in the area of Fasayil,

they founded two settlements—Tomer and Petza’el—built on what used to be Fasayil’s most fertile land. Consequently, Palestinian families decided to establish a new Fasayil on the more barren land below the settlements. This area is now known as Fasayil al-Tahta.

Due to overcrowding resulting from settlement expansion and other Israeli restrictions, as well as a need to keep their herds away from residential areas, a handful of families established what is now known as Fasayil al-Foqa, two kilometers north of Fasayil al-Tahta.



## Facts and Figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

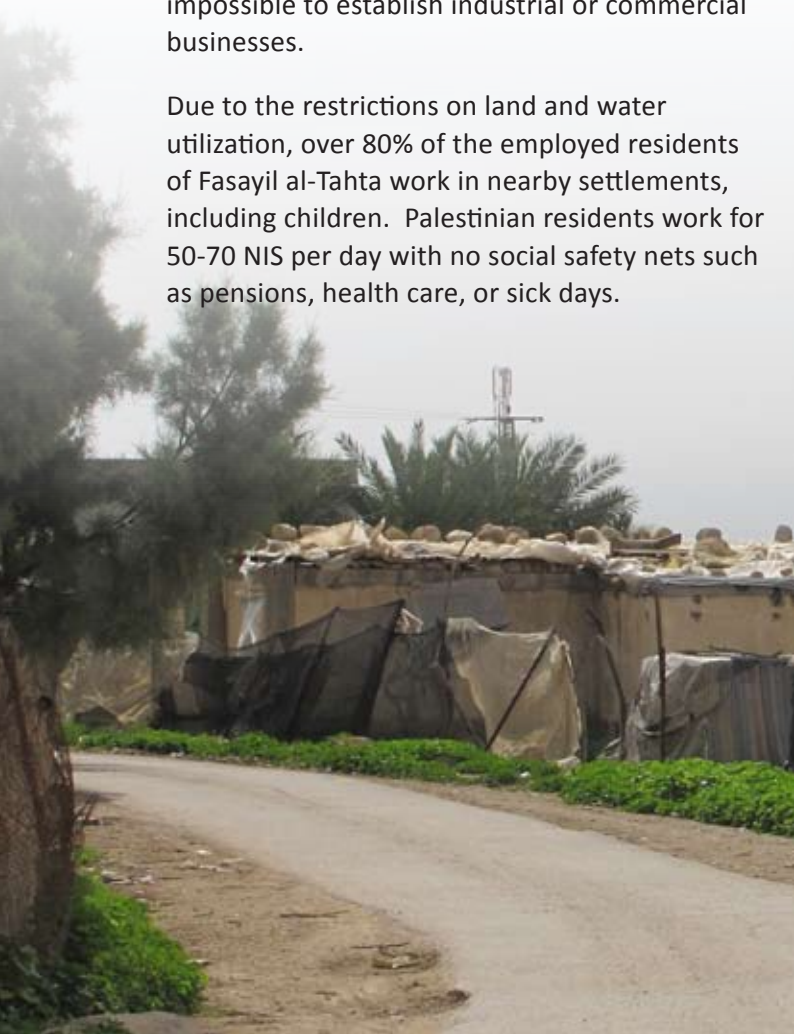
The settlements of Tomer and Petza'el control all of the arable and cultivated land around the village, and use water from the local spring that is owned by Palestinians. The only potential for agriculture is small date gardens. Fasayil al-Tahta is allocated more water for personal use in comparison with other Palestinian villages, but the lack of agricultural water allows 1,000 dunums of potential agricultural land to go unused.

The land of Fasayil al-Tahta is designated as Area B, and living quarters are increasingly constricted as it is forbidden to build on the surrounding Area C land without Israeli permits. It is also impossible to establish industrial or commercial businesses.

Due to the restrictions on land and water utilization, over 80% of the employed residents of Fasayil al-Tahta work in nearby settlements, including children. Palestinian residents work for 50-70 NIS per day with no social safety nets such as pensions, health care, or sick days.



- **Governorate: Jericho**
- **Population: 720 (288 M; 432 F)**
- **Average household size: 7**
- **Total land area (dunums): 24,000**
- **Accessible area of land (dunums): 140**
- **Nearby settlements: Tomer, Petza'el, Ma'ale Ephraim, Gilgal, Netiv Hagedud, and Yafit**
- **Main employment sectors: settlements, animal farming, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 1,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 public clinic with a visiting doctor 25 hours per week**
- **Schools: 1 government school**





# Fasayil

## Fasayil al-Foqa

### *Background*

The area of Fasayil al-Foqa, originally part of the village of Fasayil al-Tahta, was initially used as an area for the animal herders who inhabited the area after 1967. Due to the building restrictions imposed and reinforced by the Oslo Accords on the village of Fasayil al-Tahta, newer families moved out of Fasayil al-Tahta and created rudimentary structures in Fasayil al-Foqa.

Starting in the early 2000s, the families attempted to build permanent structures but faced the constant threat of demolition by Israeli authorities. At this point, MA'AN Development Center facilitated the renovation of older structures to house the residents. In addition, a school was built by MA'AN for the children there, who

normally had to walk at least two kilometers to attend school in Fasayil al-Tahta. The creation of the school helped increase the graduation rate of Palestinian children in the area. Unfortunately, the southernmost part of Fasayil al-Foqa still faces dozens of demolitions a year and local residents continue to live in rudimentary structures without access to basic services.



## Facts and figures

### **Main problems facing the community**

Due to the proximity of the village to the settlements of Tomer and Petza'el, residents are forbidden from building new structures. Residents rely on tanked water, which is over 10 times the price of piped water. Water consumption in the community is a very low 30 liters per person per day.

In addition, herders are restricted from the overwhelming majority of arable land and water sources in the area due to nearby settlements and closed military areas. As a result, most herders rely on expensive animal feed, barley, and tanked water in order to sustain this source of livelihood.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 800 (320 M; 480 F)**
- **Average household size: 7-8**
- **Total land area (dunums): 24,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 300**
- **Nearby settlements: Tomer, Petza'el, Ma'ale Ephraim, Gilgal, Netiv Hagedud, and Yafit**
- **Main employment sectors: animal herding and settlements**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 2,000-2,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 0%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25-30 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 public clinic and 1 private clinic with a visiting doctor 2 days a week**
- **Schools: 1 government elementary school**



# Furush Beit Dajan

## *Background*

The village of Furush Beit Dajan was established in the Ottoman era due to the overpopulation of the village of Beit Dajan, located five kilometers to the west. This move was led by farmers and herders of Beit Dajan who chose this location so that they could be closer to their herds and more abundant natural resources, namely water and arable land. After 1948, the population of the area spiked with incoming refugees and others who were internally displaced in the aftermath of the Nakba. Consequently, the Jordanian government built a well in the area in 1960 to alleviate the strain on resources for local residents. The well allowed residents to begin planting citrus and fruit trees, for which this area of the Jordan Valley has become known.

In the 1970s, the Israeli government confiscated large swaths of land for the creation of the agricultural settlements of Hamra and Beka'ot, which hold some of the most fertile agricultural land in the larger Beit Dajan area. In addition, the establishment of the Hamra checkpoint, next to the village of Furush Beit Dajan, has severely restricted the village's access to the major urban center of Nablus.



### **Main problems facing the community**

Much of the village's historical agricultural land has been confiscated for settlements and the military. In addition, Israeli authorities monopolize water resources, and other local water resources for Palestinians have dried up. Further, due to the restrictions on Area C, Palestinians of this region continue to suffer in substandard housing and are not connected to an electrical network. The extreme temperatures of this area make this lack of basic services even more challenging. Finally, the Hamra checkpoint hinders residents from accessing nearby land and cities.

## **Facts and figures**



- **Governorate : Nablus**
- **Population: 1,200 (660 M; 540 F)**
- **Average household size: 6-10**
- **Total land area (dunums): 3,200**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 3,100**
- **Nearby settlements: Hamra and Mechora**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, animal herding, and settlements**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 2,500-3,000**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 50%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 0%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 NGO clinic with a visiting doctor 2 days a week**
- **Schools: 1 government elementary school**



# Al-Jiftlik

## *Background*

**A**l-Jiftlik, which means farm in Turkish, was established during the Ottoman era. Historically, the village was known to produce high-quality fruits and vegetables. The village has been an agricultural village for hundreds of years and historically, has attracted residents from all over the Arab world. During the 1967 Israeli invasion however, tens of thousands of residents were forcibly transferred or fled for their lives.

After 1967 and the establishment of settlements in the area, al-Jiftlik's historically revered produce diminished. Orchards were left fallow and others were confiscated under the pretext of Israeli military necessity. In addition, most of the wells in the area were either confiscated or were not granted

Israeli permits for rehabilitation. Al-Jiftlik is currently the largest community in the Jordan Valley, outside of Jericho, yet experiences many development challenges, especially in agriculture.

*“Most of the wells in the area were either confiscated or were not granted Israeli permits for rehabilitation.”*



## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

10,000 dunums of prime agricultural land have been confiscated from the village of al-Jiftlik. Adding to this, the Hamra checkpoint is extremely restrictive, and makes it difficult to export agricultural goods outside of al-Jiftlik. Settlers and soldiers harass al-Jiftlik's residents and the Israeli military systematically imposes flying checkpoints.

The water network is very old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation. The well's water is unsuitable for consumption, and many of the residents rely on Israeli wells that are subject to strict quotas. This has resulted in a per capita water usage rate of 83 liters per person per day, while the settlements around al-Jiftlik consume an average of over 400 liters per person per day.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 5,000 (2,000 M; 3,000 F)**
- **Average household size: 7**
- **Total land area (dunums): 80,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 40,000**
- **Nearby settlements: Argaman, Massu'a, Yafit, Hamra, Mechora, Gittit, and Ma'ale Ephraim**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, animal herding, settlements, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 1,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 90%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 30 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: public clinic and women's health care center with a doctor 5 days per week, NGO mobile clinic**
- **Schools: 2 main government schools for grades 1 through 12**



# Kardala

## *Background*

The village of Kardala was established during the Ottoman period, in an area chosen for its vast water resources, fertile land, and optimal climate. Initially, an Ottoman military base housed many soldiers in Kardala. Later the area became more civilianized and by the beginning of the Jordanian occupation, was a fully residential village. Around this time, residents began to cultivate the village's land extensively. Today, residents continue to base their livelihoods in agriculture and herding.





### **Main problems facing the community**

Area C restrictions in Kardala have compelled more than 15 families to emigrate out of the village to other areas of the West Bank over the past 20 years. The infrastructure of the village is better than in other Jordan Valley villages; a sewage system is in place, however, there is no processing or removal system. Raw sewage collects on the outskirts of the village or in agricultural fields. Local residents buy piped water from the Israeli water company, Mekorot, and are subject to strict water consumption quotas, which are significantly lower than those of surrounding Israeli settlements.

## **Facts and figures**



- **Governorate : Tubas**
- **Population: 500 (200 M; 300 F)**
- **Average household size: 6**
- **Total land area (dunums): 4,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 1,500**
- **Nearby settlements: Mehola, Shadmot Mehola, Givat Sa'alit, and Rotem**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, animal herding, and settlements**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 1,000-1,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100% (but water is unreliable)**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 100%**
- **Health facilities: the nearest health clinic is 3 kilometers away in the village of Bardala**
- **Schools: the 80 students of Kardala go to the school in Bardala**







## The Greater

# al-Maleh Region

### *Background*

The area of al-Maleh is currently divided into two primary parts: lands owned by the Latin Patriarch and lands owned by the herders of Tubas.

During Ottoman times, the larger al-Maleh area had a fully functioning hotel, wheat mill, and bath house. It also served as a recreational location and vacation spot for Palestinians and other Arab visitors.

After 1948, the al-Maleh region experienced an influx of refugees. The newly formed communities were small, and many engaged in their traditional livelihoods of herding and small-scale agriculture. The newly arrived herders would spend many months of the year in the city of Tubas.

In 1967, the Israeli military forcibly transferred tens of thousands of residents of the al-Maleh region to Jordan and Tubas, and destroyed a

number of the region's communities. Although herders have attempted to remain on the land, especially for its water and land resources, restrictions have greatly inhibited their ability to develop and sustain their livelihood. Today, residents of al-Maleh continue to maintain their herds as well as small-scale, rain-fed agriculture.





## Facts and figures

### Communities in the al-Maleh region

- Al-Burj (50 residents)
- Al-Farasiyeh (340 residents)
- Al-Himeh (150 residents)
- Al-Meiteh (18 residents)
- Ein al-Hilweh (400 residents)
- Hammamat al-Maleh (40 residents)
- Humsa (96 residents)
- Ibziq (200 residents)
- Khirbet Samra (66 residents)
- Khirbet Yarza (80 residents)
- Um al-O'bor (19 residents)

### Main problems facing the communities

Settlers and Israeli soldiers repeatedly attack and harass the Palestinians of al-Maleh. There have been many attacks from the settlers of Maskiot against the Palestinians of Ein al-Hilweh, and in some cases settlers have thrown stones and also confiscated and killed Ein al-Hilweh's animals. The settlers of Maskiot also target the spring of Ein al-Hilweh in an attempt to divert the last water source available to Palestinians in this area.

The army carries out regular military trainings in the al-Maleh region. There are instances, like in November 2012, when the army forcibly evacuates the Palestinian communities of the region for an indefinite amount of time. At other times the military conducts trainings adjacent to the communities, causing serious psychosocial stress for families, especially children and youth. In addition, the army leaves undetonated munitions in open areas that can cause serious injury or death to the residents of the area.

Due to the restrictions imposed on Palestinians in al-Maleh by the Israeli authorities, residents face a very high frequency of demolitions. Over the past 10 years, there have been hundreds of demolitions of Palestinian-owned structures including homes and animal shelters.



- **Governorate: Tubas**
- **Population: 1,459**
- **Average household size: 8**
- **Total land area (dunums): 264,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): unknown due to the rapidly-changing nature of land restrictions and confiscation**
- **Nearby settlements: Rotem, Maskiot, Mehola, Shadmot Mehola, Givat Sa'alit, Hemdut, Ro'i, and Beka'ot**
- **Main employment sectors: herding and small-scale agriculture**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 0%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25-35 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 0%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 NGO mobile clinic**
- **Schools: Students attend school in Ein al-Beida (5-10 kilometers away) or Tayasir (5-10 kilometers away)**



# Marj Ghazal

## *Background*

The area of Marj Ghazal was first inhabited by five tribes that fled from the northern Naqab region to the Jordan Valley during the Nakba in 1948. Marj Ghazal was the name that herders and travelers historically called the area. Marj Ghazal maintained rich soil and natural resources until the start of the Israeli occupation in 1967, when Israeli authorities began to divert water from Palestinian wells. Although there used to be four artesian wells in this area, only two wells remain and provide very low quantities of water. After 1967, 1,000 dunums of Palestinian land were also confiscated to create the settlement of Argaman. Today, most of the residents in Marj Ghazal who do work in agriculture produce vegetables and dates, and others rely on animal husbandry to produce cheese, milk, and meat.





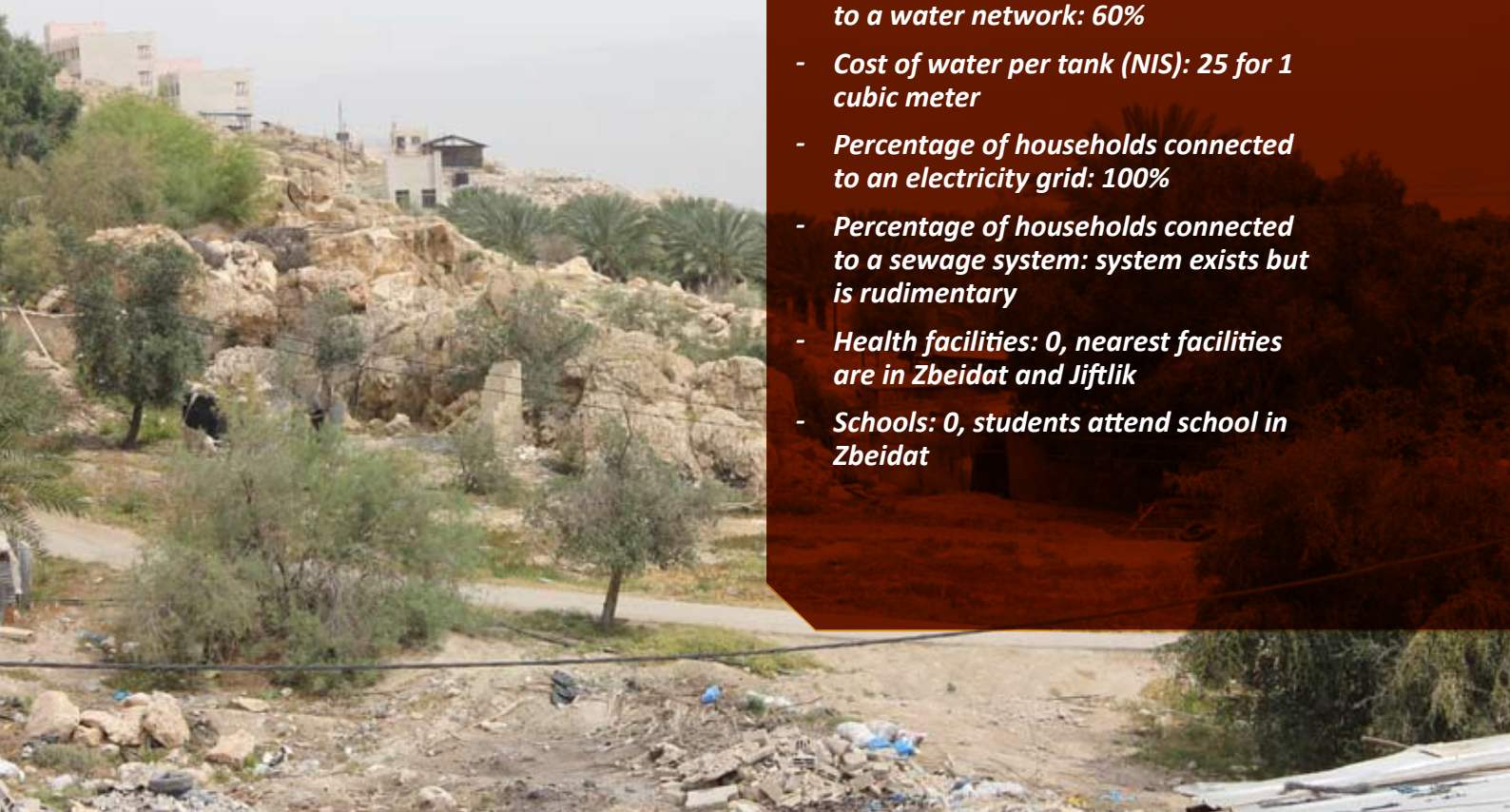
## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

Since the most fertile agricultural land and water resources were confiscated after 1967, the villagers struggle to earn adequate income from agriculture. Many people who were once farmers have abandoned this source of livelihood due to the burden of debt. Residents are prevented from grazing their animals or establishing homes on the majority of land around the village because of nearby settlements and its Area C status. After the confiscation of the region's wells and the water resources of neighboring villages, Marj Ghazal's limited water resources are further strained in order to supply the villages of Zbeidat and Marj Na'aje. As a result, many people are unemployed or working part time in settlements.



- **Governorate: Jericho**
- **Population: 350 (140 M; 210 F)**
- **Average household size: 7-8**
- **Total land area (dunums): 1,740**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 200 for residential, 550 for agriculture**
- **Nearby settlements: Argaman**
- **Main employment sectors: animal herding, agriculture, and settlements**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 1,800-2,000**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 60%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: system exists but is rudimentary**
- **Health facilities: 0, nearest facilities are in Zbeidat and Jiftlik**
- **Schools: 0, students attend school in Zbeidat**





# Marj Na'aje

## *Background*

**B**efore 1948, the area of Marj Na'aje served as a common grazing area for herding communities. After 1948, upheaval and displacement caused by the Nakba led many Palestinians to settle in the nearby villages of Zbeidat and Marj Ghazal. In 1950, after the Jordanian government built a number of wells in the area of Marj Na'aje and began to cultivate the land there, these families moved two kilometers northeast and established the village. Due to its agricultural potential, some families from Umm al-Fahm and 'Ara moved to Marj Na'aje to farm in 1955. For many years, the village was a popular location for travelers and herders to stop because of its abundance of resources and pleasant views.





## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

Agriculture is the main economic sector of Marj Na'aje. However, villagers face a variety of challenges to meet livelihood needs in agriculture for a number of reasons. The main agricultural well for the village has high salinity levels which makes it difficult to grow diverse crop types. There is also a lack of access to alternative water resources. Further, agricultural materials are very expensive and there is a weak local market for produce (mainly vegetables and dates).

Due to building restrictions and poverty, waste disposal is also a major challenge. The village is not connected to a sewage system and residents rely on poorly-covered cesspools that are dangerous to the community. Sewage overflow frequently occurs and flows into the village streets and other open areas.

Finally, unemployment is very high in the village even though education levels are above average in the broader oPt. The lack of accessible land, compounded by minimal alternative job opportunities, has meant that high numbers of educated youth have no employment opportunities.



- **Governorate: Jericho**
- **Population: 800 (340 M; 460 F)**
- **Average household size: 5-8**
- **Total land area (dunums) : 2,030**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 800**
- **Nearby settlements: Argaman**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, settlements, herding animals, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 1,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 100%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25 NIS for 1 cubic meter, used by herders from Marj Na'aje**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 public clinic with a visiting doctor 30 hours per week**
- **Schools: 1 government high school**





# Al-Mu'arrajat

## Background

**A**l-Mu'arrajat refers to the area between Jericho in the Jordan Valley and the villages east of Ramallah. In the past, the area was used as a haven for herders during the summer months as it remains cool and green for a greater part of the year. The herders who frequented al-Mu'arrajat were typically from the Jericho area. During the Jordanian occupation, they moved to other parts of the West Bank.

In 1967, the area was placed under heavy restrictions and permanent structures were banned. In 1985, members of the Ka'abneh family living in Deir Dibwan were given plots of land in al-Mu'arrajat by the chief of the area and the family has lived there ever since. This situation has remained fairly stable for the residents. Members of the Ka'abneh family

typically live in the lower areas of al-Mu'arrajat during the winter and move up into the mountains in the summer.

In the mid-2000s, MA'AN Development Center built a school near the area of al-Mu'arrajat, named al-Ka'abneh. Kids from all over al-Mu'arrajat attend the school.

*“ the area was used as a haven for herders during the summer months as it remains cool and green for a greater part of the year. ”*



## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

Building and infrastructure restrictions are the primary obstacles facing the community of al-Mu'arrajat. The entire community lives in Area C and permanent structures are forbidden without Israeli permits, which are extremely difficult to obtain. Residents cannot connect to local water wells or electrical grids.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 200 (90 M; 110 F)**
- **Average household size : 6-8**
- **Total land area (dunums): N/A**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): N/A**
- **Nearby settlements: Rimmonim, Meva'ot Yericho, Kochav HaShahar, and Yitav**
- **Main employment sectors: animal herding and small-scale, rain-fed agriculture**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 0%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 0%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 NGO mobile clinic**
- **Schools: 1 primary school**

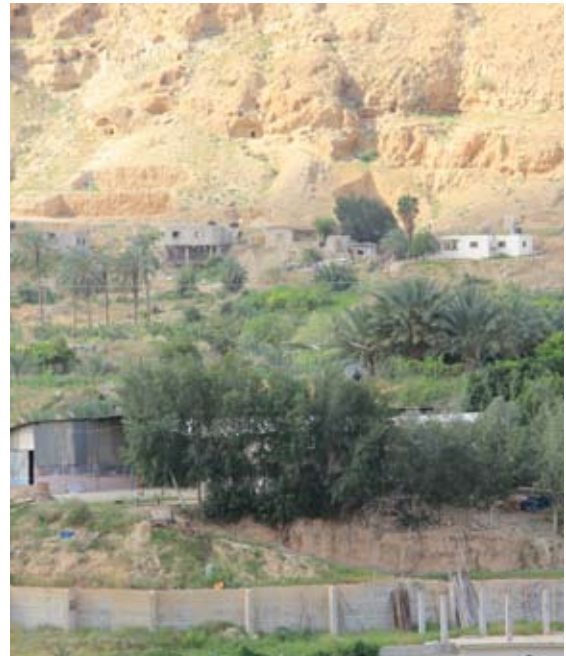




# Al-Nuwe'ima-Duyuk

## *Background*

The village of al-Nuwe'ima-Duyuk is located in the northern Jericho area. It was established approximately 300 years ago because of its fertile and open land for agriculture. Sudanese immigrants, along with Palestinians, created the village to grow bananas, citrus, and other crops. Historically, the area hosted many tourists due to its proximity to the Mount of Temptation church and its famous harvests. Today, water shortages and tourism restrictions have greatly hindered the tourism industry in the village. Most of its bananas are sold locally in Jericho markets due to the high price of exporting out of the area.





## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

The available agricultural land in Al-Nuwe'ima-Dukuk's is shrinking rapidly due to the expansion of the illegal settlement of Meva'ot Yericho. Residents of the village are not able to naturally expand on their land due to demolition threats. Consequently, more residents are forced to build their homes on their agricultural land. There are also broad infrastructure problems characteristic of many other Palestinian villages of the Jordan Valley, namely the lack of a viable sewage network. Open cesspools are a frequent cause of illness among villagers.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 4,600 (2,000 M; 2,600 F)**
- **Average household size : 6-7**
- **Total land area (dunums): 5,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 5,000**
- **Nearby settlements: Meva'ot Yericho**
- **Main employment sectors: agriculture, settlements, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): 1,500-2,000**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 95%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 80%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 2 clinics with visiting doctor 12 hours per week**
- **Schools: government schooling for grades 1 through 12**



# Al-Nuwe'ima al-Foqa

## *Background*

The residents of al-Nuwe'ima al-Foqa are originally from the northern Naqab region and became refugees during the Nakba in 1948. They first took refuge in areas outside of the town of Bethlehem, but after a number of years traveled northeast, bringing their herds past the village of Deir Dibwan and into the Jordan Valley to create the village of al-Nuwe'ima al-Foqa.

In the late 1990s, the outpost settlement of Mev'aot Yericho was established and subsequently obstructed all possible expansion of the village. There have been reports of settlers attacking Palestinian residents.





## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

Due to Area C restrictions, residents cannot freely graze their herds because of surrounding settlements and military outposts. This forces herders to buy expensive animal feed. Residents are not permitted to build near the settlement of Meva'ot Yericho, and settlers and soldiers harass herders in the area.

Water resources and sewage are major challenges. The lack of a proper sewage system has led to many community health problems. Drinking water for residents comes from the spring of al-Duyuk, but water levels have steadily decreased each year.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 450 (270 M; 180 F)**
- **Average household size: 10**
- **Total land area (dunums) Unknown**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 460**
- **Nearby settlements: Meva'ot Yericho**
- **Main employment sectors: animal herding, settlements, and banana farms**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 1,800-2,000**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 30-35%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 20 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 NGO mobile clinic; nearest government clinic is 15 km away in Jericho**
- **Schools: 0, students go to school in Jericho**



# Ras al-Auja

## *Background*

There are four main families of the herding community of Ras al-Auja: three are traditionally farmers and one is traditionally herders. In 1948, two of the families were ethnically cleansed by the Israeli military from the Arad and Beir Saba'a areas of the Naqab. These families initially fled to Yatta in the South Hebron Hills and resided there from 1948 until 1967. After the start of the occupation in 1967, Israeli forces heavily restricted the lives of herders and farmers and the four families consequently moved to the Jordan Valley due to the vast underground water resources in the area.

The community flourished for a short time in the 1970s, but the situation soon deteriorated. Continued Israeli water drilling has led to drought in much of the area. In addition, due to tighter restrictions on building and land access after the Oslo Accords, the residents have experienced numerous demolitions, arrests, and

confiscation of animals and farm equipment. Although the community has been around since the late 1960s, the Israelis have refused to allow them to connect to a water or electrical network. This means they must bring in expensive water tanks to use for themselves and their animals. The obvious result of this is an extremely low per capita water usage rate, around 30 liters per person per day.

In the early 2000s, a settler established an outpost across the street from Ras al-Auja. Besides confiscating over 1,000 dunums of land, the settler has physically and verbally assaulted the residents of Ras al-Auja. Since the establishment of the outpost, Ras al-Auja herders have been restricted from accessing their grazing lands and have been forced to rely on buying feed and barley to feed their animals rather than utilizing the area's natural resources.



## Facts and figures

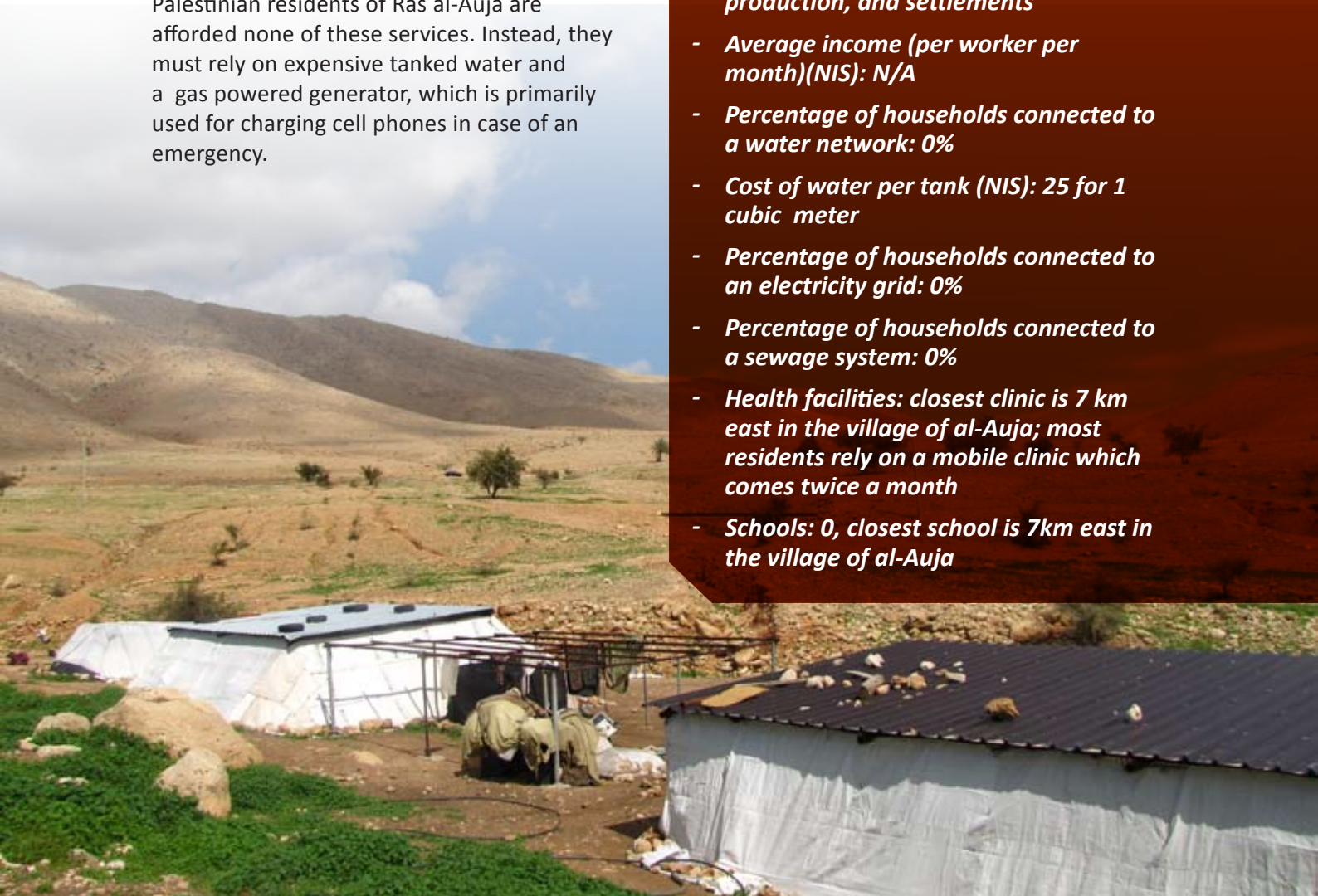
### *Main problems facing the community*

As Ras al-Auja is located in Area C, residents are not allowed to use “permanent materials” such as concrete for construction. As such, they cannot build safe health clinics or schools. In 2011, students from Ras al-Auja finally received a bus to transport them to al-Auja for school, but the bus must take many trips to serve all the students and many students drop out of school because of the inconvenience.

Ras al-Auja residents are also restricted from access to other basic services such as water and electricity. Although nearby settlements receive piped water and electricity lines, Palestinian residents of Ras al-Auja are afforded none of these services. Instead, they must rely on expensive tanked water and a gas powered generator, which is primarily used for charging cell phones in case of an emergency.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 1,000 (475 M; 525 F)**
- **Average household size: 8**
- **Total land area (dunums): 5,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 250**
- **Main employment sectors: animal herding, subsistence farming, cheese production, and settlements**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 0%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 25 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 0%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: closest clinic is 7 km east in the village of al-Auja; most residents rely on a mobile clinic which comes twice a month**
- **Schools: 0, closest school is 7km east in the village of al-Auja**





## The Greater

# Tammoun Region

### *Background*

**B**efore 1948, the greater Tammoun region was used mainly as pastoral land for herders and farmers. Between 1948 and 1967, a number of families moved eastward from Tammoun and set up mini agricultural estates and herding areas. With the start of the occupation, Israel placed a multitude of restrictions on the area, including restrictions on resource use and access to grazing areas. Over the years, settlements were established in the region, which has further limited the land available for herders and their families. Since the Oslo Accords, the area has experienced many demolitions and water shortages, among other obstacles that impede the possibility of sustainable livelihoods.

### *Main problems facing the communities*

During the second Intifada, the Israeli army dug over 10 kilometers of trenches separating Ras al-Ahmar from the communities of Mak-hul and al-Hadidiya. This made it impossible for the people of Ras al-Ahmar to graze their animals to the east of the village and destroyed the continuity between the communities. In addition, it disrupted the connection between the village of Tammoun and the communities of Mak-hul and al-Hadidiya.

The Israeli army regularly carries out military trainings in the area. Sometimes, as was the case in November 2012, the army forcibly evacuates the area for an indefinite amount of time. In other cases, the military conducts



## Facts and figures

trainings adjacent to the communities which causes obvious psycho-social issues for the residents. Finally, the army sometimes leaves behind undetonated munitions that can lead to the serious injury or death of residents when walking over the area.

Due to the restrictions imposed on Palestinians in the greater Tammoun region by the Israeli authorities, residents face the constant threat of demolition. Palestinians are not allowed to build schools, so children must either walk very long distances to school or stay in Tammoun with other family members.

The checkpoints of Hamra and Tayasir also greatly restrict movement and make grazing in the area very difficult. They also impede access to basic services and supplies. Soldiers are known to regularly harass herders and on numerous occasions have arrested herders and detained their animals until a large fee is paid.

### **Communities in the Tammoun region**

Al-Hadidiya (100 residents)

Mak-hul (36 residents)

Ras al-Ahmar (300 residents)



- **Governorate : Tubas**
- **Population: 436 (195 M; 241 F)**
- **Average household size: 8**
- **Total land area (dunums): 60,000**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 400**
- **Nearby settlements: Hemdat, Beka'ot, Hamra, Ro'i, and Mechora**
- **Main employment sectors: herding and small-scale agriculture**
- **Average income (per worker per month) (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: 0%**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): 20-30 for 1 cubic meter**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 0%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 NGO mobile clinic**
- **Schools: children attend school in the village of Tammoun**







# Zbeidat

## *Background*

The village of Zbeidat was established by a tribe of Palestinian refugees from Beir Saba'a after the Nakba in 1948. This tribe quickly established homes and began to irrigate the surrounding land. After living in the area for over 14 years, the Jordanian government made an agreement with the residents of Zbeidat that would allow them to continue leasing the land for five years, starting at the end of 1962. After this time, the residents would own the land permanently. However, following the June 1967 War, Israel confiscated approximately 4,000 dunums of land under the pretext that Zbeidat's land was not registered private Palestinian land. This confiscated land was used to establish the settlement of Argaman, which cultivates and sells agricultural produce to the European Union.





## Facts and figures

### *Main problems facing the community*

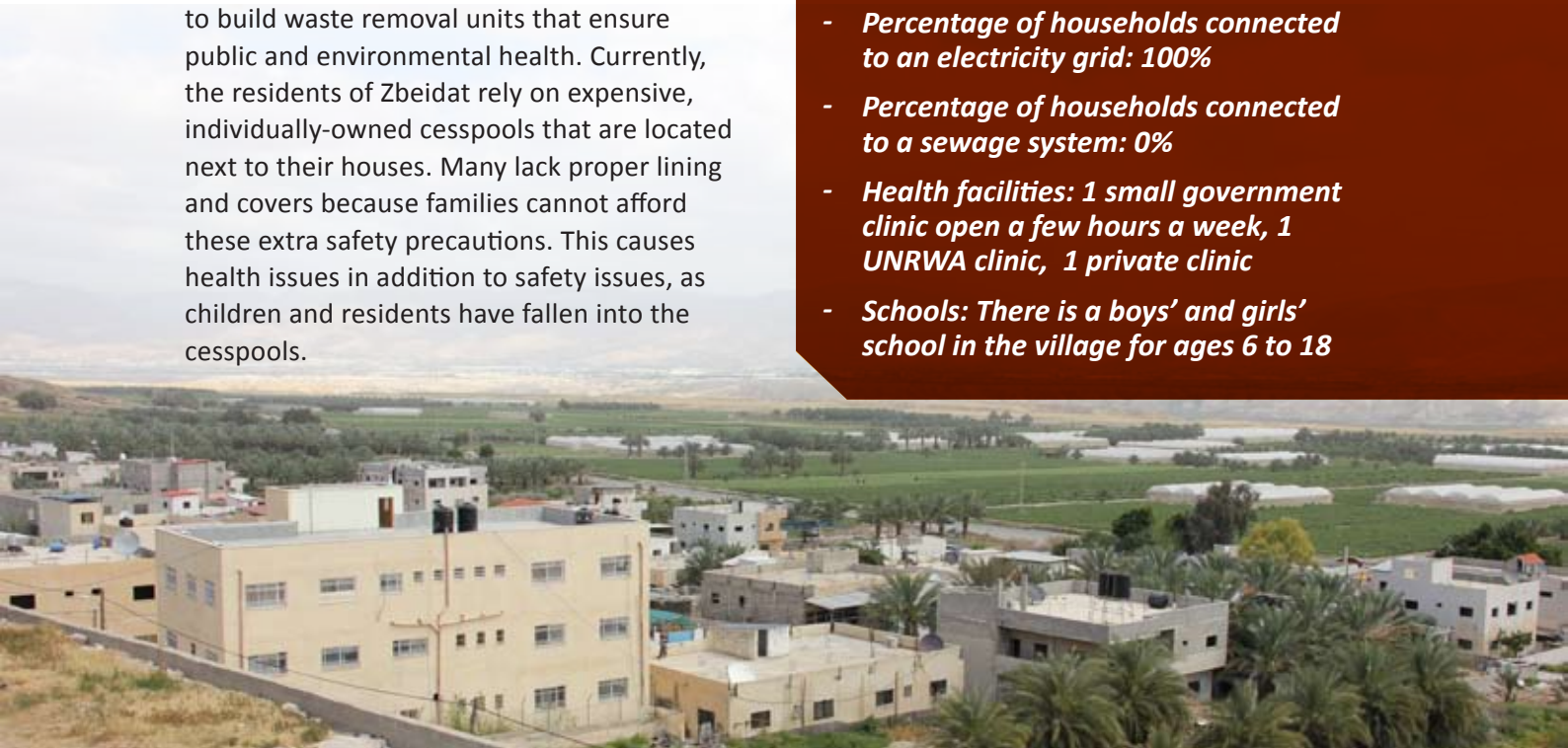
Since the 1967 War, over 90% of Zbeidat's land has been confiscated and transferred to the settlement of Argaman. While the 165 settlers of Argaman have over 1,645 dunums of agricultural land, Zbeidat's 1,870 residents are confined to a mere 280 dunums of agricultural land.

Following the Oslo Accords, residents of Zbeidat are confined to just 42 dunums of land for housing construction. The village has one of the highest per kilometer density rankings in the West Bank. This means that residents are forced to build upwards instead of expanding outwards because the land surrounding their village is designated as Area C. Such restrictions are especially challenging for youth, who are afforded no spaces for recreation and play. Public outdoor areas for families to spend time together are also nonexistent.

In addition to the restrictions on building housing, residents of Zbeidat are unable to build waste removal units that ensure public and environmental health. Currently, the residents of Zbeidat rely on expensive, individually-owned cesspools that are located next to their houses. Many lack proper lining and covers because families cannot afford these extra safety precautions. This causes health issues in addition to safety issues, as children and residents have fallen into the cesspools.



- **Governorate : Jericho**
- **Population: 1,870 (1,122 M; 748 F)**
- **Average household size: 7**
- **Total land area (dunums): 4,123**
- **Accessible land area (dunums): 320**
- **Nearby settlements: Argaman**
- **Main employment sectors: small-scale agriculture, sharecropping with other Palestinian farmers, settlements, and government**
- **Average income (per worker per month)(NIS): 800 – 2,500**
- **Percentage of households connected to a water network: N/A**
- **Cost of water per tank (NIS): N/A**
- **Percentage of households connected to an electricity grid: 100%**
- **Percentage of households connected to a sewage system: 0%**
- **Health facilities: 1 small government clinic open a few hours a week, 1 UNRWA clinic, 1 private clinic**
- **Schools: There is a boys' and girls' school in the village for ages 6 to 18**





## MA'AN Development Center

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