



MA'AN's Jordan Valley Monthly Update

MA'AN's monthly updates are not intended to be a news source, but instead offer information that is relevant or underreported in the region.

May 2014



Residential structures in Jiftlik, central Jordan Valley after they were demolished by the Israeli army

20 barracks demolished, 25 families homeless in Jiftlik

The 21st of May, the Israeli army arrived in Jiftlik and demolished 20 edifices, 13 residential steel structures and 7 steel structures used as barns for animals, all belonged to the Deis Family. The spokesperson for the Defense Ministry, Guy Inbar declared that *"the structures were built illegally without the permits needed"*, to which the Jericho Governor replied that the assaults *"aimed to damage the only source of living for farmers and citizens"*. Israeli demolitions of Palestinian structures are a clear major

breach of international law. Jiftlik has been an agricultural village for hundreds of years and the majority of its 5000 current inhabitants are farmers. 10,000 dunums of prime agricultural land have been confiscated from the village by the encroaching settlements and water quotas were imposed. As located entirely on area C, Jiftlik has been exposed to various house demolitions and demolitions orders.

The Jordan Valley Regional Council announced a 10-year plan to triple the population of settlers

On the 8th of May a conference was held by

the JVRC to announce increased resources for the settlements in the Jordan Valley. The Israeli government is planning to triple the number of settlers and a building plan for 825 new homes has already been approved. The Ministry of Housing and Construction declared a pledge of NIS 50 million to build more settlers only roads along Route 90, the road crossing the Jordan Valley.

New constructions in Maskiot

Maskiot, a religious agriculturally-based settlement in the north of Jordan Valle of 86 inhabitants, has started to build new using units and the construction is on-going.

MA'AN's Work in the Jordan Valley

Walk with me

MA'AN Center conducted an intensive training for all beneficiaries of 'Walk With Me', a WorldVision project, which objective is the production of 5 short movies, all produced by youth on Jordan Valley. All of the children were given training on how to use editing software, and were given a chance to edit what they have been filming throughout the week. The kids were excited about learning new software skills and editing their own videos.

Supporting small farmers in Date trees planting

The project is entering the last phase of implementation, the trees have been purchased and will soon be distributed.



Empowering Communities in the Jordan Valley and Hebron to Advocate for Security and Justice



From May 17th to May 19th, twenty-three people from Area C in the Jordan Valley attended a monitoring and documentation workshop. With the expertise of Al-Haq's trainer, the workshop taught the participants about the correct methods of officially recording violations of international law (such as the demolition of houses, killings, and land confiscation by the Israeli military forces), so that they can access opportunities to formally hold Israel to account for its illegal actions.

Establishing 6 Income Generating Projects in the Jordan Valley

The project aimed at creating income generating projects, combined with capacity building for women's centers is the Jordan Valley. The women's center of al-Nuwe'ima-Duyuk was selected to manage a restaurant and by the end of May the restaurant was constructed. A visit gathering MA'AN staff, UN Women and the beneficiaries from the center followed.