

CASE STUDY 4

Abu Sakr

Water in the Jordan Valley

Al-Hadidiya is a Palestinian village in the Jordan Valley, right next to the illegal Israeli settlement of Ro'i. For the residents of Ro'i, clean and safe drinking water is accessed by turning on a tap, but for the residents of al-Hadidiya the story is very different. Bedouin farmers like Abu Sakr face a daily struggle to access water.

FROM EAPPI
REPORTS



Abu Sakr, community leader of al-Hadidiya, plants an olive tree.

Today there are fewer than one hundred Bedouin inhabitants in the once-thriving herder community of al-Hadidiya. During the winter the residents plant wheat and barley in the fields with the water from the rains. However, as soon as the rainy season is over, the land becomes increasingly dry and they experience severe water shortages. Their average daily consumption is approximately 20 litres of water per person, the amount the World Health Organization considers adequate for “short-term survival” after disasters.



An al-Hadidiya shepherd and his flock gather around a water tank.

Al-Hadidiya is in Area C, which is controlled by Israel. Despite its dry appearance, deep under the soil there is a lot of underground water that was traditionally channelled through wells and cisterns to provide enough water for Abu Sakr's community, their crops and their animals. This is no longer the case as the underground water is now redirected

to the nearby Israeli settlement of Ro'i. This means the villagers need to buy water tanks at great expense.



Abu Sakr with an Israeli soldier during the demolition of his house.

Due to the strict building rules in Area C, the people of al-Hadidiya have not been allowed to build a school or new homes, and many of their simple homes have been demolished.