CMI World Water Day Regional Youth Workshop on Water and Migration 2019

25-28 March 2019 Terres d’Amanar Resort, Marrakesh, Morocco
The Impact of the Wall on Water Access and Human Migration in Palestine

Team members: Kholoud Al Ajarma, Faissal Aziz, Ghadeer Arafeh, and Lamis Qdemat

Water Governance and Forced Displacement, Expert Anders Jagerskog (World Bank Water GP)
Introduction: Palestine
Introduction:
The Wall
The effects of the Wall on agriculture, access to land and water, and human migration...

a) Loss of agricultural land and water resources;
b) Movement restrictions and inaccessibility;
c) Human migration.
Methodology
Methodology

‘Anin – 20 families / visits and discussions

Beit Anan – 3 focus groups

Nahhalin – 20 families and farmers/ participant observation
Findings: land & agriculture

- Limited access to lands which affects agriculture.
- Destruction of agricultural land on which the Wall was built.
- Destruction of agricultural produce including olive groves and fruit trees.
- Decline of natural grazing areas for livestock & decline in honey farming.
- Denied access to agricultural roads.
Findings: Water resources

- Local people are denied access to water resources and natural springs.
- Increased dependency on Israeli water supply.
- Disruption of water springs.
- Contamination of natural springs.
- Contamination of groundwater.
- Denial of wastewater treatment.
- Loss of wells and groundwater resources.
Findings: Movement & Migration

- Movement restrictions of local residents, university students & farmers.
- Avoidance of local springs due to their contamination.
- Locals search for alternative jobs rather than agriculture & farming.
- Migration of labor force (mainly young males) locally (to work in Palestinian or Israeli areas including Israeli settlements).
- International migration of labor force (mainly USA & Golf countries).
- Potential for increased migration due to Israeli restrictions.
Examples from Nahhalin
Recommendations

• As a priority to permit the Palestinians to access and extract an equitable share of water from the shared aquifers and surface water resources being affected by the Wall.

• Permit the construction of water and sanitation infrastructure sufficient to ensure Palestinians’ physical access to sufficient, safe, and regular water, and to prevent damage to water resources.

• Allow Palestinians to drill new wells and rehabilitate or upgrade existing wells and to access springs throughout the areas affected by the Wall.

• Put an immediate end to the destruction of water harvesting and storage cisterns, spring canals, and other water facilities.

• Take concrete measures to put an end to the discharge of sewage and other wastewater from Israeli settlements in Palestinian areas.

• Halt the construction of the Wall and other barriers or other permanent structures that restrict or deny access to the Palestinians to water, land and other resources.
Build wells not Walls!