

	WATER AND PEOPLE: ACCESSIBILITY, DISTRIBUTION AND STRUGGLES Case study in the Jordan Valley
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Abstract:

Water should be without boundaries, it should flow so naturally and freely, but this vital resource can also become embedded in power relations and in forms of exploitation. Water is life and without it human beings would risk the extinction. Water control, its allocation and distribution can be used both as a turning point or a strong means of oppression. In a situation of conflict, water and its management are strictly associated with authority and power (Mollinga 2008). In Israel and Palestine, water is a politically contested resource Water and its access for Palestinians are part of a daily existence. "Exist is to resist": this statement has become the key word for Palestinians that are living in the Jordan Valley to express their daily struggle in order to have access to water, land and a human dignity Although the Oslo II agreement and Art. 40 state the recognition by Israel of the right to water for Palestinians in the West Bank, the current water situation as reported by international and local NGOs and organizations seem to have remained unchanged (Amnesty International, 2009). This is a research, which will be executed in the field, with people for people It has the aim to study how water accessibility and distribution (in terms of quantity availability) is affecting one Palestinian village in a strategic area of the Jordan Valley comparing these interactions with the one of its neighbor's Israeli settlement. Moreover, I plan to look on how power relations within the two locations are affecting the access to water for water users. The last part that plan to observe and analyze is how data on how water users (both Palestinian and Israeli) are dealing (or struggling) with this situation of water related issues. I decide to do my research thesis on this particular topic because I had the opportunity to go to Palestine, to really see and live the situation. I did my bachelor thesis and internship with ACS3, an Italian Ngo that is carrying out rural development projects in West Bank and that it will assist me also during my field work with logistic and material support.