



COMMUNITY
ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY
IN THE MIDDLE EAST



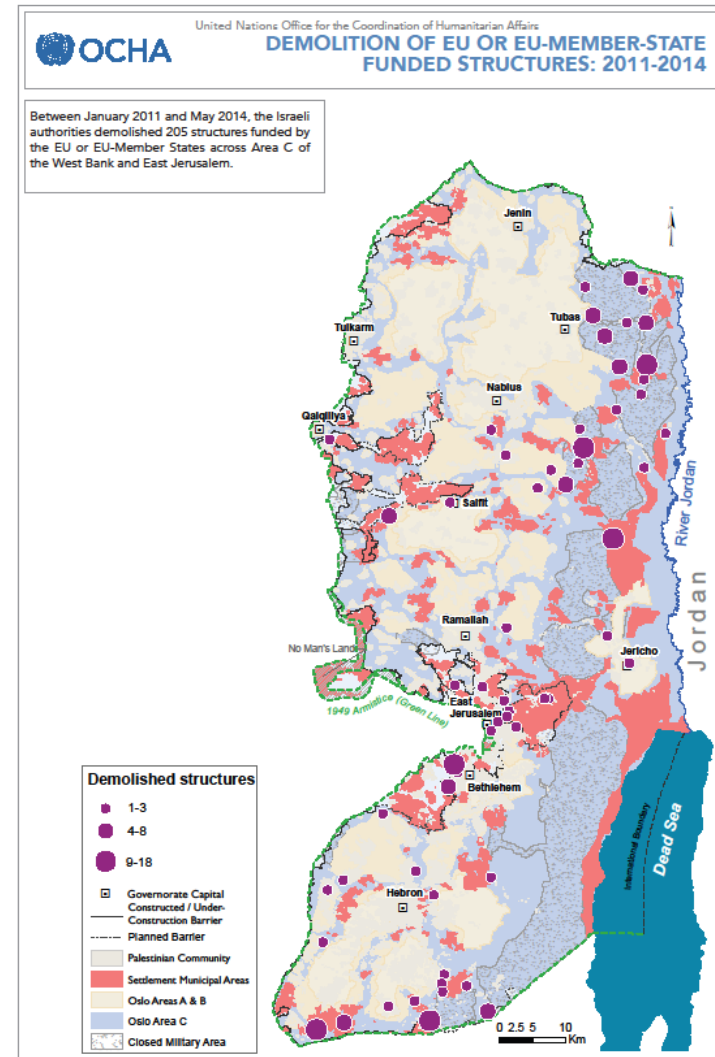
www.comet-me.org

Comet-ME is an Israeli-Palestinian organization providing basic energy and clean water services to off-grid communities using environmentally and socially sustainable methods



Where we work

- “Area C” comprises over 60% of the West Bank and is under full Israeli military and civil control.
- South Mount Hebron - a harsh political, social, and environmental climate



The communities we serve

- Shepherds and farmers
 - The herd is their livelihood
 - Dairy production for household consumption and sale
- “Cave-dwellers”





Off-grid due to the political reality

- The Israeli “Civil Administration” and intentional de-development
- A clear and ongoing attempt to move civilian population
- Pervasive military and settler violence





What we do

- Installation of renewable energy systems (wind and solar): 20 micro-grids installed to date, serving ~2000 people
- Provision of clean-water services
- Capacity building
- Long-term stewardship of the infrastructure











Lesson 1 – holistic approach

- Rural electrification should be seen as a comprehensive activity, not only a technical installation project.
- The comprehensive approach should be integrated into the project as early as possible:
 - local sourcing
 - designing for sustainability and ease of maintenance
 - remote monitoring
 - community involvement in the design process



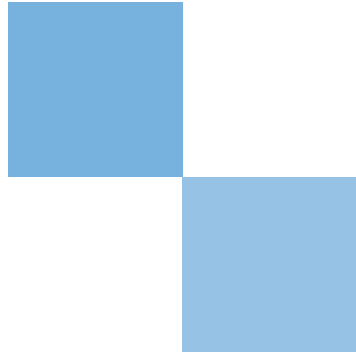
Lesson 2 – social sustainability

- Capacity building is not a magic formula – M&O should be done by professionals
- Long-term sustainability is as much about management as it is about maintenance
- Users must be engaged in the management process.
- Users must pay for the services they receive



Lesson 3 – Some local solutions

- Comet is a hybrid organization – part grass roots activist organization, part a pico-utility
- Our center of operations is in the target area
- Staff is largely local
- Payments are collected in a local fund jointly managed by the communities and Comet
- Deep engagement with the political context



Thank
you

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