

**The Barqan Industrial Park:
Implications of industrial development for
population health**

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Presenters' disclosure

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No relationships to disclose

Environmental Justice

'Development, implementation and enforcement of environmental policies and laws that ensure that no group or community is made to bear a disproportionate share of the harmful effects of environmental hazards because it lacks the economic or political clout to demand respect for their rights'.

Study background:

Environmental degradation

- Depletion of natural resources (water, air, soil)
- Sickens and kills millions 1/3 of 25,000 daily children's death)
- Great inaction at level of policy



Environmental degradation, industrial parks and Palestine



- In West Bank, Palestine, industrial development is unchecked; controlled by Israel yet not subject to Israeli environmental laws; important implications for environmental and population health
- Unique location at the crossroads of three continents; environmental melting pot for flora and fauna of Africa, Asia and Europe
- Conflict over land for close to a century

Impact of industrial development in Palestine: A bird's eye view

- At least 13 industrial parks in West Bank (Jenin, Salfit, Jericho, Ramallah, Nablus, Qalqilya, Jerusamel and Hebron); approx. 980 hectares.
- Pose serious threats to Palestinian ecosystem and public health
- E.g. aluminum, nickel, chrome, lead, etc.



Study site and target groups



- Barqan industrial park ('the Park')



- Bruqin, Palestine (1 of 6 villages affected by Park)

Study site and target groups



- Bruqin residents (physical and mental health)



- Bruqin environment (water supplies, soil, milk, land use patterns)

Preliminary data (summer 2001)

Study in the summer of 2001 indicated that:

1. No recovery systems to recover and recycle oily wastes.
2. None of the existing facilities regenerated/reused catalysts and solvents.
3. None of the facilities recycled wastewater.
4. Industrial wastewater effluents were discharged untreated next to agriculture and grazing area and in close proximity to the Palestinian village communities.
5. Laboratory analyses of industrial wastewater samples collected from the stream and soil samples detected elevated concentrations of heavy metals

Preliminary data:

Summary study in 2001

1. Bad odor and spread of mosquitoes even in winter times. Villagers expressed worries from high occurrence of diseases among residents such as cancer, skin diseases and breathing problems.
2. None of the interviewed workers had received an orientation or awareness program for the risks associated with their work.

Conclusion

- A comprehensive study linking environmental and population health measures has not been conducted and is in order
- Solution is not technical but political; must be grounded on principles of environmental justice
