

## Summary and Goals of Session 3:

*Through a slideshow/presentation of information, we present an historical overview of the Nakba: Palestinian life before the Nakba, the relationship between Jews and Palestinians, the impact of the Nakba in numbers, the UN Partition Plan, and the various reasons Palestinians left their villages in 1947-48. Through group discussion, we ask the question, “How did we get here?” and develop a deeper understanding of historical context.*

**Total time:** 1.5-2 hours

### Materials for Session 3:

- Pens/markers (enough for participants)
- Paper/chart paper
- Internet connection
- Computer/projector
- Reflection questions on chart paper
- The Nakba in History [PowerPoint](#)
- The Nakba in History print-outs for 4 groups:
  - [Palestine before the Nakba](#)
  - [Partition and lead-up to violence](#)
  - [Palestinian communities destroyed](#)
  - [Preventing return](#)

## I. (15 min) Welcome

**Facilitator Action:** *Welcome participants to this session. Briefly recap the last session by reminding participants of the major activities and themes. Participants briefly share their reflections, popcorn style, on the prep readings and videos.*

## II. (70 min) Presenting the Nakba in History

### Materials and Set-up:

- The Nakba in History [PowerPoint](#)
- The Nakba in History printouts for 4 groups:
  - [Palestine before the Nakba](#)
  - [Partition and lead-up to violence](#)
  - [Palestinian communities destroyed](#)
  - [Preventing return](#)

**Facilitator Note:** Notes for each slide are below. Depending on the size of the group, you may want to make space for ongoing discussion during the slideshow. This section presents a number of topics dealing with 1948 that we usually don't learn about or know—about life before 1948, about the Nakba, and what happened afterwards. The slides and print-outs aren't intended to provide a complete, comprehensive historical account of the period, but are intended to shed light on a number of potentially unknown aspects of the Nakba. Participants are invited to view all the information critically, including what is presented here, and everyone is invited to delve into it more deeply.

## 1. (10 min) Slideshow

**Facilitator Action:** Show slides 1-7 from the Nakba in History [PowerPoint](#). Notes for the slides can be found below. Guide the slideshow with framing from the Facilitator Note, and explain that this is an introduction to the Nakba in Numbers. Share the information from the notes as you go through the slides.

- Slide 1: The Nakba in History
- Slide 2: Show this clip from the first film footage taken in Palestine (Lumier Bros.)
- Slide 3: In 1947, the area that ultimately became the state of Israel had a population of 600,000 Jews and 900,000 Palestinians.
- Slide 4: Palestinians were living in 700 communities, mostly in rural villages and towns, but also in several large cities: Jaffa, Haifa, Ramle and Acre. Jews were living in 350 communities.
- Slide 5: By 1949, the number of Jews had increased to 1,000,000 and the number of Palestinians had fallen to 150,000.
- Slide 6: There were now 170 Palestinian communities and 400 Jewish ones.
- Slide 7: In other words, from 1947 to 1949, approximately 530 Palestinian communities were destroyed and approximately 750,000 Palestinian residents fled or were expelled, and not allowed to return.

## 2. (30 min) Group Narratives

**Facilitator Action:** Divide participants into four groups and assign each group one of the following categories: [Palestine before the Nakba](#), [Partition and lead-up to violence](#), [Palestinian communities destroyed](#), [Preventing return](#). Distribute corresponding information/image packets to each group.

**Group Action:** With information from the print-outs, groups explore their section and develop narratives to help explain what happened in their section: [Palestine before the Nakba](#), [Partition and lead-up to violence](#), [Palestinian communities destroyed](#), [Preventing return](#).

### 3. (30 min) Presentation/Reflections

**Facilitator Action:** After exploring their packets, groups reconvene and present the contents from their packet in whatever form best fits the information and participant interests (lecture, questions, acting, etc.). Keep time and pose these follow-up questions after the presentations:

- Given last session's discussion and the one we've had so far today, why does it matter for us to talk about these issues?
- What impact might it have on our relationship with Zionism, Israel, Palestine, activism, history?

**Group Action:** Groups share and present information from their sections in ways that best reflect the information and participant interests. Participants decide what roles they play in their groups and facilitate questions and discussion from their section.

**Facilitator Note:** If time allows, show participants [this map](#), which highlights the difference between the areas proposed for Jews and Palestinians under the 1947 Partition Plan, and the areas controlled by Israel and others after the 1949 armistice. Additional explanation on population figures based on this map:

- Because there were no definitive census figures for the Palestinian population in the pre- and post-mandate areas, there is no consensus on the number of Palestinians displaced during the 1947-1949 period.
- The blue area was intended for the Jewish State (which had approximately 400,000 Palestinians in it). The green and salmon areas were intended for the Arab State (which had roughly 800,000 Palestinians). The grey and pink areas were intended for the international enclave (which had approximately 100,000 Palestinians).
- Under the 1949 Armistice, the state of Israel controlled the blue area, the salmon area (intended in 1947 for the Arab state) and the western part of Jerusalem (intended in 1947 to be under UN control). The 750,000 displaced Palestinians came from this combination of blue, salmon and grey areas, which, according to Zochrot, contained 900,000 Palestinians. (The green areas that in 1947 were intended to be part of the Arab state, under the 1949 Armistice, were controlled by Egypt (Gaza) and Jordan (the West Bank and East Jerusalem).
- So, of the roughly 1,200,000-1,300,000 Palestinians living in the areas divided between proposed Jewish and Arab states and the international enclave under the 1947 Partition Plan, about 750,000 fled or were expelled. They came from the areas intended for the Jewish state (blue) or conquered by Israel (salmon and grey).

## IV. Closing (10 minutes)

### Materials and Set-up:

- Flip-chart and marker

### 1. (8 min) Closing reflections

**Facilitator Action:** Guide a final go-around, each person saying one thought or question they're leaving this session with, to keep thinking about until next time. (If you're keeping a running list from Session 1, add these to your flip-chart/whiteboard/google doc on projector.)

### 2. (2 min) Prep for next session

**Facilitator Action:** Ask participants to view or read the following items in preparation for the next session. Participants choose two of the following testimonies of Nakba survivors to read from Zochrot's archive, and one of the following testimonies of Zionist fighters to watch. The purpose is for them to watch or read through various testimonies to begin to engage with personal experiences of the Nakba.

#### Participant Prep for Session 4

- Testimonies of Nakba survivors (choose at least 2 to read):
  - [Mohammed Abu Leil](#)
  - [Aida Najjar](#)
  - [Sari Nasir](#)
  - [The story of Sabalan](#)
  - [The story of Kuwaykat](#)
  - [Ibrahim Abu-Sneineh](#)
  - [Fayeq Abu Mana and Aaraf Muharab](#)
- Testimonies of Zionist fighters (choose at least 1 to watch):
  - [Z'vi Stklov](#)
  - [Uri Pinkerfeld](#)
  - [Amnon Neumann](#)