

Jurat ash Sham'a Village Profile



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Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Bethlehem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Bethlehem Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment," the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Bethlehem Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Bethlehem Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile>.

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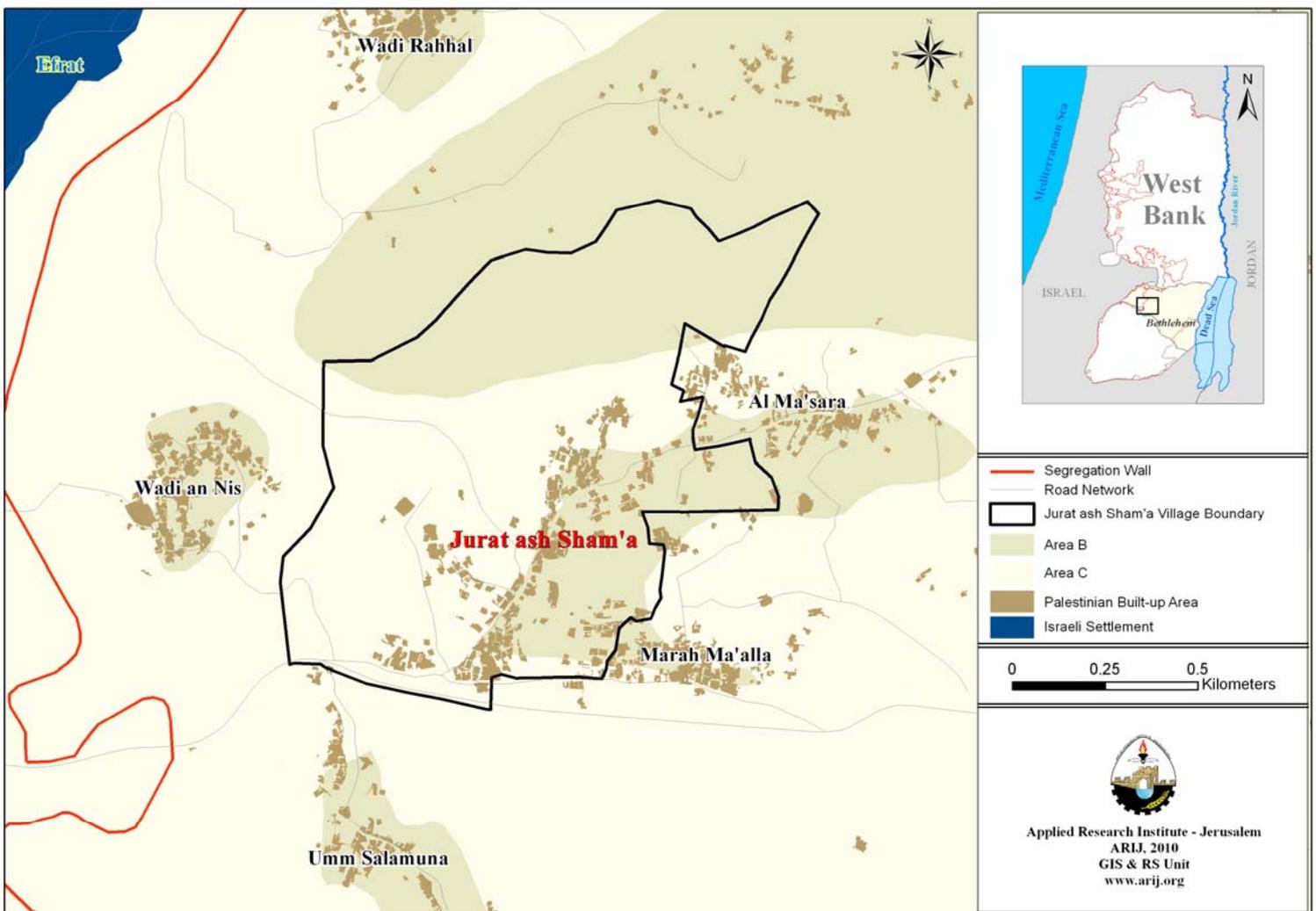
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Jurat ash Sham'a Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Jurat ash Sham'a is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 7km (horizontal distance) south of Bethlehem City. Jurat ash Sham'a is bordered by Marah Ma'alla and Marah Rabah villages to the east, Wadi Rahhal village to the north, Wadi an Nis village to the west, and Umm Salamuna village to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Jurat ash Sham'a location and borders



Jurat ash Sham'a is located at an altitude of 901m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 607mm. The average annual temperature is 18° C and the average annual humidity is about 60 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1996, Jurat ash Sham'a has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by nine members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are two employees working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle to collect solid waste.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Jurat ash Sham'a, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.

History

Jurat ash Sham'a village was named after a woman called Sham'a, who owned the land were the village was established.

Jurat ash Sham'a village residents originate from Bethlehem village, Al Fawaghra neighborhood in particular.

Photo of Jurat ash Sham'a

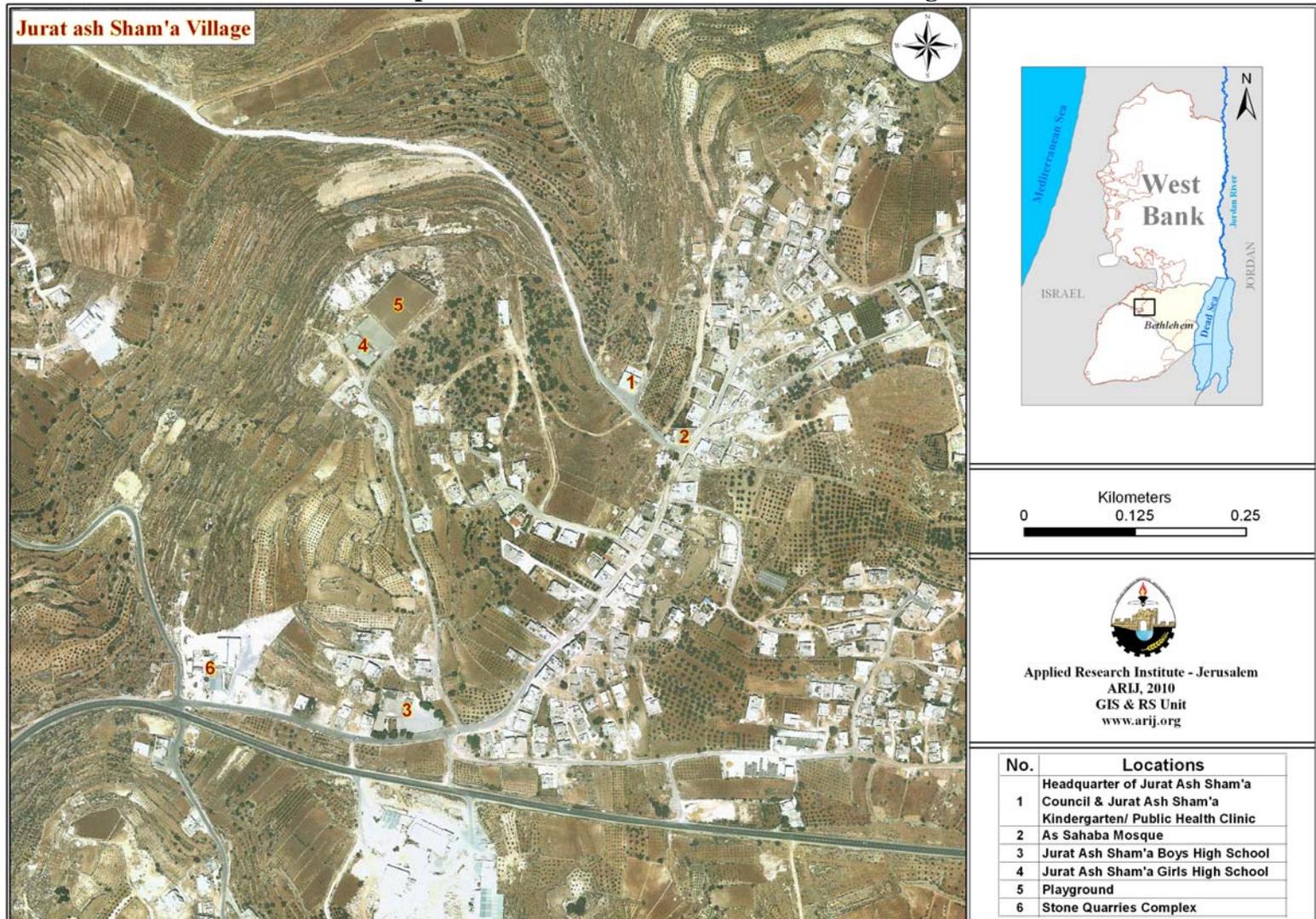


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in Jurat ash Sham'a: As Sahaba Mosque.

There are no archaeological sites in the village (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Jurat ash Sham'a village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Jurat ash Sham'a in 2007 was 1,491; of whom 797 are males and 694 are females. There are 250 households living in 269 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Jurat ash Sham'a is as follows: 42.2 percent are less than 15 years, 56 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 1.8 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 115:100, meaning that males constitute 53.5 percent of the population, and females constitute 46.5 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Jurat ash Sham'a village are composed of several families, mainly: Husein 'Eid, Salih, Issa, Ibrahim, Muhammad, and Shokah.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Jurat ash Sham'a population is about 10.5 percent, of whom 74.7 percent are females. Of the literate population, 18.5 percent can read and write, 35 percent had elementary education, 33.2 percent had preparatory education, 10.3 percent had secondary education, and 2.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Jurat ash Sham'a, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	27	105	195	175	41	5	14	-	-	-	562
F	80	65	126	130	54	1	6	-	-	-	462
T	107	170	321	305	95	6	20	-	-	-	1024

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

In regards to the basic and secondary educational institutions and schools in Jurat ash Sham'a in the academic year 2008/2009, there are two public schools in the village, one for girls, and one for boys, both run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Jurat ash Sham'a (See Table 2).

In the village there is a total number of 583 students, 37 teachers, and 26 classes (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, while the average number of students per class is approximately 23.

Table 2: The Schools in Jurat ash Sham'a by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Jurat ash Sham'a Boys High School	Government	Male
Jurat ash Sham'a Girls High School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009

Furthermore, there is one kindergarten in Jurat ash Sham'a; Jurat ash Sham'a Kindergarten, which is privately run and has a total number of 30 children (Jurat ash Sham'a village council, 2010).

Health Status

There are some health facilities available in Jurat ash Sham'a village; a government health center which has a physician's clinic and a motherhood and childhood clinic. There is also a private dental clinic in the village, a specialized doctor clinic, and a pharmacy.

In emergency cases, residents of Jurat ash Sham'a use Bethlehem and the neighboring villages' hospitals and health centers, such as: Bethlehem Governmental Health Center, which is about 8km from the village.

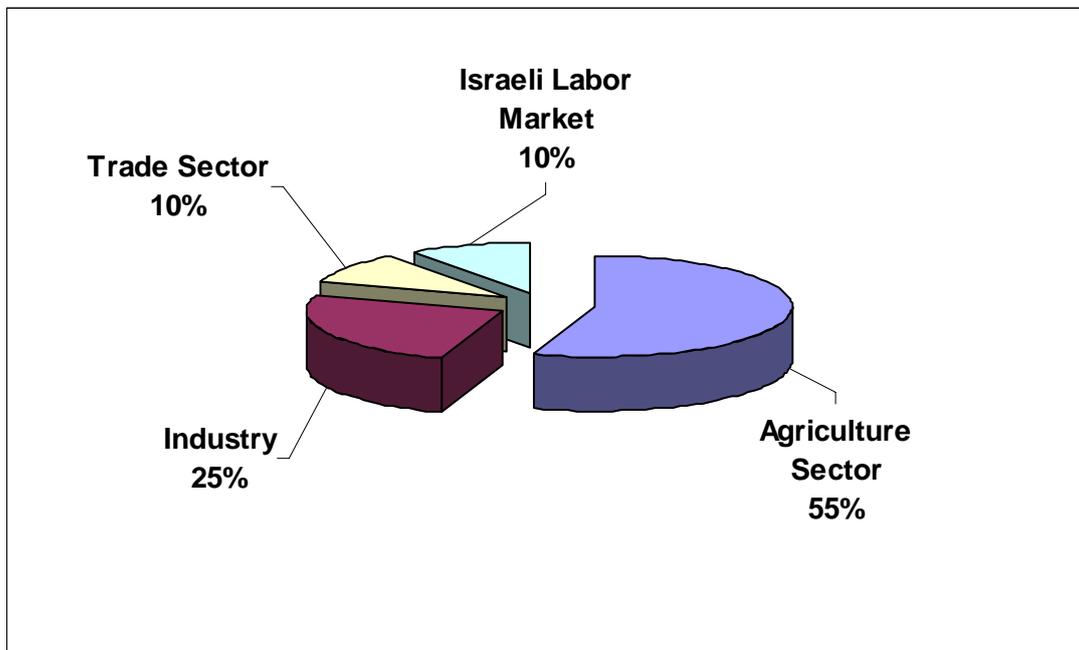
Economic Activities

The economy in Jurat ash Sham'a is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the agriculture sector, which absorbs 55 percent of the village workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Jurat ash Sham'a are the following:

- Agriculture Sector (55%)
- Industry (25%)
- Israeli Labor Market (10%)
- Trade Sector (10%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Jurat ash Sham'a Village



There are some businesses and industrial parks in Jurat ash Sham'a; as there are several stone and marble quarries, one butcher, 2 groceries, and seven grocery stores.

As a result of the Israeli occupation and restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have become unemployed, thus forcing them to work in the service sector and agricultural activities, as a last resort for obtaining a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Jurat ash Sham'a has reached about 25 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Workers in stone and marble quarries.
2. Former workers in Israel.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.3 percent of Jurat ash Sham'a's population was economically active, of whom 87.5 percent were employed, 68.3 percent were not economically active, 51.6 percent were students, and 40.1 percent were housekeepers (See table 3).

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	277	9	26	312	206	-	29	2	9	246	562
F	3	-	5	8	155	280	18	-	-	453	462
T	280	9	31	320	361	280	47	2	9	699	1,024

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

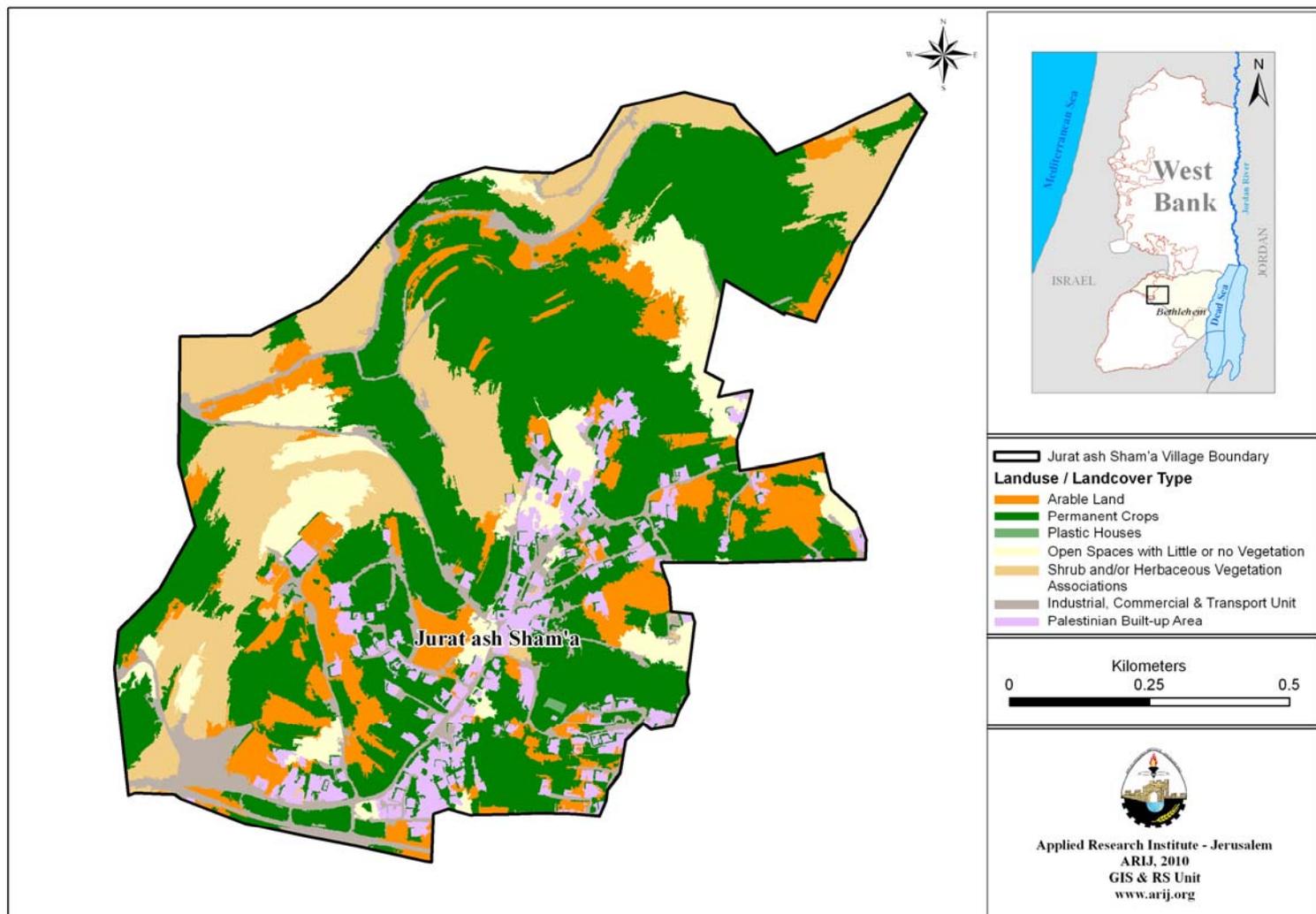
Agricultural Sector

Jurat ash Sham'a lies on a total area of about 1,187 dunums of which 1,007 dunums are considered arable land, and 82 dunums are residential land (See table 4 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land [1,007]					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
1,187	82	153	543	1	0	310	98	0

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Jurat ash Sham'a Village



Agricultural production in Jurat ash Sham'a depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on the public water network.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Jurat ash Sham'a. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Jurat ash Sham'a village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
13	12	0	5.5	1	2	0	0.5	0	3	14	23

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area.

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
140	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	158	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Jurat ash Sham'a, cereals, in particular, wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 75 dunums, while dry legumes, such as chickpeas and lentils are the second most cultivated crops (See table 7).

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
75	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	113	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Jurat ash Sham'a are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 8).

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	340	318	0	2	12	6	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 2 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village suitable for vehicles.

Institutions and Services

Jurat ash Sham'a has a few local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society: children, youth, and women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including:

- **Jurat ash Sham'a Village Council:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the village and providing various services to its population.

- **Jurat ash Sham'a Sport Club:** Founded in 1982 with the interest in all sport activities for the youth in the village.
- **Jurat ash Sham'a Women Center:** Founded in 2009 by a local committee, aiming at taking care of all women's issues and affairs.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Jurat ash Sham'a has been connected to a public electricity network since 1983; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 99.2 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, while the remaining units (0.8%) are dependent on private generators for electricity (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Jurat ash Sham'a is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 11.6 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines.

Transportation Services:

Private cars and buses are the two main means of transportation in Jurat ash Sham'a. As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 3km of main roads which are paved (Jurat ash Sham'a village council, 2010).

Water Resources:

Jurat ash Sham'a is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1976. All of Jurat ash Sham'a housing units (100%) are connected to the water network (PCBS, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Jurat ash Sham'a in 2008 was about 60,630 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 112 liters/day (PWA, 2008).

Here it should be noted that many Jurat ash Sham'a citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 30 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Jurat ash Sham'a village council, 2010), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Jurat ash Sham'a is 78 liters per day. This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, Jurat ash Sham'a has 40 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Jurat ash Sham'a village council, 2010).

Sanitation:

Jurat ash Sham'a lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a means for wastewater disposal. According to PCBS's Population and Housing Census in 2007 and PWA data, all of Jurat ash Sham'a's housing units (100%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal.

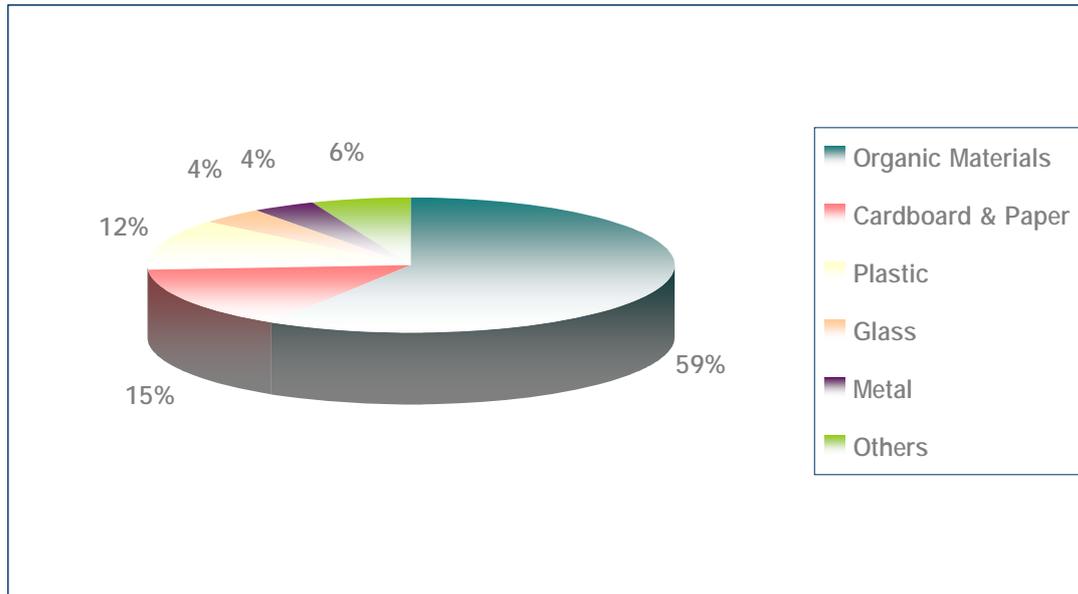
Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 92 cubic meters, or 33,580 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 62 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

Joint Services Council for the Southern Countryside is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Jurat ash Sham'a. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population, serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services, which is about 12.5 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste.

Most of the population in Jurat ash Sham'a benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to barrels that are spread throughout the neighborhoods. The joint services council collects the solid waste from the containers two days a week and transports it to Al 'Eizeriah dumping site, 18km from Jurat ash Sham'a. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. It should be mentioned here that household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same landfill, with the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection. The largest volume of solid waste is household waste which makes up around 45-50 percent of total capacity of solid waste.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Jurat ash Sham'a is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Jurat ash Sham'a residents is nearly 1043kg, or 380 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper, cardboard, and then plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages in the governorate, Jurat ash Sham'a experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis:

Water is cut off for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; accordingly, supplying Palestinians communities with insufficient water quantities to cover their domestic needs.
- (2) High rate of water losses, within the internal distribution network, because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management:

The absence of a public sewage network, thus, the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, especially in winter, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental

damages, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as the wastewater mixes with water and contaminates it and thus makes it inappropriate for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the residents' health.

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Jurat ash Sham'a and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, such as the difficulty to obtain licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C, under the Israeli full control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. Thus, the lack of a sanitary landfill is a hazard risk for the health, a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it also produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape. It should be noted here that a sanitary landfill is currently under construction in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

There is an absence of a system in the village and the governorate in general that separates hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Al 'Eizeriah landfill for disposal by burning.

Other problems:

- The project committee's limited role, like other project committees, councils and municipalities, in providing only certain services, without considering other various aspects for development.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, signed in September 1995, between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli government, 579 dunums (48.8% of the total area of the village) of Jurat ash Sham'a lands were classified as area B, in which public order falls under the Palestinian National Authority's responsibility, where Israeli

has full control over security matters. As for the remaining part of Jurat ash Sham'a lands, 608 dunums (51.2% of the total area of the village) were classified as area C, an area that is under full control of the Israeli government (Table 9).

Table 9: Land classification in Jurat ash Sham'a according to Oslo II Agreement in 1995

Land Classification	Area (dunums)	% of the Total Area
Area A	0	0
Area B	579	48.8
Area C	608	51.2
Total Area	1187	100

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

Bypass roads in Jurat ash Sham'a

Jurat ash Sham'a village has also lost part of its territory for the construction of the Israeli bypass road number 3689, which extends for 0.5km on its territory, and connects to the end of the Israeli bypass road no. 356, then goes towards the south to Ma'ale Amos settlement, then continues to the east, towards the Dead Sea.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Jurat ash Sham'a village council has implemented several development projects in Jurat ash Sham'a, during the year 2009, and till now, as shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Jurat ash Sham'a during 2009 and till now

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Maintenance of the Public Water Network	Infrastructure	2009	Palestinian Hydrology Group
A Motherhood and Childhood Kindergarten	Educational	Under construction	German Development Bank (KFW)

Source: Jurat ash Sham'a Village Council, 2010

Proposed Projects

Jurat ash Sham'a village council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Construction of agricultural roads and reclamation of agricultural lands.
2. Establishment of a sewage network or domestic wastewater treatment plant.
3. Providing a medical laboratory and an X ray center.
4. Providing job opportunities for graduates through the establishment of small projects
5. Establishment of domestic and agricultural wells.
6. Supporting farmers through the provision of greenhouses and modern agricultural machinery.
7. Providing games for Jurat ash Sham'a kindergarten.
8. Providing entertainment, cultural, and sport centers.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Jurat ash Sham'a suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 11 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's point of view (Jurat ash Sham'a Village Council, 2010):

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			7.8km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			750m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			30 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste		*		
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill		*		
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary & secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			elementary & secondary schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1,200 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			30 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			10 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			15 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*			2 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*2km is a main road, 1.8km internal road and 4km agricultural road.

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