

# ‘Ayda Camp 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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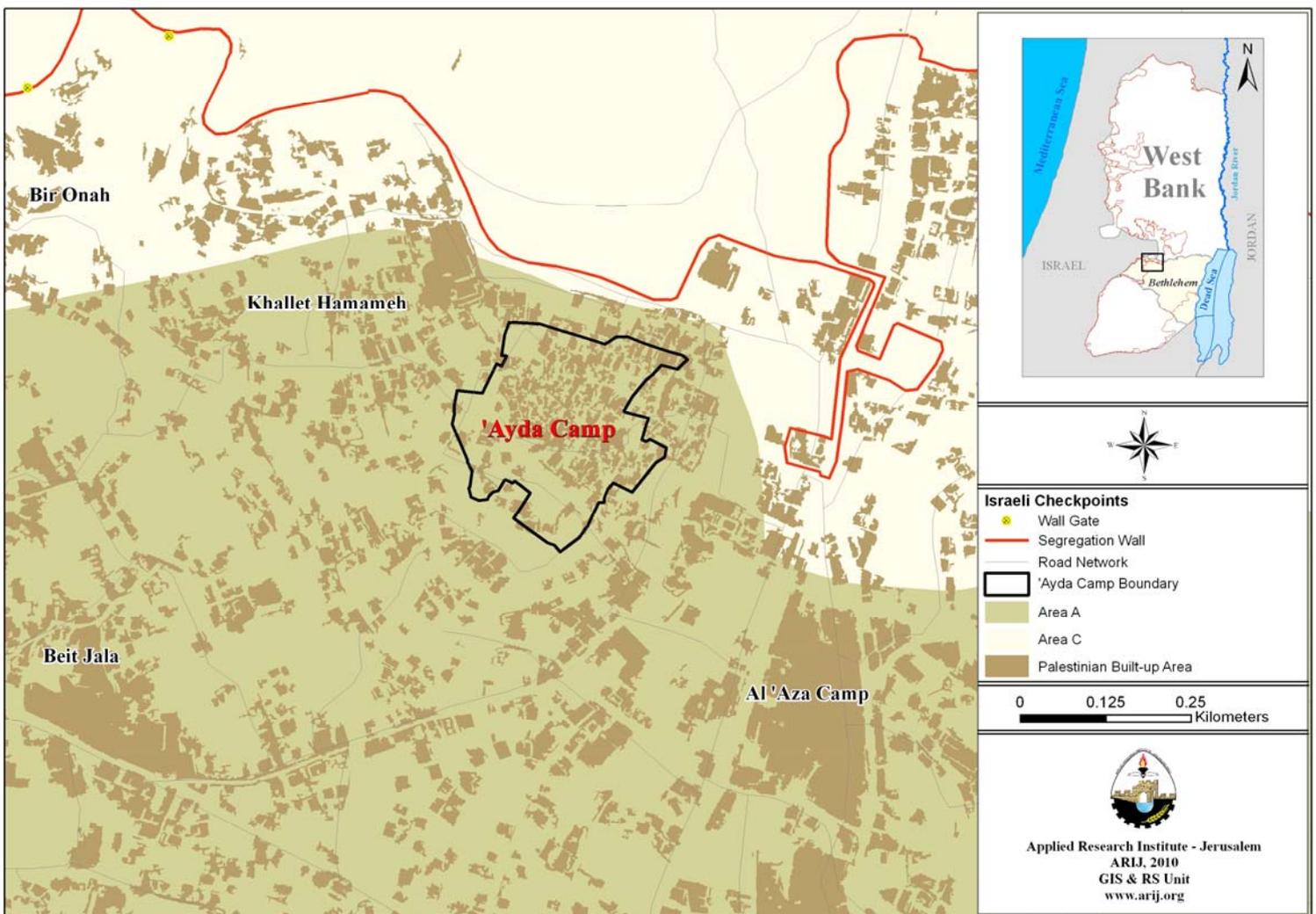
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# 'Ayda Camp Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

'Ayda camp is one of the Palestinian Refugees camps in Bethlehem Governorate located 1.5km (horizontal distance) north of Bethlehem City. 'Ayda camp is bordered by the racist Segregation Wall to its east and north sides, and by Beit Jala city to its west and south sides (See map 1).

Map 1: 'Ayda camp location and borders



'Ayda camp is located at an altitude of 750m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 515mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60.4 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1995, ‘Ayda camp has been governed by a service committee which is currently administrated by seven members appointed by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Refugees Affairs Department. The camp’s service committee rents a permanent headquarters.

It is the responsibility of the service committee to provide the listed services to the residents of ‘Ayda, including:

1. Political tasks, primarily, concerning the right to return.
2. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for ‘Ayda camp.
4. Various assistance to the camp residents.

## **History**

The name ‘Ayda goes back to the owner of the land where the camp was set up and where a coffee shop called ‘Ayda Coffee existed. Due to the link between the name of the camp, ‘Ayda, and the noun, return, the residents of the camp decided to keep it, hoping that one day they will return to their land inside the Green Line.

‘Ayda camp dates back to 1948 and its residents originate from more than 43 villages and cities destroyed in 1948, as well as in 1967.

**Photo of ‘Ayda camp**

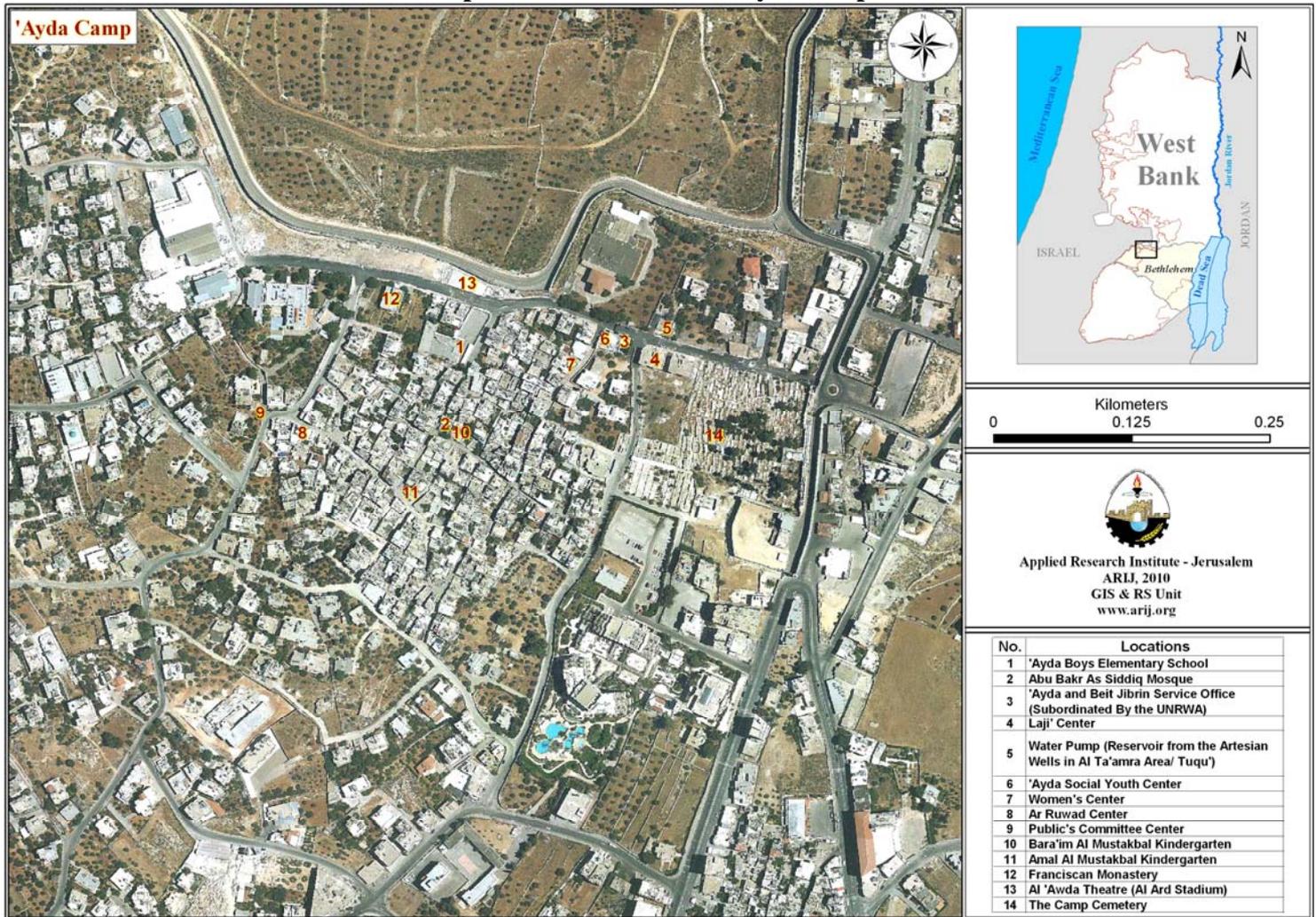


## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in 'Ayda: Abu Bakr As Siddiq Mosque, and there is also the Franciscan Nunnery ('Ayda).

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

**Map 2: Main locations in 'Ayda camp**



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of 'Ayda camp in 2007 was 2,631; of whom 1,318 are males and 1,313 are females. There are 509 households living in 564 housing units.

### Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in 'Ayda camp is as follows: 38.7 percent are less than 15 years, 57 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 3.7 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the camp is 100.3:100, meaning that males constitute 50.1 percent of the population, and females constitute 49.9 percent of the population.

### Families

The inhabitants of 'Ayda camp are composed of several families, mainly: Abu Srour, Abu Hammad, Qaraqe', Odeh, Darweesh, 'Ajarmeh, Malash, Al Masa'eed, El 'Araj and Abu Odeh, 'Ayyad, and Radi, in addition to other families.

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among 'Ayda camp population is about 6.8 percent, of whom 77.8 percent are females. Of the literate population, 12.3 percent can read and write, 22.8 percent had elementary education, 36.1 percent had preparatory education, 18.4 percent had secondary education, and 10.4 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in 'Ayda camp, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	37	108	195	341	155	34	55	-	4	1	<b>930</b>
F	89	104	198	282	163	33	48	2	2	-	<b>921</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1851</b>

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

In regards to the basic and secondary educational institutions and schools in ‘Ayda camp in the academic year 2008/2009, there are two public schools in the camp, one mixed and one for boys, run by the UNRWA. See Table 2.

In the camp there is a total number of 1,196 students; 46 teachers, and 33 classes. It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 26, while the average number of students per class is approximately 37 (Directorate of Education, Bethlehem, 2009 & ‘Ayda Camp Committee, 2009).

<b>Table 2: The Schools in ‘Ayda camp by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority</b>		
<b>School Name</b>	<b>Supervising Authority</b>	<b>Sex</b>
‘Ayda Boys Elementary School	UNWRA	Male
Beit Jala Mixed School		Mixed
<b>Source:</b> ‘Ayda Camp Committee, 2009		

Furthermore, there are two kindergartens in ‘Ayda camp; both run privately. The total number in both kindergartens is 210 children. See Table 3.

<b>Table 3: Kindergartens in ‘Ayda camp by name and supervising authority</b>		
<b>Kindergarten Name</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Supervising Authority</b>
Bara’em Al Mustakbal Kindergarten	150	Private
Amal Al Mustakbal Kindergarten	60	
<b>Source:</b> ‘Ayda Camp Committee, 2009		

## Health Status

There are no health facilities available in ‘Ayda camp; there is only one public clinic for the refugees, located in Beit Jala, about 1km from the camp, called Dar Khamashta.

In emergency cases, residents of ‘Ayda camp use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Beit Jala Governmental Hospital (Al Hussein), which is about 1km from the camp.

Despite the existence of a health center for refugees in Beit Jala, the camp is in need of a health center inside the camp.

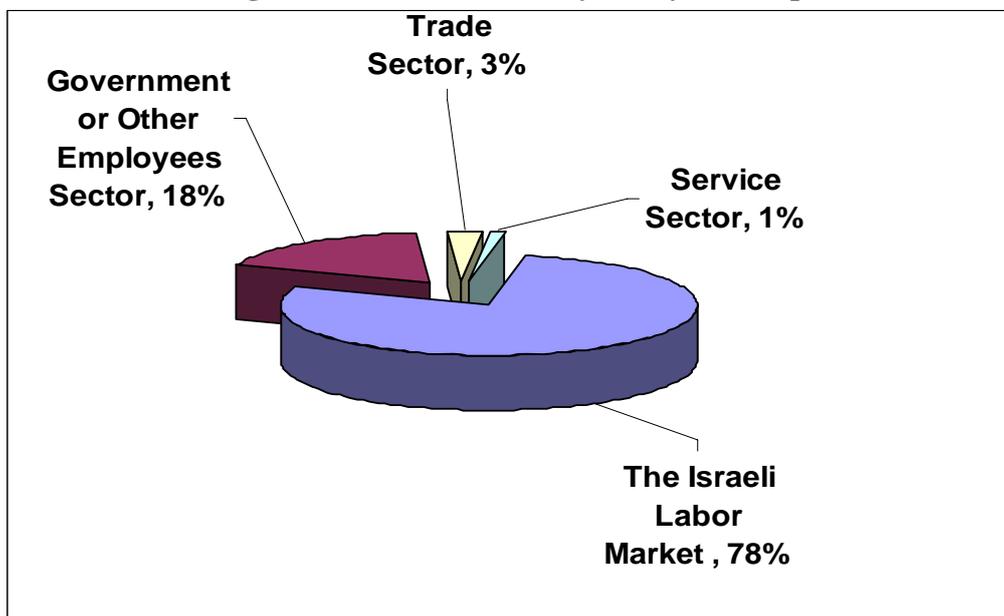
## Economic Activities

The economy in 'Ayda camp is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli Labor Market, which absorbs 78 percent of the camp workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in 'Ayda camp are the following:

- Israeli Labor Market (78%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (18%)
- Trade Sector (3%)
- Service sector (1%).

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in 'Ayda Camp**



In regards to the economic and industrial activities in 'Ayda, they are few and almost non-existing, as there are only 8 chicken butcheries, 2 groceries, 7 different services stores, 3 different workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc), in addition to 14 grocery stores.

The unemployment rate in 'Ayda refugee camp has reached 64 percent.

## Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.7 percent of 'Ayda camp population was economically active, of whom 80.1 percent were employed, 68.7 percent were not economically active, 51.1 percent were students, and 31.2 percent were housekeepers (See table 4).

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	370	74	27	<b>471</b>	313	2	67	5	62	<b>449</b>	<b>930</b>
F	86	5	7	<b>98</b>	336	395	74	1	16	<b>822</b>	<b>921</b>
<b>T</b>	456	79	34	<b>569</b>	649	397	141	6	78	<b>1,271</b>	<b>1,851</b>

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

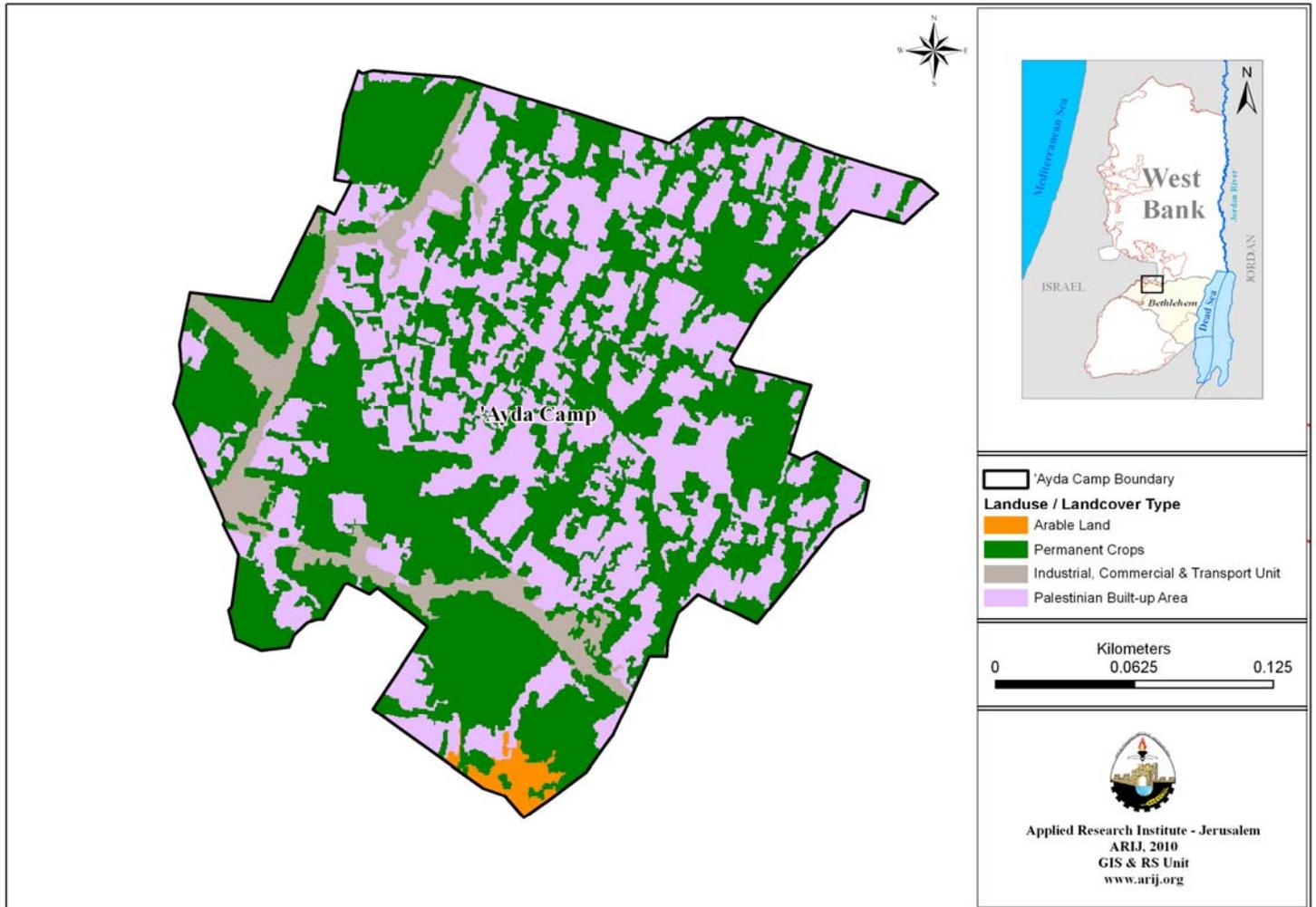
## Agricultural Sector

'Ayda camp has no agricultural lands, or any lands suitable for agriculture, due to the fact that all residents of the camp are refugees, and thus they do not own any land within the camp, also due to its small size of area, and do not work in the field of agriculture (See table 5)

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (37)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
67	26	1	36	0	0	0	4	0

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in ‘Ayda Camp**



## Institutions and Services

'Ayda camp has a number of 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: ('Ayda Camp Committee, 2009)

- **People's Service Committee:** Founded in 1995 by the Palestine Liberation Organization with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the camp and providing all kinds of services to its population.

- **Ar Ruwad Center for Culture and Theatre:** A cultural center founded in 1997 by a public body. The center provides theatrical and technical training and non-violent education for children.
- **Laji' Center:** A folkloric cultural center for children founded in 1999.
- **'Ayda Social Youth Center:** Founded in 1968 by the UNRWA, and is interested in sport, cultural, and social activities in the camp.
- **Ghassan Kanafani Center:** A political center founded in 2002.
- **Abu Ammar Association:** Founded in 2009, and is interested in the social issues and affairs of Ras Abu Ammar village residents.
- **Hajer Center:** The center has only a model kindergarten that was founded in 2004.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

'Ayda camp has been connected to a public electricity network since 1970; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the camp. Approximately 99.4 percent of the housing units in the camp are connected to the network, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (0.6%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007)

Furthermore, 'Ayda camp is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 52.1 percent of the housing units within the camp boundaries are connected to phone lines.

### Transportation Services:

Private cars and taxis are the two main means of transportation in 'Ayda camp. As for the road network in the camp; there is a 1km paved and in good condition main road and a total of 2.5km of secondary roads; of which 2km are paved but in bad condition, and 0.5km are unpaved ('Ayda Camp Committee, 2009).

### Water Resources:

'Ayda camp is provided with water by the Palestinian Water Authority in Bethlehem (PWA), through the public water network established in 1969, and about 99.4 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.6%) (PCBS, 2007). Based on the PWA estimations, the rate of water supply per capita in the communities is about 100 liters per day, but this

rate varies from one community to another. The quantity of water supplied to 'Ayda camp in 2008 was about 99,812.4 cubic meters/year therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 107.7 liters/day (PWA, 2008).

Here it should be noted that many 'Ayda camp citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 39 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (PWA, 2008), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in 'Ayda camp is 66 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.

### **Sanitation:**

'Ayda camp has a public sewage network that is used as a main means for wastewater disposal. The end of the network is connected to Beit Jala private sewage network, where waste water is pumped from Bir Onah pumping station to the West Jerusalem private sewage network. According to PCBS's Population and Housing Census in 2007 and PWA data the majority of 'Ayda's housing units (99.4%) use the public sewage network for wastewater disposal, while the means for wastewater disposal is unknown for the remaining units (0.6%)

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 140 cubic meters, or 51,100 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the camp it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 53 liters per day.

### **Solid Waste Management:**

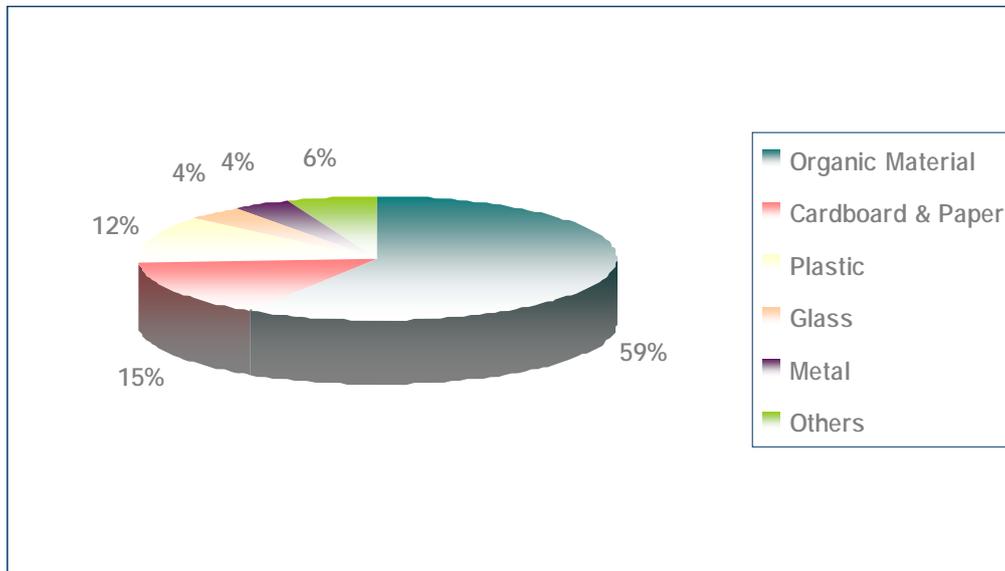
The United Nations Relief and Work Agency for the Palestinian Refugees-UNRWA is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in 'Ayda, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal.

Most of the population in 'Ayda camp benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 8 containers, with a capacity of 4 cubic meters each, spread throughout the neighborhoods. The solid waste is collected from the containers twice a day and transported to Yatta's dumping site, 35km from the camp. 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 'Ayda camp is 0.7kg, thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the 'Ayda camp residents is

nearly 1800kg, or 657 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard, and then by plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced**



## Environmental Conditions

Like other camps and villages in the governorate, 'Ayda camp 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 camp for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; which makes PWA dependent largely on water purchase from the Israeli company Mecerot to supply the Palestinian cities and villages, representing an obstacle in the organization of water pumping and distribution among populations. PWA distributes water to various areas at an interval-basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient for everyone at the same time.
- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

- (3) The lack of domestic rain water harvesting cisterns and reservoirs.
- (4) The old water pumping tank that pumps the water through the public water network in the camp.

**Wastewater Management:**

The untreated wastewater collected from the sewage network ends in Beit Jala private sewage network - Bir Onah pumping station, where waste water is pumped to the West Jerusalem private sewage network. Moreover, the absence of a public sewage network in some neighborhoods, thus the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, because residents cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental and health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases inside these neighborhoods. Furthermore, the use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater, because most of the cesspits are built without lining, which allows the wastewater to enter into the ground thus avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. It should be noted here that the wastewater resulting from the cesspits are discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas without regard for any resulting health or environment damages.

**Solid Waste Management:**

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve 'Ayda camp and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, like granting 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 creates bad odors and distortion of the landscape. It should be noted here that a sanitary landfill is under construction, at the time, in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

There is an absence of a system in the camp 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 Yatta landfill for disposal by burning.

**Other problems:**

- The limited role of 'Ayda camp people's committee, like other committees, councils and municipalities, in providing only certain services, without considering other various aspects for development, as its basic role is politics and not services.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

'Ayda camp committee has implemented several development projects in 'Ayda camp between 2006 and 2009, as shown in Table 6.

<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Donor</b>
Pavement of the main street in the camp	Infrastructure	2008	UNRWA
Rehabilitation of part of the water network	Infrastructure	2008	UNRWA & the Palestinian Ministry of Finance
Restoration of Abu Bakr As Siddiq mosque	Infrastructure	2008	More than one body
Restoration of the camp entrances	Infrastructure	2008	Palestinian Ministry of Finance
Restoration of Bilal Ben Rabah cemetery	Infrastructure	2008	UNRWA & the Palestinian Ministry of Finance
Restoration of part of the youth center	Infrastructure	2008	UNRWA & the Palestinian Ministry of Finance
Construction of Ar Ruwad cultural center	Social	2006	German Development Fund
Establishment of Al 'Awda theater platform	Infrastructure	2009	Palestinian Ministry of Finance
Starting the construction of the people's committee headquarters	Infrastructure	2009	Palestinian Ministry of Finance
Pavement of Rachel's Tomb and the Franciscan Monastery streets	Infrastructure	2009	Palestinian Ministry of Finance

**Source: 'Ayda Camp People's Services Committee, 2009**

## Proposed Projects

'Ayda camp committee, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the camp and the camp 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 camp. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishment of a large-sized public water reservoir.
2. Expanding the schools through the construction of new classrooms.
3. Getting rid of any health diseases resulting from the accumulation of waste near the Segregation Wall, and the exploitation of the place through the establishment of children's playground or a public park.
4. Establishment of a health clinic in the camp.
5. Providing streets lighting in the camp and the maintenance of the public electricity network.
6. Pavement of some linking roads.
7. Providing a public hall in the camp.
8. Conducting professional training programs in order to reduce the unemployment rate and creating jobs opportunities.
9. Providing small productive projects for poor families and people with special needs.
10. Equipping the outdoor theater in the camp.
11. Establishment of a training center for performing and visual arts, and the establishment of a scientific laboratory.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

'Ayda camp suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 7 shows the development priorities and needs in the camp, according to the camp committee's point of view. ('Ayda Camp Services Committee, 2009)

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			16km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			4km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		1km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			5km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			1,000m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network			*	15km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network		*		10km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			10 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			2
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			elementary schools
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns			*	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants And Agricultural Supplies			*	

\*12km is a main road and 4km internal road

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