

# Al 'Ubeidiya Town Profile



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## *Acknowledgments*

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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>

## Table of Content

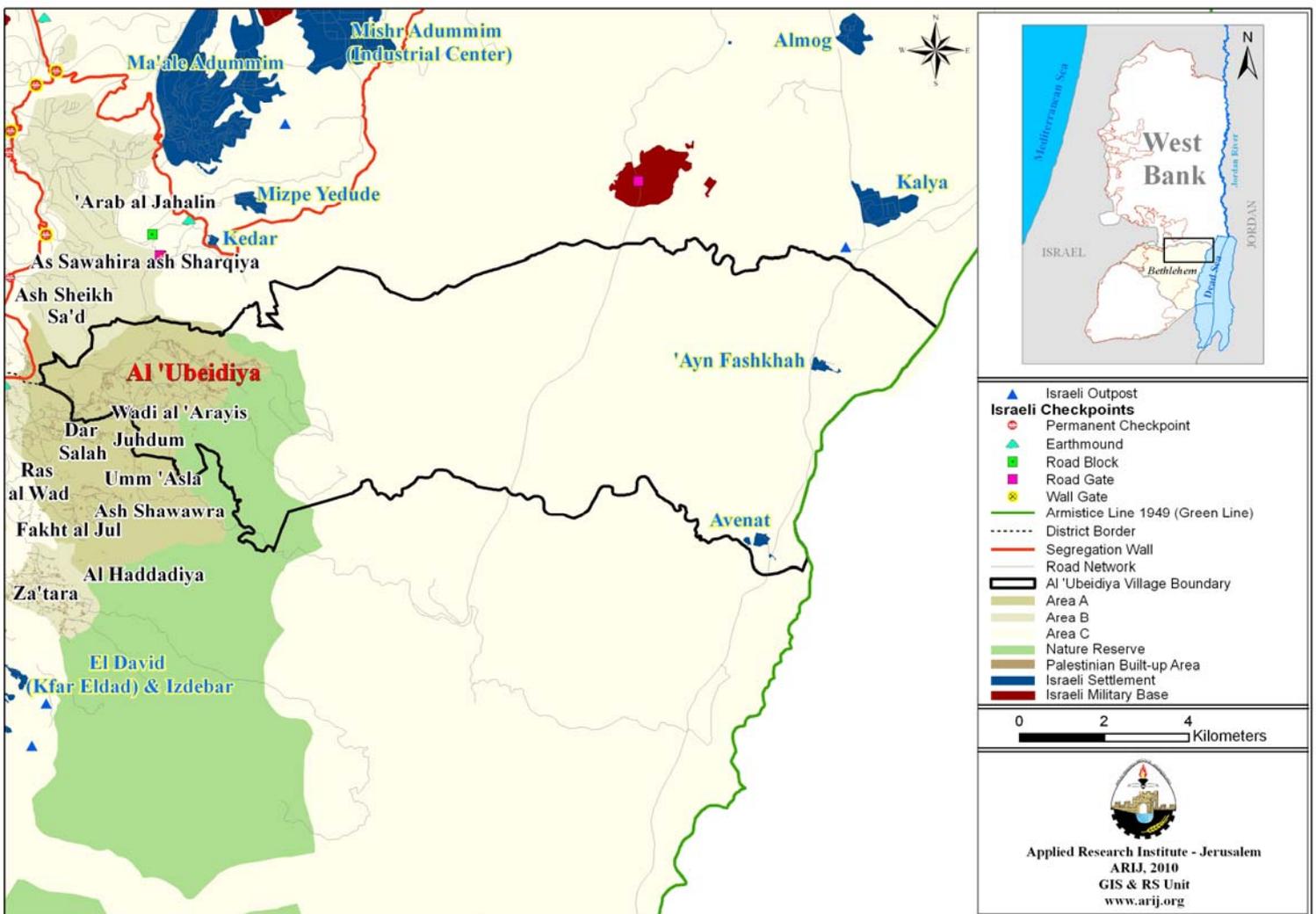
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> _____	4
<i>History</i> _____	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> _____	6
<i>Population</i> _____	7
<i>Education</i> _____	8
<i>Health Sector</i> _____	9
<i>Economic Activities</i> _____	10
<i>Agricultural Sector</i> _____	11
<i>Institutions and Services</i> _____	14
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> _____	14
<i>Environmental Conditions</i> _____	17
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i> _____	18
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i> _____	19
<i>Implemented Projects</i> _____	19
<i>Proposed Projects</i> _____	20
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> _____	21
<i>References:</i> _____	22

# Al ‘Ubeidiya Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Al ‘Ubeidiya is a Palestinian town in Bethlehem Governorate located 8.4km (horizontal distance) east Bethlehem City. Al ‘Ubeidiya is bordered by the Dead Sea to the east, As Sawahira ash Sharqiya, in Jerusalem Governorate, to the north, Dar Salah village to the west, and Tuqu’ town and Dar Salah village to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Al ‘Ubeidiya location and borders



Al ‘Ubeidiya is located at an altitude of 532m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 246mm. The average annual temperature is 18.5° C, and the average annual humidity is about 58 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1997, Al ‘Ubeidiya has been governed by a municipal council which is currently administrated by eleven members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also 16 employees working in the municipality. The municipality owns a permanent headquarters, a vehicle to collect solid waste, two private cars, and a small hummer.

It is the responsibility of the municipal council to provide a number of services to the residents of Al ‘Ubeidiya, including:

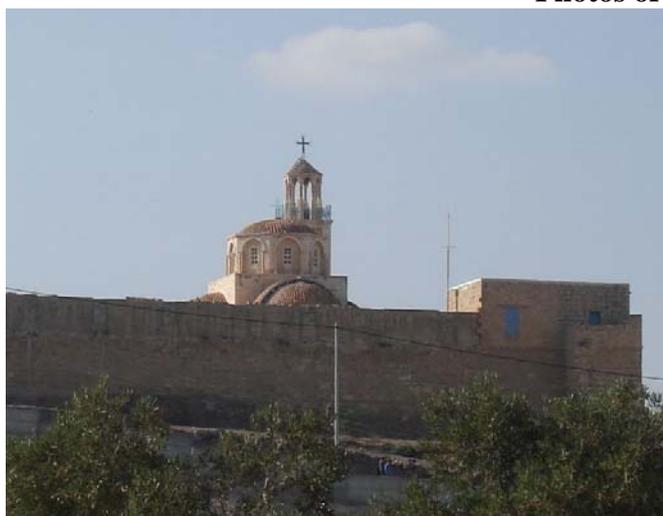
1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Organization of the construction and licensing processes.
4. Implementation of projects and case studies for the town.
5. Protection of the archeological and historical sites.
6. Headquarters for governmental services (post mail).

## **History**

The name Al ‘Ubeidiya came in relation to a man called Al ‘Ubeidi Faris, who came from Shammar tribe, from the Arabian Peninsula.

Al ‘Ubeidiya town dates back to 1600AD and its residents originate from the Arabian Peninsula.

### **Photos of Al ‘Ubeidiya**



**Ibn ‘Ubeid Monastery**



**Mar Saba Monastery**

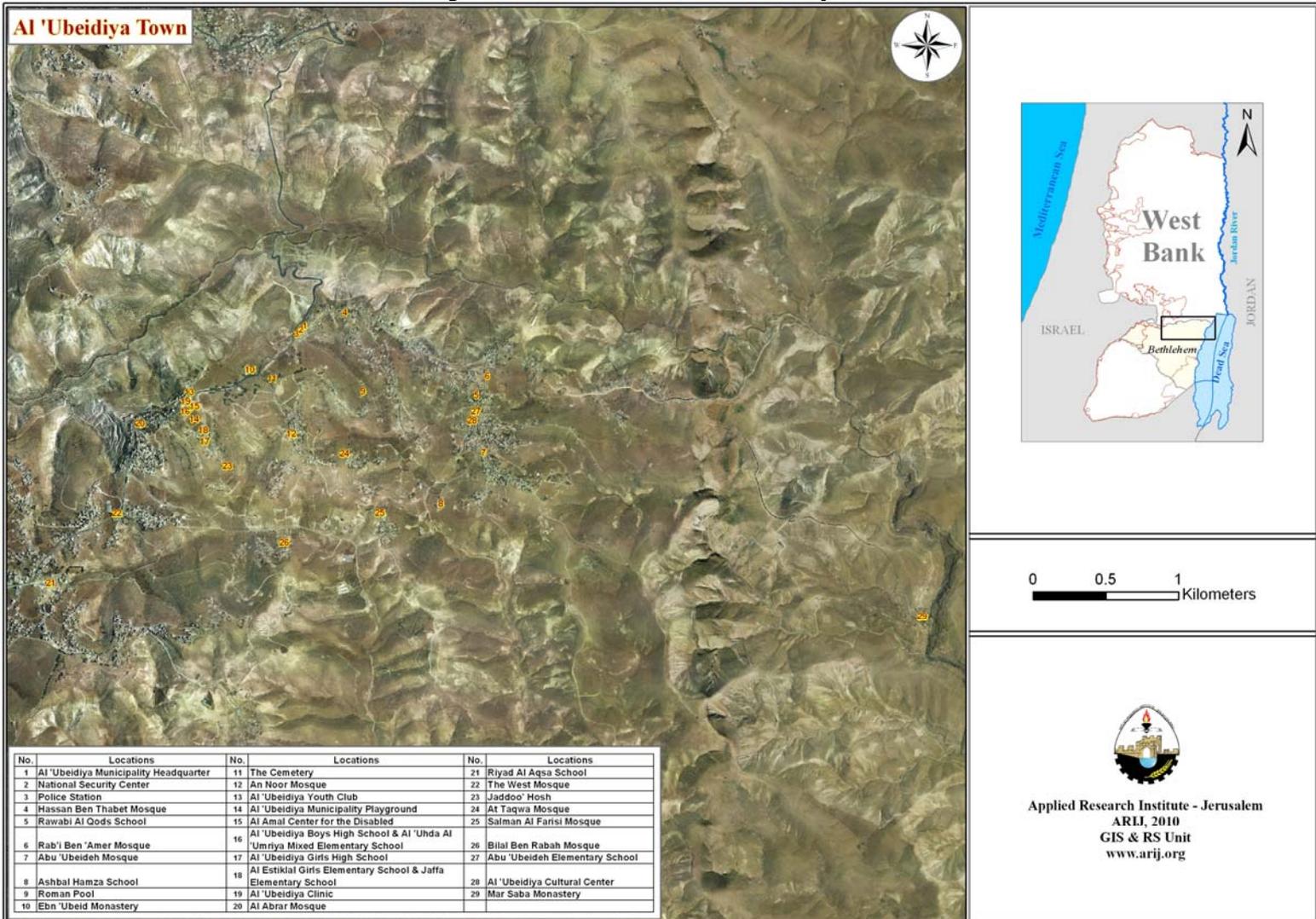
## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are ten mosques in Al ‘Ubeidiya: Al ‘Ubeidiya al Gharbi mosque, Al Abrar mosque, An Noor mosque, Hassan Ben Thabet mosque, Abu ‘Ubeida mosque, Salman Al Farisi mosque, As Saliheen mosque, At Taqwa mosque, Rab’i Ben ‘Amer mosque, and Bilal Ben Rabah mosque, in addition to two monasteries, which are: Ibn ‘Ubeid and Mar Saba (See map 2).

As for the archaeological sites in the town, there are several, mainly:

1. **Mar Saba Monastery:** the word (Mar) is a Syriac word which means “Mr.” The monastery was called so in relation to St. Saba who built it in 484AD. The monastery is located north-east of Bethlehem city, and is built on the western side of Wadi an Nar. The monastery looks like a large immune castle. Moreover, the monastery buildings were constructed in intervals, thus, it contains different architectural styles.
2. **Ibn ‘Ubeid Monastery (Theodosius):** one of the Greek Orthodox monasteries, also known as (DOUCY) monastery, is located on a mountain top on the road to Mar Saba monastery, 6km from the eastern side of Bethlehem. In ancient times, the monastery was a large monastery, surrounded by high towers, built by St. (At Allah) Theodosius, in the late fifth century; he was also buried in this monastery in 520AD. The current monastery was built in the early twentieth century. Also, located near the monastery is an olive press, which only its stony basin with a diameter of more than two meters, remains.
3. **The Roman Pool:** located in the center of town and used in the Roman era to collect water.
4. **Khirbet Qumran:** located on the northern shores of the Dead Sea, 13 kilometers south of Jericho city, where ancient manuscripts in clay pots, dating back to the first two centuries, were found in its caverns by a shepherd in 1947. The manuscripts became internationally well known and famous, because they represent the original texts of the Torah, as it is said. Most likely, the name Qumran goes back to Al Qahtaniya tribe which resided south of Palestine.
5. **Khirbet Mard:** located in the north-east of Mar Saba monastery, and south-east of Jerusalem, there are remnants of a church, that its floor is paved with mosaics. There are also several caves, marble floors, remains of buildings, a reservoir, and a bridge. The remnants which exist in the site indicate that the area was inhabited at the Roman era (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Al 'Ubeidiya town



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) the total population of Al 'Ubeidiya in 2007 was 10,753; of whom 5,456 are males and 5,297 are females. There are 1,703 households living in 1,865 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 Al ‘Ubeidiya is as follows: 45.8 percent are less than 15 years, 51.6 percent are between 15-64 years, and 2.4 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 103:100, meaning that males constitute 50.7 percent of the population, and females constitute 49.3 percent of the population.

## Families

The inhabitants of Al ‘Ubeidiya town are composed of several families, mainly: Al ‘Asa, Ar Radayda, Ar Rabai’a, Al Hasasna, and Abu Sarhan.

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Al ‘Ubeidiya population is about 5.9 percent, of whom 74.2 percent are females. Of the literate population, 15.6 percent can read and write, 28.7 percent had elementary education, 34.9 percent had preparatory education, 14.6 percent had secondary education, and 6.2 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the town of Al ‘Ubeidiya, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	108	538	992	1323	447	70	126	1	8	2	<b>3615</b>
F	311	514	935	1030	525	48	161	-	2	1	<b>3527</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>2353</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7142</b>

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

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Al ‘Ubeidiya in the academic year 2008/2009, there are eight public schools in the town; of which seven are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, and one is privately run. See Table 2.

There is a total number of 3,514 students, 108 teachers, and 148 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 24, while the average number of students per class is approximately 33.

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al ‘Ubeidiya Boys High School	Government	Male
Al ‘Uhda Al ‘Umariya Boys Elementary School		
Ashbal Hamza Boys Elementary School		
Al ‘Ubeiyat Girls High School	Government	Female
Rawabi Al Qods High School		
Abu ‘Ubeida Mixed Elementary School		
Riyad Al Aqsa Islamic Elementary School- Al ‘Ubeidiya	Private	Female
Al Estiqlal Elementary School	Government	Mixed

**Source:** Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009

Furthermore, there are two kindergartens in Al ‘Ubeidiya; one is run by a charitable society and the other is privately run. The total number in both kindergartens is 335 children. See table 3:

Kindergarten Name	Number of Children	Supervising Authority
Al Aqsa Kindergarten	150	Private
Az Zuhoor Kindergarten	185	Charitable Society

**Source:** Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010

The educational sector in Al ‘Ubeidiya town faces some problems and obstacles, including:

1. The lack of a sufficient number of classrooms in some schools.
2. The lack of a healthy educational environment in the classrooms of some schools.
3. The long distance between the town and some schools and the lack of transportation for the students.
4. Students leave the schools sometimes.
5. The lack of educational equipments in some schools, such as laboratories and computers.

## Health Sector

There are some health facilities available in Al ‘Ubeidiya; a new health center that has not open yet, one Government physician’s clinic, one private physician’s clinic, 4 private dental clinics, a public Motherhood and Childhood center, and a women’s maternity clinic, in addition to a pharmacy.

Despite the existence of a health center in the town, the health sector in Al ‘Ubeidiya faces several obstacles, mainly:

1. The failure to equip the new health center with needed equipment.
2. The lack of a health center that is available 24 hours a day.
3. The absence of an ambulance and specialized health clinics.

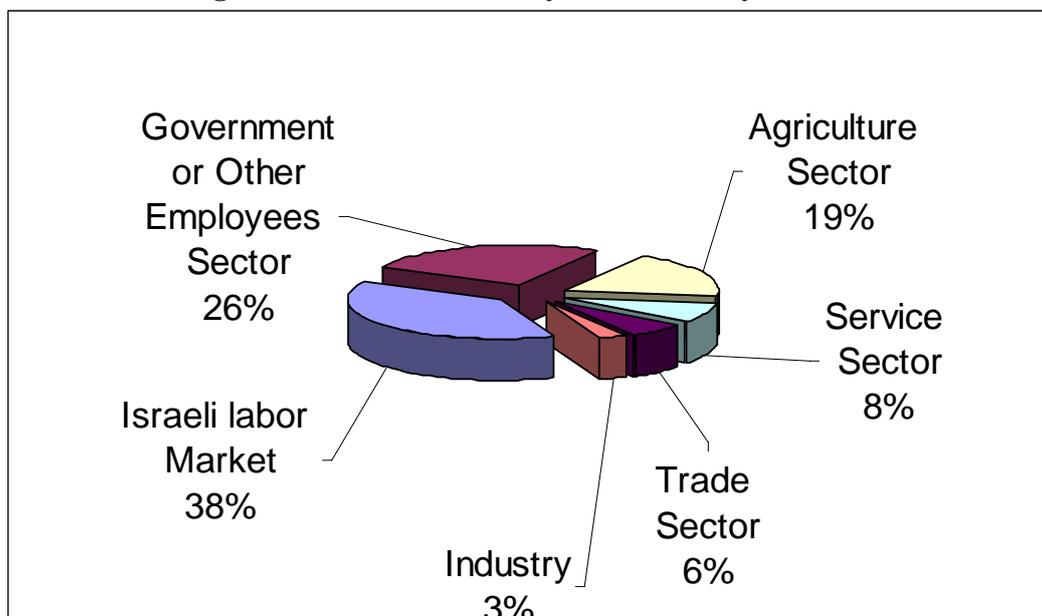
## Economic Activities

The economy in Al ‘Ubeidiya is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 38 percent of the town workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Al ‘Ubeidiya are the following:

- Israeli Labor Market (38%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (26%)
- Agriculture Sector (19%)
- Service Sector (8%)
- Trade Sector (6%)
- Industry (3%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Al ‘Ubeidiya Town**



There are several stores for selling construction materials in Al 'Ubeidiya town, in addition to 36 different workshops (blacksmiths, carpentry, and aluminum), two groceries, one bakery, 7 butcheries, 5 different service stores, and 41 grocery stores.

The unemployment rate in Al 'Ubeidiya has reached about 22 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the agriculture sector.
3. Workers in the service sectors.

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.9 percent of the Al 'Ubeidiya population was economically active, of whom 72.6 percent were employed, 68.9 percent were not economically active, 56.8 percent were students, and 33 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	1,439	280	279	<b>1,998</b>	1,306	2	209	16	77	<b>1,610</b>	<b>3,615</b>
F	162	12	33	<b>207</b>	1,491	1,620	180	1	19	<b>3,311</b>	<b>3,527</b>
T	1,601	292	312	<b>2,205</b>	2,797	1,622	389	17	96	<b>4,921</b>	<b>7,142</b>

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

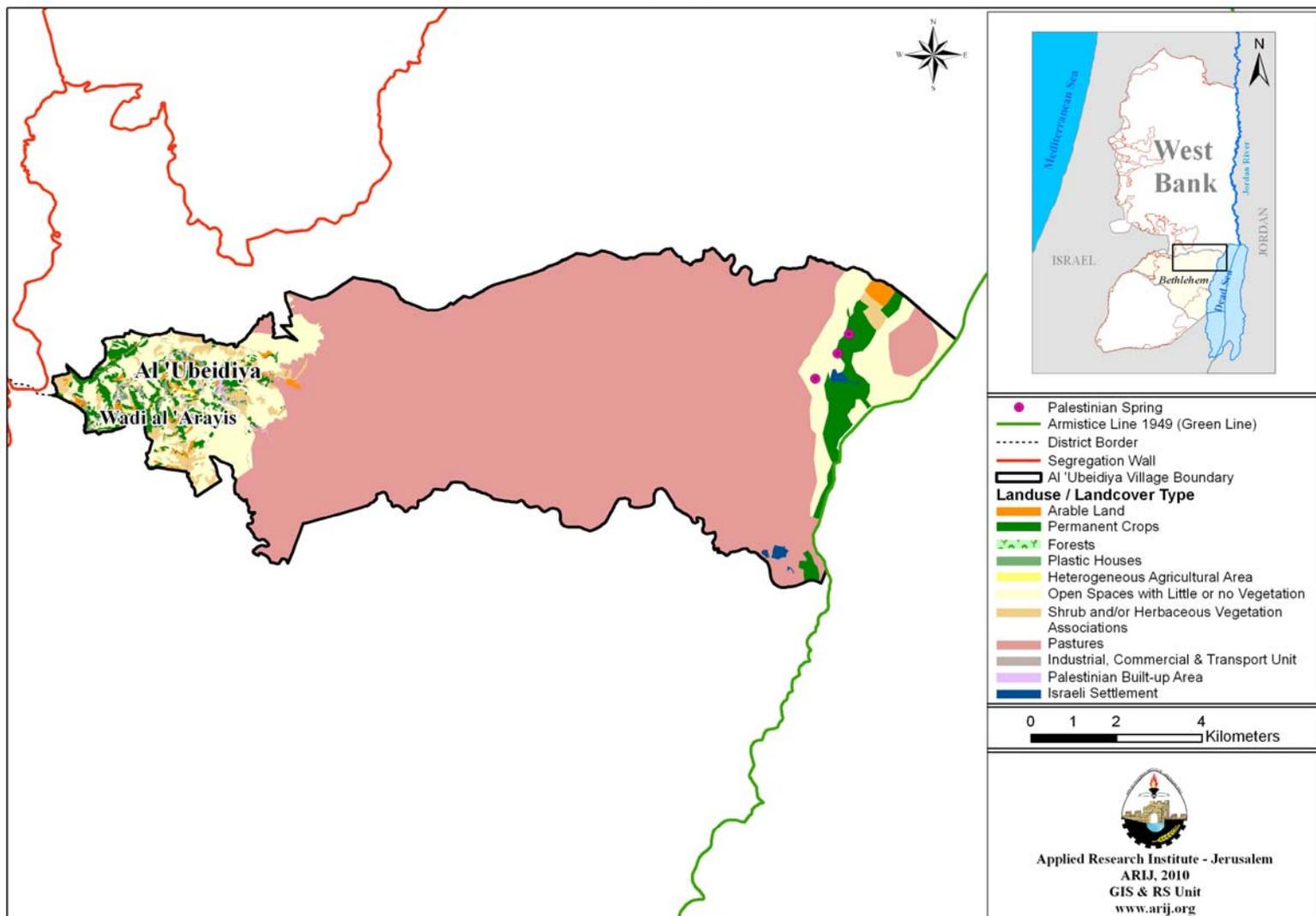
### Agricultural Sector

Al 'Ubeidiya lies on a total area of about 97,232 dunums of which 96,032 dunums are considered arable land, and 563 dunums are residential land (See table 5 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land [96,032]					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
97,232	563	953	4,919	5	27	90,128	416	221

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Al 'Ubeidiya Town



Agricultural production in Al 'Ubeidiya depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on the public water network and domestic harvesting cisterns.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al 'Ubeidiya. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
8	10	0	5.5	0	1	0	1	0	6	8	23.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are also 5 dunums of land on which there are greenhouses planted, mainly, with cucumber and tomato.

One of the aromatic medical plants that is cultivated in Al 'Ubeidiya is thyme, with a total area of one dunum, fed by the public water network.

Table 7 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.
3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3,002	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

As for the field crops and forage in Al 'Ubeidiya, cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 750 dunums, while forage crops, such as bitter vetch and common vetch are the next most cultivated crops (See table 8).

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
750	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	795	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Al 'Ubeidiya are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, cows, goats, broiler and layer chicken, and bees (See Table 9).

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
1	3,453	2,546	0	8	25	12	157,300	5,000	12

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

There are about 12 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery.

## Institutions and Services

Al ‘Ubeidiya 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 (Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010):

- **Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government to take care of all types of issues of the town and to provide all services to its population.
- **Al ‘Ubeidiya Youth Club:** Founded in 1981 in order to develop sports activities in the town, and to give more attention to the younger generation.
- **Al ‘Ubeidiya Agricultural Society:** Founded in 1984 in order to support the farmers and serve in developing agriculture in the town.
- **Al ‘Ubeidiya Charitable Society:** Founded in 2005 in order to help the families in need.
- **Rehabilitation of the Disabled Society:** Founded in 2005 to rehabilitate the people with special needs.
- **Al ‘Ubeidiya Cultural Center:** Founded in 2004, and it is interested in all cultural, social, and artistic activities.

In addition to the existence of a number of government services in the town, including:

1. Post office division
2. Police office
3. Security office
4. Customs control office

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Al ‘Ubeidiya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 99.6 percent of the housing units in the town are connected to the network, and 0.2 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (0.2%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Al ‘Ubeidiya is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80 percent of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010).

**Transportation Services:**

Buses and taxis are the two main means of transportation in Al 'Ubeidiya; there are 6 buses and 32 taxis in Al 'Ubeidiya town (Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010). As for the road network in the town; there are a total of 11km of main paved and in good condition roads, and a total of 51km of secondary roads; of which 5km are paved and in good condition, 21km are paved but in bad condition, and 25km are unpaved roads (Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010).

**Water Resources:**

Al 'Ubeidiya is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1989. Approximately 99.5 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, 0.2 percent are dependent on rainwater harvesting cisterns, and 0.2 percent are dependent on other water resources, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Al 'Ubeidiya in 2009 was about 312,000 cubic meters/year, thus, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 80 liters/day (Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010).

Here it should be noted that no Al 'Ubeidiya citizen in fact consumes 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 (Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Al 'Ubeidiya is 56 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, located in Al 'Ubeidiya are 300 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010).

**Sanitation:**

Al 'Ubeidiya lacks a public sewage network; the majority of Al 'Ubeidiya's housing units (96%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal and 3.9 percent of the housing units have no means for wastewater disposal, while it is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 484 cubic meters, or 177 thousands cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 45 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.

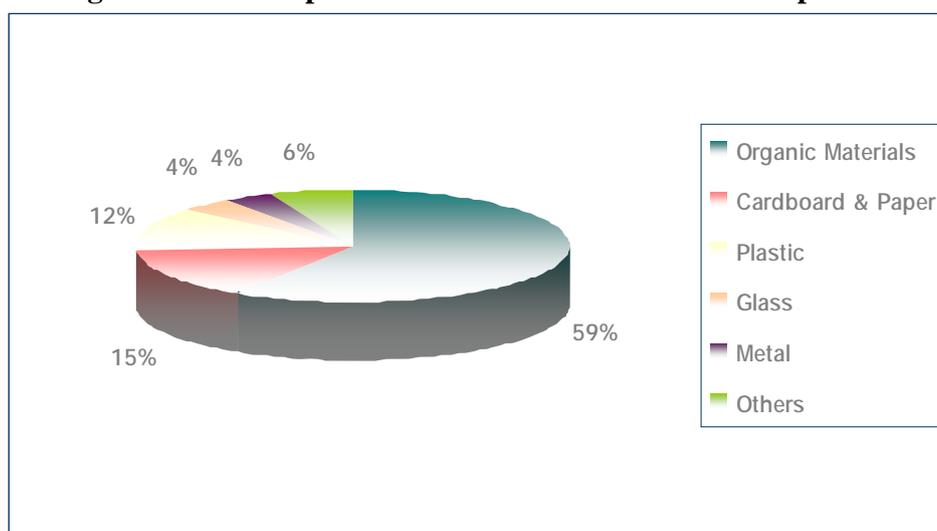
**Solid Waste Management:**

Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Al ‘Ubeidiya, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. 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 156 NIS/year per household and 180 NIS/year per commercial store. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste.

Most of the population in Al ‘Ubeidiya benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 108 containers with a capacity of 1.1 cubic meter each, spread throughout the neighborhoods. The municipality collects the solid waste from the containers six days a week and transports it to Al ‘Ubeidiya dumping site, 4km from the town. The common method for solid waste treatment in Al ‘Ubeidiya dumping site is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. In the future, the solid waste will be disposed in Al Maniya landfill that will be established in Bethlehem governorate. 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 Al ‘Ubeidiya is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Al ‘Ubeidiya residents is nearly 7527kg, or 2747 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 towns and villages in the governorate, Al 'Ubeidiya 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, especially in summer, in several neighborhoods of the town, 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, because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- (3) The absence of a water reservoir in the town.

### **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, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental and health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as wastewater mixes with water, making it contaminated 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 nearby valleys without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the resident's health.

### **Solid Waste Management:**

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Al 'Ubeidiya 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 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 produces 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.

It should be noted that solid waste accumulates outside the containers and in the streets, due to the inefficiency of the solid waste collection service as one vehicle is not enough to collect and transfer all the waste.

There is an absence of a system in the town 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 'Ubeidiya landfill for disposal by burial.

#### Other problems:

- The municipality's limited role, like other municipalities and councils, in providing only certain services, without considering other various aspects for development.
- The absence of street lighting on the main and secondary streets in the town.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, 8,858 dunums of Al 'Ubeidiya lands (9.1 percent of the total area of the town) were classified as area A, 418 dunums (0.4%) were classified as area B, while the remaining area of Al 'Ubeidiya lands, 79,711 dunums (82%) were classified as area C, and 8,245 dunums (8.5%) were classified as nature reserves (Table 10).

Land Classification	Area (dunum)	% of the Total Area
Area A	8858	9.1
Area B	418	0.4
Area C	79711	82
Nature Reserves	8245	8.5
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>97232</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: GIS unit - ARIJ 2009

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, the Israeli authorities illegally confiscated large areas of the Palestinian lands in various parts of the occupied territory for the illegal construction of Israeli settlements, bypass roads and military bases. Al 'Ubeidiya town, like many other Palestinian towns and villages, was exposed to Israeli illegal procedures of violation and expansion, where Israel has confiscated 221 dunums of the citizens' lands in the town for the construction of the following settlements (Table 11):

Settlement	Year of establishment	Settlers (2008-2009)	Total Area of settlement (dunum)	Total area of settlement on the town territory (dunum)
‘Ayn Fashkhah	1969	“Tourist site”	97	97
Avenat	1983	40	124	124
<b>Total area</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>221</b>

Source: GIS & Urbanization units - ARIJ 2009

Al ‘Ubeidiya town has also lost part of its territory for the construction of the Israeli bypass road no. 90, which extends for 7.9km on the town territory.

Moreover, since the beginning of 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have uprooted about 500 olive trees from the town territory. The town is also subjected to two military checkpoints; one permanent (the container checkpoint) and one mobile, in addition to a number of earth and concrete mounds, surrounding the town hindering the residents freedom of movement (Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010).

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Al ‘Ubeidiya municipality has implemented several development projects in Al ‘Ubeidiya, during the years 2005 to 2009, as shown in Table 12.

Name of the Project	Year	Type	Donor
Pavement of internal roads	2005	Infrastructure	Islamic Development Bank
Pavement of Al Ghuzlan street	2009	Infrastructure	Islamic Development Bank
Pavement of Al ‘Ubeidiya street – Mar Saba	2009	Infrastructure	Ministry of Finance
Construction of Al ‘Estiklal girls school	2009	Educational/Construction	USAID
Maintenance of part of the water network	2009	Infrastructure	Japanese Government
Construction of retaining walls for Al Ashbal school	2009	Construction	German Development Bank - KFW
Construction of Masqat health center	2009	Health	Oman
Restoration of Hosh Jaddoo’	2009	Restoration	Swedish Development Agency

Source: Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010

## Proposed Projects

Al 'Ubeidiya municipality, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Stopping the flow of wastewater in Wadi an Nar, or the establishment of a central treatment plant at the site.
2. Construction of agricultural and domestic rainwater harvesting cisterns.
3. Supporting the agriculture sector through the reclamation of agricultural land, construction of agricultural roads, holding awareness courses, and the establishment of grazing reserves.
4. Supporting the education sector through the construction of new schools, the establishment of a professional center, and equipping schools with labs and computers for students.
5. Establishment of a health clinic or a specialized hospital in the town.
6. Giving more attention to the recreational and cultural activities in the town and the establishment of public parks and youth centers.
7. Establishment of hotels and recreation sites for the tourists.
8. Providing job opportunities.
9. Lighting the main and secondary streets.
10. Conducting awareness courses for women and children.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al 'Ubeidiya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the town municipality's point of view (Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality, 2010):

<b>Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Al 'Ubeidiya</b>					
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			49.2km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			40km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			15km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			17km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			1,500m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Networks	*			40km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			10km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			120 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			2 clinics
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			1 clinic
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary & secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			elementary & secondary schools
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			6,000 dunums
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	*			

\*11.2km is a main road, 18km internal road and 20km agricultural road.

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