

Dar Salah 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>.

Table of Content

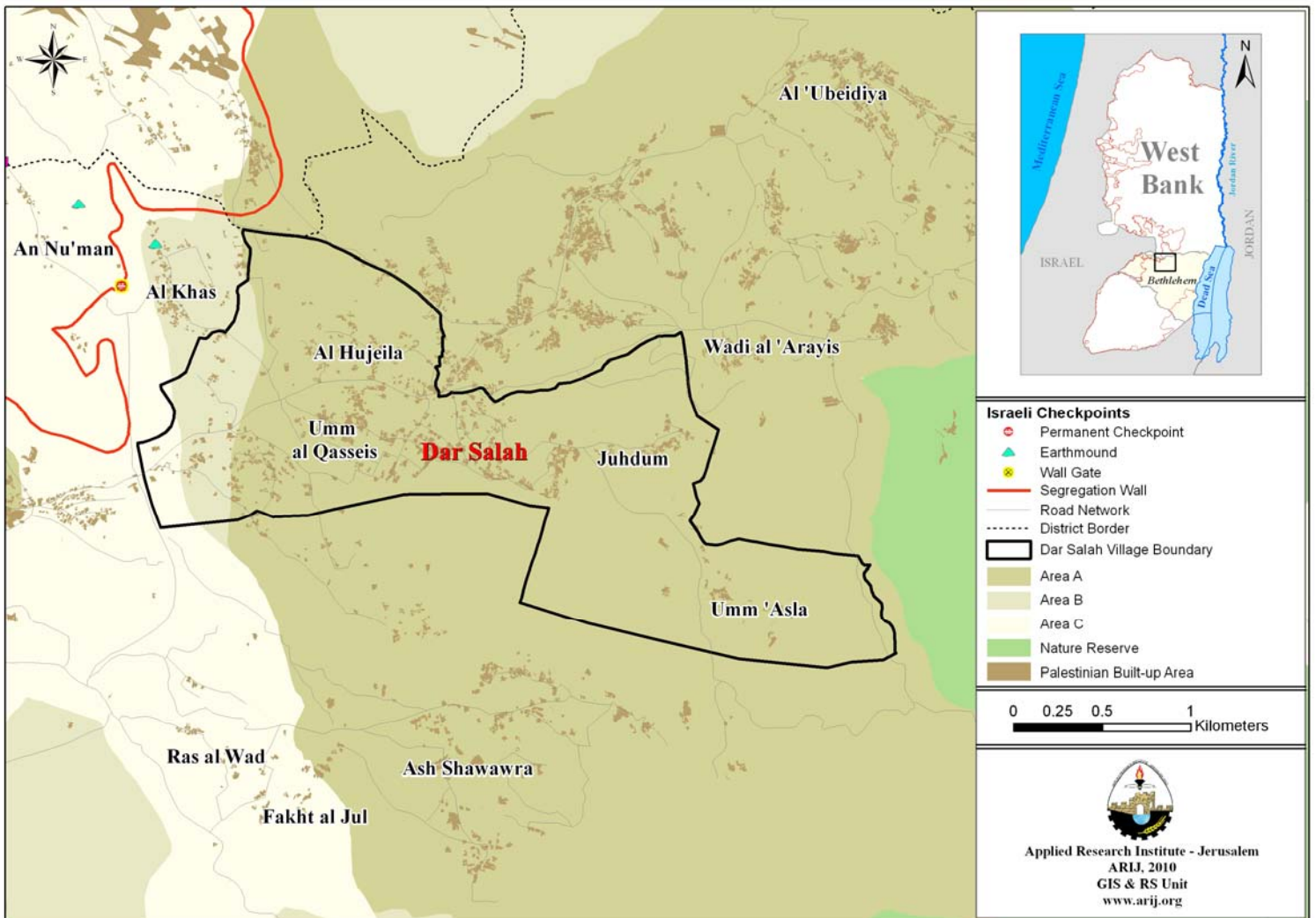
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> _____	4
<i>History</i> _____	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> _____	6
<i>Population</i> _____	7
<i>Education</i> _____	7
<i>Health Status</i> _____	8
<i>Economic Activities</i> _____	9
<i>Agricultural Sector</i> _____	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i> _____	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> _____	13
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i> _____	17
<i>Implemented Projects</i> _____	17
<i>Proposed Projects</i> _____	17
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> _____	19
<i>References</i> _____	20

Dar Salah Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Dar Salah is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 6km (horizontal distance) east of Bethlehem City. Dar Salah is bordered by Al 'Ubeidiya town and the Dead Sea to the east, Sur Baher and Umm Tuba towns, in Jerusalem governorate to the north, Beit Sahour city and Al Khas and An Nu'man village to the west, and Ash Shawawra village to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Dar Salah location and borders



Dar Salah is located at an altitude of 621m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 297mm. The average annual temperature is 18^o C, and the average annual humidity is about 59 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1996, Dar Salah has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by nine members appointed through the elections that were held in 2005. There are also three employees working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters, a private car, a vehicle to collect solid waste, shared between Ash Shawawra, Al Khas, and An Nu'man villages, and a transportation bus for students.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Dar Salah, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Protection of religious and archaeological sites.
4. Implementation of projects and case studies for the Village.
5. Supporting civil organizations.

History

Dar Salah village was named after the first ancestor of the family, Salah. The village dates back to the 19th century, and its residents originate from At Ta'amra tribes, south of Bethlehem.

Dar Salah village includes four other localities; Al Hajeila, Juhdom, Umm Al Qassis, and Umm 'Asla locality.

Photo of Dar Salah

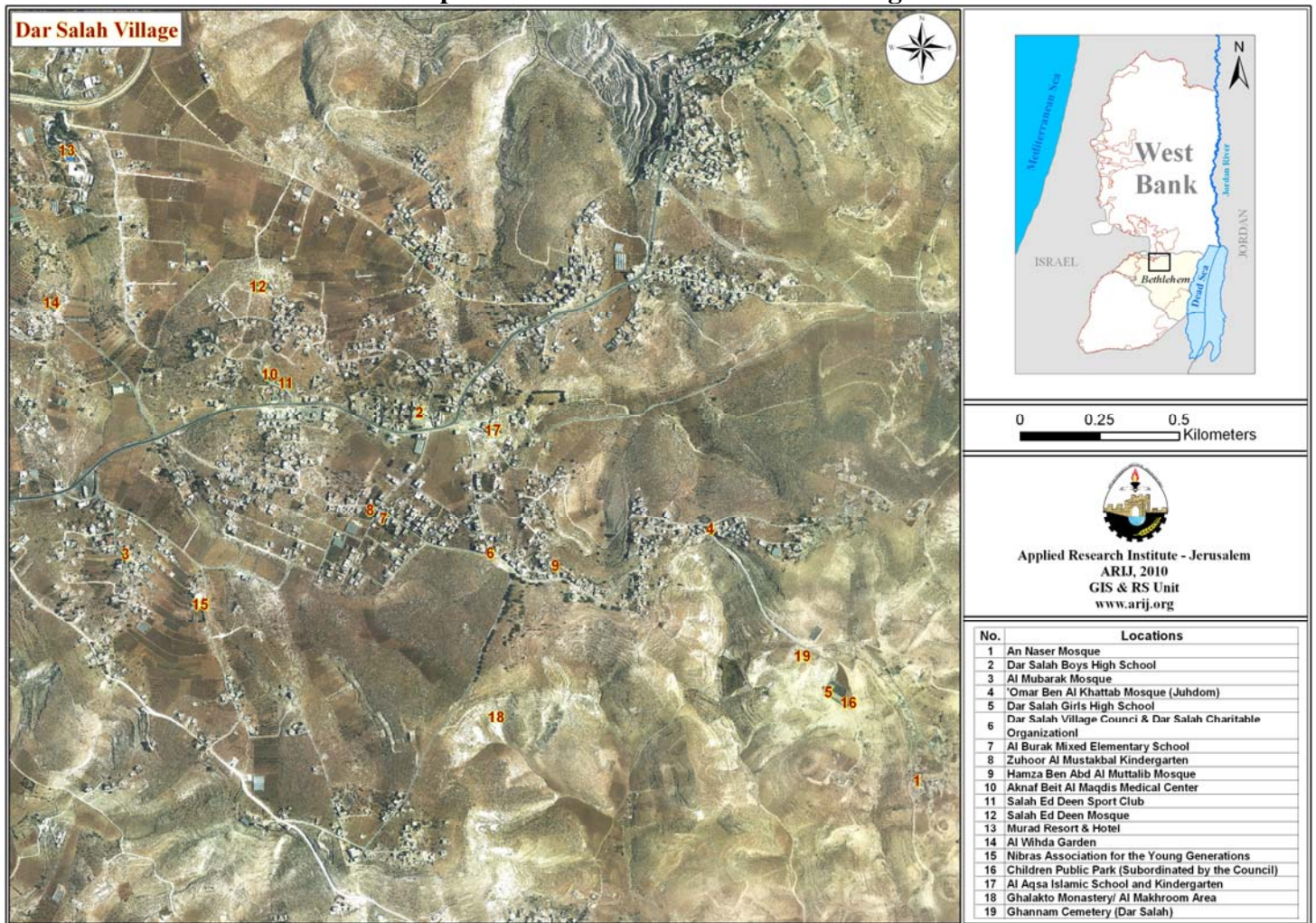


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are six mosques in Dar Salah: Ammar Ben Yasir Mosque, Al Mubarak Mosque, Hamza ben Abd Al Muttalib Mosque, Omar Ben Al Khattab Mosque, An Naser Mosque, and Salah Ad Deen Mosque.

As for the archaeological sites in the village there are Al Mahroom Ghalaktu Monastery and Khirbet Juhdom (See map 2.)

Map 2: Main locations in Dar Salah village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Dar Salah in 2007 was 3,373; of whom 1,715 are males and 1,658 are females. There are 625 households living in 685 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 Dar Salah is as follows: 40.2 percent are less than 15 years, 55.7 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 3.4 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 103.4:100, meaning that males constitute 50.8 percent of the population, and females constitute 49.2 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Dar Salah village are composed of several families, mainly: E'meya, Mubarak, Al Fahhar, Hamad, Abu Salman, Saleem, Ad Deek, Sbeih, Abu Haniya, and Al Ghawarna.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Dar Salah population is about 7.9 percent, of whom 71 percent are females. Of the literate population, 15.4 percent can read and write, 23.5 percent had elementary education, 30.15 percent had preparatory education, 21 percent had secondary education, and 9.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Dar Salah, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	53	175	271	348	224	40	52	2	2	1	1169
F	130	151	227	291	221	38	74	1	-	-	1133
T	183	326	498	639	445	78	126	3	2	1	2302

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

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Dar Salah in the academic year 2008/2009, there are three public schools in the village, one for girls,

one for boys, and one mixed school, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Dar Salah. See Table 2.

In the village there is a total number of 916 students; 41 teachers, and 30 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 23, while the average number of students per class is approximately 31.

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Dar Salah Boys High School	Governmental	Male
Dar Salah Girls High School	Governmental	Female
Al Buraq Mixed Elementary School	Governmental	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009

Furthermore there is one kindergarten in Dar Salah; Zuhoor Al Mustakbal Kindergarten, run by Dar Salah charitable organization, and has a total number of 160 children (Dar Salah Village Council, 2010).

Health Status

There are some health facilities available in Dar Salah village; a private charitable health center called Aknaf Beit Al Maqdis Medical Center, which has a physician's clinic, a Pediatrician's clinic, a Medical Laboratory, and a Dental Clinic. There is also one pharmacy in the village, but no ambulance.

In emergency cases, residents of Dar Salah use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Beit Jala Governmental Hospital (Al Hussein), which is about 11km from the village, and the Rehabilitation Arab Society in Beit Jala, which is about 7km from the village.

Despite the existence of a health center in Dar Salah, the health sector faces several obstacles, mainly:

1. The long distance between the village and Beit Jala Governmental Hospital, especially in cases of Childbirth.
2. The absence of an emergency clinic.
3. The absence of a governmental health center.

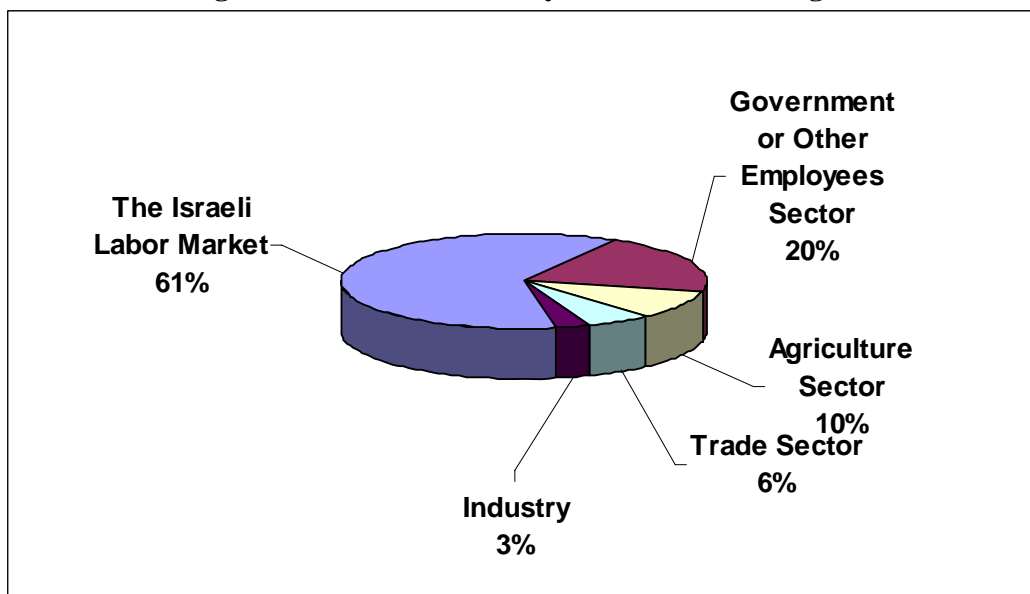
Economic Activities

The economy in Dar Salah is dependent mainly on the Israeli Labor Market, which absorbs 61 percent of the village workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Dar Salah are the following:

- Israeli Labor Market (61%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (20%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Trade Sector (6%)
- Industry (3%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Dar Salah Village



There are some economic and industrial activities in Dar Salah, mainly; the trade of construction materials and granite cutting, in addition to 7 different workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, aluminum, and oriental antiques) two butcheries, one bakery, three groceries, 4 different service stores, and 40 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 Dar Salah has reached about 50 percent, and the economical groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions are:

1. Former workers in the Israeli labor force.
2. Workers in agricultural activities.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 34.2 percent of Dar Salah population was economically active, of whom 85.5 percent were employed, 65.2 percent were not economically active, 51.2 percent were students, and 38.2 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	586	64	37	687	374	1	82	3	10	470	1,169
F	88	1	12	101	395	572	62	-	2	1,031	1,133
T	674	65	49	788	769	573	144	3	12	1,501	2,302

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

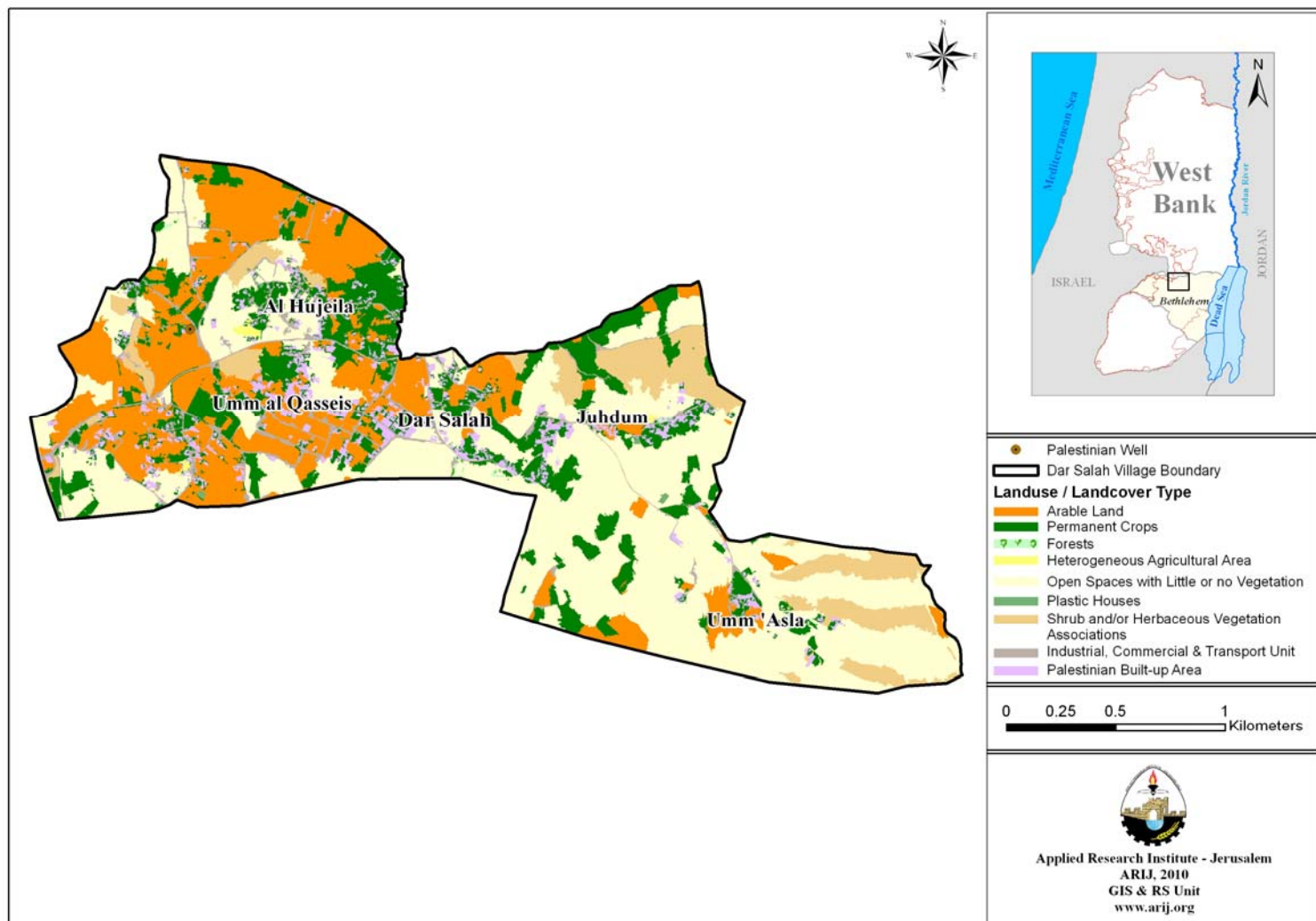
Agricultural Sector

Dar Salah lies on a total area of about 4,398 dunums of which 3,989 dunums are considered arable land, and 220 dunums are residential land (See table 4 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (3,989)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
4,398	220	1,022	693	6	5	2,263	189	0

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Dar Salah Village



Agriculture production in Dar Salah depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on the public water network and domestic harvesting cisterns.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Dar Salah. 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.
26	9.5	0	12	0.5	3	0	0	0	4	26.5	28.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are also 6 dunums of land on which there are greenhouses planted with cucumber.

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.
250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	265	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Dar Salah, cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 358 dunums, while forage crops, such as bitter vetch and common vetch 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
358	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	395	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Dar Salah are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler chicken, and bees. (See Table 8)

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	1,699	1,732	0	8	30	20	2,000	0	40

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

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

Institutions and Services

Dar Salah has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including: (Dar Salah Village Council, 2010)

- **Dar Salah Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the village and providing all kinds of services to its population.
- **Dar Salah Charitable Society**
- **Nibras Youth Association**
- **Salam Association**
- **Salah Ad Deen Sport Club**
- **Aknaf Beit Al Maqdis Charitable Medical Center**
- **Dar Al Masjidain Society for Al Qur'an and Al Hadeeth Sciences**
- **Al 'Elm Lel Gamee' Library (Science for All),** which is supervised by the village council.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Dar Salah 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 98.5 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, one percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, and 0.2 percent have no source of electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (0.3%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Dar Salah is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 23.1 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Transportation Services:

Private cars and taxis are the two main means of transportation in Dar Salah. As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 7km main road; of which 5km are paved and in good condition, and 2km are paved but in bad condition, and a total of 11km secondary roads; of which 4km are paved and in good condition, 1km is paved but in bad condition, and 6km are unpaved (Dar Salah village council, 2010).

Water Resources:

Dar Salah is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1995, and about 99.2 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, 0.7 percent are dependent on rainwater harvesting

cisterns, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.2%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Dar Salah in 2009 was about 120,000 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 97.5 liters/day (Dar Salah village council, 2010).

Here it should be noted that many Dar Salah citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 39 percent, and which usually 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 Dar Salah is 59.5 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 Dar Salah are 300 rainwater harvesting cisterns and a water reservoir with a capacity of 1500 cubic meters (Dar Salah Village Council, 2010).

Sanitation:

Dar Salah lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as means for wastewater disposal. According to the results of Community Survey conducted by the PCBS in 2007 and the data provided from PWA, the majority of Dar Salah housing units (99.3%) use the cesspits as a major means for wastewater disposal, and 0.2 percent of the housing units do not have any wastewater collection service, while the means of wastewater disposal is unknown for the remaining units (0.5%).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 162 cubic meters, or 59,130 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 48 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys (Wadi an Nar), 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 which poses a threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

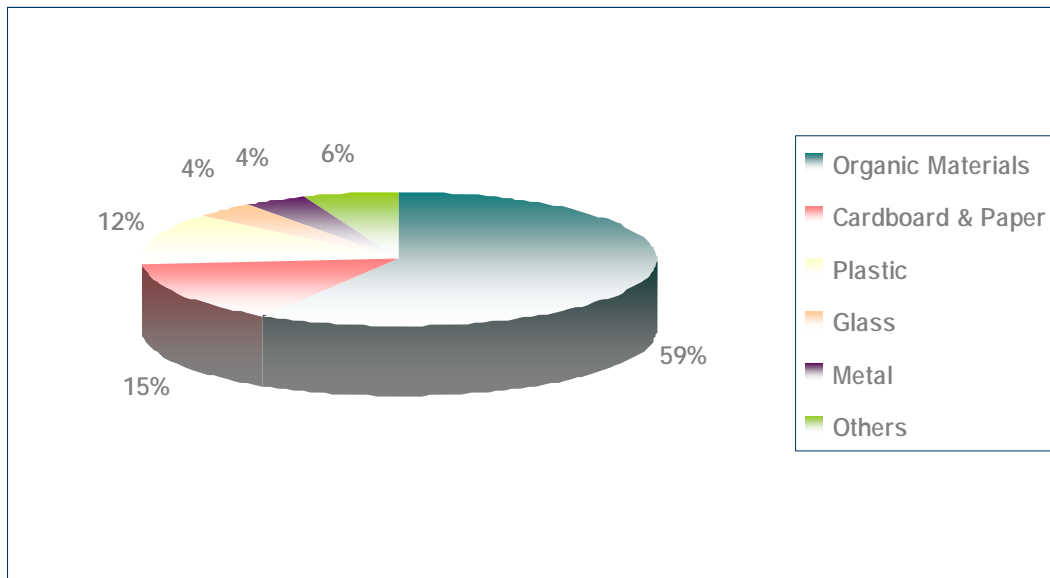
The Joint Services Council for the Eastern Countryside is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Dar Salah, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due 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 15 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste.

Most of the population in Dar Salah benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 30 containers, spread throughout the neighborhoods. The service

provider collects the solid waste from the containers one day a week and transports it to Dar Salah dumping site. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. In the coming future, the solid waste will be disposed of 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 Dar Salah is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Dar Salah residents is nearly 2360kg, or 860 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 villages in the governorate, Dar Salah 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; which makes the residents dependent, largely, on water purchase.
- (2) High rate of water losses, 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.

Taking a stand, the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) targeted Dar Salah to build small scale wastewater treatment units at the household level in order to replace the cesspits, due to the suffering of the residents of the village from the pollution caused by the absence of a good environmental management of wastewater. In 2009, 14 wastewater treatment units were established to serve 14 households in the village, within the activities of "Establishment of small scale wastewater treatment plants in the rural areas of Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates" project, funded by the Mennonite Central Committee, which targets 18 villages including Dar Salah. This project will contribute to the reduction of pollution resulting from the use of cesspits by providing a source of water that can be used in irrigation and it will also be better for resident's health and environmental conditions.

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Dar Salah 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, and 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.

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 Dar Salah landfill for disposal by burning.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Dar Salah village council has implemented several development projects in Dar Salah, during the years 2004 to 2009, as shown in Table 10.

Name of the Project	Type	Donor
Pavement of Dar Salah - Ash Shawawra Street	Infrastructure	Ministry of Works
Construction of the Martyr Yaser 'Arafat school	Educational	Arab Fund
Construction of a water reservoir with a transmission line	Infrastructure	The Red Cross International Committee
Pavement of internal roads	Infrastructure	United Nations Development Program
Construction of Al 'Elm Lel Gamee' library	Educational	South France Governorate
Construction of Dar Al Masjidain Society	Infrastructure	Arab Fund
Establishment of Al Wihda kindergarten	Recreational	United States Agency for International Development
Establishment of a water network in the village	Infrastructure	Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR)
Establishment of a water network in the village	Infrastructure	United States Agency for International Development
Construction of sidewalks and providing lightings in Al Madaris street	Infrastructure	Pontifical Mission
Construction of a second floor in Al Buraq school	Educational	Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR)
Source: Dar Salah Village Council, 2010		

Proposed Projects

Dar Salah 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. Supporting farmers and providing modern agricultural machinery.
2. Construction of agricultural roads and rehabilitation of old roads.
3. Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns and reclamation of lands.
4. Establishment of a sewage network or wastewater treatment plant.
5. Rehabilitation and provision of the water network for agricultural use in the eastern region.
6. Establishment of an institution for agricultural guidance.
7. Providing special projects for women such as livestock rearing.
8. Establishment of greenhouses.
9. Equipping the health center with furniture and equipment.
10. Providing job opportunities for graduates.
11. Supporting the water sector and decreasing the price of water.
12. Supporting the farmers with a good quality of livestock.
13. Establishment of a commercial mall.
14. Establishment of a sport stadium.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Dar Salah suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 10 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's point of view: (Dar Salah Village Council, 2010)

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			15km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			5km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			1km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			20km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network		*		2km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			60 container
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1,500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			60 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			15 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants And Agricultural Supplies	*			

*2km is a main road, 4km internal road and 9km is agricultural road

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