

# 'Abda 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 Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron 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'; a 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 Hebron 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 Hebron 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 Contents*

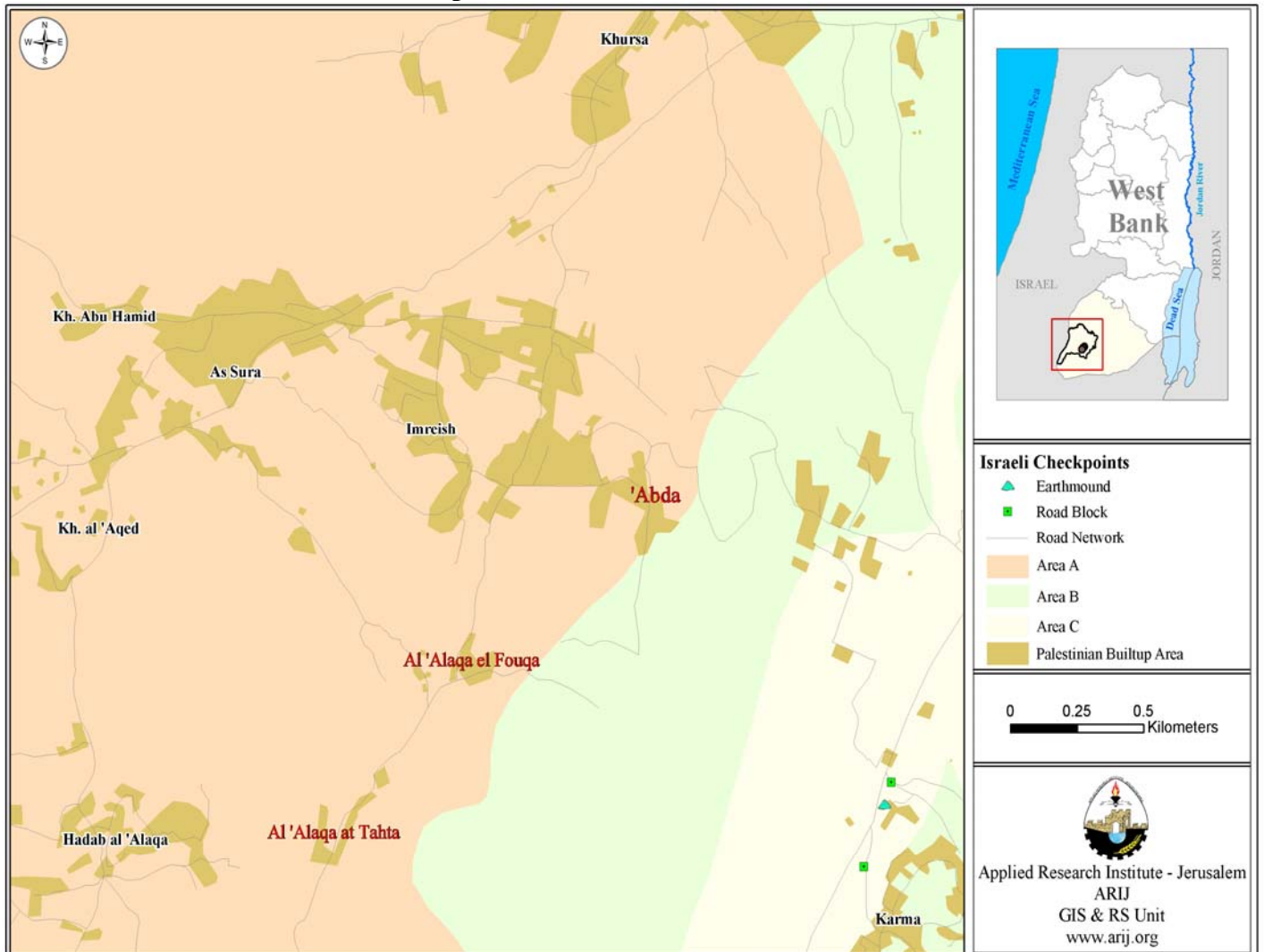
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	5
<i>History</i>	6
<i>Religious and Archeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Demography and Population</i>	7
<i>Education</i>	8
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	9
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	13
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	13
<i>Impact of Israeli Occupation</i>	14
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	14
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	15
<i>References</i>	16

# 'Abda Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

'Abda is a village in the Dura region which is located 10 km southwest of the city of Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank. It shares borders with Karma and Khirbet Bism to the east, Khursa to the north, Hadab al 'Alaqa and Imreish to the west, and Abu al 'Asja and Kurza to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: 'Abda location and borders



The total area of 'Abda village is 3,050 dunums. 430 dunums are classified as Palestinian built up area, 2,350 dunums are agricultural lands, and 118 dunums are open spaces and forests. The other 80 dunums have been confiscated by the Israeli forces.

'Abda extends over a mountainous area southwest of Hebron city, with an elevation of 761m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in 'Abda village reaches 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Since 1996, 'Abda village has been governed by a village council, which comprises of 3 members and one employee. The village council activities and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development;
2. Infrastructure maintenance; water, electricity, solid waste collection,
3. Social services.

According to Ministry of Local Authority classification, 'Abda compromises of 'Abda, Al 'Alaqa at Tahta, and Al 'Alaqa al Fauqa villages.

## History

'Abda village is a very old village. Canaanites, Romans and Muslims once inhabited the area. The name of 'Abda is derived from arabic word (abda) which means 'worker', as it was famous for its inhabitants planting trees. The original residents of 'Abda were from Arab tribes that migrated from the Arab Peninsula and east of Jordan.

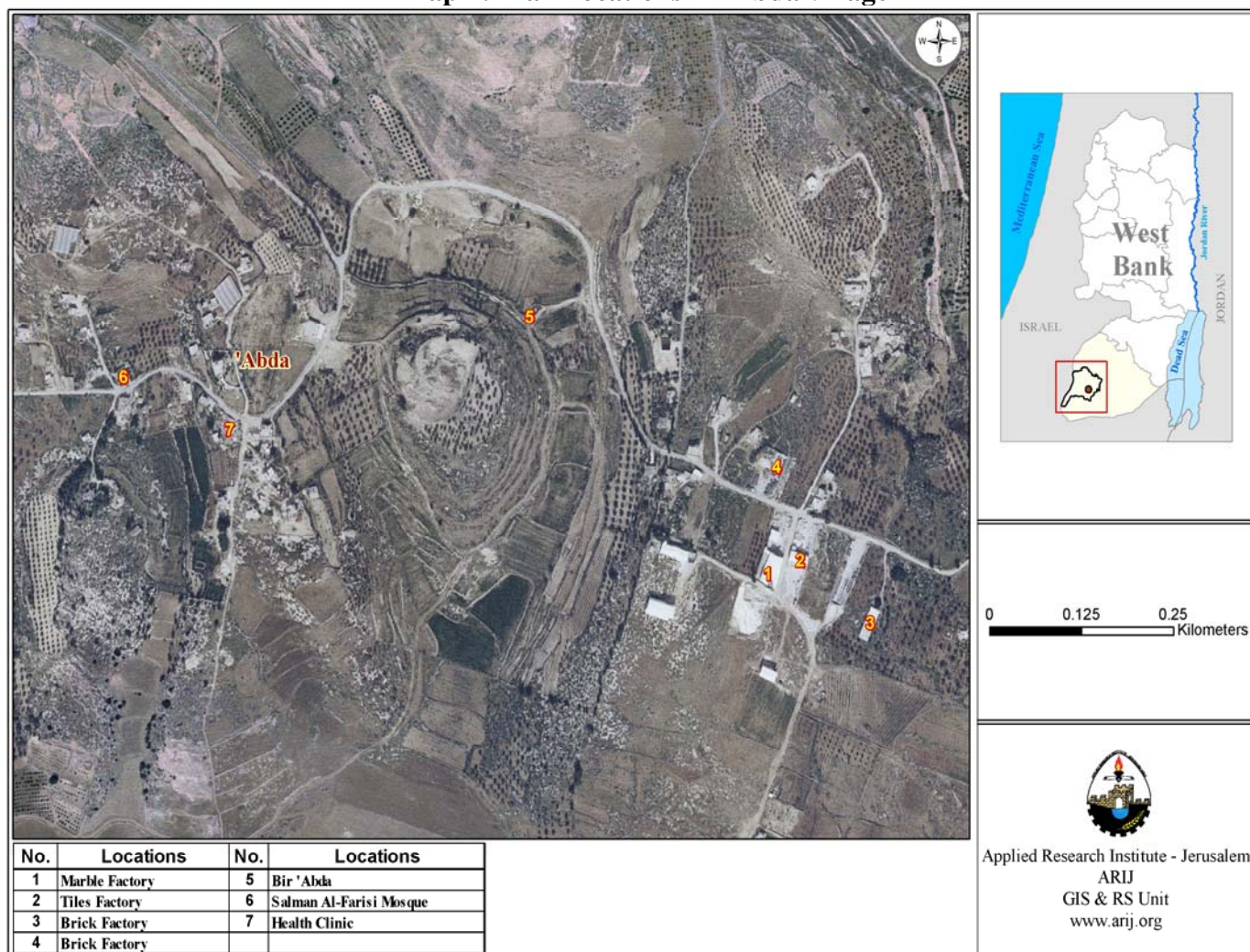
### Photos of 'Abda



## Religious and Archeological Sites

There is one mosque in the village which is called "Salmean Alfaresy Mosque", otherwise the village lacks any archaeological or historical sites.

Map 2: Main locations in 'Abda village



### Demography and Population

The total population of 'Abda, in 2007, is estimated to be 403. this is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of which 182 people were living in 'Abda, 125 people were living in Al 'Alaqa at Tahta and 96 people were living in Al 'Alaqa al Fauqa. 215 residents were males and 188 were females.

Village	Male	Female	Total
'Abda	104	78	182
Al 'Alaqa at Tahta	63	62	125
Al 'Alaqa al Fauqa	48	48	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>403</b>

## Families

The population of 'Abda comprises of eight main families: Dodien , Qazzaz , Daraweesh , Khilaf , Abu Arkoub , Saleam Shahin and Abu I'qifan .

## Migration

According to field survey data, there have been 4 people who have left 'Abda village due to Israeli incursions and disruptions during the second Intifada.

## Education

'Abda village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, 'Abda village was counted as part of Imreish village. Therefore, the labor force data for 'Abda village is not available. Table 2 shows the education status in Imreish, 'Abda, Al Alaqa al Fouqa and Al Alaqa at Tahta.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	21	50	99	205	95	32	54	3	6	-	565
F	71	65	136	158	106	7	52	1	-	-	596
<b>T</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,161</b>

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

*This data includes population figures from the villages of Imreish, 'Abda, Al 'Alaqa al Fauqa, and Al 'Alaqa at Tahta*

The field survey indicated that there is one co-education school in 'Abda village that provides elementary educating. The school is called 'Imreish Elementary Co-education School' which is governed by public sector. there were 14 classes, 17 teachers and 371 Students in the school.

The education sector in 'Abda village faces many problems. These include: a lack of secondary schools, a lack of kindergarten, a lack of libraries for students, and a lack of suitable playing areas.

## Health Status

'Abda village has a simple health service. There is one public physician clinic, and one Maternity & Pediatric Center, both of which are supervised by government sector. The clinic ran by one physician who visits the village twice a week. The village lacks any kind of consistent health service. There are also no ambulances or pharmacies. The village official's cite obstacles that they face are: a lack of specialized clinics, a lack of doctors in the village, and a no hospital nearby.



In emergency cases residents of 'Abda receive their healthcare services from neighboring villages, including Dura, as well as the city of Hebron.

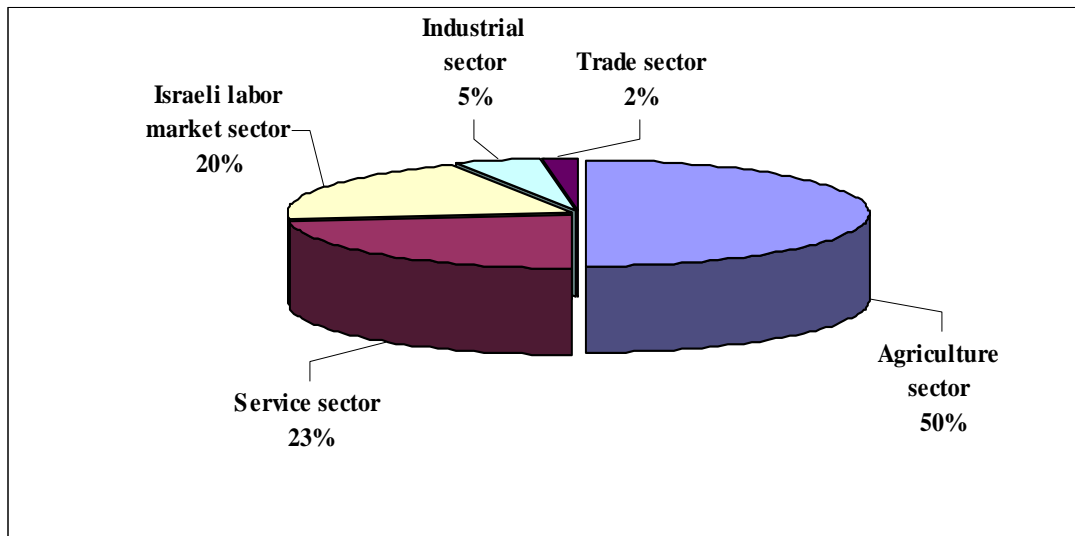
**Economic Activities**

'Abda is an agriculture village. Most of the residents work on plantations or rearing livestock. As mentioned previously, 71.5% of the total area (2350 dunums) is agriculture land, and about 50% of the population (who are of the working age) are engaged in agricultural activities. In addition to agriculture, the residents also depend heavily on the Israeli labor market. 20% of the residents (of working age) work in Israel, and 20% of 'Abda's working population is employment in the public or private sector. With regards to industrial institutions; there are small industries that produce building blocks, flagstones, and cutting stones, and there is one factory that produces cover iron. There are also three groceries in 'Abda village.

Below is the percentage of the population working in the various sectors of the economy, the data was collected by the village council:

- The agriculture sector 50 %,
- The service sector 23 %,
- Israeli labor market 20 %.
- The industrial sector 5%,
- The trade sector 2 %.

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in 'Abda village**



According to a recent field survey, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) previous workers in Israeli labor market, 2) small-scale farmers, 3) families made up of 6 individuals or more, 4) small-scale traders and 5) housewives and children. (ARIJ database, 2006)

## Labor Force

'Abda village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, 'Abda village was counted as part of Imreish village. Therefore, the labor force data for 'Abda village is not available. Table 3 shows the labor force status in Imreish, 'Abda, Al Alaqa al Fouqa and Al Alaqa at Tahta.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never work)	Total	Students	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for Work	Others	Total	
M	245	16	25	286	222	-	42	3	12	279	<b>565</b>
F	34	7	8	49	246	259	38	-	4	547	<b>596</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>1,161</b>

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

*This data includes population figures from the villages of Imreish, 'Abda, Al 'Alaqa al Fauqa, and, Al 'Alaqa at Tahta*

Since September 2000, the Israeli restrictions and incursions against Palestinian people have increased and severely affected the economy of 'Abda residents. In the beginning, Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the residents' movements, so they were unable to access their own lands, to cultivate or harvest their crops, which ultimately meant that local farmers could not sell their products. A lot of areas have also seen crops and trees destroyed and uprooted. As a result, the residents have lost their primary source of income and many have become unemployed as a result of it.

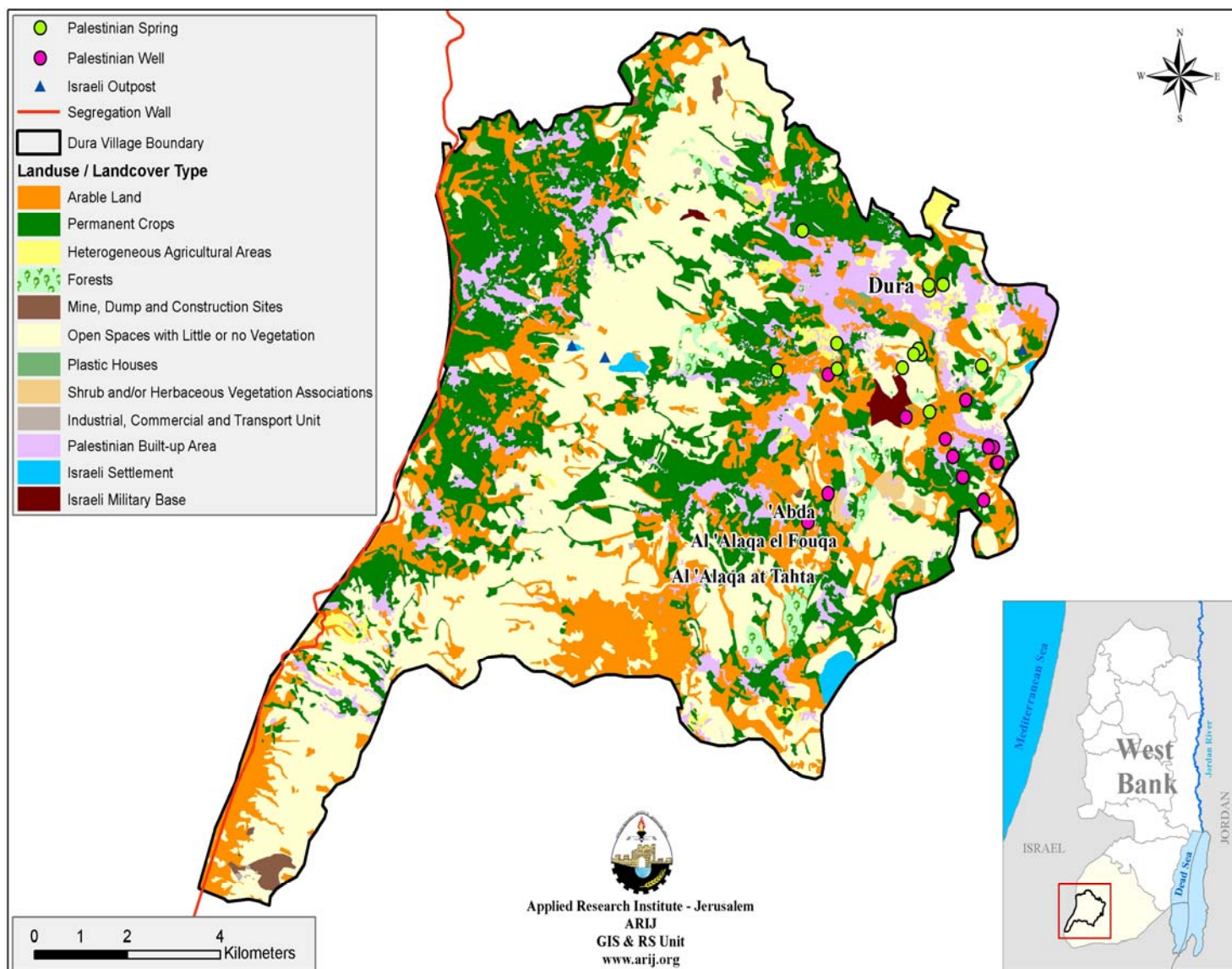
## Agricultural Sector

Abda village lies on a total area of 3,050 dunums. 2,350 dunums are considered arable land; however only 1,868 dunums are actually cultivated.

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
<b>3,050</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>95</b>

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in ‘Abda village



there are about 6.9 dunums of plastic houses, but no tunnels in ‘Abda village. All 6.9 dunums are used for growing cucumbers.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of ‘Abda. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 107 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are zucchinis and squash.

**Table 5: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in ‘Abda 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.
107	4	0	11	5.5	2.3	0	4.5	7	5.5	119.5	27.3

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are 4 types of aromatic medical plants in the village of 'Abda which spreads over a total area of about 11 dunums. These plants are thyme, mint, chamomile and sage.

In the village of 'Abda, there is a total area of 741 dunums of olive tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area include; almond trees, apricot trees, fig trees and grape vines.

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
741	0	0	2	111	0	1	0	338	0	144	0	1335	2

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

Table 7 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of 'Abda. The cereals wheat, white corn and barley are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 233 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, in particular lent, and forage crops such as common vetch and bitter vetch is common in the village of 'Abda.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Seeds		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
233	0	9	0	53	0	0	0	1	0	53	0	7	0	2	0	358	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

The data also indicates that the residents of 'Abda village are also dependent on the rearing and keeping of livestock, such as sheep, goats and chicken, in addition to about 28 bee hives.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	220	100	0	0	18	3	59,300	---	28

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

As mentioned previously 'Abda is an agriculture village and most of its terrain is arable land. Approximately 2,350 dunums is agriculture land and 50% of the residents are engaged in agriculture activities.

Rainfall is the main source of water for irrigation in the village, but the field survey indicates that the farmers also depend on the springs and cisterns.

There are about 12 km of agricultural roads in 'Abda suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines. But this is still an insufficient amount. The village is in need of new roads that can cover the vast agricultural area in the village.

## Institutions and Services

As 'Abda is a small rural village, the residents mainly get their services from the cities of Dura and Hebron, which are the main cities in the Governorate. However, 'Abda does have three institutions. These are:

1. 'Abda Village Council: Established in 1996, it is the foremost institution in the village and provides many services to the village.
2. Womens Club: a social institution for children and women.
3. The Health Awareness Committee

The next table shows the number of institutions in 'Abda by type.

	Type of institution						
	Gov.	Charitable	Women	NGO	Agriculture	Sports	Worship
'Abda	1	1	1	0	0	0	1

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** 'Abda village is connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 70% of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water Services:** 'Abda is not connected to any water network; the village owns cisterns that are an alternative resource to the water network. The village has three springs, two of which are used for agriculture irrigation - specifically vegetables. The other is for human uses. The village has also one water reservoir which has the capacity of 330 cubic meters. The water services in 'Abda suffer from many, wide-ranging problems. These include:
  1. The pollution of water springs.
  2. The shortages of water, and increasing water tanks prices.
  3. Absent of a water network.
  4. Insufficient amount of cisterns.
- **Electricity Services:** 'Abda has been connected to a electricity network since 1994. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the electricity network. 'Abda village council manages the distribution of electricity which is supplied by the Israeli Electric Cooperation. As with many localities, 'Abda suffers from many problems, including:
  1. Old and deteriorated electricity networks.
  2. Newly built areas that are not connected to the electricity network.
  3. Shortage of electricity regulators which distribute and increase the capacity of the electricity network.

- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste management system in 'Abda, every household disposes of its own solid waste by fire.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** 'Abda is not connected to any sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** There are about 19 km internal roads in 'Abda village, 5 km of which are paved and in a good condition, 2 km are paved but in an unsatisfactory condition and 12 km are not paved at all. The main mode of transportation in 'Abda comprises of 6 informal taxis. There are many travel problems that face the villagers on a daily basis. These include: shortage of vehicles and transportation services, and a deterioration of roads.

### Impact of Israeli Occupation

'Abda is affected directly by a bypass road that has opened east of the village to connect Israeli settlements. The bypass road has meant the confiscation of about 30 dunums of the land of the village. 'Abda is also affected by many Israeli 'flying' checkpoints and its entrance is closed in by earth mounds and concrete blocks. This has restricted the movement towards Dura and other nearby localities. Since the beginning of the second intifada Israeli forces have demolished two houses in the village.

### Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, 'Abda village council has implemented many projects for development of the village's infrastructure. These projects, funded by outside donors, include:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
<b>1</b>	Rehabilitation of agriculture land	Agriculture	UAWC/UNDP
<b>2</b>	Construction of cisterns and Gray water treatment units	Agriculture	OXFAM G.B
<b>3</b>	Work Against Food Project	Food Security	CRS

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to the village council, 'Abda suffers from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 11 shows development priorities and needs of the village.

<b>Table 11: Development Priorities and Needs in 'Abda village</b>						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				7 km*
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				8 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	2000 cubic meter
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network				*	
<b>Health Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*			
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools		*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools		*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				500 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				20 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			3
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

\* 2.5 km main roads, 2 km internal, 3 km Agricultural

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