

As Sura 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/>

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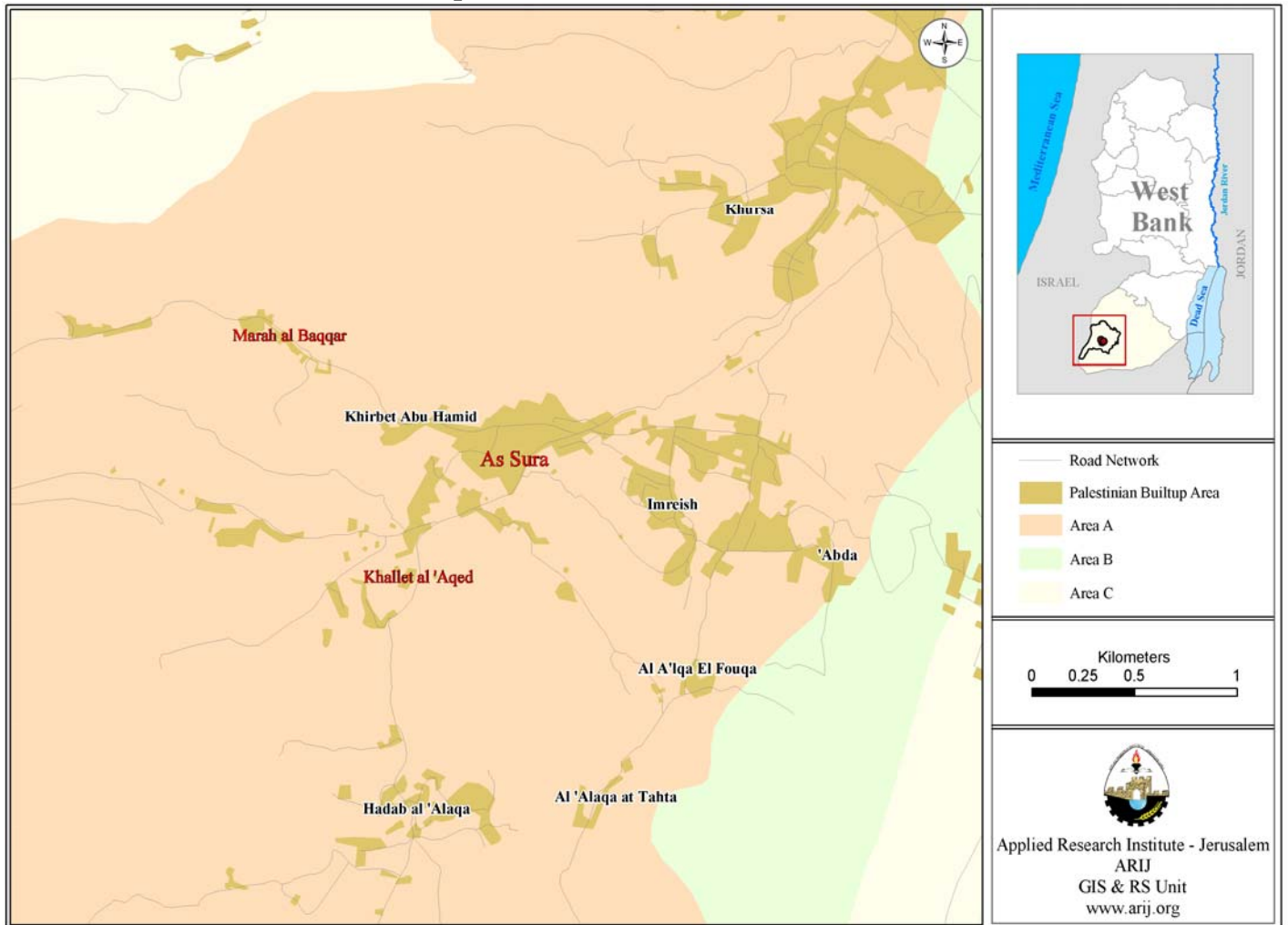
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As Sura Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

As Sura is a village in Dura region which is located 15 km to the southwest of City of Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Imreish to the east, Khursa to the north, Kherbet Abu Hamed to the west and by the villages of Hadab al 'Alaqa and Khamlet al 'Aqed to the south.

Map1: As Sura location and borders



As Sura village is located on a mountain south of the city of Dura, at a height between 745 and 790 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in As Sura village is 435.9 mm; the average annual temperature is 15.7°C, and the average annual humidity is 60.6% (ARIJ database, 2006).

As Sura village is considered a rural area as it complies with the demographic and institutional criteria relevant to rural areas. It is governed by a village council, which comprises of seven members, and was established in 1996. Services that are provided by the council include:

- Infrastructural services such as water, electricity, transportation (including surfaced, open and road maintenance).
- Educational services.
- Social development services.

According to the data collected from the village council, As Sura village includes Marah al Baqqar and Khallet al 'Aqed villages.

History

As Sura village history dates back to the 1930s where it was a home to only a small number of residents. However, the year 1948 saw an influx of new people and families to the village. These were people expelled from Israel due to the 1948 war. The name 'As Sura' comes from the word "Masrora" which means collected together and put into a bag. The reasoning is that the village is situated on the peak of a mountain and access to the village can only be achieved via one entrance.

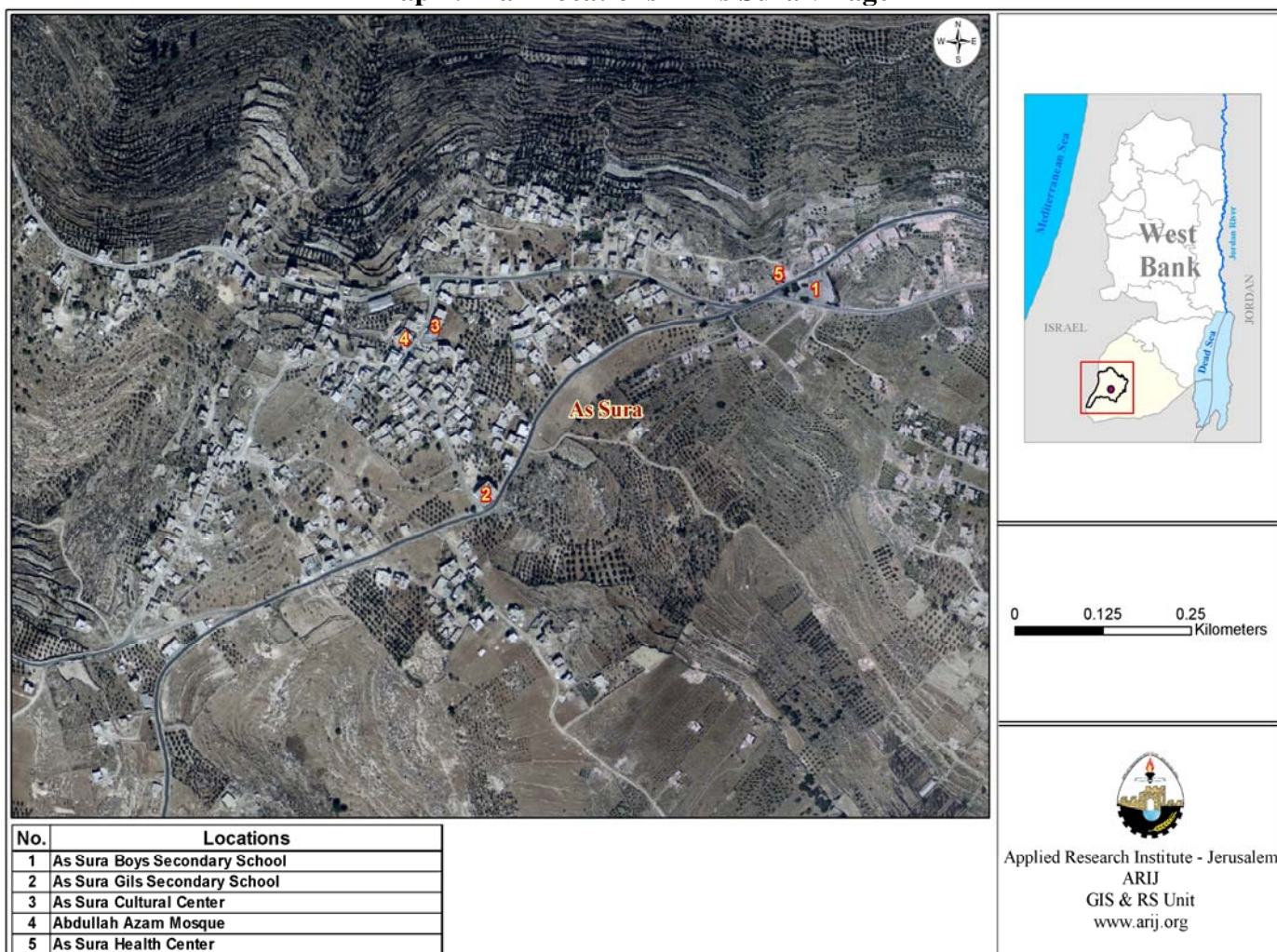
Photo of As Sura village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in As Sura village: Al Farouq Mosque and Abdallah Azam Mosque. There is also one mosque in Marah al Baqqar: Marah al Baqqar Mosque and one mosque in Khallet al 'Aqed village: Khallet al 'Aqed Mosque.

Map 2: Main locations in As Sura village



Population

According to Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of As Sura village was 2,412 people, of whom 1,925 were living in As Sura village, 215 were living in Marah al Baqqar village, and 272 were living in Khallet al 'Aqed village. Of the 2,412 inhabitants, 1,217 were males (and 1,195 females) (see table 1). There were 375 households in the village living in 427 housing units.

| Village | Male | Female | Total |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| As Sura | 975 | 950 | 1,925 |
| Marah al Baqqar | 101 | 114 | 215 |
| Khallet al 'Aqed | 141 | 131 | 272 |
| Total | 1,217 | 1,195 | 2,412 |

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

Age Group and Gender

The Results of the 2007 Population, Housing and Establishment Census, showed the demographic distribution of the population by age group and sex in As Sura to be: 0-14 age group constituting 45.6% of the total population (the largest in As Sura), the 15-64 age group constituting 51.8% of the total population, and the 65 years or above constituting only 2.6% of the total population. The sex ratio in As Sura village is 101.7 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constitute 50.4% of the total population.

Families

The majority of the inhabitants of As Sura and Khallet al 'Aqed villages come from the following families: Al Masri, Abu Hashem, Abu Awad, Abu Khartabel, Al Sha'rawi, Amro, Kutaeneh and Al Darabee'.

In addition, there are three families living in Marah al Baqqar village: Amro, Al Darabe' and Abu Awad.

Education

The 2007 PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census showed that about 119 village residents (aged 10 and above) were illiterate. This represented a total percentage of 7.5%. The percentage of illiteracy among females (70.6%) was double that of males (29.4%). Of the literate population, 12.5% of residents were able to read and write but had received no formal education. 22.6% completed Elementary education, 32.7% completed Preparatory education, 14.2% of the population (aged 10 and above) had completed secondary education respectively and 10.5% had completed further education. See table 2.

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Total |
|----------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| M | 35 | 110 | 165 | 289 | 118 | 29 | 66 | 1 | 7 | - | 820 |
| F | 84 | 90 | 196 | 232 | 108 | 9 | 56 | 0 | 0 | - | 775 |
| T | 119 | 200 | 361 | 521 | 226 | 38 | 122 | 1 | 7 | - | 1,595 |

*Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
This data includes population figures from the villages of As Sura, Marah al Baqqar, and Khallet al 'Aqed*

The education sector in the village is supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE). The field survey data indicated that in the village, there are two secondary schools serving the residents of As Sura, Marah al Baqqar and Khallet al 'Aqed villages, one school for boys and the second for girls (See table 3).

| No. | School Name | Stage | Sex | Supervising Authority |
|-----|---|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| 1 | As Sura Boys Elementary & Secondary School | Elementary & Secondary | Male | Governmental |
| 2 | As Sura Girls Elementary & Secondary School | Elementary & Secondary | Female | Governmental |

Source: ARIJ Survey, 2006

According to MOHE data for the scholastic year 2006/2007, there were 816 students at these schools, of which 379 were males (437 females). There were 27 classrooms, and 41 teachers in As Sura (See table 4).

| | | Government | Private | Total |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------|------------|
| Male | No. of Schools | 1 | - | 1 |
| | No. of class | 15 | - | 15 |
| | No. of Teachers | 21 | - | 21 |
| | No. of Students | 437 | - | 437 |
| Female | No. of Schools | 1 | - | 1 |
| | No. of class | 12 | - | 12 |
| | No. of Teachers | 14 | - | 14 |
| | No. of Students | 379 | - | 379 |

Source: Ministry of Higher Education –Hebron Directorate -2006/2007

In 2006, there were two kindergartens in the village with about 65 children in attendance. Table 5 below shows the number of kindergartens by name, as well as the number of attending children and corresponding supervising authority.

| No. | Kindergarten Name | Number of Children | Supervising Authority |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | As Sura Kindergarten | 35 | Catholic Relief |
| 2 | Al Aqsa Candle Kindergarten | 30 | Private |

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

The schools in As Sura village provided Secondary education in the literary but students are forced to travel eight kilometres to Dura to complete their secondary education in scientific. The education sector in the village is suffering from the following issues; a lack of classrooms, a lack of playgrounds and playing fields, as well as a lack of toilet facilities.

Health Status

In As Sura village, there is a maternity and pediatric center run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH). In addition this center provides health services to the residents of Marah al Baqqar and Khamlet al 'Aqed. There is one pharmacy that serves the three villages.

The village would greatly benefit from the construction a health clinic or a 24-hour center providing health services. The addition of a full time physician in the clinic is a necessity.

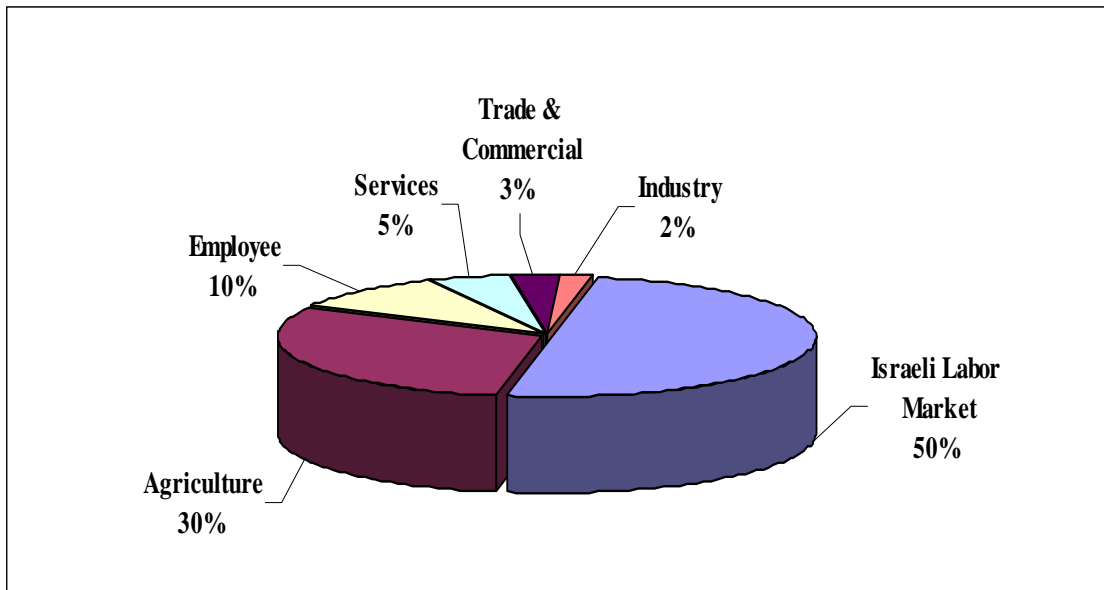
Economic Activities

According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ for Hebron localities, about 50% of working age As Sura residents work inside Israel. Hence the village largely depends on the Israeli labor market. The economic base of As Sura village also depends on agriculture, (30% of the population in the working age are depend on agricultural activities). In terms of the private sector services, there are approximately 12 grocers, one cloths shop, three blacksmiths, one carpenter, and three other service shops. In opposite Marah al Baqqar lack of any institutions and services, and the residents access there needing from As Sura or from Dura city.

According to village officials’ estimates, the economic base of the village consists of the following sectors:

- The Israeli Labor Market (50%)
- Agricultural Sector (30%)
- Government or Other Employees (10%)
- Services Sector (5%)
- Trade and Commercial Sector (3%)
- Industrial Sector (2%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in As Sura village



According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ on 2007 for Hebron localities, the most affected groups in the village by the Israeli activities during the Second Intifada were:

- 1) Workers previously employed on the Israeli labor market.
- 2) Families maintaining six or more individuals.
- 3) Small-holder farmers.

- 4) Small-holder traders.
- 5) Other social groups.

Labor Force

According to the 2007 PCBS Census, final results indicated the total population who is willing to work in As Sura village were 439 people (10 years and above). Of these, 351 were employed, 89.5% of these being male. The total number of economically inactive persons is 1,156, of whom 57.5% are students, 32.4% housekeeping and 8% are unable to work. Housekeeping represents the largest proportion of the economically inactive sector (See table 6).

| Sex | Economically Active | | | | Economically Inactive | | | | | | Total |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| | Employed | Currently Unemployed | Unemployed (Never Work) | Total | Student | House keeping | Unable to work | Not working & Not looking for Work | Others | Total | |
| M | 314 | 30 | 37 | 381 | 360 | 2 | 56 | 2 | 19 | 439 | 820 |
| F | 37 | 4 | 17 | 58 | 305 | 373 | 37 | 0 | 2 | 717 | 775 |
| T | 351 | 34 | 54 | 439 | 665 | 375 | 93 | 2 | 21 | 1,156 | 1,595 |

*Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
This data includes population figures from the villages of As Sura, Marah al Baqqar, and Khallet al 'Aqed*

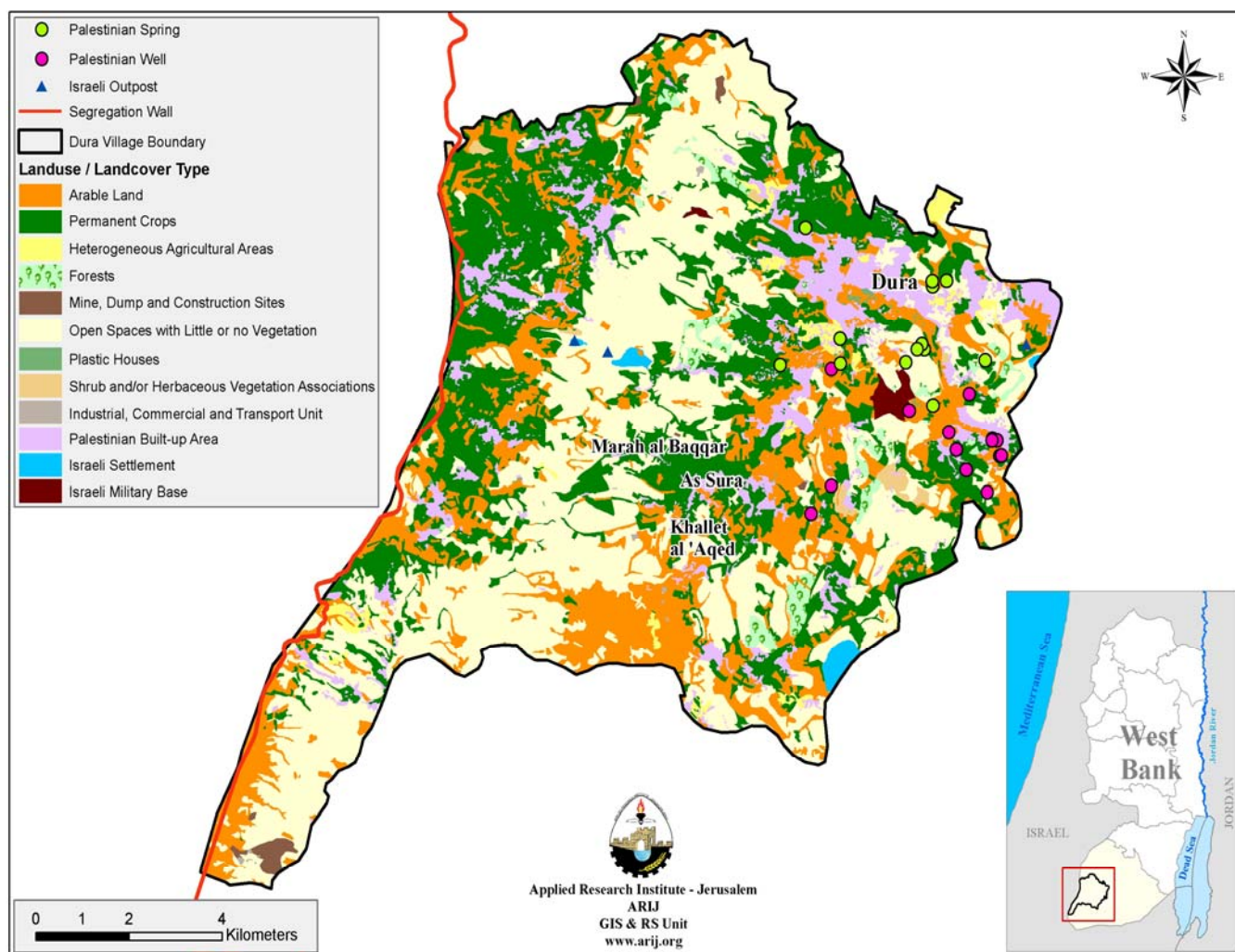
Agricultural Sector

As Sura village lies on a total area of about 7,000 dunums of which 2,660 dunums are arable land and 2,170 dunums are cultivated land. And as mentioned previously, 30% of the people of the working age are engaged in some form of agricultural activities. Table below shows the land use in As Sura village.

| Locality | Total Area | Arable Land | Cultivated Area | Build up Area | Forests Area | Open Spaces and Rangelands |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| As-Sura | 5,000 | 2,040 | 1,691 | 950 | 90 | 300 |
| Marah al Baqqar | 2,000 | 620 | 479 | 100 | 22 | 360 |
| Total | 7,000 | 2,660 | 2,170 | 1,050 | 112 | 660 |

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation Wall route in As Sura village.



In the village, there are two greenhouses that make up an area equal to approximately two dunums. These specifically cultivate cucumbers. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated in the village with a total area equal 215 dunums, in addition to 18 dunums of other vegetables such as cauliflower. The most common fruity vegetables cultivated in the village are squash, snake cucumber and gourd.

Table 8: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in As-Sura 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. |
| 215 | 3.5 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1.5 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 242 | 9 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are 3 types of aromatic medical plants in As-Sura village which make up a total area of about 7 dunums. 6 dunums of which are rain fed and one dunum is irrigated. These plants are thyme, sage, and mint.

In As Sura village, there is a total area of 893 dunums olive trees plantations. In addition to the 95 dunums of nut trees, 38 dunums of stone fruits, and 147 dunums that are cultivated with other trees. The most common trees planted in the area are plum trees, peach trees, almond trees, fig trees, and grape vines.

| Olives | | Stone-Fruits | | Pome Fruits | | Nuts | | Other Fruit | | Total area | |
|--------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr |
| 893 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 95 | 0 | 147 | 0 | 2963 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total amount of field crops cultivated in the As Sura village. Cereals (in particular wheat and barley) are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 394 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops, (mainly Vetch) is common in As Sura village. Dry legumes (such as lentils and chick peas) also account for a total area of about 58 dunums.

| Cereals | | Bulbs | | Dry Legumes | | Seeds | | Forage | | Stimulating | | Other Crops | | Field area | |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|-------------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr |
| 506 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 139 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 733 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

As Sura residents also depend on livestock and dairy production. About 10% of households in As Sura village rear and keep livestock. There are about 524 cows, 523 goats, 2,870 sheep, 2 horses, 41 donkeys and 2 mules in the village. There are also 26 poultry farms with approximately 240,600 broilers birds and 9,800 layers birds. As Sura also has approximately 125 bee hives.

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 524 | 2,870 | 523 | 2 | 41 | 2 | 240,600 | 9,800 | 125 |

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The agricultural sector in the village has suffered severely from a lack of water, a lack of capital investment and general economic infeasibility. In addition, there has also been a severe lack of pasture land, agricultural machinery, and agricultural roads – which all culminate to agricultural efficiency. The main source of water for irrigation in the village comes from rainwater collection wells.

There are 10 km of un-surfaced agricultural roads. These are only suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines. These roads do not cover the entire village's agricultural area.

The Israeli Forces confiscated about 50 dunums of agricultural land from the village since the outbreak of the Second Intifada.

Institutions and Services

The village council, founded in 1996, is the main institution of the village. In addition, there is also a cultural center, a women's charitable society, and an office for agricultural extension (this office provided services to local farmers).

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: As Sura village is connected to a main telecommunication network. Official reports suggest that 30% of the housing units in the village are connected to a telecommunications network.

Water Services: As Sura village is not connected to any water network. Alternative water supply comes mainly from rainwater collection cisterns. There are about 100 domestic cisterns belonging to As Sura residents. Village officials cite concerns over lack of water in the summer season. This means that the residents have to buy the water from Dura, Hebron or other places which can be quite costly.

Electricity Services: Since 1998, As Sura village has been connected to an electricity network supplied by the Israeli National Power Electrical Company (Qutria). According to village officials, 100% of the housing units are connected to the network. Major problems do exist however. These include; a weak electrical current, high prices, and an insufficient electricity generator.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: The village is not connected to any sewage disposal network. Wastewater is disposed of in the village's cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There are no solid waste services in the village. Each household must dispose of its own refuse by burning it. Village officials estimated the amount of solid waste generated daily in the village is equal to about one ton.

Transportation Facilities: The village has an informal transportation network that is comprised of three private cars. The main problems the locals face with regards to transportation in the village are; a lack of maintenance of main roads, a lack of vehicles, and a lack of automotive services. In terms of road quality; 3.5 km of roads are surfaced and in good condition (1.5 km are main roads and 2 km are internal roads). 2 km of internal roads are surfaced but in poor condition, and 10 km are un-surfaced roads used only for agricultural purposes.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Though there are no permanent checkpoints in the surrounding area of the village, the residents are subject to 'flying' checkpoints. Farmers in the village continue to experience difficulty in reaching their fields and harvesting their crops. In addition, villagers experience difficulty in reaching, or transporting sick people, to health centers and hospitals. Doctors have also experienced difficulty in reaching the village. A further serious factor is the environmental pollution the village's water has been subjected to, as a result of Israeli activity.

Development Plans and Projects

As Sura village council has established a development plan which includes many different development projects. Since 2004 the council has implemented many projects funded by As Sura residents. These projects include:

| No. | Project name | Type | Funded by |
|------------|---|-------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Building As Sura Boys Secondary School | Educational | As Sura Residents |
| 2 | Building As Sura Girls Secondary School | Educational | As Sura Residents |
| 3 | Building the Village Council | Services | As Sura Residents |

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to As Sura village council, the village suffers from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 13 shows development priorities of the village.

| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Moderately Needed | Not Needed | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|-------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | | Agricultural roads ^ |
| 2 | Construction of New Water Networks | * | | | | 6 km |
| 3 | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | | | | * | |
| 4 | Construction of Water Reservoirs | | | * | | 500 m ³ |
| 5 | Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas | | | | * | |
| 6 | Construction of Sewage Disposal Network | | | * | | |
| Health Needs | | | | | | |
| 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 | | * | | | |
| Educational Needs | | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Schools | * | | | | Elementary & Secondary |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Schools | | | | * | |
| 3 | Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools | * | | | | |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands | | | * | | 100 dunums |
| 2 | Building Cisterns | | | * | | 50 cisterns |
| 3 | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | | | | * | 15 barracks |
| 4 | Veterinary Services | | * | | | |
| 5 | Seeds and Hay for Animals | | | * | | |
| 6 | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | | * | | 20 greenhouses |
| 7 | Field Crops Seeds | * | | | | |
| 8 | Plants and Agricultural Supplies | * | | | | |

^ 5,000 m main roads, 3,000 m internal roads, and 5,000 m agricultural roads

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