

Imreish 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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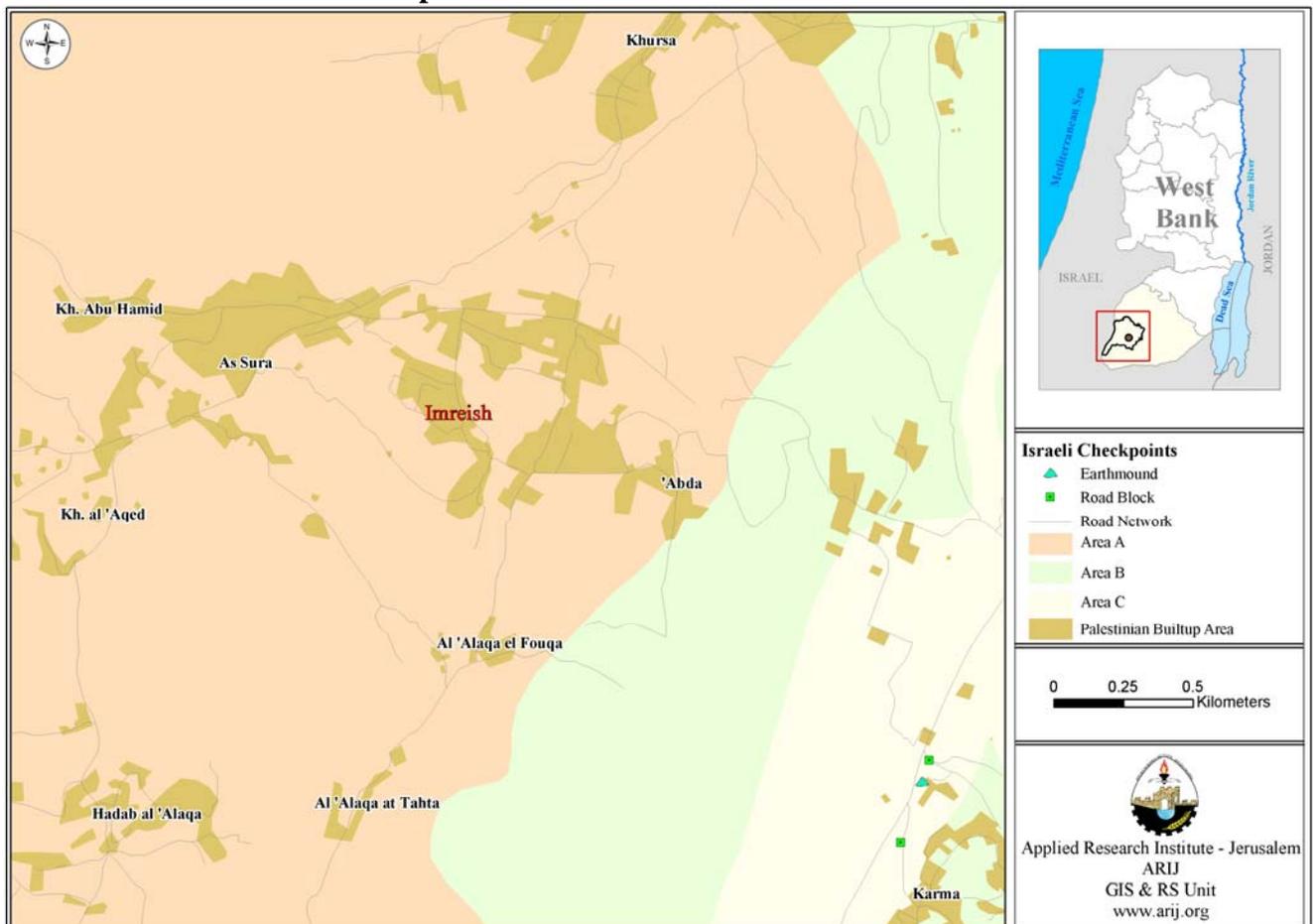
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Imreish Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Imreish is a Palestinian village in Dura area; it is located 10 km southwest of Hebron city in southern West Bank. It is bordered by Karma village to the east, Khursa village to the north, As Sura village to the west and Abu al'Asja and Kurza villages to the south (See Map 1).

Map 1: Imreish location and borders



The total area of Imreish village is estimated to be 2,000 dunums, of which 420 dunums are Palestinian built-up areas. 1340 dunums are agricultural lands, and a further 80 dunums are forests and open spaces.

The village of Imreish lies at an elevation of 761 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Imreish village is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16°C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

Imreish village is considered to be a rural village. The village is governed by a village council, established in 1997. Currently the council consists of seven members, though it has no full time employees. The council provides infrastructure services including electricity, and the construction and development of local schools.

History

The history of Imreish dates back to Canaanite, Roman and Byzantine periods. People have lived in the area of Imreish village for a long time. .

Photos of Imreish Village

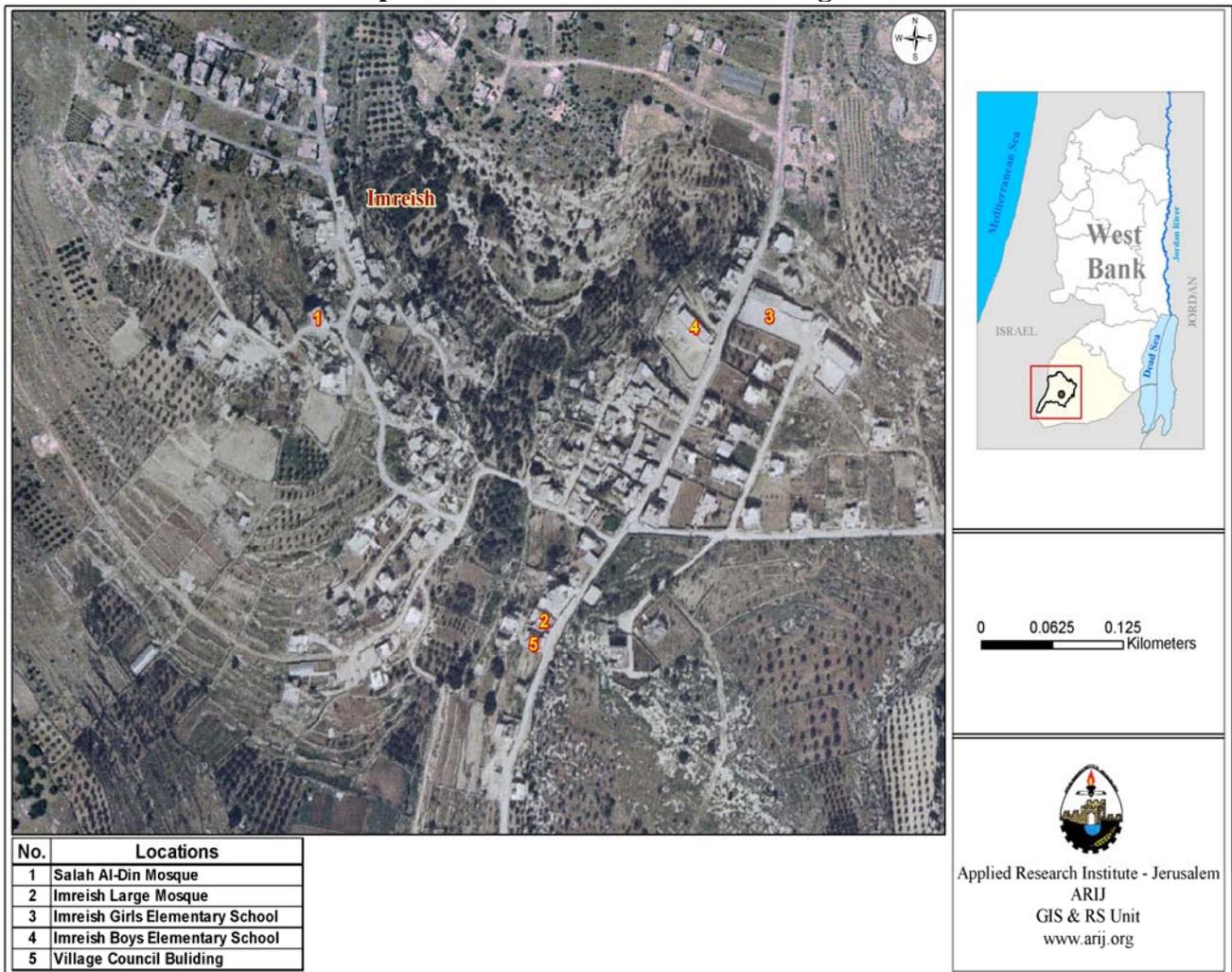


Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques serving the village; Imreish al Kabeer Mosque, and Salah Al Dein Alayoubi Mosque.

There are no archaeological sites in the village.

Map 2: Main location in Imreish village



Population

The total population of Imreish, in 2007, is estimated to be 1,262. this is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of whom 615 were males and 647 were females.

Age Group and Gender

The 2007 Census showed that the population by age group and sex of Imreish village, was broken up as follow; 54.3% of the total population were aged between 15 and 64. The 0-14 years age group constituted 41.9% of the total population, while 65 year and above constitutes about 3.8% of the total population. The sex ratio in Imreish is 99.4 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, males constitute 49.8% of the total population. This data includes population figures from the villages of Imreish, Abda, Al 'Alaqa al Fauqa, and, Al 'Alaqa at Tahta.

Families

There are six families in Imreish village, these are: AlDarabi' , Doudin , Al Sha'rawi, Shaheen, Qazaz, Abu Afefan.

Education

According to the 2007 PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census approximately 92 people (10 years and above) were illiterate. Of these 77.2% were female. 9.9% of the population could read and write but received no schooling. 20.2% had completed their elementary education. 31.3% had completed their preparatory education. 17.3% had completed their secondary education and 13.3% had completed their higher education (See table 1).

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
T	92	115	235	363	201	39	106	4	6	-	1,161

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 data of field survey indicated that there is one governmental school in Imreish village, the Imreish Elementary School. This school provides elementary education for both girls and boys.

According to Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 371 students, 165 male students and 206 female students. They were distributed into 14 classes of which 6 elementary co-educational classes, 4 were classes for males, and 4 were classes for females. Around 17 teachers are currently schooling in the village, 9 male teachers and 8 female teachers.

		Government	Private	Total
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	14	0	14
	No. of Teachers	17	0	17
	No. of Students	371	0	371

To complete their secondary education, most of students in Imreish village have to travel to As Sura village schools (3 km away) and Dura city schools (7 km away).

As of 2006, there is only one kindergarten in the village which is the 'Imreish kindergarten'; this is funded by the 'Charitable Society'. This kindergarten provides pre-education to about 60 children.

The educational sector in the village is suffering from the following problems:

- The lack of classes in the schools.
- The small area for schools and its playgrounds.

Health Status

There is only one private Physician Clinic in the village that provides health services to the residents. Additionally, there is only one maternity and pediatric centre run by the governmental sector. The village has no health centers and pharmacies. In the event of emergency residents of Imreish have to travel to Dura (7 km from the village) hospitals and health centers.

One of the village’s health centers was destroyed by the Israeli Occupation Force. Imreish suffers many obstacles and problems in the health status and services including: a lack of medical equipment in the clinics and the lack of health services for children.

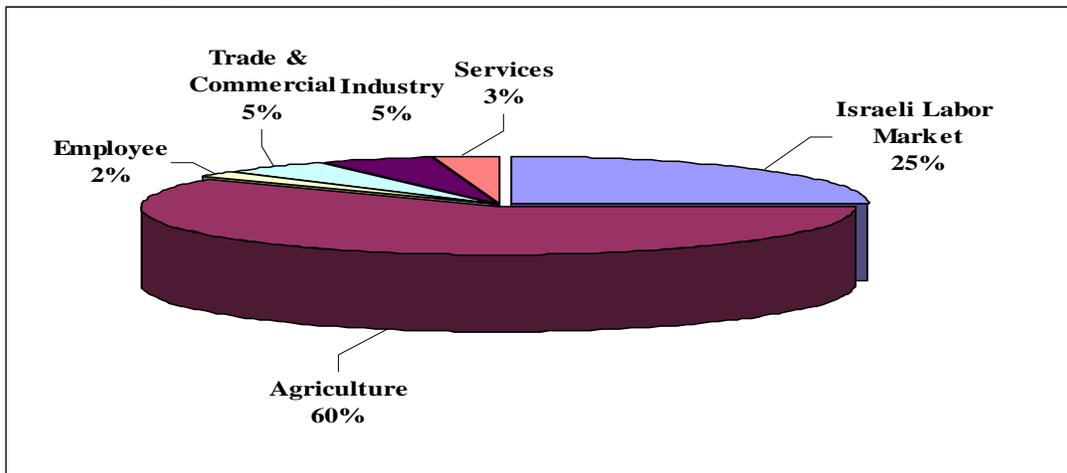
Economic Activities

According to a Hebron localities survey conducted by ARIJ, Imreish residents depend mainly on agriculture activities. Approximately 60% of the residents in the village are engaged in such activity. In addition, there were also a significant proportion of Imreish residents depending on the Israeli labor market (25%). The village residents similarly depend on industrial activity (5%), trade (5%) and public sector (2%). The village has nine shops serving Imreish residents village, these include 7 groceries, a black smith workshop and a services shop.

The economic base of Imreish consists of the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (60%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (25%)
- Industry Sector (5%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (5%)
- Services Sector (3%)
- Government or Other Employees (2%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Imreish village



The survey also indicated that unemployment in Imreish village reached 30% in 2006, indicating the severity of the economic situation in the village. Data indicated that the most affected of social groups in Imreish village as a result of Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) Families maintaining 6 individuals or more, 2) Small-holder farmers, 3) Small-holder traders, 4) Workers previously employed on the Israeli labor market, 5) Housekeeping and children.

Labor Force

According to the 2007 PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census, there were 335 economically active persons in Imreish village, of whom 83.3% were employed. Of the 826 economically inactive persons in the village, 56.7% were students, 31.4% were housekeeping and 9.7% was unable to work, see table 3.

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	565
F	34	7	8	49	246	259	38	-	4	547	596
T	279	23	33	335	468	259	80	3	16	826	1,161

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

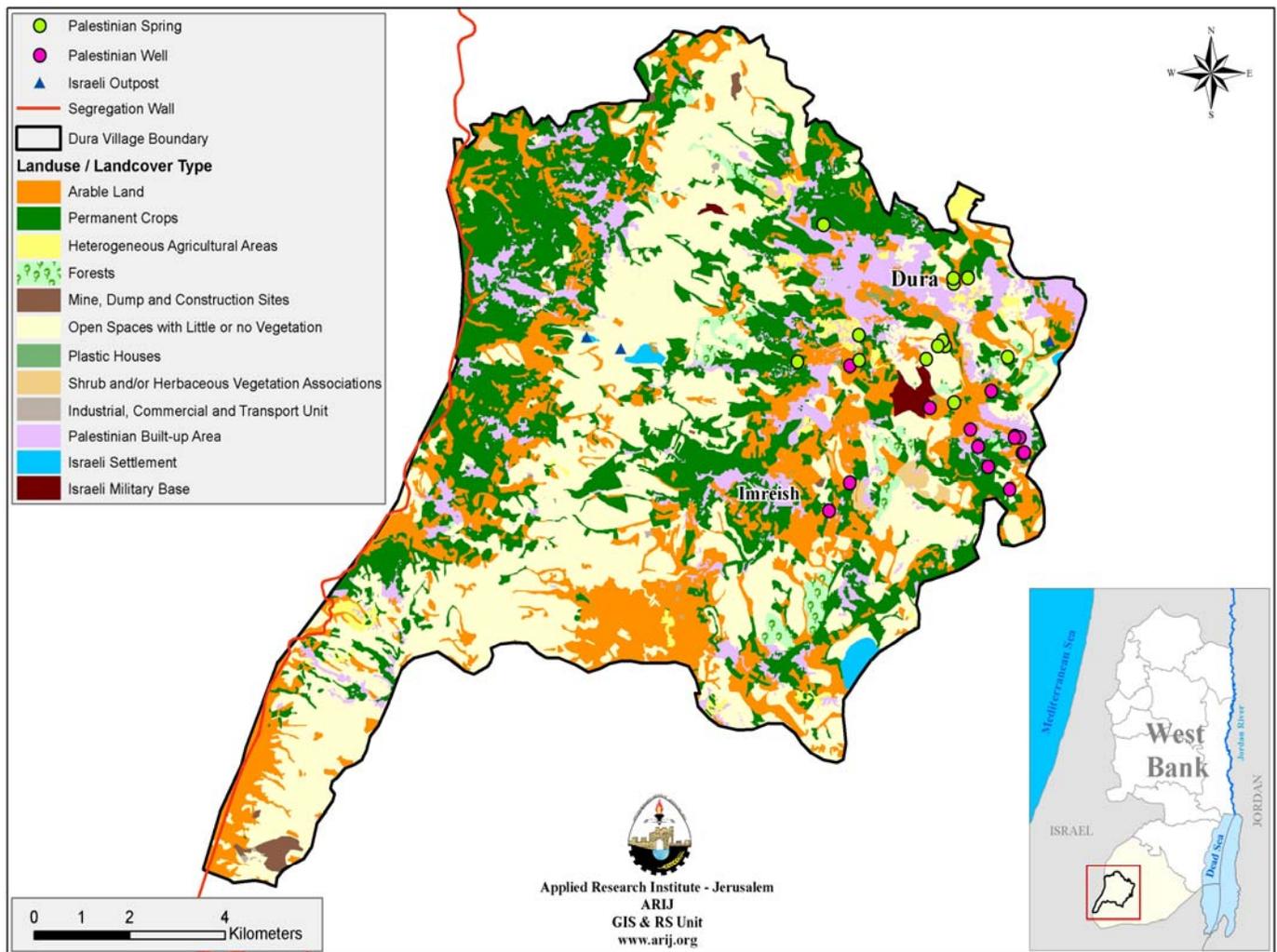
Agricultural Sector

Imreish village lies on 2,000 dunums of land, of which 1,340 dunums are arable land. Only 1,162 dunums are currently cultivated (See table 4).

Total Area	Arable Land	Cultivated Area	Build up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
2,000	1,340	1,162	420	20	60

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Imreish village



There are about 14 dunums of greenhouses in Imreish village. About 13 dunums of this area are used for growing cucumber and one dunum to grow tomatoes.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Imreish. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 85 dunums. The total area of rain-fed of open vegetables is 93 dunums and the irrigated open vegetables are 1.2 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are zucchini, tomato and snake cucumber.

Table 5: Rain Fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Imreish Village (dunum)

Total fruity vegetables		Total green legumes		Total bulbs		Total other vegetables		Total rain fed and irrigated open vegetables	
RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr
37	1	2	0	0	5	0	2	39	7

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

In terms of aromatic medical plants, the village regularly grows thyme and sage. The total area cultivated with aromatic medical plants is approximately 5 dunums.

There is a total area of 484 dunums of Olive tree plantations in the village. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond trees (72 dunums) and grape vines (94 dunums).

Total area of olives		Total area of citrus		Total area of stone-fruits		Total area of nuts		Total area of the other fruit		Total area of horticulture and olive tree	
RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr
484	0	0	1	72	0	153	0	94	0	803	1

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

Table 7 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Imreish. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 184 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops (such as Sern and vetch) is common in the village.

Total Cereals		Total bulbs		Dry legumes		Total seeds		Total forage crops		Total Field crops	
RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr
184	0	3	0	34	0	1	0	83	0	272	0

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Imreish village are dependent upon rearing livestock. About 25% of households in the village rear animals such as sheep, goats and chickens.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Horses	Donkeys	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
4	400	40	-	14	508,000	-	4

The main source of irrigation for agricultural land in the village comes from the water network and collection wells. There are about 12 km of agricultural roads that suitable for animals but this is still insufficient for farmers needs.

Village officials cite that the agricultural sector in the village suffers from the following problems: a lack of water, a lack of capital and a lack of tools and equipment.

Institutions and Services

The only institute in the village is Imreish village council, established in 1997.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Imreish village is connected to a telecommunication network, about 90% of the housing units are connected to the network.

Water Services: Imreish village is not currently connected to any water network. Cisterns and water tanks provide the only alternative resources. There is one private reservoir and three wells in the village ('Abda, Al'Alaqa at Tahta and Al'Alaqa El Fouqa Wells). These are used for irrigation and open field uses. Village officials cite the main problems in the village with regards to the water status, to include:

- A lack of the water networks in the village.
- High prices of water purchased by tanks.
- The non availability of springs.
- The fluctuation of rainfall.

Electricity Services: The village has been connected to the electricity network since 1993. Approximately 100% of households in the village are connected. Southern Electric Company manages the distribution of electricity, supplied by the Israeli Electric Cooperation.

Imreish suffers from many problems in the electricity services which are:

- A weakness in the current due to the high pressure on the electricity regulators.
- Lack of regular maintenance since the first Intifada.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: As the village is not connected to the sewage disposal network, wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There is no solid waste management in Imreish, each household disposes of its own garbage, usually by burning it. About 1500 tons of solid waste is generated annual in Imreish village.

Transportation Facilities: Imreish is served by an informal transportation network consisting of a few informal vehicles servicing the village. If these vehicles are not available, many of the residents cannot travel outside. The main obstacle to transportation in the village is the lack of vehicles and automotive services.

Currently 30 kilometers of roads in the village are paved and are in good condition, of which 8 km are main roads, 7 km are internal roads and 15 km are agricultural roads. There are 15 kilometers of paved roads but these are in poor condition, and there are 1.5 kilometers of unpaved roads, see table 9.

Road Condition	Road length (km)		
	Main roads	Internal roads	Agricultural roads
Paved roads in good condition	8	7	15
Paved roads in bad condition	4	8	3
Unpaved roads	1.5	-	-

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

There are no Israeli direct impacts on the village, as there are no settlements or military bases constructed near the village.

Development Plans and Projects

The village council has implemented one project in the village (rehabilitation of cisterns), funded by ARIJ.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Imreish village council the village has suffered from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 10 below shows the development priorities in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1.	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				13 km ^
2.	Construction of New Water Networks	*				15 km
3.	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4.	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				2000 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	*				Elementary
3.	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agriculture Needs						
1.	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				200 dunums
2.	Building Cisterns	*				25 cisterns
3.	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				50 barracks
4.	Veterinary Services				*	
5.	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6.	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7.	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8.	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

^ 2000 m. main roads, 8000 m. internal roads, and 3000 m. agricultural roads

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