

Khursa 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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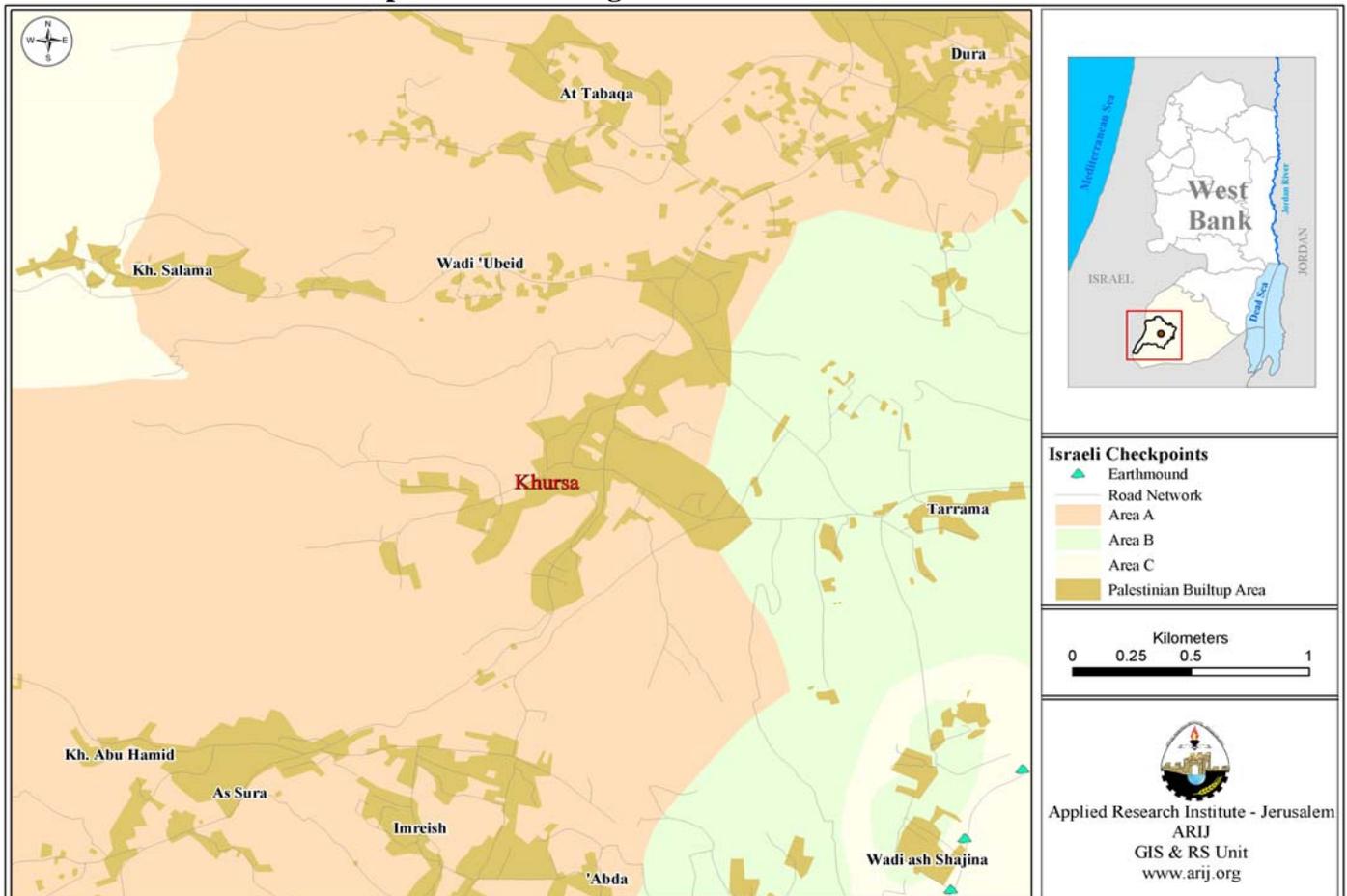
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Khursa Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Khursa is a Palestinian village in Dura area which is located 20 km northwest of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Tarrama village to the east, Dura city to the north, As Sura and Imreish to the south and the Front Line Villages to the west.

Map 1: Khursa village location and boundaries



The total area of Khursa village is approximately 5,000 dunums. 600 dunums are classified as built-up areas, 2,650 dunums is agricultural area, 17 dunums are forests, and 1,250 dunums are uncultivated or open space.

Khursa is located on mountainous area at an elevation of 797m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Khursa is 436 mm, and the average annual temperature is 16 °C, whereas the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

Khursa village is a rural village. The village is governed by a village council since 1998, currently with 7 members (who were appointed by the Palestinian Authority). The council has an official building in the village. The main operations and responsibilities of the Khursa Village Council include: Social development services, pavement of roads, and projects submitted by donors.

History

Khursa village has a long history, which dates back to Roman period. The name of the village derives from a massacre that occurred in the area, where during the search of the victims of massacre, the last victim they found was a mute woman, which means in Arabic "Kharsa". Thus the village was called "Khursa". The origin of Khursa's residents came from Mesopotamia, now Iraq.

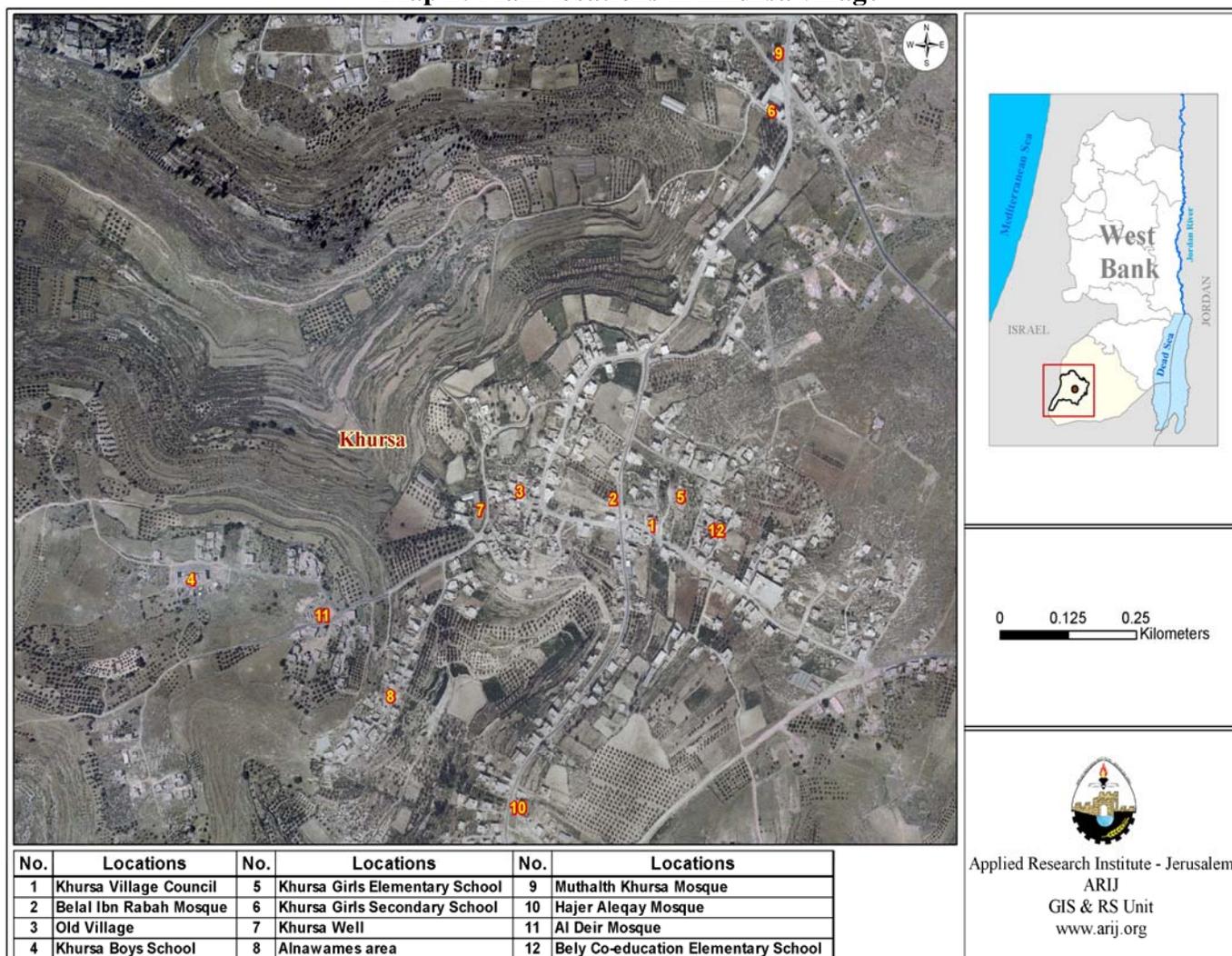
Photos of Khursa



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are four mosques serving the village; Bilal Bin Rabah Mosque, Mothalath Khursa Mosque, Hay Al Deer Mosque and Hajar Al Luqya Mosque. In terms of historical sites, there is the Khursa Well.

Map 2: Main locations in Khursa village



Demography and Population

The total population of Khursa in 2007 was 3,440 of which 1,733 were males and 1,707 females. There were 554 households resident in 599 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The 2007 census data showed the distribution of Khursa population by age groups and sex. The data shows that 41% are less than 15 years old, 56% are in the 15-64 age groups and 3% are 65 years old and above. The sex ratio in the village were 101.5 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 50.4% of the population in Khursa.

Families

There are eight families in Khursa village. These are: Hanatsha including Tabeesh, Hantash and Abu Ras, Hamdan including Alsabar, Quteneih and Safi, Shahateet, Masharqa, Hajjah, Al Awawdeh, Abu Arqub, Al Sous.

Education

According to the 2007 Population, Housing and Establishment Census, about 147 persons (10 years and over) were illiterate. Of these 74.8% were female. 10.9% of the population could read and write but received no schooling. 22.9% had completed their elementary education. 31.8% had completed their preparatory education. 17.5% had completed their secondary education and 11% had completed their higher education (See table 1).

Table 1: Khursa Population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	37	132	297	418	215	48	82	4	7	1	1,241
F	110	139	270	370	219	42	86	1	3	-	1,240
T	147	271	567	788	434	90	168	5	10	1	2,481

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

The survey indicated that there are three schools in the Khursa village, of which two are secondary schools and provide the 'Tawjihi' exam in field the field of Arts. The other is an elementary school. The educational status in Khursa is mainly supervised by the governmental authority. Table 2 below shows the schools in Khursa village by stage, sex and supervising authority.

Table 2: Number of schools in Khursa village by stage, sex and supervising authority

No.	Name of School	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1	Khursa Secondary Boys School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2	Khursa Secondary Girls School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
3	Khursa Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental

The data of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education reveals that at the end of year 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 1,012 students (452 male students and 560 female students), 36 classes, and 47 teachers in Khursa schools.

Table 3: No. of schools, classes and students by sex in Khursa village (2006/2007)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	14	0	14
	No. of Teachers	18	0	18
	No. of Students	380	0	380
Female	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	10	0	10
	No. of Teachers	15	0	15
	No. of Students	311	0	311
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	12	0	12
	No. of Teachers	14	0	14
	No. of Students	321	0	321

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

As of 2007, there are two kindergartens in the village. These two kindergartens provide pre-education to about 70 children (See table 4).

Table 4: The kindergartens in Khursa by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Children	Supervising Authority
1.	Al Ferdous Kindergarten	60	Charitable Society
2.	Al'A'ed ela to Palestine Kindergarten	15	Private sector

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

Students of secondary stage of science field in Khursa village are forced to travel fourteen kilometres to reach Dura schools to complete their Secondary science education. The educational sector in the village is suffering from the following problems:

- Lack of equipments and educational apparatus.
- Lack of playgrounds and recreational facilities.

Health Status

Khursa residents suffer from a severe absence of health services. The centre for Maternity & Pediatrics in Khursa village is a small center that provides only basic services to the residents. It is opened three times a week. Otherwise, there is no ambulance, or pharmacy. This, combined with the distance of medical facilities in neighbouring villages' makes medical treatment inconvenient and very difficult. Residents are forced to travel to either Dura village (4 km) or Hebron city (20 km).

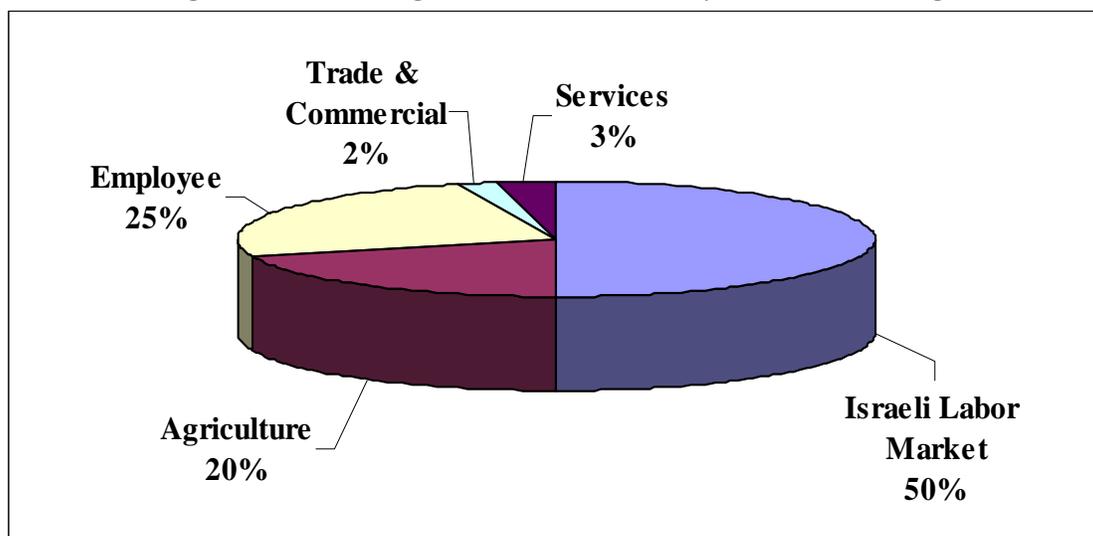
Economic Activities

According to a Hebron locality survey conducted by ARIJ, Khursa residents depend mainly on Israeli labor market. Approximately 50% of the workers in the village are engaged in this profession. In addition, a fundamental economic base for Khursa is in the public and private sector (25%). The third important sector for the village residents is the agriculture sector, of which 20% of Khursa's labor force is engaged in. The residents depend also on the services sector (3%) and the trade sector (2%). Additionally there are about 15 groceries, 2 black smiths' workshops, 2 carpentry workshops, and 3 services shops.

According to village officials' estimates, the economic base of the village consists of the following sectors. It is indicated by percentage in the following list and figure 2:

- The Israeli Labor Market (50%)
- Employee in Governmental or private sector (25%)
- Agricultural Sector (20%)
- Services Sector (3%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (2%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Khursa village



The survey also indicated current problems of the economic situation in the village. The data indicated that the most affected of social groups in the village as a result of Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were:

1. Families with six individuals and more,
2. Small farmers,
3. Employees, and
4. The previous workers in the Israeli labor market.

Labor Force

According to the 2007 PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census, there were 756 economically active persons in Khursa village, of whom 81% were employed. Of 1,725 economically inactive persons in the village, 59.2% were students, 30.2% were housekeeping and 10.6% was unable to work, see table 5.

Table 5: Khursa Population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status											
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	516	41	52	609	515	3	83	6	25	632	1,241
F	97	4	46	147	507	518	60	5	3	1,093	1,240
T	613	45	98	756	1,022	521	143	11	28	1,725	2,481

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

Agricultural Sector

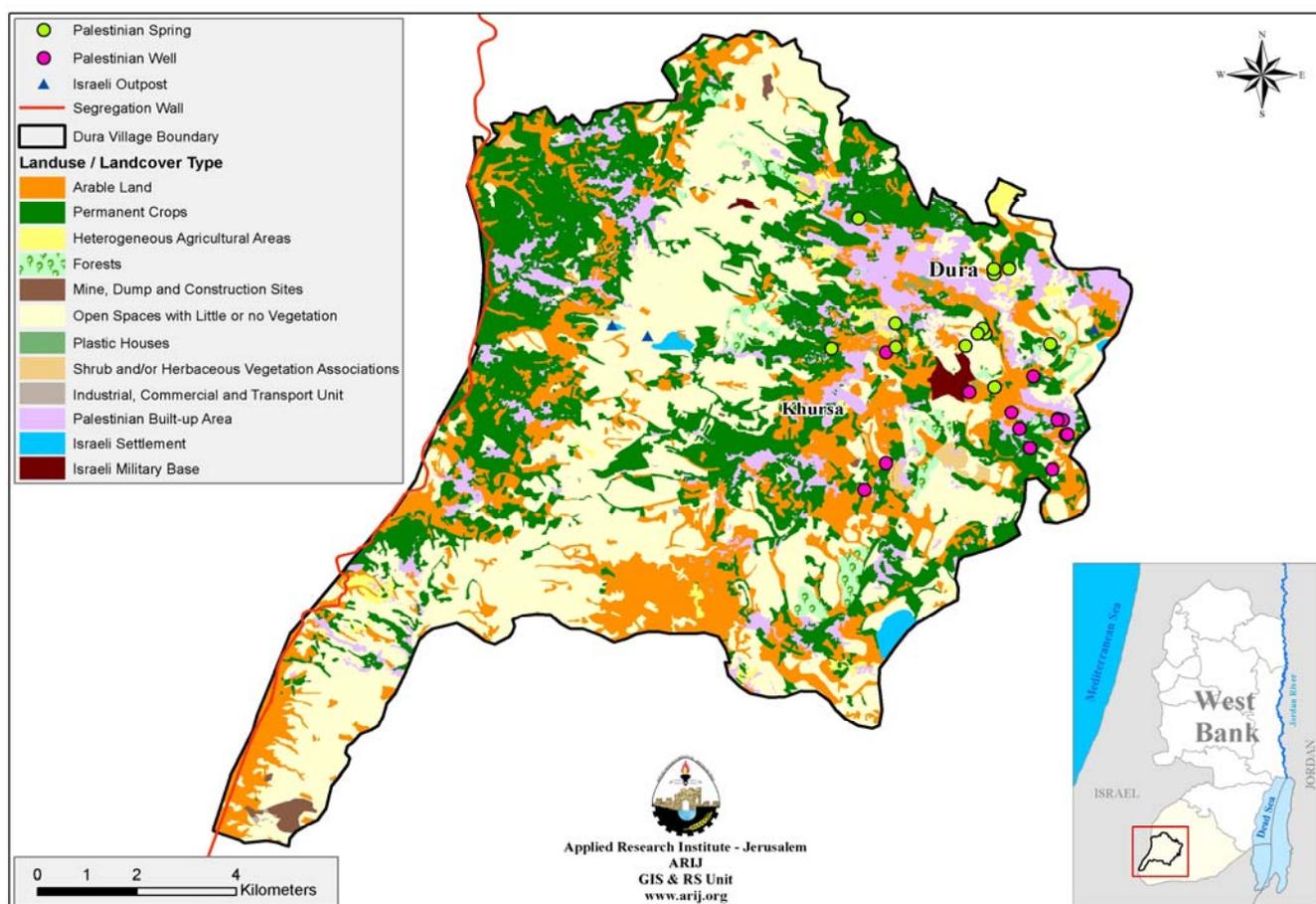
Khursa village lies on a total area of 5,000 dunums. 2,650 dunums are considered arable land, however only 2,070 dunums are currently cultivated.

Table 6: Land Use in Khursa Village (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Uncultivated Area	Cultivated Area			
5,000	580	2,070	600	17	1250

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

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



There are about 4.5 dunums of plastic houses. About 3 dunums of this area are used for growing cucumber.

Table 7 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Khursa. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 81 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated in this area are zucchini, tomato and snake cucumber

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
78	3	0	12.5	4	0	0	13	12	21	94	49.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are 3 types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Khursa covering a total area of about 5 dunums. These plants are thyme, mint and sage.

In the village of Khursa, there is a total area of 911 dunums of Olive Tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond trees, plum 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
911	0	0	2	74	0	14	0	69	0	312	0	1380	2

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 9 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Khursa. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 430 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops such as common vetch and bitter vetch is common in the village of Khursa.

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
430	0	1	0	17	0	0	0	1	0	86	0	0	0	0	0	535	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Khursa village are also dependent upon rearing livestock (20% of total inhabitants), such as sheep, goats and chickens, in addition to about 31 bee hives.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
10	750	350	36	2	54100	7600	31

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

There are about 12,000 meters of agricultural roads that are suitable for animals. This road is insufficient for all the farmers needs.

The agriculture sector in the village is suffering from the Israeli activities, lack of capital, lack of water, lack of agriculture roads and need of institutional rehabilitation.

Institutions and Services

The main institute in the village is the village council, established in 1998. In addition, there is an Agricultural Society established in 1995 and the 'Bent Al Reef Charitable Society' (Branch of Dura's Charitable Society) which provides services for women in the village and awareness courses. It was established in 1995

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Khursa village is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 90% of housing units in Khursa are connected to a telephone network.
- **Water Services:** Khursa is currently not connected to a water network. Cisterns and water tanks provide alternative resources, and there is one spring in Khurse which is Khursa Well. Though this is only used for agricultural purposes. Village officials state the village has a severe water problem, as it lacks a regular supply.
- **Electricity Services:** Khursa has been connected to an electricity network since 1988. Approximately 100% of housing units in the village are connected to the electricity network. The Southern Electric Company supplies the electricity in the village. Khursa suffers from many problems with the electricity supply, these are:
 1. Old and deteriorated electricity network.
 2. Shortage of electricity regulators
 3. Weakness of electricity current in some locations
- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste management system in Khursa. Residents dispose of solid waste in random dumping sites or by burning it.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage network in Khursa village. All housing units in the village rely on cesspits. The cesspits are the main reason for the local spring being polluted.
- **Transportation Services:** Transportation in Khursa comprises of 1 bus and 25 informal taxis. The village has 5.5 kilometers of paved roads that are in good condition, of which 2,500m are main roads and 3,000m are internal roads. There are 4 kilometers of paved roads that are in poor condition, 18 kilometers are unpaved roads of which 2,000m are main roads, 4,000m are internal roads, and 12,000m are agricultural roads.

Impact of Israeli Occupation

There are no settlements or military bases constructed near the village. However, some roads were destroyed by the Israeli Occupation Force.

Development Plans and Projects

The village council in Khursa has a simple plan for the development of the village. The village council has implemented two projects in the village as shown in table 11.

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Built Khursa Boys School	Educational	UNDP
2	Construction of new Classes for the Girls School	Educational	PECDAR

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Khursa village council the village is suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural services. Table 12 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	*				
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
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
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			Elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns	*				
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			15
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

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- Ministry of Agriculture. *Agricultural Status Database in Hebron Governorate*. 2006.
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