

Kurza 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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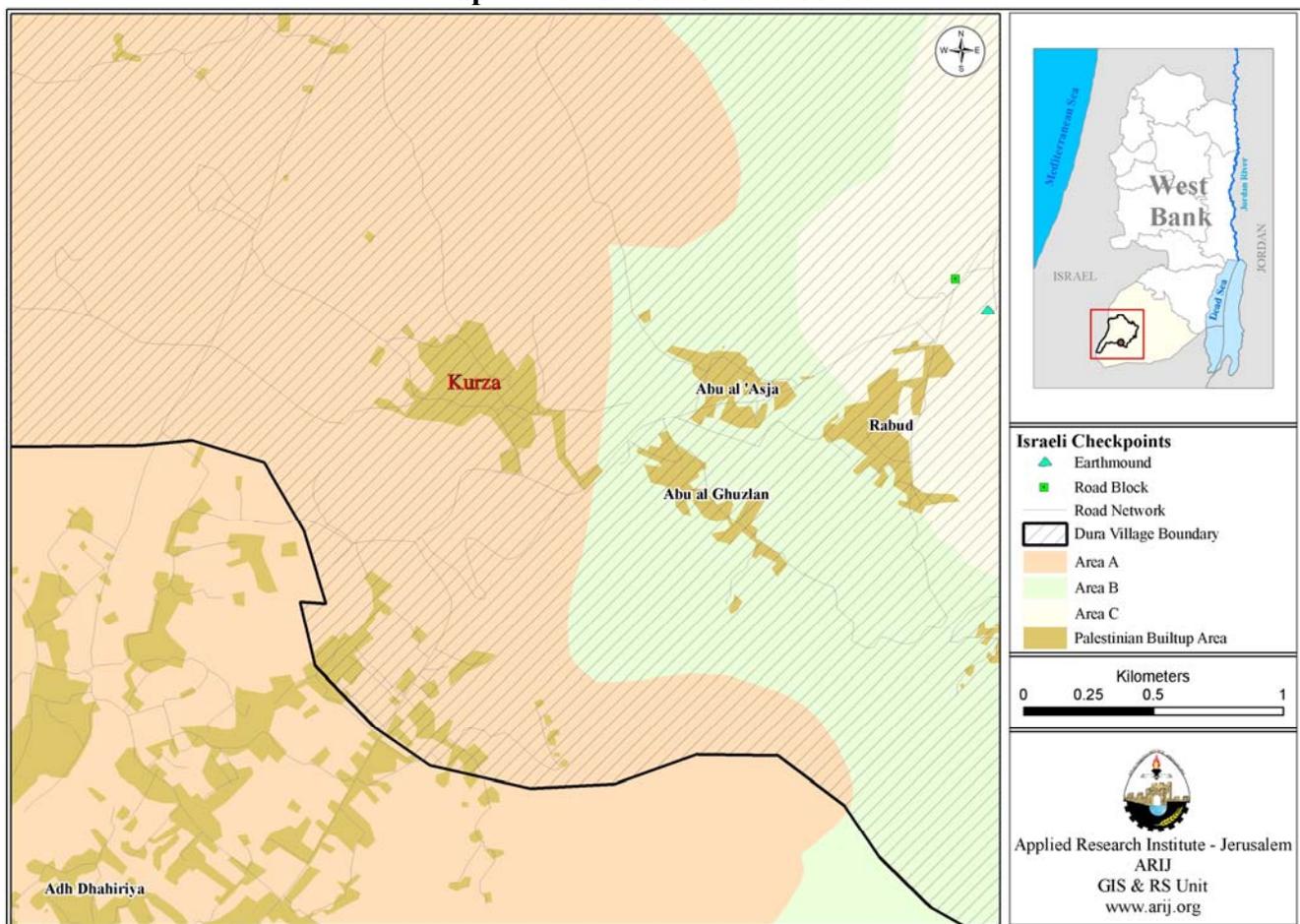
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Kurza Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Kurza is a village in the Dura area which is located 13 kilometers southwest the city of Hebron in the southern West Bank. It is bordered by Abu Al 'Asja and Abu Al Ghuzlan villages to the east, Hadab Al 'Alaqa to the north, Deir Al 'Asal to the west, and by Adh Dhabiriya to the south (See Map 1).

Map 1: Kurza location and borders



The village of Kurza is located at an elevation of 675 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Kurza village is 435.9 mm; the average annual temperature is 15.7 °C, and the average annual humidity is 60.6% (ARIJ GIS).

Kurza village is considered to be a rural area. It is governed by a village council which was established in 1995. Currently the council consists of seven members. Its main duty is to provide infrastructure services to the residents in the village..

History

The history of Kurza dates back to 1850, in the Ottoman period. Its residents are all Palestinians, originally from Dura city. Kurza, the village name, means 'cherry'. The village was named Kurza as it was famous for having cherry groves in abundance in the area.

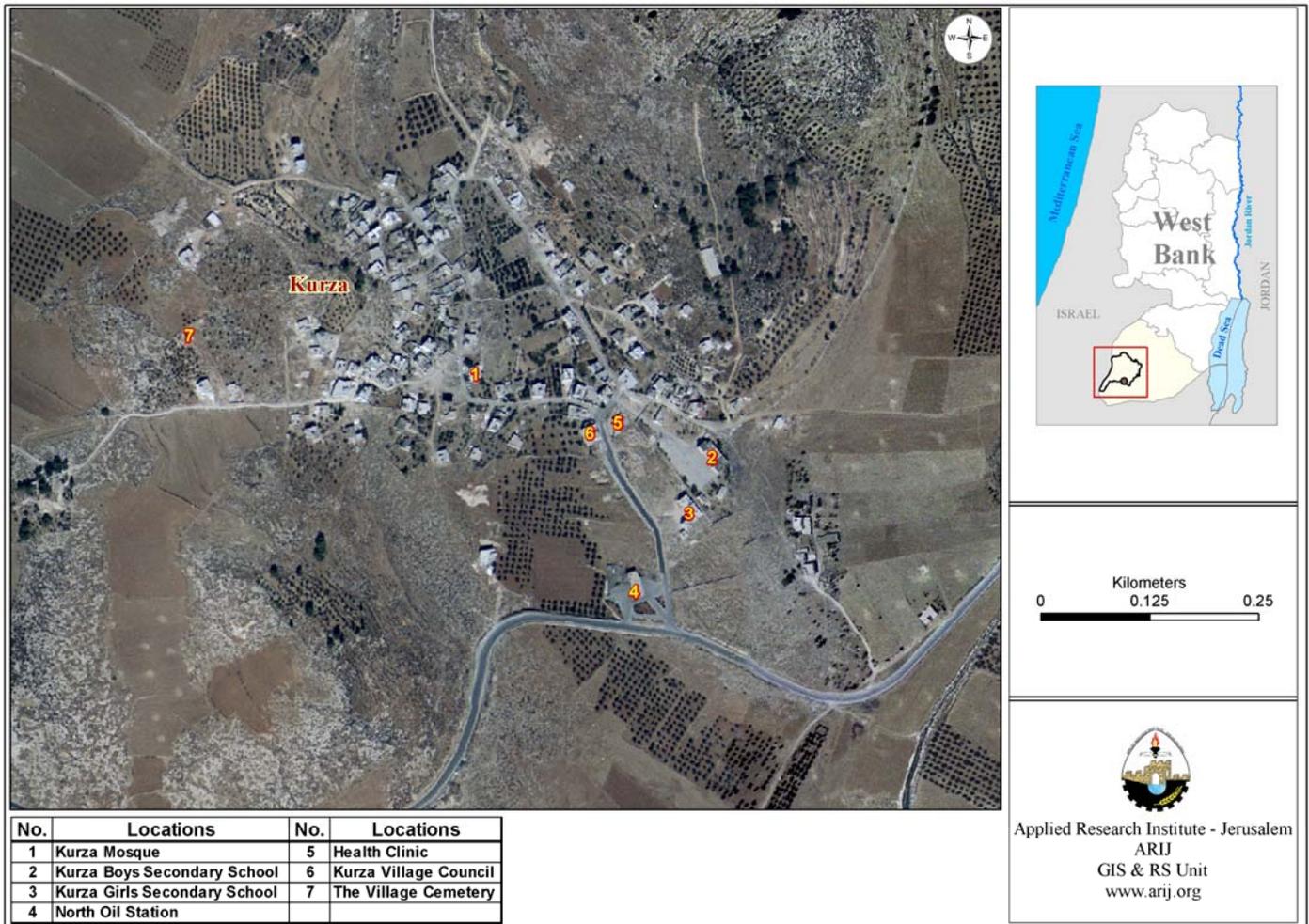
Photo of Kurza



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishment, there is one mosque serving Kurza; Kurza mosque which was established in 1984 by the Mosques Founding Committee in the village. In terms of historical sites, there are two holy sites in the village, Sheikh Saleh shrine and Sheikh Salah shrine in "Al-Marj Dome".

Map 2: Main locations in Kurza village



Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of Kurza village was 771 inhabitants, of whom 383 were males and 388 were females. There were 137 household residents in 138 housing in the village and the average household size was 5.6 people.

Age Group and Gender

Census 2007 results about Kurza Village show the distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex. The data shows that 40.9% of the total population is less than 15 years, 56.5% is in the 15-64 age group and 2.7 % is 65 years and above . The sex ratio in Kurza is 98.7 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constitute 49.7% of the total population while females constitute 50.3% of the total population.

Families

There are three main families in Kurza village; these are the Doudin family, which consists about of the total population, the Al Namoura family and Al Jawa'da family.

Education

According to PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results, about 35 persons (6.4%) are illiterate of whom 17% are males and 83% are females. Of the literate population, 11% of the population can read and write, 20.7% have completed elementary education, 26.9% have completed preparatory education, 20.5% have completed secondary education and 14.5% have completed their higher education (See table 1).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	6	22	54	66	62	18	29	-	3	-	260
F	29	38	59	81	50	11	18	-	-	-	286
T	35	60	113	147	112	29	47	-	3	-	546

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

The data of field survey indicated that there are two governmental schools in Kurza village; Kurza Secondary Boys School, which provides elementary, preparatory and secondary education for male students, and Kurza Secondary Girls School, which provides elementary, preparatory and secondary education for female students.

According to Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there were 486 students, 271 male students and 215 female students. They were distributed into 20 classes of which 4 were elementary co-educational classes, 8 were preparatory and secondary classes for males, and 8 were preparatory and secondary classes for females. Around 27 teachers are currently working in schools in the village; there are 14 male teachers and 13 female teachers.

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	8	0	8
	No. of Teachers	11	0	11
	No. of Students	203	0	203
Female (co-education)	No. of Schools	1	0	2
	No. of class	12	0	12
	No. of Teachers	16	0	16
	No. of Students	283	0	283

The field survey data indicates that there is also a private coeducational kindergarten in the village, called Kurza Kindergarten. It provides pre-school education services to 30 children in Kurza.

However, the educational sector in Kurza still suffers from some severe problems. For example, there is a need to establish a computer laboratory and a meeting hall in the Kurza Secondary Girls School. Furthermore, there is a need to build an additional storey and to establish a playground for the male Boys Secondary school to provide better educational services and meet future activities.

Health Status

Kurza does not have any kind of health services, it has; no clinics, no ambulances, and no pharmacies, and the closest health facility can be found in Dura, 10 kilometers away from the Village. However, there is a Mother and Child Care center that is run by the UNICEF, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

The village officials state that Kurza is in need of a permanent clinic with a full-time doctor to provide medical diagnosis and treatment for the village's residents.

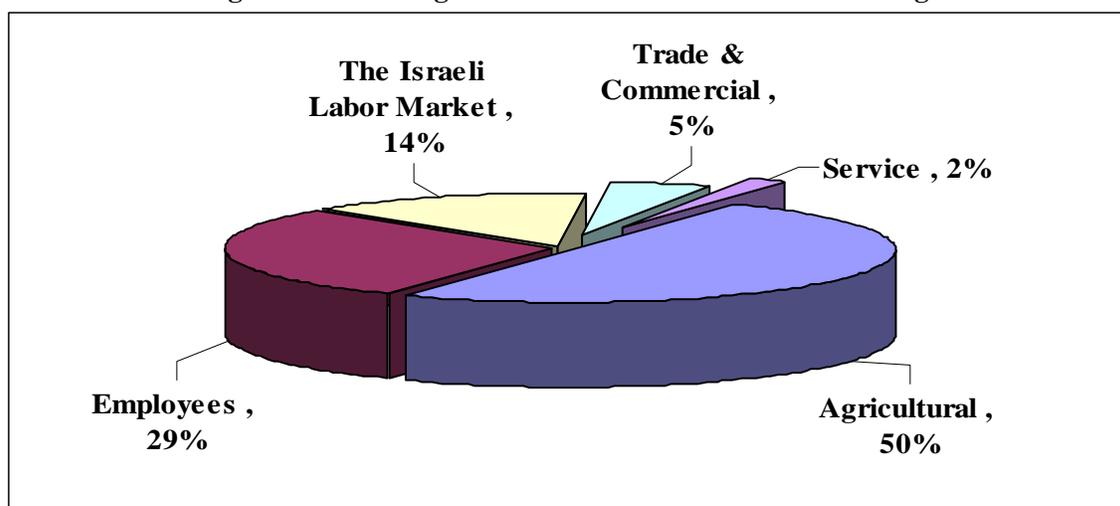
Economic Activities

The economy of Kurza mainly depends on the agricultural and public sector. According to a survey data around 50% of work force engages in agriculture activities and 29% of them are employed in public sector.

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

- Agricultural Sector (50%)
- Government or Other Employees (29%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (14%)
- Services Sector (2%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Kurza village



There are no industrial institutions or workshops currently in Kurza village, and the village also lacks any major economic institutions, there are however, nine small groceries.

Based on a survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron localities, the unemployment rate in Kurza village is at 20%. The survey data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village due to Israeli measures were:

1. Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market.
2. Families with six individuals and more.
3. Small-holder farmers.
4. Small-holder traders.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, there were 546 persons within the working age (10 years and above). Out of 546 people within the working age, 164 are economically active in Kurza village, of which 88.4% were employed. There were 382 non-economically active persons in the village, of which 59.7% were students, 29.6% were housewives and 10.7% were either unable to work, or not working and not currently looking for work. Females are over-represented in the non-economically active sector as housekeeping, 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	Others	Total	
M	117	10	7	134	105	2	14	1	4	126	260
F	28	1	1	30	123	111	20	-	2	256	286
T	145	11	8	164	228	113	34	1	6	382	546

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

Agricultural Sector

Kurza village lies on a total area of approximately 1,500 dunums. 870 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 674 dunums are used for growing crops. A lack of available investment capital for agricultural development, in addition to lack of water resources have severely contributed to the unsuitability of arable farming in the village

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Un cultivated Area			
1,500	674	196	230	3	73

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Kurza Village

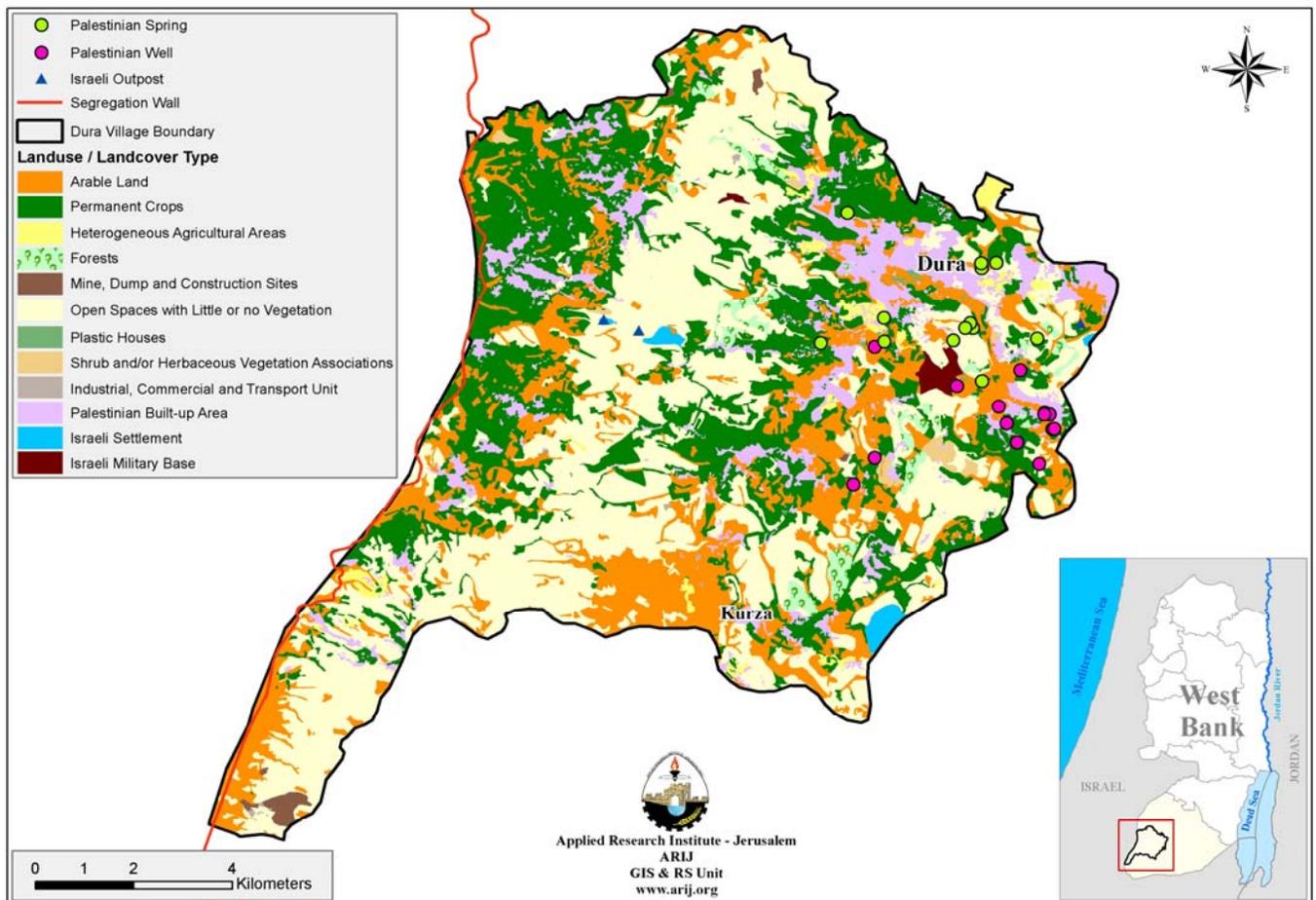


Table 5 shows the rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Kurza. The fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 43 dunums.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Kurza village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Green legumes		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
43	0	3	0	0	0	46	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Two species of aromatic medical plants are grown in the village of Kurza over a total area of about 2 dunums. These plants are thyme and sage.

In the village of Kurza, there is a total area of 343 dunums of Olive Tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond trees, apricot trees, fig trees and grape vines (See table 6).

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Kurza Village (dunum)

Olives		Stone-fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
343	0	24	1	68	0	24	0	459	1

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops totaling an area of about 95 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops such as common vetch and bitter vetch is common in the village (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops cultivated in Kurza Village (dunum)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rff	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
95	0	5	0	24	0	38	0	2	0	3	0	167	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data collected from Kurza Village Council indicates that the village residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production. The data indicates that around 10% of the households rearing farm animals. In total there are about 50 goats, 290 sheep and 13 donkeys in addition to 5 poultry farms with approximately 51,800 birds

Table 8: Live Stock in Kurza village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Broilers
0	290	50	13	51,800

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

There is about 7,000 meters of agricultural road in Kurza; this is only suitable for tractors and agricultural hardware. It is largely insufficient and the village needs to construct new roads in order to cover the vast agricultural area of the village.

In general, the agricultural sector in Kurza village suffers from many problems; lack of water resources, pastures and capital are the main obstacles. Lack of agricultural service extensions is also accountable for inhibited agricultural development.

Institutions and Services

The main institute in Kurza village is the village council. The council was established in 1995.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Kurza village is connected to a telecommunication network, and about 80% of the housing units are currently connected to the network.

Water Services: Kurza village is not connected to any water network, and the water needed for domestic and agricultural uses is collected from by cisterns and water tanks. There is a well in the village, but it is not hygienic for humans to use. The total quantity of water available to the residents is not sufficient enough for their daily activities and the water tanks are in need of replacement. There is a need to connect the housing units in the village to a water network to meet the residents' water demand.

Electricity Networks: Since 1997, the Southern Electric Company has been the major provider of energy to Kurza, where all housing units are connected to the network.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: The sewage disposal system in Kurza is chronically under-funded. There is no sewage disposable network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: In 2006, about 155.7 tons of solid waste was generated in Kurza village (ARIJ database, 2006). However, there is no solid waste management system in Kurza, and each family disposes of its own wastes by either throwing it out or burning it.

Transportation Facilities: There are about 8 km of internal roads in Kurza: 1 km is surfaced main road but currently in a bad condition, 5 km are unpaved roads and 2 km unpaved agricultural roads.

The public transportation in Kurza is currently an informal transport system. There are around 5 informal taxis operate to transport people within the local area, between Kurza and nearby villages. The transportation system in the village is currently very poorly developed and lacks a regulated transport services. The passengers of the village often rely on Adh' Dhahiriya taxis which are configured to provide services on fixed routes.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Though Kurza is not directly affected by Israeli procedures, settlement or the Wall and checkpoints, it, like all Palestinian localities is still affected indirectly by occupation. Examples include the Israeli checkpoints that residents face when they travel outside the village.

Development Plans and Projects

There have been many funded infrastructural implementations in Kurza since 2004; these include the re-construction of the Girls School by Save Children, surfacing a street on individuals' costs, and finishing the skeleton work of a clinic By MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES.

Furthermore, the village has future development plans. The plans include an establishment of a school, a playgrounds and a sport club for the youth in the village.

Locality Development Priority and Needs

According to Kurza village council the city is still suffering from shortages in many infrastructures and service requirements. Table 9 below summarizes development priorities in the village.

Table 9: Development priorities and needs for Kurza Village						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				^ 6 Km
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				6 km
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	*				secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools		*			
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			100 dunum
2	Building Cisterns	*				50 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

^6 km : 2km Internal road 4 km Agricultural roads

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