

# Somara 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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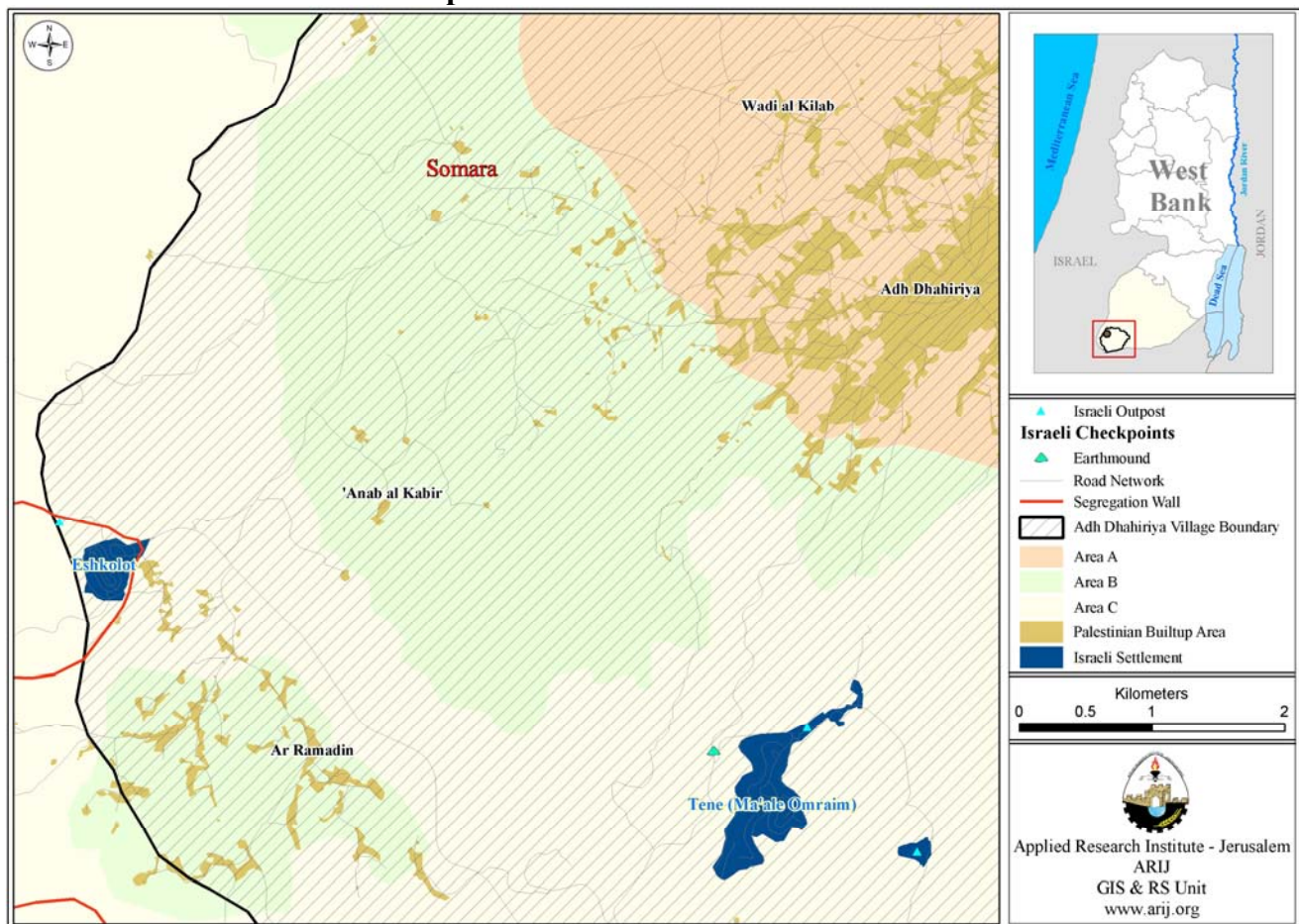
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# Somara Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Somara is a Bedouin village in the Adh Dhahiriya area located about 20 kilometers southwest of Hebron city in southern West Bank. Somara is bordered by Adh Dhahiriya to the east, Wadi al Kilab village to the north, Al Burj and Al Bireh villages to the west and Anab al Kabir and Ar Ramadin villages to the south (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Somara location and borders**



Somara is located on a mountains area at an elevation of 619 m above sea level, with a mean rainfall 337 mm, an average annual temperature of 19 °C, and average annual humidity at 60% (ARIJ GIS).

Somara village is considered a rural area as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas and has no local authority or services.

## **History**

Somara village's history dates back many years and current residents are descendents from Adh Dhahiriya.

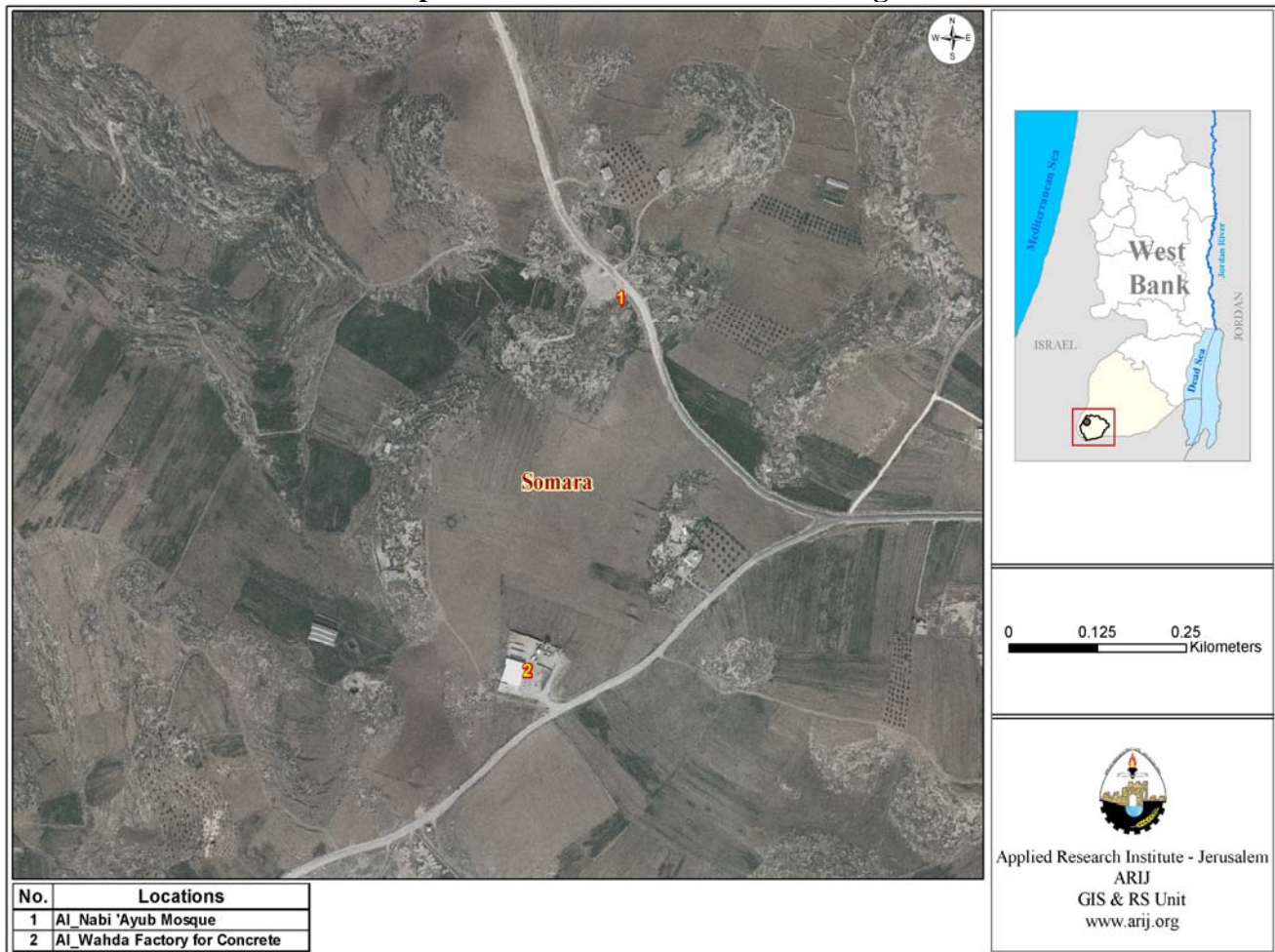
**Photo of Somara**



## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

The Al Nabe' Ayub mosque serves the village, and there are no archaeological or historical sites.  
(See Map 2)

Map 2: Main location in Somara village



## Demography and Population

The total population of Somara, in 2007, is estimated to have been 38. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997.

### Families

The entire populations of Somara are descendents from the Abu Sharkh family.

### Education

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census 1997 results, there were 6 illiterate persons in the village (35.3% of the total population), of whom 83.3% were female. Of the literate population, three persons (17.6%) received no schooling, six persons (35.3%) had elementary and preparatory education and two persons (11.8%) had a secondary education. Table one shows educational attainment by sex in Somara.

**Table 1: Somara 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	1	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
F	5	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
<b>T</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>

Source: PCBS, 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

ARIJ field survey data indicated that there are no schools in the village and students in Somara village must travel 1.5 km to Al Bireh to attend elementary school and 5 km to Adh Dhahiriya to secondary schools.

## Health Status

Somara village lacks health services and there are no health centers, ambulances or pharmacies in the village. In emergencies, residents of Somara use Adh Dhahiriya hospitals and health centers, which are located five km from Somara. The main obstacles facing the health sector in the village are:

- The lack of a maternity and pediatric center;
- The distance of health centers from the village.

## Economic Activities

According to Hebron localities surveys conducted by ARIJ in 2007, Somara residents are primarily dependent upon the agricultural sector and all residents in the village are engaged in agricultural activities. Somara village lacks any industrial or economic institutions.

Data indicated that the most affected social groups in the village because of Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were:

1. Small farmers
2. Workers that had previously been employed in the Israeli labor market.

## Labor Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997 results, 63% of the population of Somara were of working age (i.e. 10 years and above). Of the 17 people above the minimum working age, six people (35.3%) were economically active – in the labor force - of whom 83.3% were employed. The total number of economically non-active persons (i.e. those out of the labor force) was 11, 36.4% of whom were students and 63.6% were housekeeping. (See table 2):



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	5	-	1	6	2	-	-	-	-	2	8
F	-	-	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	9	9
T	5	-	1	6	4	7	-	-	-	11	17

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

## Agricultural Sector

The total area of Somara village is about 1,000 dunums, of which 20 dunums are built-up area, 500 dunums are agricultural lands, and 480 dunums classified as forests and open space area. (*see map3*)

Somara is agricultural village with 500 dunums of arable land, and as mentioned above, all of the residents are engaged in agricultural activities including planting field crops and vegetables.

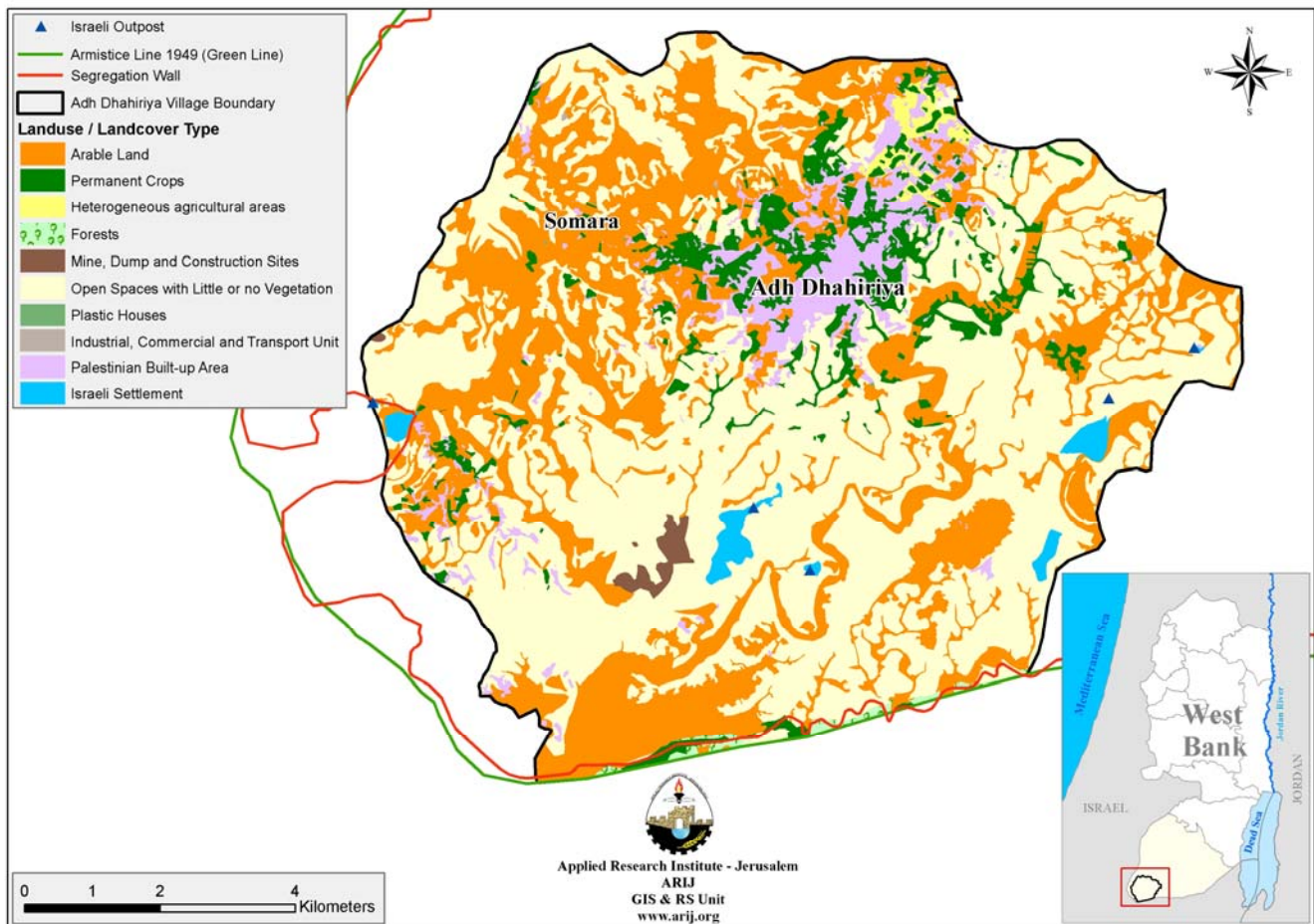
According to survey data, the cultivated area in Somara is 500 dunums, and about 200 dunums are uncultivated due to shortage of capital, shortage of water and infeasibility for agricultural activities.

Most of agriculture in Somara is rain-fed, but ARIJ field survey data indicated that the farmers also depend on the water tankers to irrigate their crops.

In spite of the 0.5 km of agricultural road in Somara, which is suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery, it is insufficient and the village needs to construct new roads to cover the agricultural area of the village.

Data collected from Somara village indicates that village residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production and all village households' rear and keep domestic animals. There are 1000 head of goats in the village.

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



## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

**Telecommunication Services:** the village not connected to a telecommunication network.

**Water Services:** the village not connected to a water network. Water tankers serve as alternative sources of water in the village. Village officials cite the lack of a water network and the shortage of water, especially during summer months, as the main obstacles facing the water conditions in the village.

**Electricity Services:** Since 2004, Somara village has been connected to an electricity network provided by the South Electricity Company. According to village officials, all of the housing units are connected to the network

**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 are no solid waste services in the village and each family disposes of its own garbage, usually by burning.

**Transportation Facilities:** Somara lacks transportation services and residents typically use neighboring village's taxis to travel the other localities and cities. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are the lack of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, the village has one one km of road, which is unpaved

**Development Plans and Projects**

Since 2004, Somara village has implemented two development projects:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
<b>1</b>	Construction of New Electricity Network	Infrastructure	ROZ
<b>2</b>	Distribution of Seeds of field crops and water	Agriculture	----

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Somara village suffers from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 5 below shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				500 m
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				1 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	*				
<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	*				Elementary & Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				150 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				3 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				6 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

**References**

- Applied Research Institute- Jerusalem (ARIJ). GIS Database. 2006-2009
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-Final Results. Ramallah, Palestine. 1997-2007