

# Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp 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 main 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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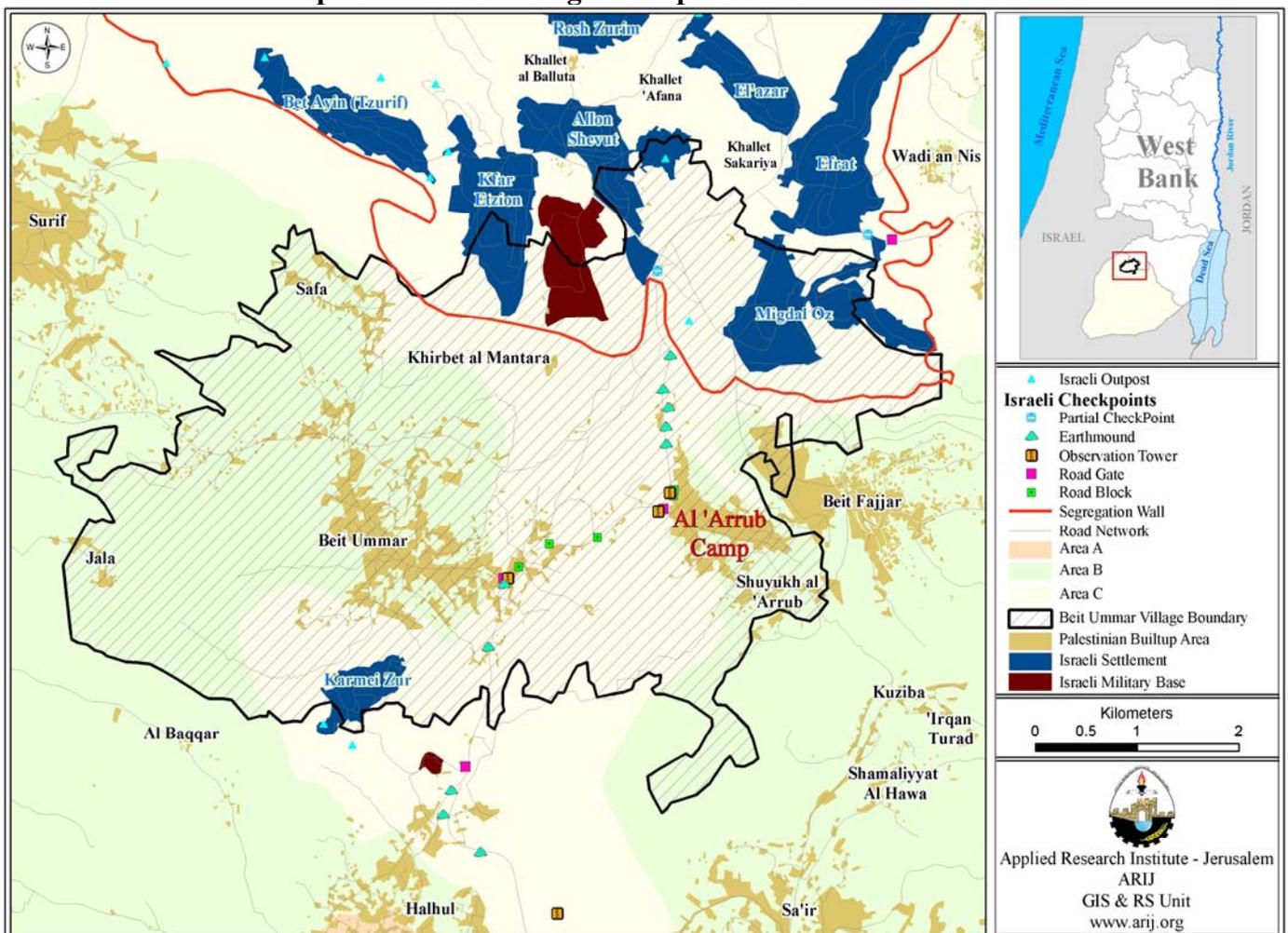
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## Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp Profile

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Al 'Arrub Camp is a Palestinian refugee camp located in Hebron Governorate, approximately 11 kilometres north of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Beit Fajjar to the east, Al Khader (Bethlehem Governorate) and Etzion Israeli settlement to the north, Beit Ummar to the west and Sa'ir to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp's location and borders



Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp covers an area of about 242 dunums. Since 1998, Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp has been governed by Al 'Arrub Camp Popular Committee, currently with 13 members, which is, appointed by the Department of Refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The

committee provides services to the refugees in the camp, including infrastructure development, relationship building with outside communities, and bringing projects to the camp.

Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp is located north of Hebron city at an elevation of 857 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 565 mm, the average annual temperature is about 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2006).

## History

Established in 1949 by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp began as a place for Palestinian refugees to live following the Palestinian Catastrophe, 'Al Nakba', when they were driven from their original villages by the Israeli army occupation and confiscation of their villages in 1948. These refugees settled in Al 'Arrub area, UNRWA later building housing units for them according to their family size. Since its establishment in 1949, the camp remains supervised by UNRWA, which provides essential services and needs from health, education to humanitarian assistance.

Al 'Arrub Camp is derived from the name of the area on which it was built. Al 'Arrub in Arabic means 'fresh water' and was given the named Al 'Arrub due to its abundance of fresh water springs.

The residents of Al 'Arrub camp originally came from several destroyed villages inside the Green Line (now Israel) such as: Iraq Al-Manshiyyah, Zakaria, Aggour, and Al Qustantinya villages.

### Photos of Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp

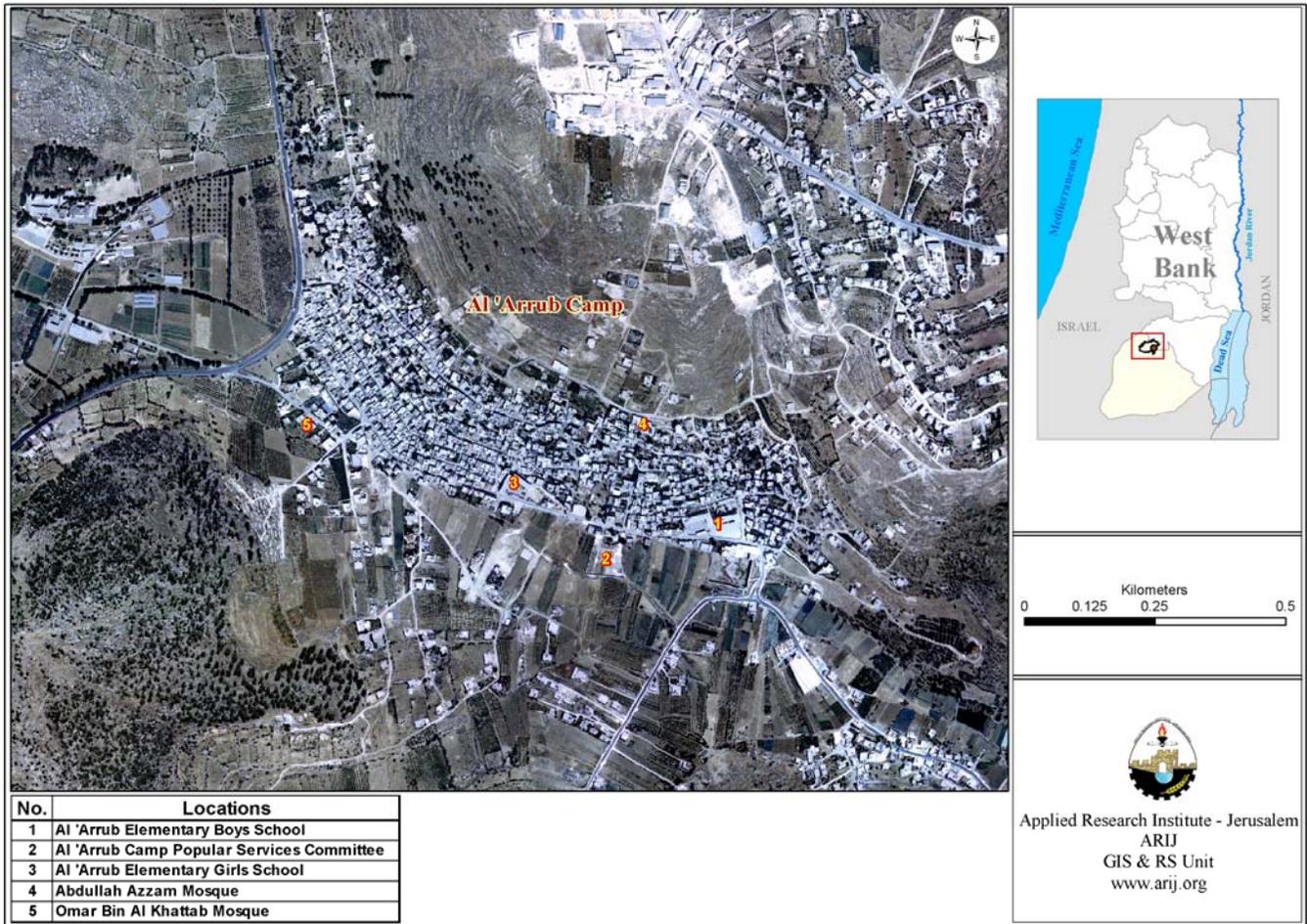


## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in Al 'Arrub camps, these are: Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque, Abdullah Azzam Mosque and Al Atatie' Mosque. (See map 2)

The Romanian Pools are the only historical and archaeological site in the camp.

**Map 2: Main locations in Al 'Arrub Camp**



## Population

In 2007, the total population of Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp was 7,941, of whom 4,025 were males and 3,916 were females. There were 1,358 households living in 1,420 housing units. The average household size was 5.8. The population density in the camp is very high, reaching 7,941 people per km<sup>2</sup> (PCBS 2007 Census).

### Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census showed the distribution of Al 'Arrub Camp population by age group and sex. The largest age group is 15-64 years, which constituted 53.4% of the total population. The 0-14 age groups constituted 42% and the 65 and over constituted only 3.5% of the total population.

The sex ratio in the camp was 103 males for every 100 females, with males comprising 50.7% of the total population and females 49.3%.

### Families

Residents of Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp are descendents of numerous families from Palestinian villages destroyed in 1948: Iraq Al-Manshiyyah, Ajour, Fallujah, Zakaria, Al Dawaimh, Kednawi, Beit Jibreen, and Beit Nateef.

### Migration

According to the Camp officials, about 100 people emigrated from the Camp since the Second Intifada as a result of the Israeli activities in the region, in addition to family problems

### Education

Table 1 shows the educational attainment by sex in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp in 2007. The table shows that 5.5% of the population (10 years and above) were illiterate, of which 26.4% were males and 73.6% were females. The table also shows that 10.8% of the people could read and write but had no formal education, 20% had completed elementary school, and 29% had completed preparatory school. Only 16.7% of residents had completed secondary school and 18% finished their higher education (associate diploma and more).

**Table 1: Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp 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	79	287	541	884	480	209	231	8	31	8	2,758
F	220	304	541	703	431	243	256	2	5	1	2,706
<b>T</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5,464</b>

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

According to ARIJ field survey data, there are four schools in Al 'Arrub Camp; three elementary schools are supervised by UNRWA, while the one secondary school is supervised by the government. Table 2 below shows the number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority.

**Table 2: The schools in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp by name, stage, sex and supervising authority**

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Al 'Arrub Co-education Agriculture Secondary School.	Secondary	Coeducation	Governmental
2.	Al 'Arrub Elementary Boys School	Elementary	Male	UNRWA
3.	First Al 'Arrub Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	UNRWA
4.	Second Al 'Arrub Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	UNRWA

Source: ARIJ Survey, 2007

Data of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) reveals that at the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007, there were 2,251 students (1,182 males and 1,069 females), 66 classes, and 92 teachers in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp (See table 3).

		<b>Government</b>	<b>UNRWA</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Male</b>	No. of Schools		1	<b>1</b>
	No. of Class	-	27	<b>27</b>
	No. of Teachers	-	33	<b>33</b>
	No. of Students	-	1,019	<b>1,019</b>
<b>Female</b>	No. of Schools	-	2	<b>2</b>
	No. of Class	-	27	<b>27</b>
	No. of Teachers	-	33	<b>33</b>
	No. of Students	-	1,050	<b>1,050</b>
<b>Co-education</b>	No. of Schools	1	-	<b>1</b>
	No. of Class	12	-	<b>12</b>
	No. of Teachers	26	-	<b>26</b>
	No. of Students	182	-	<b>182</b>

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2007

As of 2007, there were two kindergartens in Al 'Arrub Camp providing pre-education services to 205 children. Table 4 below list the kindergartens in the camp by name, number of children, classes and supervising authority.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Kindergarten Name</b>	<b>Number of Classes</b>	<b>Number of Children</b>	<b>Supervising Authority</b>
<b>1.</b>	Al Jenan kindergarten	2	50	Charitable Society
<b>2.</b>	Abdullah Azzam Kindergarten	4	85	Charitable Society
<b>3.</b>	Women's Centre Kindergarten	3	70	Charitable Society
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>205</b>	

Because of the nonexistence of a secondary school in the camp, the students are forced to travel 3 km to Beit Ummar to complete their secondary education. The educational sector in the village is also suffering from the continuous Israeli closures.

### **Health Status**

There are seven health institutions in Al 'Arrub Camp. As shown in Table 6, UNRWA is the main provider of health services in the camp, running three institutions in the camp. Three are also run by private sector. There are two physician clinics, two dental clinics, one medical lab, two pharmacies and one physiotherapy centre.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Governmental</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>UNRWA</b>	<b>Society</b>
Physician Clinic	-	1	1	-
Dental Clinic	-	1	1	-
Health Clinic	-	-	-	-
X-Ray Centre	-	-	-	-
Medical Lab	-	-	1	-
Maternity & Pediatric Centre	-	-	1	-
Pharmacy	-	2	-	-
Ambulance	-	-	-	-
Physiotherapy Centre	-	-	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2007

The health sector in Al 'Arrub Camp lacks health services available at night as the clinics are only open during the day. The camp is also without an ambulance, various medical equipment, medicines and emergency services. Camp residents are forced to travel about two or twelve kilometers to reach Beit Fajjar and Hebron health clinics and hospitals, respectively

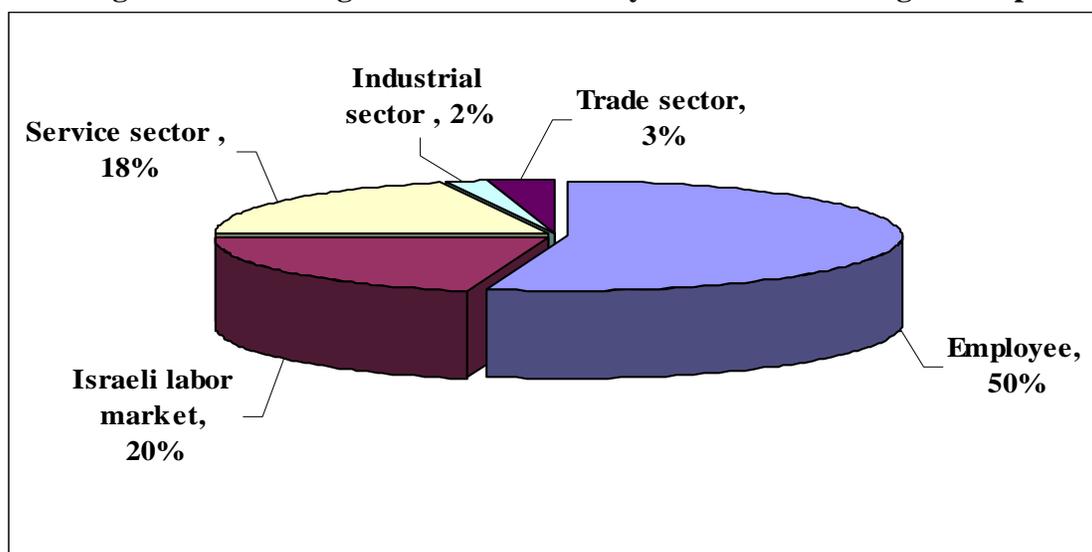
## **Economic Activities**

According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate in 2006, most refugees are dependent on the governmental or private sector for employment. Due to the lack of work opportunities inside the camp, most residents work in the neighboring towns and cities, some even travel to distant cities for work.

According to filed survey conducted in the Camp, the labor force breakdown by sectors is:

- Government or Other Employees (50%)
- Israeli Labor Market (20%)
- Services Sector (18%)
- Trade sector (3%)
- Industrial sector (2%)

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp**



The economic base of the camp is also dependent on local establishments including 20 groceries, 6 cloth shops, 5 butchers, 4 blacksmith workshops, 7 carpentry workshops and 5 service shops.

Unemployment climbed to a staggering 45% in 2007, according to Camp Committee officials. Also, they indicated that the social groups in the camp most affected by the Israeli activities since the beginning of the Second Intifada are: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families with six or more individuals, 3) Small traders, 4) Small farmers and 5) housewives and children.

**Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census, in 2007, there were 1,748 economically active persons and 3,716 non-economically active persons in the Camp. Of the economically active population, 81.8% were employed and 18.2% were unemployed. The percentage of males employed is higher than females, 76% for males and 24% for females. The largest group of non-economically active was the students which comprised 60% of the non-economically active, followed by housekeepers with 27%, and 13% who were unable to work or not working and not looking for work.

**Table 6: Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007**

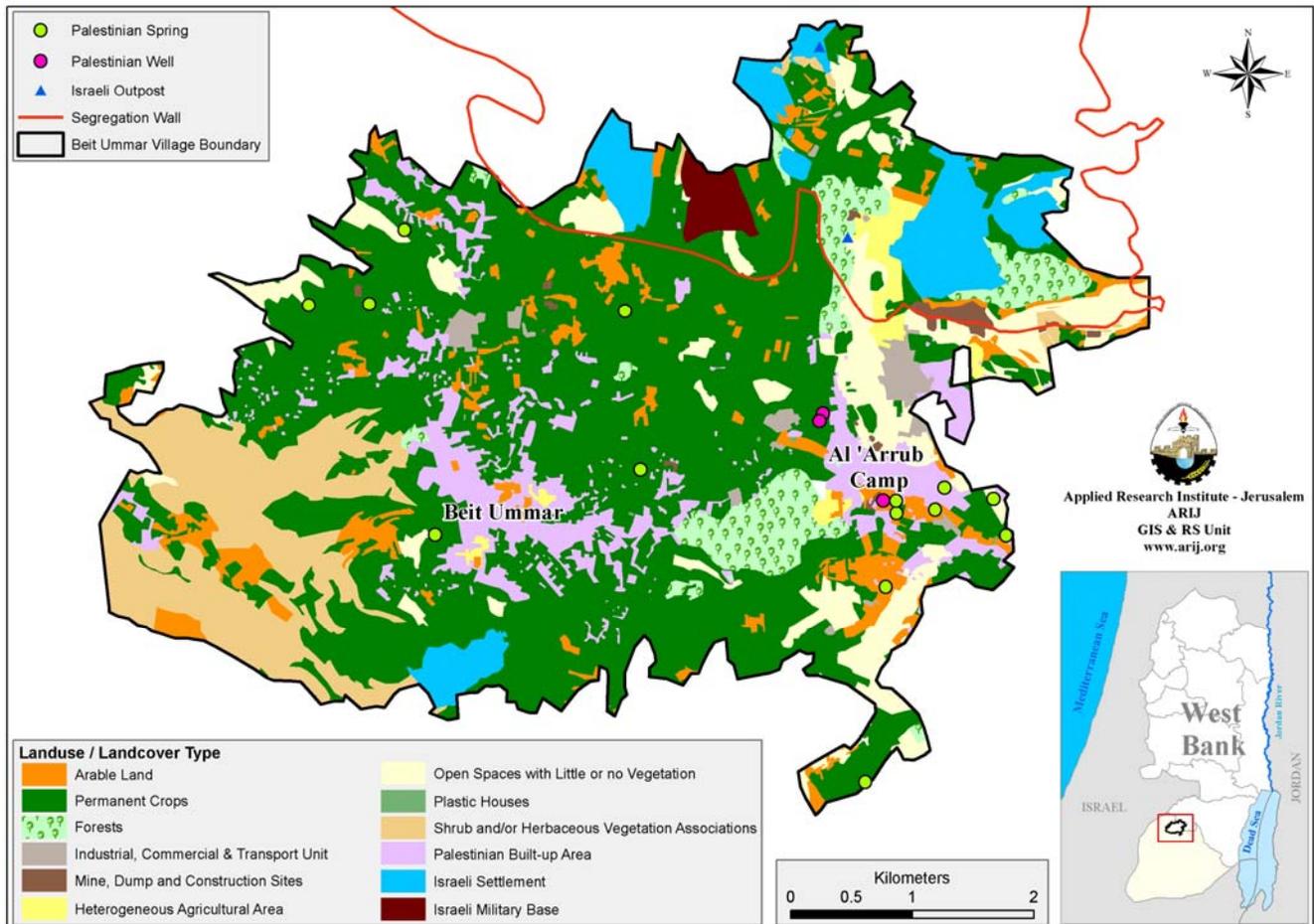
Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	1,085	92	176	1,353	1,109	2	205	30	59	1,405	2,758
F	345	7	43	395	1,117	997	169	12	16	2,311	2,706
<b>T</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>5,464</b>

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

## Agriculture Sector

Al 'Arrub Camp has no agricultural lands; all residents are refugees and do not own land within the camp and no residents work in agriculture.

**Map 3: Land Use / Land Cover and Segregation wall in Al Arrub Camp**



## Institutions and Services

There are few social, health and national institutions serving the refugees of the camp. A partial list of these institutions follows:

- Al 'Arrub Camp Popular Services Committee: Established in 1998 by the Department of Refugees in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT).
- Al 'Arrub Lady's Society: Working with women's handicrafts and kindergartens.
- Al 'Arrub Camp Zakat Committee: The main objectives of the society are to take care of the needy families, distribute humanitarian assistant to vulnerable persons and support students.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** About 90% of the housing units in Al 'Arrub Camp are connected to a telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** A water network was established in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp in 1947 by UNRWA. Approximately 90% of the housing units in the camp are connected to the network. In addition, a water reservoir in Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp with a capacity of 90 m<sup>3</sup> is used in the summer season.

Water services in the camp suffer from:

1. A lack of water, especially in summer; and
2. Low pump capacity.

- **Electricity Services:** Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp has been connected to an electricity network provided by the Jerusalem Electricity Company through Al 'Arrub Society for Electric Lighting since 1984. About 90% of the housing units in the camp are currently connected to the network. Electricity in the camp suffers from a low electricity current, and the inability to add generators to strengthen the current.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Al 'Arrub Camp connected to a sewage network in 2002 and more than 70% of the housing units are currently connected to the network. The remaining housing units dispose of their wastewater in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** The camp's committee and the Joint Services Council of North-East Hebron manage the solid waste in Al 'Arrub Camp. Solid waste produced daily in the camp is collected by a car that belongs to the Joint Services Council, and sent to Khashem Ad-Daraj dumping site, which is operated by the Joint Services Council, located 40 km from the camp. Burning and burying is the main method used to dispose of solid waste.
- **Transportation Services:** Al 'Arrub Camp is served by the Jerusalem-Hebron Transportation Line, consisting of informal vehicles. The transportation sector in the camp suffers from the existing checkpoints and earth mounts at the entrance of the Camp.

In terms of road quality, three kilometres of main roads which are paved and in good condition, two kilometres of main roads are paved but in poor condition, two kilometres of internal roads are paved and in good condition, two kilometres of internal roads are paved but in poor condition. There are also two kilometres of paved agricultural roads, one in good condition and one in poor condition

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp is surrounded by the Israeli settlements of Efrat to the north and Kfar Etzion Israeli settlement to the west. In addition, Camp residents are subjected to a permanent military checkpoint at the entrance, as well as numerous and unpredictable flying checkpoints elsewhere. As a result, access to health centers has been impeded, and ambulances routinely experience delays in transport.

## Implemented Development Plans and Projects

In 2004, seven projects were implemented in the camp (See table 7).

<b>No</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
<b>1</b>	Paved main roads	Infrastructure	Al_Aqsa Bank for development
<b>2</b>	Construction of Water network phase (1)	Water	PECDAR
<b>3</b>	Sewage Network Project	Infrastructure	UNRWA
<b>4</b>	Construction Water network phase (2)	Water	Al_Aqsa Bank for development
<b>5</b>	Paved Internals roads	Infrastructure	Ministry of Local Government
<b>6</b>	Build a fence around the land of the camp Committee	Infrastructure	Municipalities Fund
<b>7</b>	Job creation six phases	Social	UNRWA

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al 'Arrub Refugee Camp Committee, the camp suffers from shortage of many infrastructural needs and services. Table 8 shows the development priorities and needs in the camp.

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Moderately needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
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				*	
<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	*				Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
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				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds				*	
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies				*	

**References:**

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