

Al Hijra Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar program

2009

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

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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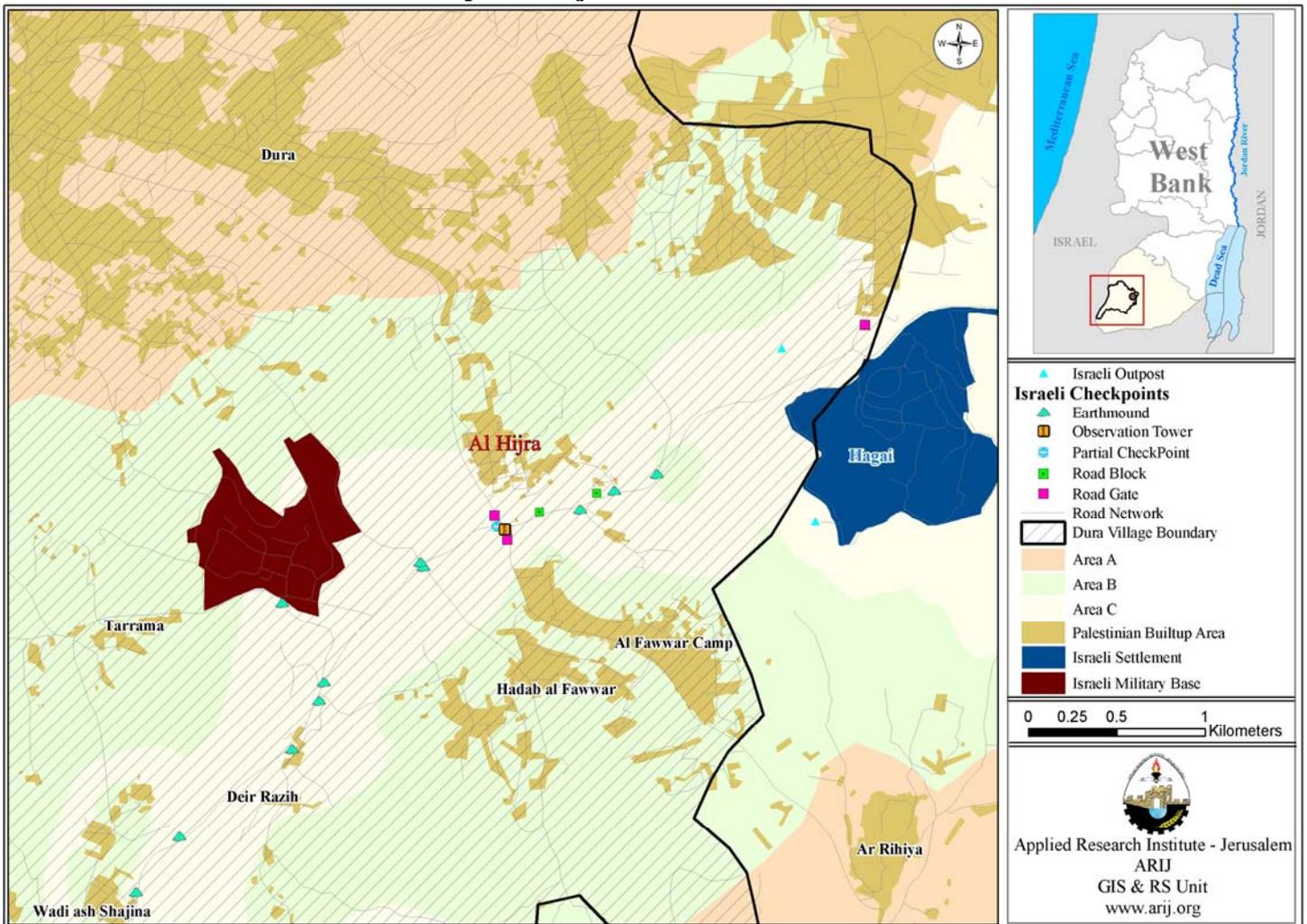
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Al Hijra Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Hijra is a village in Dura area which is located 6 km south of city of Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank. Al Hijra is bordered by Hebron City to the east, Dura city to the north and west and Hadab al Fawwar village to the south.

Map1: Al Hijra location and borders



The total area of the village is estimated to be 1,320 dunums. 70 dunums are Palestinian built-up areas, 1,080 dunums are agricultural land, and 180 dunums are forest and open spaces.

Al Hijra village extends over a mountainous area west of Hebron, with an elevation of 777 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

The village is considered to be primarily a rural area. The village is governed by a project committee (though currently the Committee does not have a permanent residence), which was established in 2004, it comprises of five members. The services provided by the committee include:

1. Infrastructural services: providing the village with electricity, collecting solid waste and paving, renovating and maintaining roads.
2. Social and humanitarian services: providing the people with basic essentials, such as; food, water, seeds for agriculture, etc.
3. Other services: such as the rehabilitation and construction, and establishment of key institutions such as mosques and schools.

History

According to one historical source, Al Hijra history dates back to the before the British Mandate even as far back as the Ottoman period. The name 'Al Hijra' is a very ancient name. Most of the residents' originate from Palestinian villages.

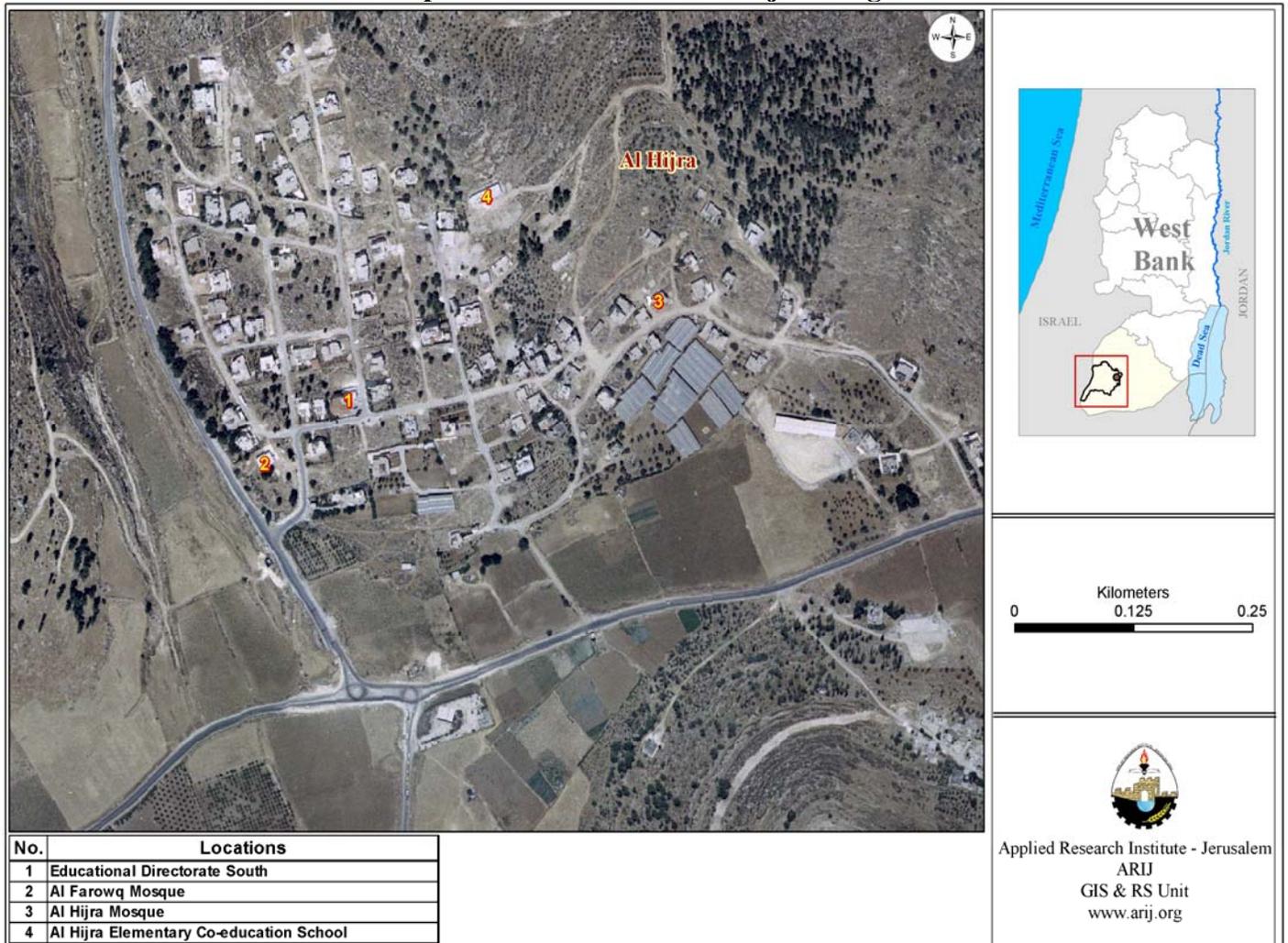
Photos of Al Hijra village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In Al Hijra village, there are two mosques "Al Hijra Mosque" and Al Farowq Mosque. There are no other archaeological sites in the village.

Map 2: Main locations in Al Hijra village



Population

The total population of Al Hijra, in 2007, is estimated to be 724. this is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of whom 363 were males and 361 were females.

Families

The population of Al Hijra village is comprised of two main families: Abu Maqdem family and Doudin family.

Education

Al Hijra village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, Al Hijra village was counted as part of Dura village. Therefore, the labor force data for Al Hijra village is not available. Table 1 shows the education status in Dura, Rafada, Al Hijra, Kureise and At Tabaqa.

Table 1: Dura City population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment											
S e x	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	295	1,072	2,196	2,975	1,627	510	981	19	126	51	9,852
F	784	1,125	1,928	2,770	1,621	457	933	12	30	2	9,662
T	1,079	2,197	4,124	5,745	3,248	967	1,914	31	156	53	19,514

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

This data includes population figures from the villages of Dura, Rafada, Al Hijra, Kureise and At Tabaqa

As there is no elementary, preparatory or secondary schools in Al Hijra village, all students are forced to go to Hadab al Fawwar or Dura schools to complete their school education. Hadab al Fawwar is approximately 1km away, where as Dura is approximately 4km away from the village.

The educational sector in the village suffers from:

- A lack of elementary, preparatory and secondary schools.
- A high cost of transportation to neighboring localities.

Health Status

Al Hijra suffers from severe shortage in health services. The data collected from the village reveals that there are not any health institutions in the village; there are no clinics, health centers or pharmacies. There is however a dental clinic in the village. In cases of emergency, patients have to travel 4 km to reach Dura city for medical treatment or 1 km to reach Hadab al Fawwar village.

Economic Activities

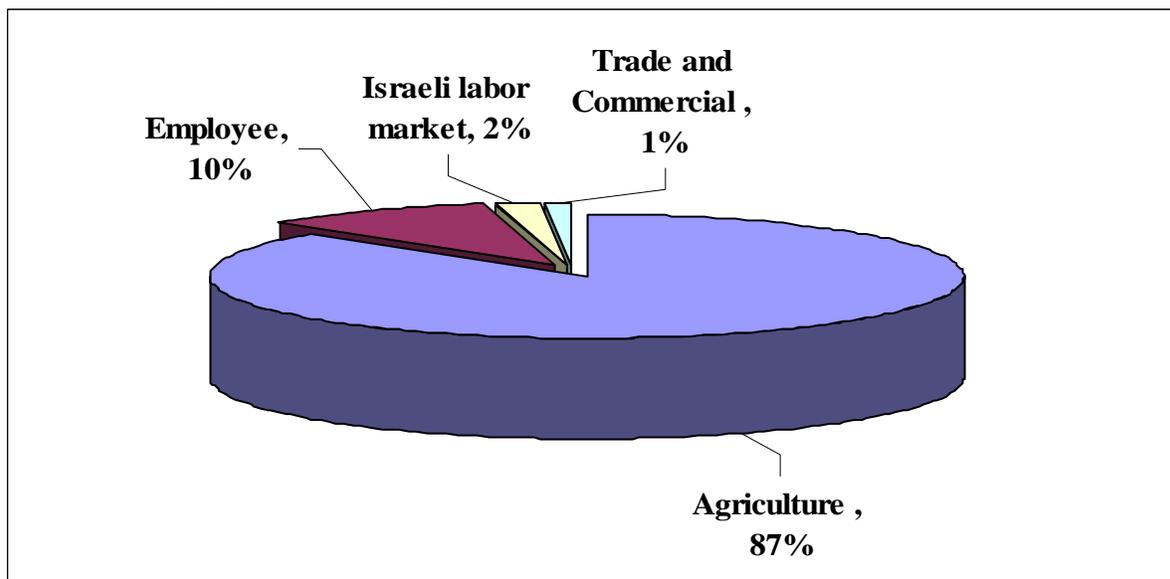
According to an ARIJ survey conducted in 2007, Al Hijra village is considered to be an agricultural village; nearly 87% of the residents depend on the agricultural sector. 2% of the residents are depending on the Israeli labour market. The remaining percentage (11%) of the residents depends on public and private sector employment, or work in trade industries.

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

- Agricultural Sector (87%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (1%)
- Government or Other Employees (10%)

- The Israeli Labor Market (2%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Al Hijra village.



The village does not have any economic institutions. There are however two grocery shops for retailing foodstuffs and various household supplies.

The ARIJ survey showed that the the unemployment rate in Al Hijra village stood at 10%. The data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village by Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were:

- 1) Small farmers
- 2) Workers previously employed in the Israeli market
- 3) Families maintaining 6 or more individuals

Labor Force

Al Hijra village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, Al Hijra village was counted as part of Dura village. Therefore, the labor force data for Al Hijra village is not available. Table 2 shows the labor force status in Dura, Rafada, Al Hijra, Kureise and At Tabaqa.

Table 2: Dura City 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	4,393	327	361	5,081	3,906	12	573	103	177	4,771	9,852
F	1,048	45	181	1274	3,943	3,863	485	24	73	8,388	9,662
T	5,441	372	542	6,355	7,849	3,875	1,058	127	250	13,159	19,514

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

This data includes population figures from the villages of Dura, Rafada, Al Hijra, Kureise and At Tabaqa

Agricultural Sector

Al Hijra village lies on a total area of 1,320 dunums. 1,080 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 1,062 dunums are currently cultivated.

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
1,320	1,062	18	70	180	0.0

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

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

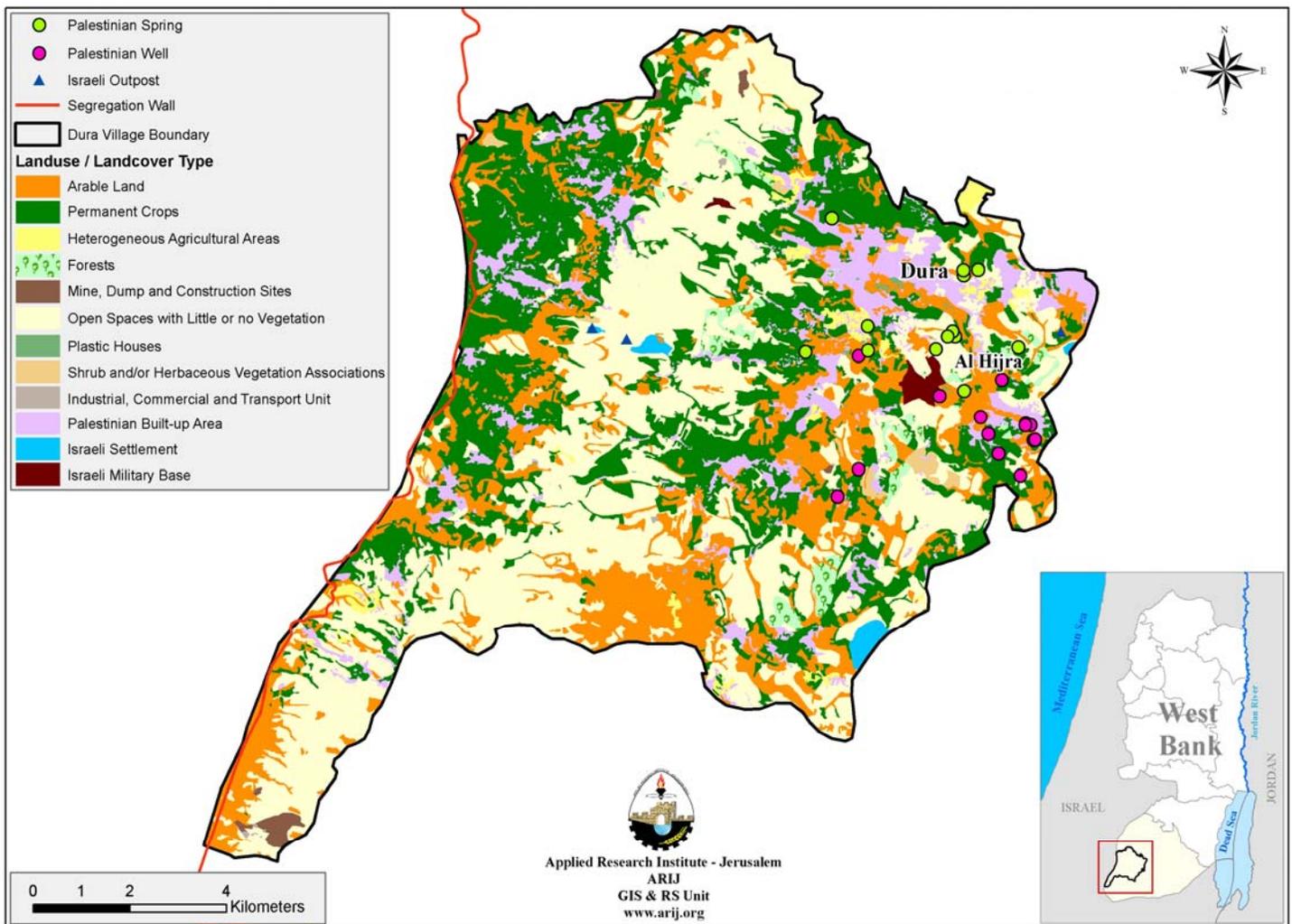


Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Al Hijra. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most commonly cultivated with an area of about 64 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are zucchinis, tomatoes, and snack cucumbers.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
64	20	0	57.5	3	9	0	67	8	78	75	231.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are 3 types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Al Hijra which spread over a total area of about 3 dunums. These plants are thyme, mint and sage.

In the village of Al Hijra, there is a total area of 271 dunums of Olive tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond 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
271	0	0	0	25	0	8	0	43	0	131	0	478	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 6 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Al Hijra. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 144 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops such as common vetch and bitter vetch is prevalent in the village of Al Hijra.

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
144	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	75	0	1	0	0	0	237	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Al Hijra village are dependent upon rearing livestock, such as cows, sheep, goats and chickens. The village also has about 30 bee hives.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
19	130	95	23	--	23,000	--	30

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The main sources of water for irrigation in the village are rainfall and natural springs. The total length of the agricultural roads in the village of Al Hijra reaches to 12,000m, which is unpaved but suitable for tractors, other agricultural machines and animals.

The agricultural sector in the village suffers from a severe lack of agricultural services and also a lack of veterinary services. The Israeli Forces destroyed and uprooted about 250 olive trees and 300 almonds trees in Al Hijra village.

Institutions and Services

Al Hijra is a small village; people mostly get all of their services from Dura city and the neighboring villages. The main institution in the village is the project committee. It was founded in 2004 and conducts most of the residents' services. The other institution in the village is the South Hebron Educational Office, which was established in 1997.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

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

Water Services: Al Hijra has been connected to a water network since 1975; but currently the network does not supply water. The residents now depend on solely on cisterns, water tanks and a local spring as alternative resources to water networks. Al Hijra spring is utilized to human and agricultural use; there are 18 dunums of cultivated area that depend on the spring water (open cultivated and green houses).

Electricity Services: Al Hijra village has been connected to an electricity network since 1986, the electricity is provided by the Israeli National Company (Al Qutria). According to village officials, 100% of the housing units are connected to the network.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: Al Hijra village is not connected to any sewage disposal network, and the waste water is disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There is no solid waste management system in the village, and each household must dispose of its own garbage by burning it in open area.

Transportation Facilities: Al Hijra village lacks an official transportation service; residents rely on Dura Taxi Office for transportation services, or use their private cars, and sometimes use public transportation from the neighboring villages. The primary obstacle to transportation in the village is the lack of vehicles and automotive services.

700 m of main roads in the village in good condition, and 5,000 m of internal roads are in need of restoration. There are about 12,000 meters of agricultural roads, which are unfit for general usage.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

To the east of Al Hijra, there is an Israeli settlement named 'Hajeya', the total area of the settlement is about 500 dunums. The village is also subjected to a permanent checkpoint.

The Israeli forces have demolished two houses in Al Hijra village since the beginning of the Second Intifada. And they declared about 30 dunums to be confiscated, but have still not implemented this action.

Development Plans and Projects

In the last two years Al Hijra Project Committee has implemented three projects in the village funded by different donors, these projects includes:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1.	Built of new elementary School (2007)	Educational	Norwegian Government
2.	Paving main Road	Infrastructure	European Government
3.	Rehabilitation Al Hijra spring	Water	

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al Hijra Project Committee, the village has been suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural and services needs. Table 9 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	*				9.8 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				4 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				2000 cubic meter
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					
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools					
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns	*				90 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			6
4	Veterinary Services				*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals				*	
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

^ 800 m main roads, 4 km internal roads and 5 km agriculture roads

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