

Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdum, Humsa 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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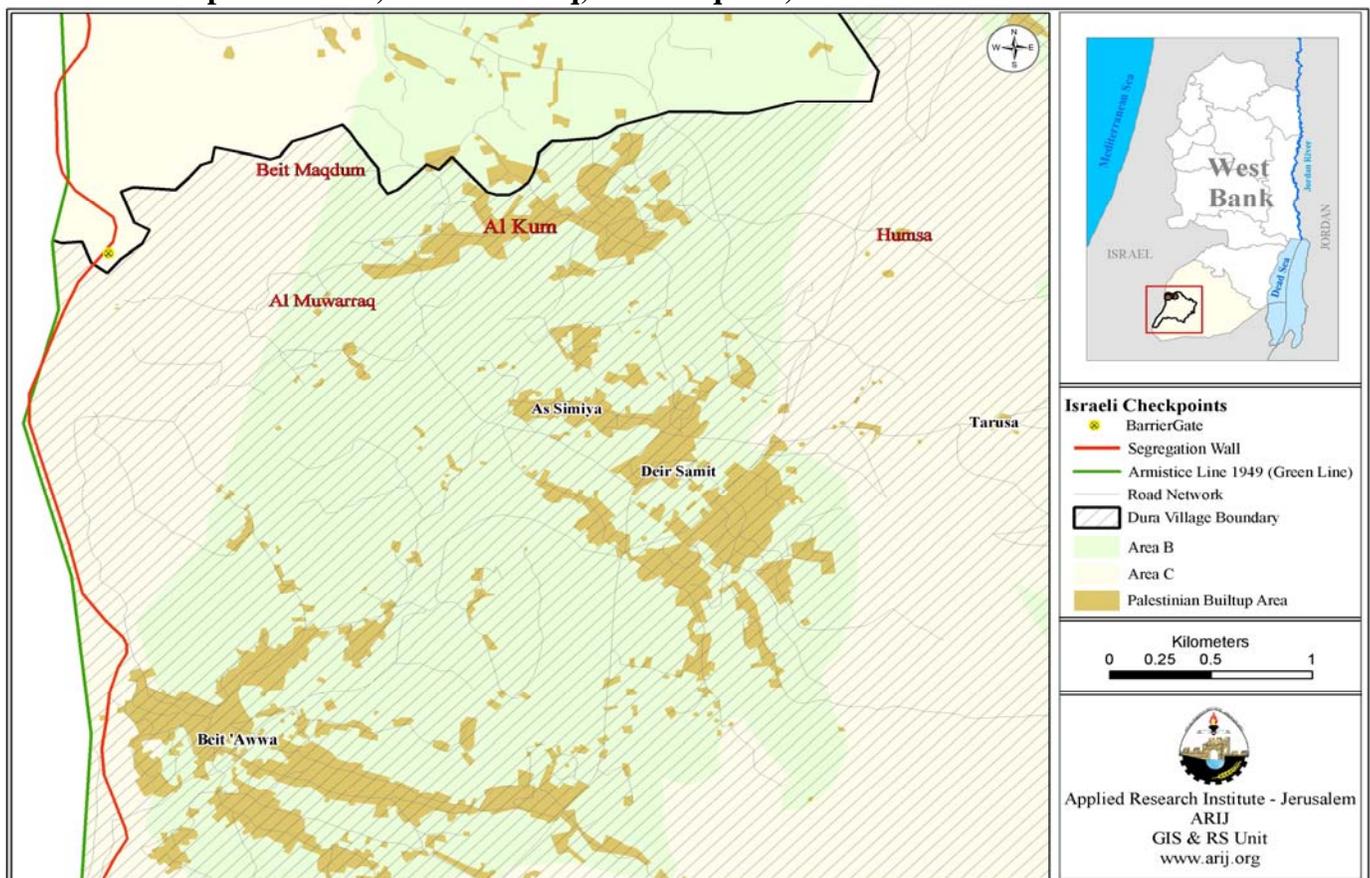
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Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdam, Humsa Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdam, Humsa are incorporated villages located 13 km west of Hebron city in the southern most part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Dura City to the east, Idhna to the north, the 1949 Armistice Line (the Green Line) to the west, and Deir Samit to the south (See Map 1).

Map 1: Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdam, Humsa location and borders



The total area of the villages is about 7,000 dunums, of which there are 400 dunums of Palestinian built-up areas, 5,600 dunums of agricultural land, and 1,000 dunums of forests or open spaces with little or no vegetation.

The villages of Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdam, and Humsa are located on low lands, approximately 400 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in these villages is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Since 1995, the four separate villages have joined under one village council called Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdum and Humsa village council. Currently, the council consists of six members and four full-time employees. The council provided infrastructure services to the all villages such as water, electricity and solid waste disposal services. The villages are considered to be rural areas under the current relevant criteria.

History

The four villages have been populated for more than two hundred years. They are located on old archaeological sites that date back to Canaanite time. The new council for the villages has purposefully kept the historical names of all villages, as every village name have a pertinent history relevance; for example, Al Kum village derived its name from "alkoum" (الكوم) which means accumulation of archeological evidence, and Al Muwarraq village related to the existence of springs in the village. Some of the residents of these villages are originally from Dura and some are deported from 1948 villages.

Photo of Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdum /Humsa



Religious and Archaeological Sites

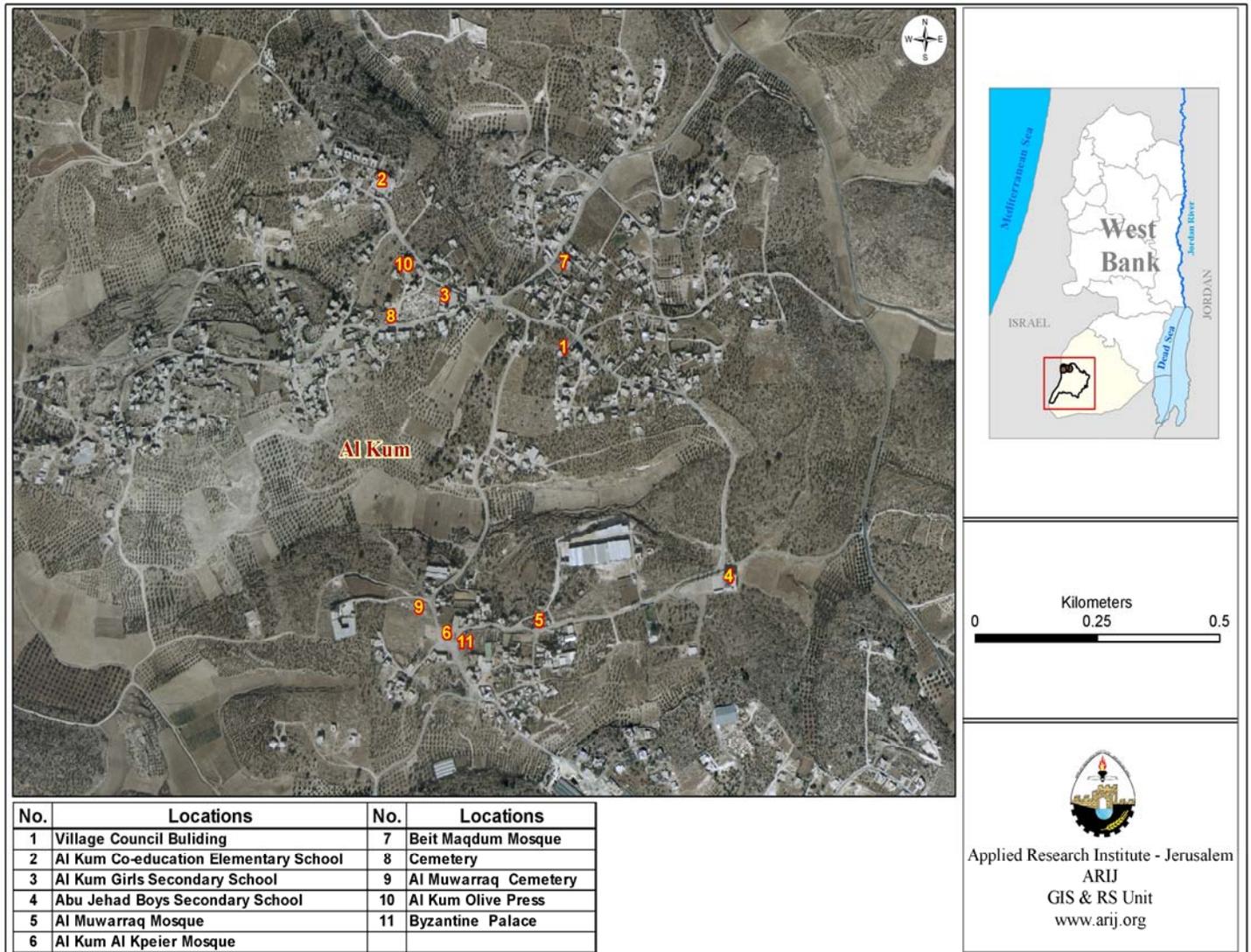
With regards to religious establishment, there are three mosques that serve the villages, these are:

- ‘Al Kum Al Kaber’ Mosque in Al Kum village.
- ‘Al Muwarraq’ Mosque in Al Muwarraq village.

- 'Beit Maqdam' Mosque in Beit Maqdam village.

The village was established on the ruins of an old village from the Roman period and there is an archaeological site in Al Muwarraq village that provides evidence for this.

Map 2: Main location in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam /Humsa villages



Demography and Population

The total population of the four villages, in 2007, is estimated to be 2,592 people. this is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of these 1,279 were males and 1,313 female. There are 432 households resident in 521 housing units. (See table 1):

Village	Male	Female	Total
Al Kum	636	665	1,300
Al Muwarraq	283	287	570
Beit Maqdam	348	349	698
Humsa	12	12	24
Total	1,279	1,313	2,592

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

Age Group and Gender

The 2007 Census shows the distribution of population by age group and sex in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq / Beit Maqdam and Humsa villages. The results indicated that 43.3% of the total population are below the age of 14, and to 54.2% of the total population are between 15 and 54, while the 65 years and above constitutes to merely approximately 2.4% of the total population.

The sex ratio in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq / Beit Maqdam and Humsa villages is 97.4 males to 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the villages constitute 49.3% of the total population while females constitute 50.7%.

Families

The main families in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdam and Humsa villages are: Al Rjoub , Al Awawda , Al Sharha (Abu Farndel) .

Education

According to PCBS's 'Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, approximately 6.6% of the population (over the age of 10) of the residents of the four villages were illiterate, with 77.3% of that figure being made up of women, a significantly higher percentage comparable to that of illiterate men (22.7%). Of the literate population, 13.5% of the residents can read and write, 26.3% have completed elementary education, 29.5% completed have preparatory education, 17% have completed secondary education and 7.2% completed have their higher education (See table 2).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	27	106	221	298	151	30	50	2	1	1	887
F	92	138	256	238	157	10	36	-	-	-	927
T	119	244	477	536	308	40	86	2	1	1	1,814

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
This data includes population figures from the villages of Beit Maqdam, AlKum and Al Muwarraq

The field survey indicated that there are three levels of education in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam /Humsa villages: pre-school (kindergartens), basic, and secondary education. The data also revealed that there were 3 schools in the village, of which one school is for males, one school for females and one is a co-educational school. All the schools in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam/ Humsa are administered by public sector. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 3.

Table 3 The schools in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam/ Humsa by name, stage, sex and supervising authority

School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1. Al Sheead Abu Jhad Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2. Girls Al Kum Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
3. Al Kum Elementary Co-education School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental

The data of Ministry of Higher Education reveals that the 2006/2007 scholastic year consisted of 32 classes, of which there were 43 teachers and 985 Students in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam/ Humsa villages (See table 4).

Table 4: Total No. of schools, classes and students by sex in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam/Humsa villages (2006-2007)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	14	0	14
	No. of Teachers	19	0	19
	No. of Students	399	0	399
Female	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	9	0	9
	No. of Teachers	13	0	13
	No. of Students	313	0	313
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	9	0	9
	No. of Teachers	11	0	11
	No. of Students	273	0	273

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006/2007

In 2006, there were three kindergartens in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Beit Maqdam and Humsa villages. These kindergartens provided pre-school education to 70 children. Table 5 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

Table 5: The kindergartens in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq/ Beit Maqdam/ Humsa by name, number of classes, children, teachers and supervising authority

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Ahbab Allah Kindergarten	1	29	2	Private
2.	Amaney Kindergarten	1	17	2	Private
3.	Al Muraq Children Kindergarten	1	24	2	private

Health Status

The village lacks any kind of health service, such as clinics, health centers and pharmacies. There is only one governmental Mother and Child Care center. The village official’s cite the obstacles currently preventing a fluent health service in the villages are: a lack of specialized clinics, a lack of doctors in the villages, and an absence of a hospital close to the village. The residents are therefore forced to travel to Hebron and Dura for there health services. These cities are approximately 10 and 20 km away, respectively.

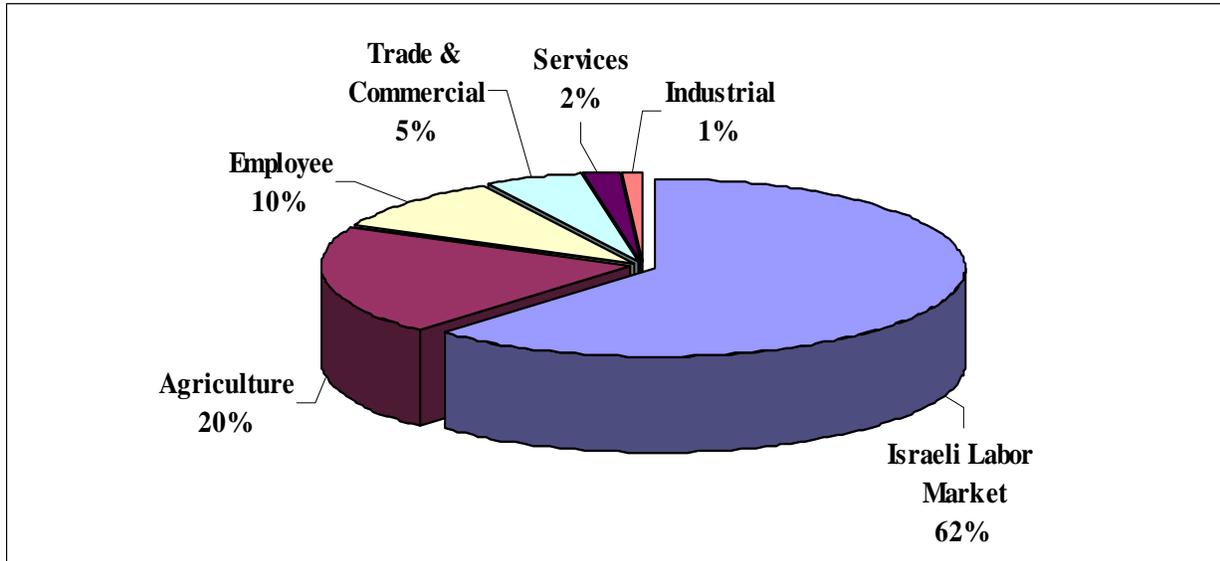
Economy

According to a survey conducted by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate localities village, the economic of villages is based mainly in the Israeli Labor Market where 62% of the working population work inside Israel. In addition to the Israeli Labor Market the villages also depend on agriculture activities and a lot small economical institution like Olive pressing, trading shops, four groceries, one clothes shop and one blacksmith.

The data collected from the village council shows the division of labor in the various sectors of the economy. This is listed below (in percentage):

- Israeli labor market (62%)
- Agricultural Sector (20%)
- Government or Other Employees (10%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (5%)
- Services Sector (2%)
- Industrial Sector (1%)

Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Al Kum/ Al Muwarraq / Beit Maqdam /Humsa villages



Based on the data, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) previous workers in the Israeli labour market, 2) housekeeping and children, 3) small farmers, 4) families maintaining 6 individuals or more, 5) small traders.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS's, 'Population, Housing and Establishment Census' in 2007, approximately 70% of the population of Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdam were within the working age (10 years and above). Out of the 1,814 people within the working age, 490 (27%) were economically active (inside the labor force), while 1,324 (73%) were not economically active (outside labor force). Of the economically active people, 80% were either employed or had been employed and 20% had never worked. Most of the economically active people were males (94% were male and 6% were females). 57.7% of the people who were *not* economically active were students, 31.6% were house keeping, and 10.7% were unable to work, not working and merely not looking for work. Table 6 shows the labor force status in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdam villages .

Table 6: Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdam 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	366	55	27	448	355	1	69	2	12	439	887
F	26	2	14	42	409	417	34	2	23	885	927
T	392	57	41	490	764	418	103	4	35	1,324	1,814

Source: PCBS, March 2007. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
 This data includes population figures from the villages of Beit Maqdam, AlKum and Al Muwarraq

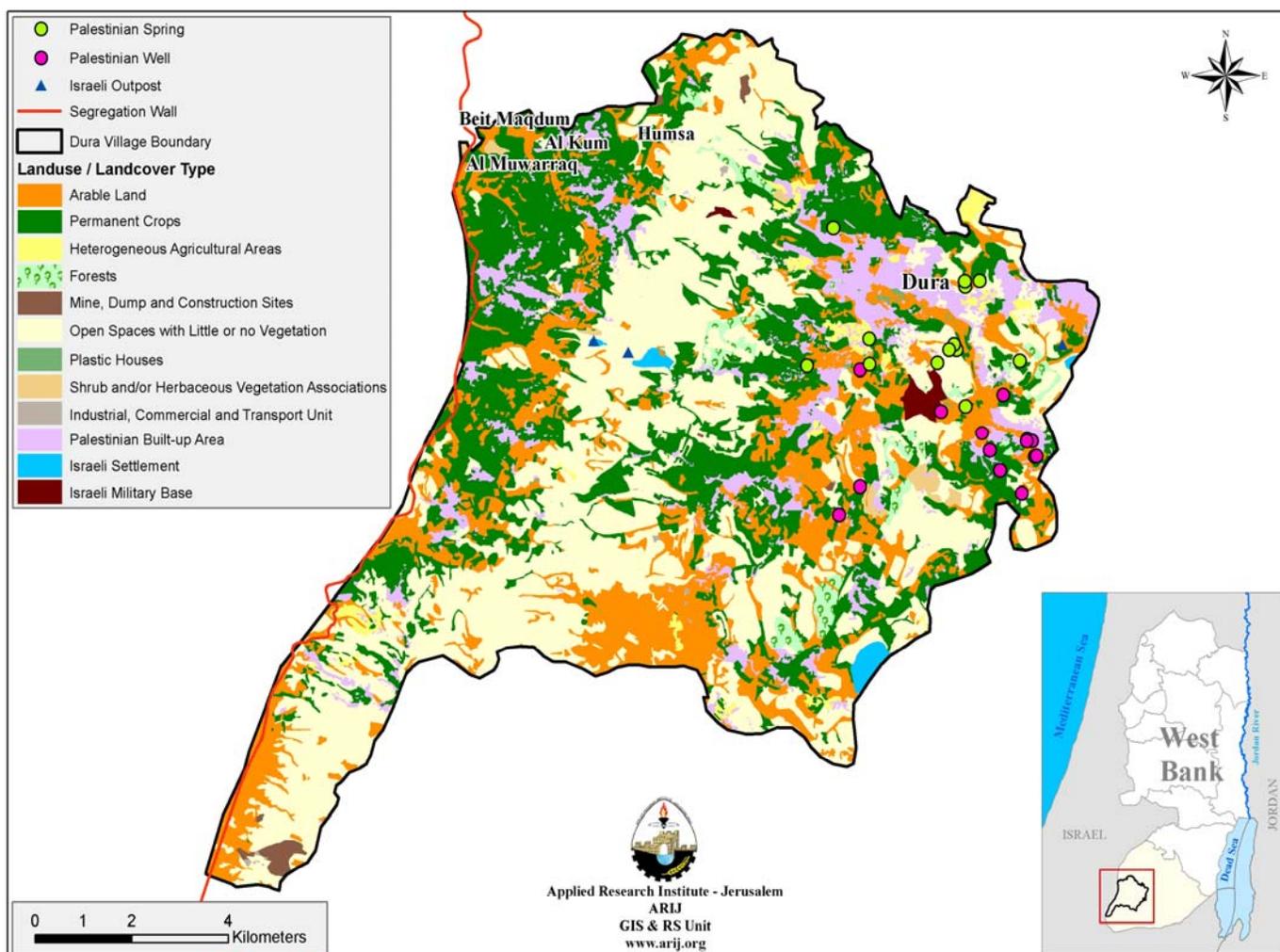
Agricultural Sector

Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdam- Humsa village inhabit a total area of approximately 7000 dunums. 5625 dunums are considered arable land, however only 5198 dunums are cultivated.

Table 7: Land Use in Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdam- Humsa villages (dunum)					
Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
7,000	5,198	427	490	36	270

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq , Humsa and Beit Maqdam villages



There are 4 dunums of green houses and no tunnels in the village.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdam- Humsa. Fruity vegetables, such as Squash, Tomato, and snake cucumber (Faqous) are the most cultivated vegetables with an area of about 82.5 dunums.

Table 8: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdam- Humsa villages (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
81	1.5	0	6.5	23	3	0	1	10	33	114	45

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are two types of ‘aromatic medicinal’ plants in the village of Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdum- Humsa which spread over a total area of about 11 dunums. These plants are Thyme and Sage.

In the village of Al Kum-Al Muwarraq-Beit Maqdum-Humsa, there is a total area of 3214 dunums of olive trees plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly nuts trees and other fruits.

Table 9: Total area of horticulture and olive tree in Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdum- Humsa villages (dunum)

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
3214	0	0	10	40	0	1	0	389	0	179	0	3823	10

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdum- Humsa. Cereals; wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops accounting for an area of approximately 1,094 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of Dry legumes such as (Humus) is common in the village of Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdum- Humsa.

Table 10: Total area of field crops in Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdum- Humsa villages (dunum)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		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
1,094	0	10	0	37	0	2	0	33	0	6	0	6	0	1,188	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdum villages are also rearing livestock. Similarly, approximately 10% of the residents breed domestic animals.

Table 11: Livestock in Al Kum - Al Muwarraq- Beit Maqdum- Humsa villages

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
1,029	535	591	0	0	99	2	39,000	29,500	20

**Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls*

Most of the agriculture in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdum villages is rain fed, however, the field survey data indicates that the farmers also depend on the water network and cisterns in irrigating their crops.

Despite of the fact that there are about 8 km of agricultural roads in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdum villages suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines it is still insufficient and the village is still in need of new roads being constructed to cover the vast agricultural area in the village.

Institutions and Services

The main institution in the four villages is the village council, which was established in 1996. In addition to this, there is the Al Fajer Cultural and Arts Center, which was established in 2005. Map 2 shows the main institutions of the villages.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Village officials report that though there is telecommunication networks in the villages, only about 40% of the housing units are connected to the network.

Water Services: Since 1986, the villages have been connected to a water network, this is provided by the Israeli water network (MECOROT). According to the village officials, about 95% of the housing units are connected to the water network. There is an alternative resource for water in the villages (in case of shortage in the summer months); these are rainwater collection wells (cisterns). Village officials' states there are several problems in the village with regards to the water status, namely the lack of rainwater collection wells, the lack of reservoirs, and no available water during the summer season.

Electricity Networks: Since 1995 the villages have been supplied with electricity by the Israeli Electricity Company. Approximately 98% of the housing units in the villages are connecting to this network. However, the major problems with the electricity network to date are: the weak current, damaged and unsafe areas, and an increase of pressure upon the electricity network due to the escalating population.

Solid Waste Collection Services: Solid waste management in the village is operated by the village council. The solid waste is collected from the residential area and sent to Hebron Municipality dumping site (east of Yata city), approximately 40 kilometers from the villages, where they dispose of the garbage by burning it. Approximately 266, 117, and 143 tons of solid waste are generated in Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, and Beit Maqdam villages respectively (ARIJ database, 2006)

Sewage Disposal Facilities: The villages are disconnected from any sewage disposable network; the waste water generated is disposed of in cesspits.

Transportation Facilities: The villages are served by an informal transportation network called the 'South Taxi Office'. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are the presence of military road blocks, earth mounds, and the lack of regularly maintained roads. In terms of road qualities, 6 km of road are paved and in good condition, 2 km are paved and in poor condition, and 10 km are unpaved roads.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

There are no settlements in the surrounding area of the villages; however, the village is subject to random checkpoints between the three villages and the cities of Dura and Hebron. The Israeli Forces usually either close the dumping site or generally obstruct the residents in reaching there. Sometimes, farmers also find difficulty in harvesting the fruit from the trees, and occasionally the Israeli Forces close the agricultural roads in the villages altogether. Similarly, the villagers also experience difficulties in reaching health centers, hospitals, or transporting sick people to the nearest health centers. Doctors also experience difficulties in reaching the villages in emergencies.

The Segregation Wall itself surrounds the villages from the west side. The construction of the Wall in the village began in 2005; where a 2,000 m portion (of the wire and concrete type) has been constructed on 150 dunums of confiscated village land.

Development Plans and Projects

Village officials note that there are currently two established development projects, these are; an establishment of water networks, and an establishment of additional electricity cables for the villages. Moreover, the villages' future development plans will focus on the construction and expansion of infrastructural networks, such as electricity, roads, water, and solid waste disposable.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al Kum, Al Muwarraq, Humsa and Beit Maqdam village council the villages are in need of many projects and plans for development. Table 12 shows the development priorities and necessities for vibrant, sustainable villages.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				11 km
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			10,000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas			*		2,000 M
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		*			
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			500 dunums
2	Building Cisterns		*			50 wells
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			30
4	Veterinary Services			*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*		
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

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