

Al Majd 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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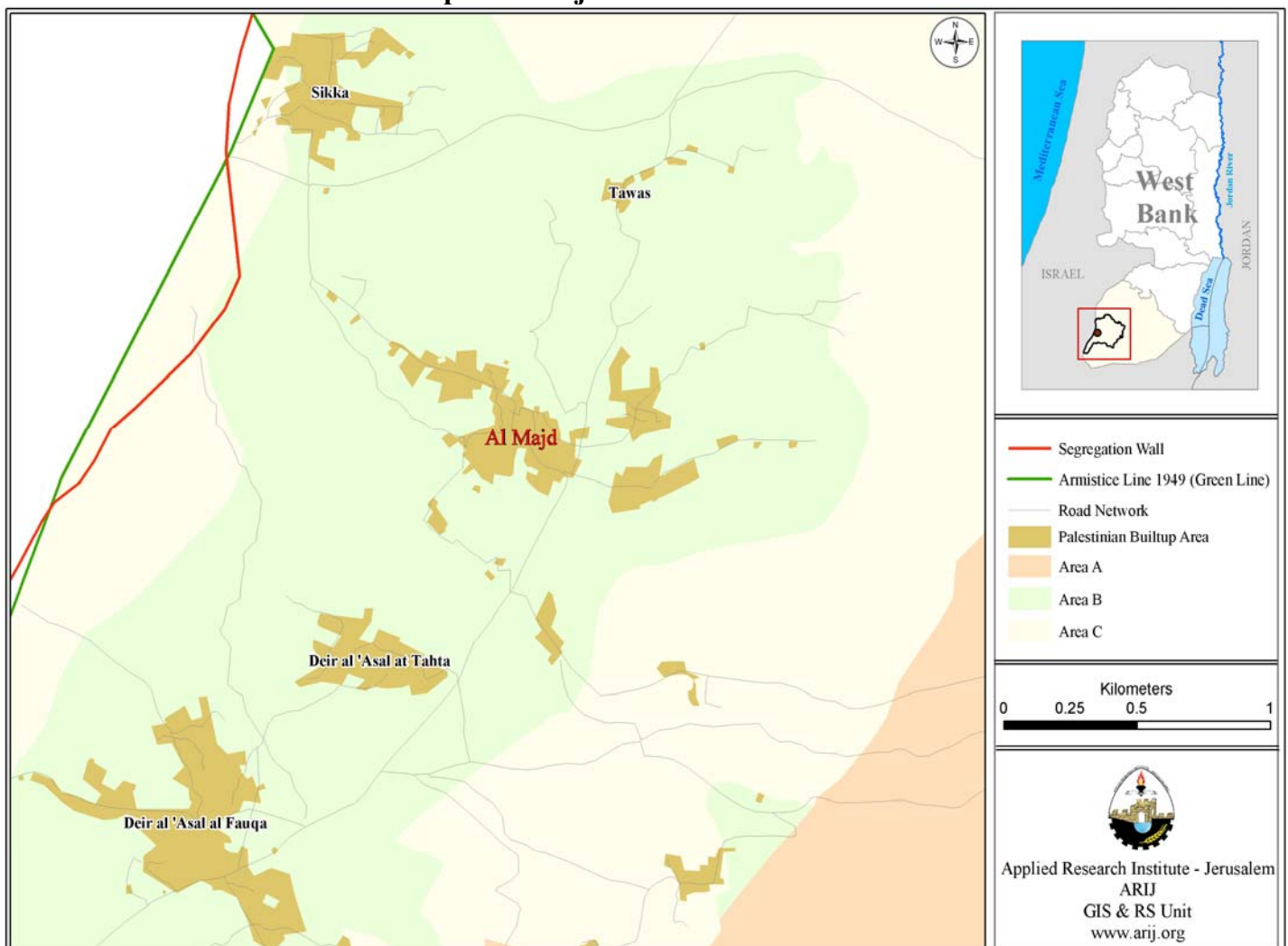
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Al Majd Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Majd is a village in the Dura area which is located 15 kilometers south-west of the city of Hebron in the southern part of West Bank. It is bordered by Marah al Baqqar and As Sura villages to the east, Sikka village to the north, Deir al 'Asal at Tahta village to the south and the 1949 Armistice Line (the Green Line) to the west (See Map 1).

Map 1: Al Majd location and borders



The total area of Al Majd village is approximately 4,000 dunums. 310 dunums are classified as Palestinian built-up areas, agricultural land constitute 3188 dunums, and forests and open spaces account for a further 472 dunums. 20 dunums of Al Majd village have been confiscated by the Israeli forces to construct military bases, and the Segregation Wall.

The village of Al Majd lies on a narrow plain west of Dura Mountains at a height of 475 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Al Majd village is 436 mm, the average annual temperature is 16°C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

According to Ministry of Local Authority classifications, Al Majed comprises of Al Majed, Khirbet Abu Hamed and Khirbet Abu Swana villages.

Al Majd is considered to be a predominantly rural village. The village is governed by a village council, which was established in 1996, currently consisting of five members. The services are provided by the council include:

- Project administration and issuing building licenses.
- Infrastructural services including, water, electricity, paved and maintained roads.
- Health Services.
- Educational services.
- Social and human services.

History

The history of the village dates back to 1922, where it merely consisted of a few small houses and caves. The area of land was approximately one dunum in size, with a population of about 200 people. After 1948 War the population of the village increased sharply due to the migration from other destroyed villages beyond 1949 Green Line. Currently the majority of population consists of refugees that have emigrated from villages such as Umm Al Shaqaf, Dwelfa and Jazana that were occupied by the Israeli forces during 1948.

Al Majd's name is derived from the holy shrine of Al Sheikh Majed located in the centre of the village.

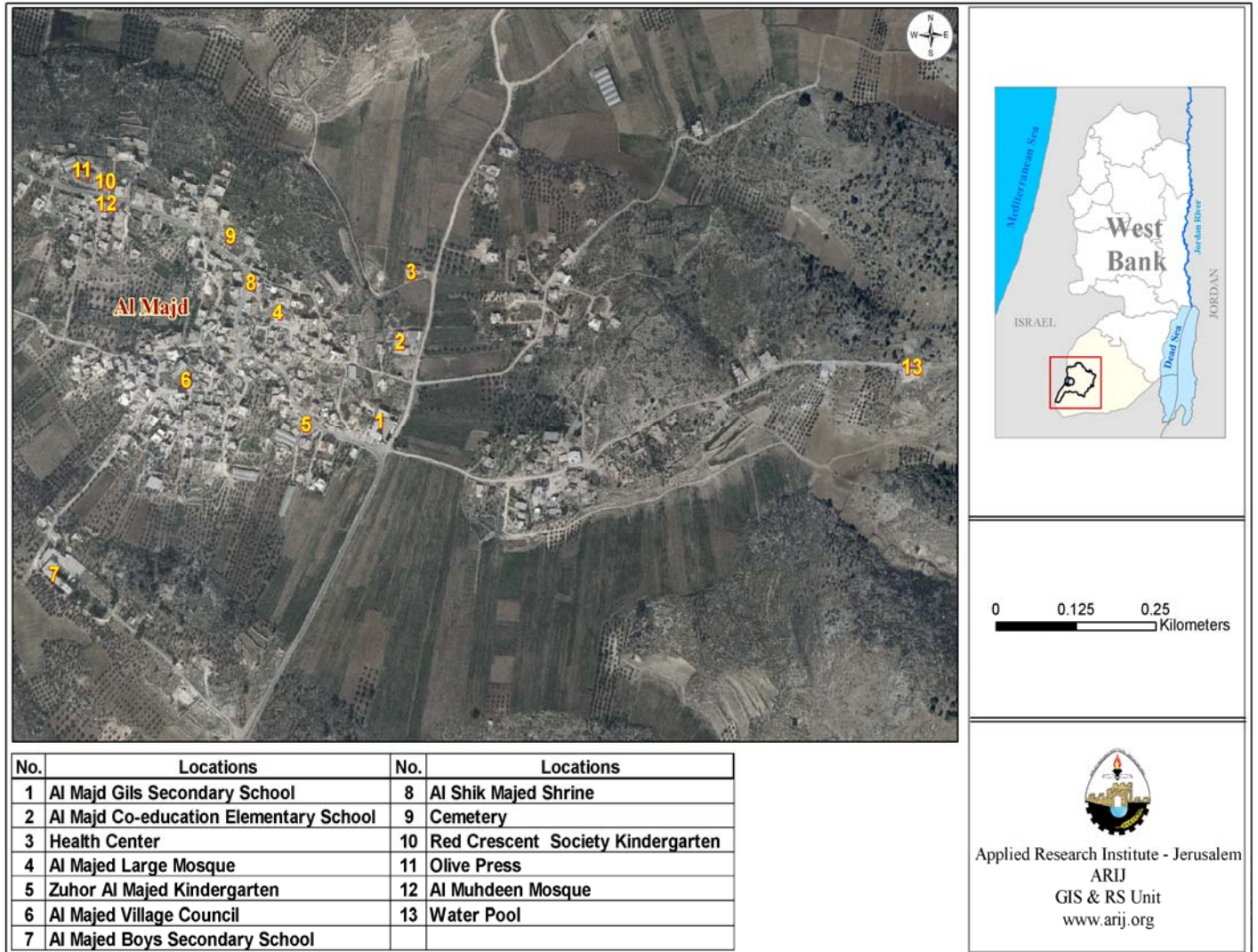
Photo of Al Majd



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques serving the village; Al Majd Al Kaber Mosque and Al Mowahdeen Mosque. The Palace of Al Sheikh Majed, the Amra area (from Roman era) and the Tuas area (Canaanite Era) are important historical sites in the village.

Map 2: Main location in Al Majd village



Demography and Population

The total population of Al Majd, in 2007, is estimated to be 1772. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of which 887 were males and 884 were females, of whom 1,666 were living in Al Majd and 106 were living in Khirbet Abu Hamid (See table 1). There were 315 households and 335 housing units’ in the village.

Village	Male	Female	Total
Al Majd	837	828	1,666
Khirbet Abu Hamid	50	56	106
Total	887	884	1,772

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

Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census shows Al Majd village population demographics; by age group, and sex. Results indicate that 42% of the total population is less than 15 years old, 54.1% of the total population are between 15-64 years of age and 3.8% of the total population are aged 65 and above. The sex ratio in Al Majd is 101.6 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, males constitute 50.4% of the total population.

Families

There are eight families in Al Majd village. Amro , Al Talabeishy , Al Masharqa , Al Shahatet , Abu Juwe'ed , Abu Sharar , Awlad Mohammad and Al Bustanji .

Migration

The data collected from Al Majd village council indicated that there were 25 cases of emigration from the village due to the political and economic situation.

Education

According to the 2007 PCBS 'Population, Housing and Establishment Census' results; approximately 113 peoples (aged 10 years and over) were illiterate. Of these, 73.5% were female. 13.9% of the population could read and write but received no formal education. 23.3% had completed elementary education, 31.2% had completed preparatory education, 12.2% had completed secondary education and 7.2% had completed higher education. (See table 2).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	30	55	106	140	68	23	18	0	3	0	443
F	83	74	109	148	45	9	13	0	0	0	481
T	113	129	215	288	113	32	31	0	3	0	924

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

The data of educational attainment include Al Majd ,Khirbet Abu Hamid and Kherbit Iskeik villages.

The field survey indicated that there are three schools in the village. One school is for males, one school is for females and one school is coeducational. The educational status in Al Majd is mainly administered by the governmental authority. Table 3 shows the school names in Al Majd village, what stage they are, what sex, and their supervising authority.

Table 3: Number of schools in Al Majd village by stage, sex and supervising authority

No.	Name of School	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Al Majd Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2.	Al Majd Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
3.	Al Majd Co-education Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

The Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education reveals that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 886 students, 33 classes, and 46 teachers in the 3 Al Majd schools (See table 4).

Table 4: No. of schools, classes and students by sex in Al Majd village (2006/2007)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	13	0	13
	No. of Teachers	19	0	19
	No. of Students	315	0	315
Female	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	14	0	14
	No. of Teachers	20	0	20
	No. of Students	416	0	416
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	6	0	6
	No. of Teachers	7	0	7
	No. of Students	155	0	155

Source: MOHE, 2006

As of 2006, there were two kindergartens in the village. These were both supervised by the private sector. These two kindergartens provide pre-school education to about 100 children (See table 5).

Table 5: The kindergartens in Al Majd 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.	Zohor Al Majd kindergarten	2	50	2	Private sector
2.	Al Helal Al Ahmar kindergarten	2	50	3	Red Cross

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

The educational sector in the village suffers from the following problems:

- Insufficient amount of classes in the schools.
- Overcrowding in all of the schools due to the fact that they provide education for not only Al Majd students, but that of the students in other neighboring villages.
- Limited amount of area for the schools, including playgrounds etc.
- A lacks of laboratories and libraries in the schools.

Health Status

There are two private physician clinics in the village, and one maternity and pediatric centre run by the governmental sector that provide health services to the village. The village however, lacks health centers, ambulances, and pharmacies. In the event of a medical emergency the residents of Al Majd have to travel to the hospitals of either Hebron (15 km from the village) or Dura (12 km from the village). Village officials have stated that they are very concerned with the poor health services in the village.

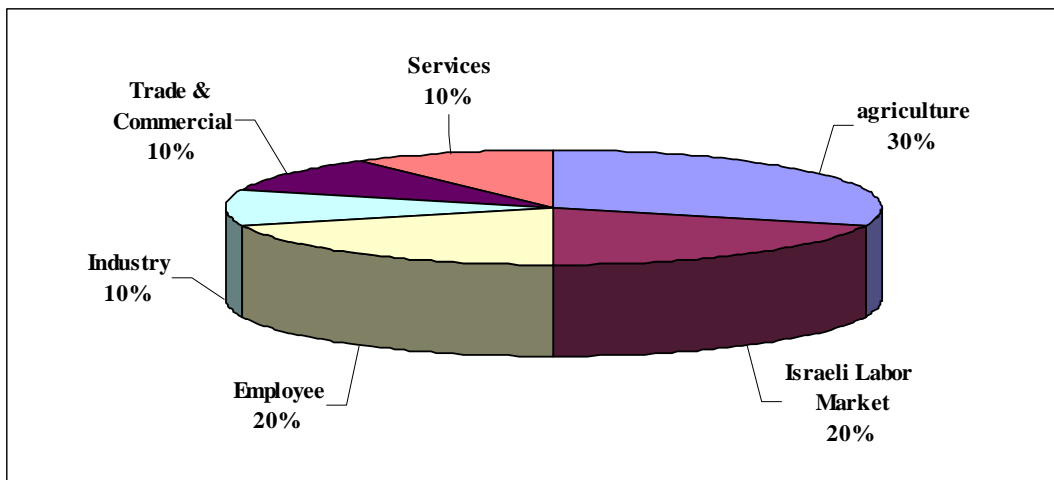
Economic Activities

According to surveys conducted by ARIJ, 30% of Al Majd residents depend on agriculture as their main source of livelihood. In addition, there is also a significant proportion of Al Majd residents who depend on the Israeli labor market as well as many residents in the Palestinian public and private sectors. The village has a number of institutions serving Al Majd residents and the neighboring villages. These include; an olive press, a building material shop, a vehicle garage, and 12 grocers.

Village officials' estimate that the economic foundations of the village consists of the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (30%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (20%)
- Government or Other Employees (20%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (10%)
- Industry Sector (10%)
- Services Sector (10%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Al Majd village



The survey also showed that the most affected social groups in the village as a result of Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were:

1. Workers previously employed in the Israeli labor market.
2. Families maintaining 6 individuals or more.
3. Small-scale farmers.
4. Small-scale traders.
5. Housekeeping and children.

Labor Force

According to the 2007 Population, Housing and Establishment Census, there were 400 economically active people in Al Majd village, of whom 83.3% were currently employed. Of the 970 economically inactive persons in the village, 61.1% were students, 28.8% were housekeeping and 10.1% were unable to work (for a multitude of reasons), see table 6.

Table 6: Al Majd 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	281	27	18	326	287	-	46	1	15	349	675
F	52	6	16	74	306	279	27	2	7	621	695
T	333	33	34	400	593	279	73	3	22	970	1,370

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
 The data economic activities status includes Al Majd , Khirbet Abu Hamid and Kherbit Iskeik villages.

Agricultural Sector

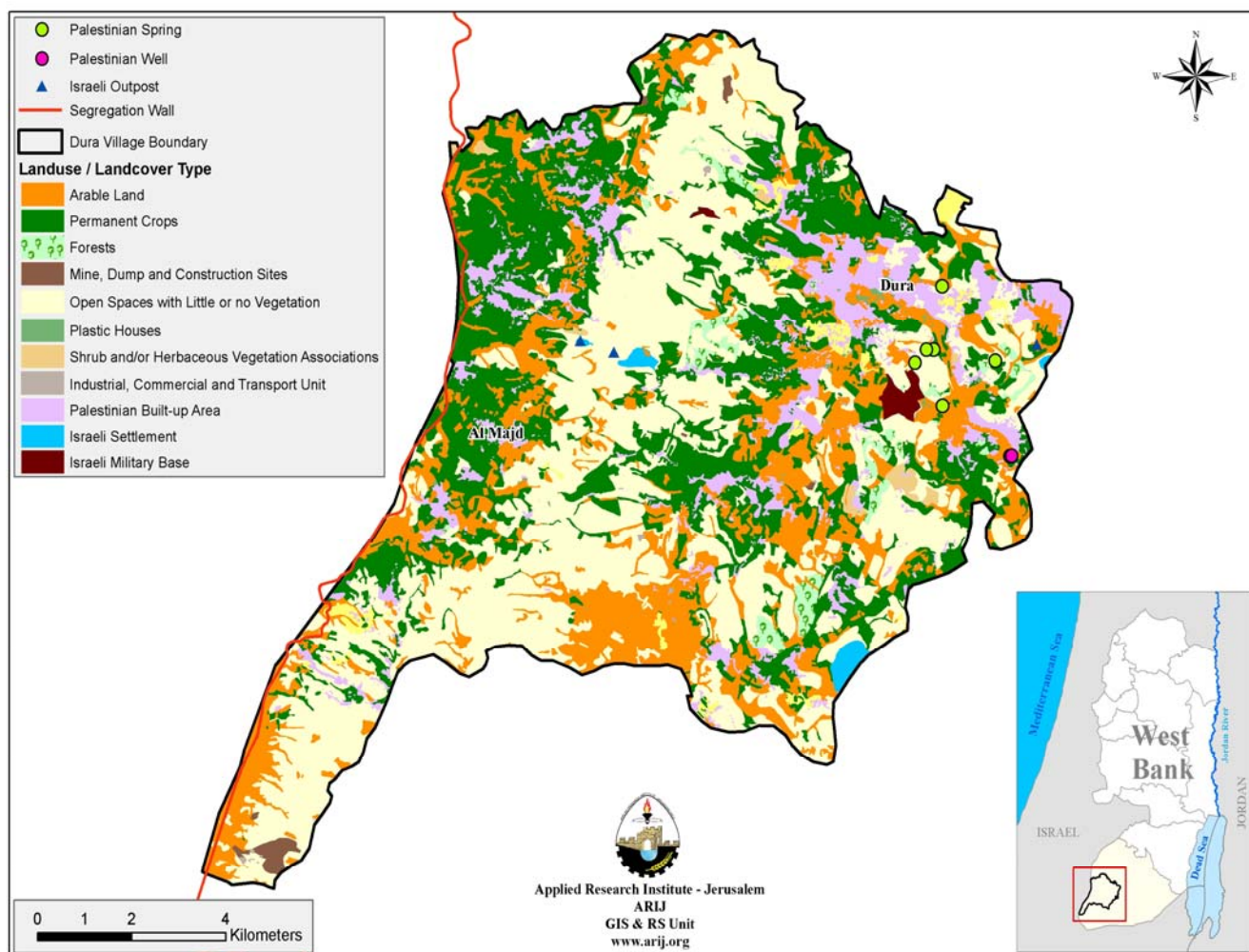
With the majority of village land (3,188 dunums) given to agriculture, and approximately 30% of the Al Majd population working in agricultural sector, the importance of this sector to the overall economic base of village is clear. 500 dunums of agricultural land remain unused due to lack of water, capital, and the economic infeasibility of its regular maintenance. There are a further 500 dunums of land that can be reclaimed. The following tables show the agriculture status in Al Majd village.

Table 7: Land Use in Al Majed Village (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
4000	2637.2	550.8	310	20	452

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

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



The cucumber crop is the most commonly cultivated vegetables in the plastic houses. These make up an area of approximately 13 dunums out of 14 dunums.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Al Majed. The total area of cultivated vegetables in either rain fed or irrigated is 94.2 dunums. Squash, Snake Cucumber and Tomatoes crops are the most cultivated vegetables with an area totaling 80 dunums.

Table 8: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Al Majed Village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
85	0	0	0	3	1.2	0	0	5	0	93	1.2

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are two types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Al Majd which are spread over an area of about 5 dunums. These plants are Thyme, and Sage.

In the village of Al Majed, there is an Olive Tree Plantations total approximately 1,626 dunums. Other trees plantations in the area comprise mostly of nut trees and other fruit trees.

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
1,626	0	0	3	35	0	0	0	269	0	78	0	2,008	3

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Al Majd. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops within the area, totaling about 380 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of Dry legumes such as lentil is common in the village of Al Majd.

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
380	0	7	0	59	0	0	0	2	0	65	0	0	0	0	0	513	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Al Majed villages are also rearing livestock, and about 10% of the residents also breed domestic animals.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	1,120	170	0	1	24	3	12,800	0	54

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The main source of irrigation for agricultural land in the village comes from the water network and the collection wells.

There are about 12 km of agricultural roads that suitable for animals. However these roads are insufficient for all the local farmers needs.

Village officials cite that the agricultural sector in the village is suffering from a severe lack of water, and, and a lack of pastured land. Also, the village is too far away from emergency amenities that are found in Hebron.

Institutions and Services

The main institution in the village is the village council, established in 1996. In addition, there is a Women's Association that was established in 2005.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Al Majd village is connected to the telecommunication network, and about 80% of the housing units have a telephone connection.

Water Services: Al Majd village had been connected to the Israeli supplied (Mekorot Company) water network since 1985. According to village officials, about 80% of the housing units are connected to this water network. Alternative resources of water in the village include groundwater wells, and cisterns. In addition, there is a 500 m³ reservoir. Village officials cite several problems in the village as regards water status. These include constant water contamination, as well as general network disrepair including rusting pipes, and a complete lack of water during the summer.

Electricity Services: Since 1987 the village has been supplied with electricity by the Israeli National Power Electrical Company. About 90% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. Major problems with the electricity network include; a weak current, damaged and unsafe areas of the network, and the inability of the network to reach newly built-up areas in the village.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: As the village is not connected to the sewage disposal network, wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: As there are no solid waste services in the village, each family disposes of its own refuse; this is usually done by burning it. About 363 tons of solid waste is generated annual in Al Majd village and 23 tons in Khirbet Abu Hamid village (ARIJ database, 2006).

Transportation Facilities: The village has an informal transportation network composed of six private taxis. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are the presence of military road blocks and earth mounds, lack of maintenance to the main roads and the lack of vehicles and automotive services. With regards to road quality, 3 km of road are surfaced and in good condition (2 km of main road and 1 km of internal road), 21 km are un-surfaced (6 km of main road, 3 km of internal road and 12 km of agricultural road).

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Al Majd is located close to the 1949 Green Line. This locality means that the village is subject to a 'tide closure' from the west side and a permanent checkpoint on the main street, as well as "flying" checkpoints which are performed daily. Since the beginning of second Intifada three houses have been destroyed by Israeli Forces.

In 2005 Israeli Authority began constructing the Segregation Wall. The Wall will pass the village on the west side along with Green Line. A 1,000 m portion (mainly made up of barbed wire fences) has already been constructed on 20 dunums of confiscated village land, and another 1,000

m will soon be constructed. 20 dunums of land will be isolated behind the Segregation Wall. About 50 olive trees were cut down.

Development Plans and Projects

In 2006, the village council built a second floor for the “Al Majd Elementary co-education School”. This was funded by UNDP.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al Majd council the village has suffered from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 12 below shows the development priorities of the village.

Table 12: Development priorities and needs for Al Majd village						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				22 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks			*		12 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*		
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*		5,000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas			*		6 km
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 & Elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				500 dunums
2	Building Cisterns			*		100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*		50 barracks
4	Veterinary Services			*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*		
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		20 greenhouses
7	Field Crops Seeds			*		
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		

^ 6 km main roads, 4 km internal roads, and 12 km agricultural roads

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