

Ar Rifa'iyya Village Profile



Prepared by



**The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem
ARIJ**

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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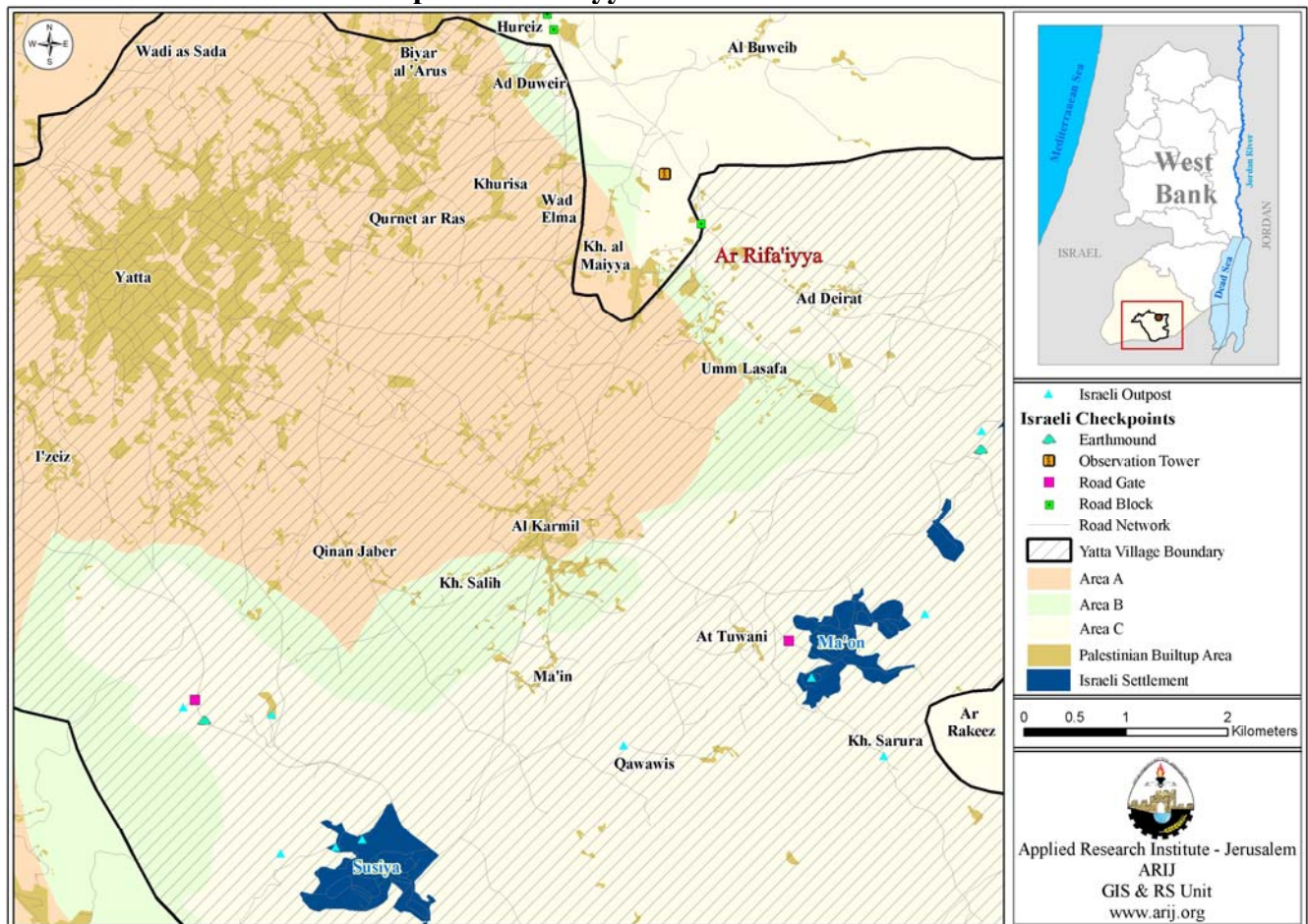
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Ar Rifa'iyya Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Ar Rifa'iyya is a Palestinian village in the Yatta area (seven kilometers East of Yatta); it is located 11 km to the southeast of Hebron City in the southern West Bank. It is bordered by Ad Deirat village in the East, Al Buweib village in the North, Khamlet al Maiyya village to the West, and by Umm Lasafa village to the South. (See map 1).

Map 1: Ar Rifa'iyya location and borders



The total area of Ar Rifa'iyya village is estimated to be 200 dunums, of which 70 dunums are Palestinian built-up area, 120 dunums are agricultural land, and around 10 dunums within the village boundary and around 400 dunums located further away from the village but owned by the village residents has been confiscated by Israeli forces.

The village of Ar Rifa'iyya is located at an elevation of 771 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the village is 303 mm; the average annual temperature is 18 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Ar Rifa'iyya village is considered to be a rural area as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas. The village is governed by a village council which was established in 1996. Currently the council consists of seven members, its main duty being to ensure local oversight of social welfare.

History

The name Ar Rifa'iyya is related to the name of a water spring within the village, Ar Rifa'iyya water spring. The village residents are all indigenous people of the area.

Photo of Ar Rifa'iyya village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

Al Rahmah Mosque is the only religious site in the village. In terms of historical sites, there is Ar Rifa'iyya water spring which is considered as an archeological site, though it is not put to good recreational or tourist use.

Demography and Population

The total population of Ar Rifa'iyya, in 2007, is estimated to be 360. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of whom 174 were males and 186 were females,.

Families

There is only indigenous family residing in the village, it is Al Ammour family .

Education

Al Bireh village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, Al Bireh village was counted as part of Al Burj village. Therefore, the labor

force data for Al Bireh village is not available. Table 1 shows the education status in Al Burj and Al Bireh.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Total
M	26	70	77	29	35	1	3	241
F	52	76	79	31	14	-	-	252
T	78	146	156	60	49	1	3	493

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
This data includes population figures from the villages of Ad Deirat and Ar Rifa'iyya

The field survey conducted in 2007 showed that there was no school or educational institutions in Ar Rifa'iyya village. Most students travel to receive their formal education at an elementary school in Khallet al Maiyya village, which is about 2 km away from the village, and to a secondary school in Yatta, which is about 7 kilometers away.

There is a massive need to establish elementary and secondary schools within the village boundaries as most students suffer from the distance of the schools from their village.

Health Status

Ar Rifa'iyya lacks any kind of health services; no clinics, no health centers and no pharmacies. The closest health facility lies in Yatta, 7 kilometers away from the village. However, there is only a Mother and Child Care Center that is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

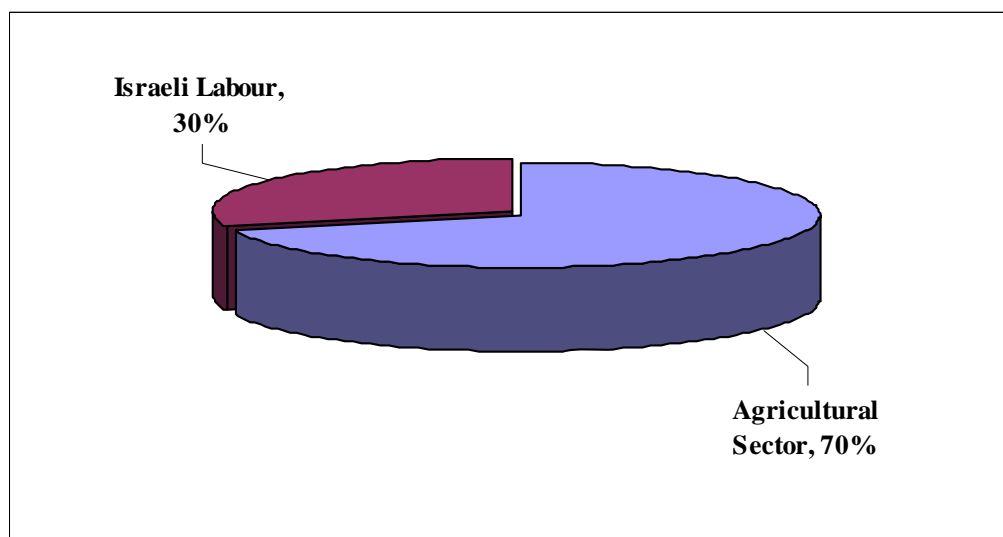
The village officials state that Ar Rifa'iyya needs a permanent clinic with a full-time doctor to provide medical diagnosis and treatment for the village's patients, in addition to an ambulance for emergency cases.

Economic Activities

According to the estimates of village officials, the economic base of Al Rifa'iyya village consists of two sectors; the agricultural sector comprising (70%) and the Israeli labor market comprising (30%).

As officials' estimates of the village, the economic base of Ar Rifa'iyya village consists of two sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (70%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (30%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Rifa'iyya village

In terms of economic institutions, there are no economic institutions in Al Rifa'iyya village; however, there are only two small groceries providing foodstuff for the residents.

Based on a survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron localities, the unemployment rate in Ar Rifa'iyya village reached 60%. The survey data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village due to Israeli measures were: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families with six individuals and more, 3) Small-holding farmers, 4) Housewives and children.

Labor Force

Al Rifa'iyya village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, Al Rifa'iyya village was counted as part of Ad Deirat village. Therefore, the labor force data for Al Rifa'iyya village is not available. Table 2 shows the labor force status in Ad Deirat and Al Rifa'iyya.

Table 2: Ad Deirat Population (10 years and above) by sex and activity 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	Others	Total	
M	88	14	16	118	75	9	25	-	14	123	241
F	-	-	-	-	86	162	4	-	-	252	252
T	88	14	16	118	161	171	29	-	14	375	493

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

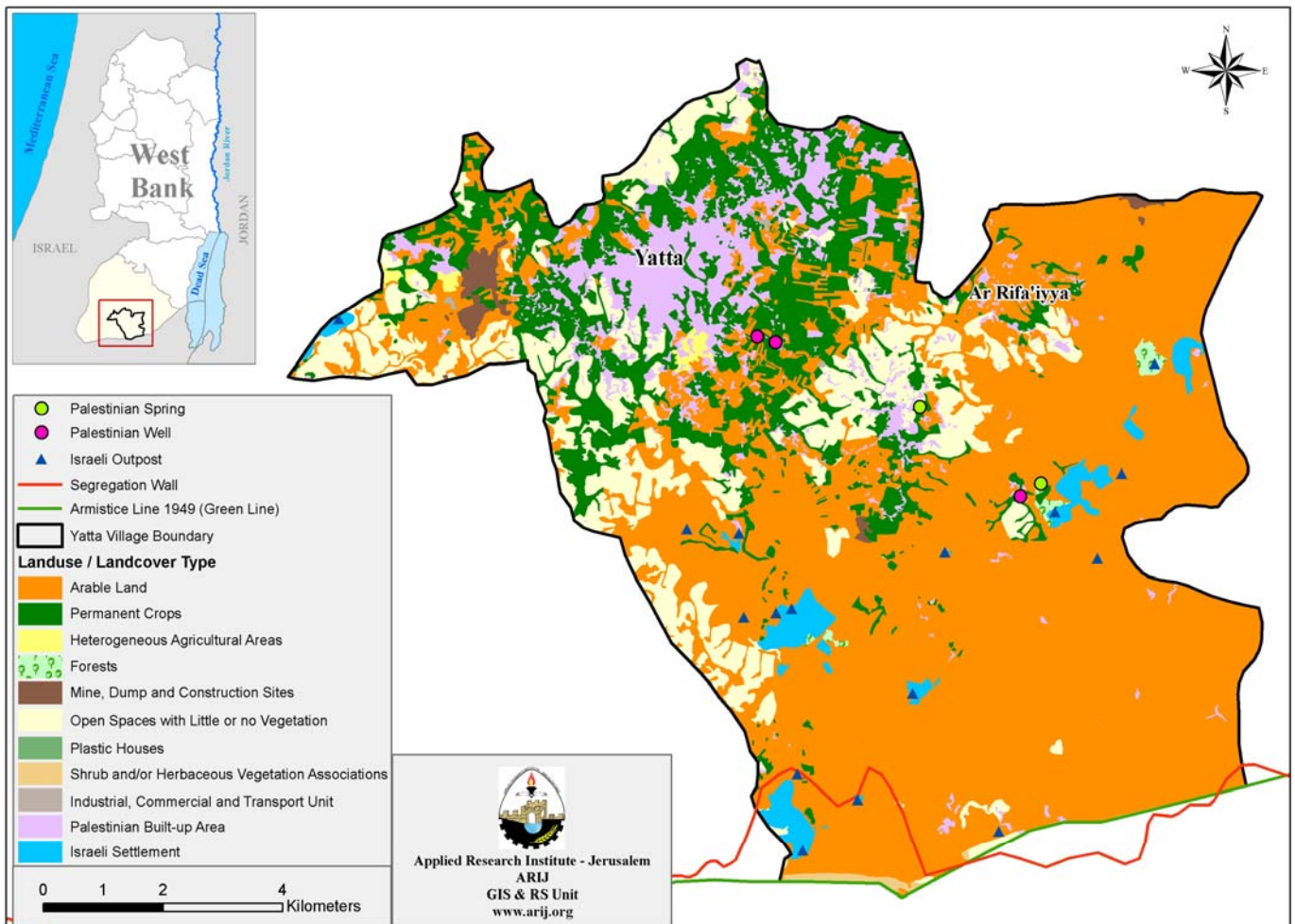
As mentioned earlier, Ar Rifa'iyya village lies on a total area of 200 dunums, of which 120 dunums are considered to be agricultural land; of these 100 dunums are already cultivated and 20 dunums of land are suitable for reclamation.

There are about 4 km of agricultural roads in the village; however, they are only used by animals and the village needs to construct these roads in order to serve the agricultural activities well. The main cultivated crops in the village include field crops and olive trees.

Data collected from Ar Rifa'iyya Village Council in 2007 indicated that the village residents depended on livestock rearing and dairy production. The data indicated that around 90% of the households were rearing and keeping domestic animals. In total there were about 2 cows, 200 goats and 800 sheep.

The main obstacles that face the agricultural sector development in the village are Israeli occupation measures, the lack of capital and unsuitability of the roads leading to the agricultural land.

Map 2: Land use/land cover in Ar Rifa'iyya village



Institutions and Services

The main institute in Ar Rifa'iyya is Ar Rifa'iyya Village Council. The Council was established in 1996.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** There is no telecommunication network in Ar Rifa'iyya village.
- **Water Services:** The village has not yet been connected to a water network. Cisterns, water tankers and Ar Rifa'iyya water spring are alternative sources of water for the village domestic use only. The availability and quality of water supply is of main concern in the village and there is a need to connect the village with a water network.
- **Electricity Networks:** Since 1995, the Israeli Electric Company (Al Qutriya) has been the major provider of electrical energy to Ar Rifa'iyya, where all housing units are connected to the network.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** The sewage disposal system in Ar Rifa'iyya is chronically under-funded. There is no sewage depository network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** Solid waste in the village is collected daily by a solid waste management system. The generated waste is collected by trucks, owned by the Joint Services Council in the village. The waste collected is then transported to a regional dumping site owned by the Joint Services Council, and about 2 km away.
- **Transportation Facilities:** The public transportation in Ar Rifa'iyya village is considered an informal transport system. There are 3 taxis operating to transport people between Ar Rifa'iyya and nearby villages. In whatever manner, the transportation system in the village is poorly developed and lack regulated transport services, in addition to roads unsuitability and the flying Israeli checkpoints pointed around the village. In the case of common carriers unavailability, the passengers get to the closest community (Khallet al Maiyya) by foot to use its transport system, or they use their private cars if there are any.

In keeping with the transportation facilities in the village, there are about 7 km of un-surfaced roads in the village; 2 km main roads, 1 km link roads and 4 km agricultural roads.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Around 400 dunums of the community lands which is located further away from the village have been confiscated by Israeli forces. Also, two Israeli settlements surround the village, Karmel settlement to the East and Maon settlement to the South. In addition, the main bypass road (route

60) cuts the village from south to north. The village also suffers from a permanent checkpoint, Ar Rifa'iyya Checkpoint.

Since the beginning of second intifada about 8 housing units have been demolished by the Israeli forces.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Ar Rifa'iyya Village council, the village is suffering from shortages in many aspects of the infrastructure and service requirements. Table 3 below summarizes development priorities and needs in the village.

No .	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Moderately needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				7 km.
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				4 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				500m ³
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 and secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				300 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				30 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				20 barracks
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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