

# Ar Rihiya 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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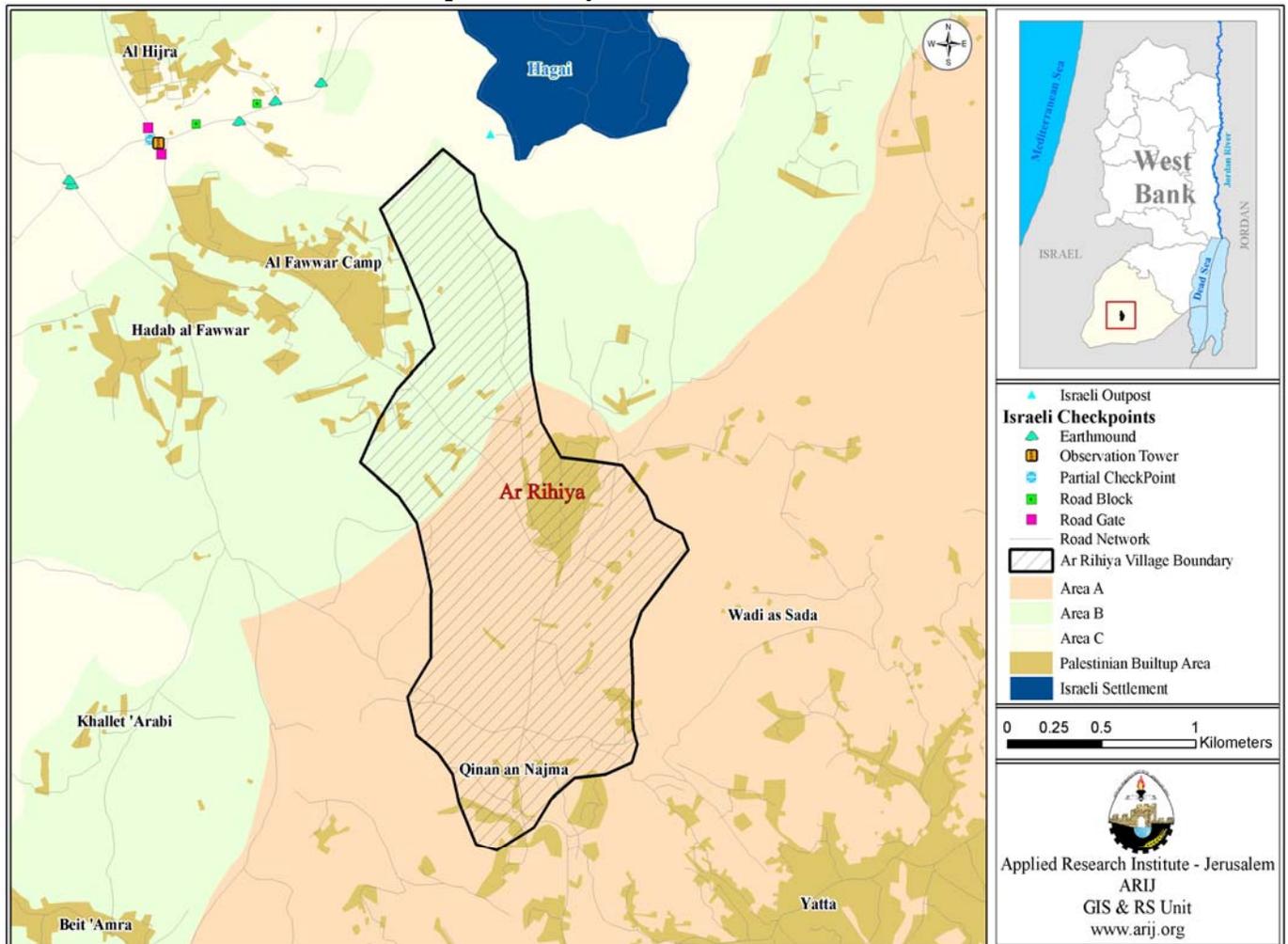
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## Ar Rihiya Village Profile

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Ar Rihiya is a Palestinian village in Hebron Governorate, located 12 km south of Hebron City in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Wadi As Sada (Yatta) to the east, Hadab al Fawwar village to the north, Deir Razih village (Dura) to the west, and by Qinan An Najma from south direction (See map 1).

Map 1: Ar Rihiya location and borders



The total area of Ar Rihiya village is 6,000 dunums, of which 750 dunums are classified as a Palestinian built-up area, 5,000 dunums are agricultural lands, and Israeli Forces have confiscated about 400 dunums.

Ar Rihiya village is located in a mountainous area at an elevation of 707 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the village is 374 mm, the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Ar Rihiya is considered a rural area as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas. A Village Council, established in 1997, governs the village. Currently, the Council consists of nine members, with three paid employee. Its main duties include local oversight of social welfare and infrastructural services.

## **History**

Ar Rihiya village dates back to the Canaanite and Byzantine periods, deriving its name from "Rihan" (ريحان), the name of the ancient owner of the village lands. Current village inhabitants are all descendents of Iraqi Kurds.

**Photo of Ar Rihiya**

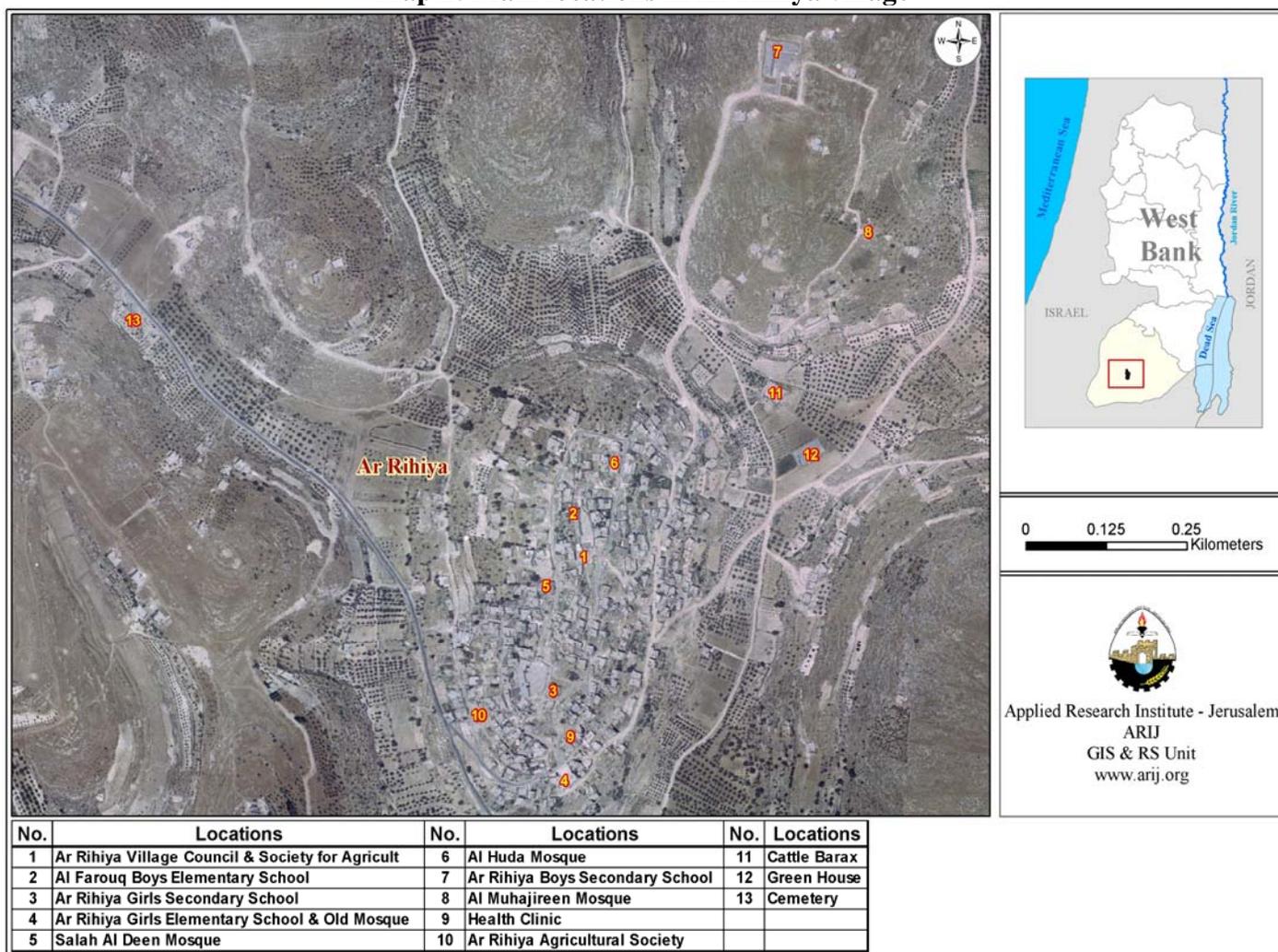


## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

Ar Rihiya Old Mosque, Salah Al Deen Mosque, Al Huda Mosque, Al Muhajireen Mosque are the only centers of community worship in the village.

Al Housh Area is considered as an archeological site, though it is not put to good recreational or tourist use.(See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Ar Rihya village



## Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of Ar Rihya was 3,949 inhabitants, of whom 2,066 were males and 1,883 were females. There were 511 households living in 519 housing units in the village and the average household size was 7.7 people.

### Age Group and Gender

Census 2007 results for Ar Rihya village showed the distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex, demonstrating that 51.6% of the total population is less than 15 years of age, 45.7% is in the 15-64 age groups and 2.7% is 65 years and above. The sex ratio in the village was 110 males for every 100 females, with males constituting 52.3% of the population and females constituting 47.7%.

## Families

There are main seven families and several smaller families living in Ar Rihya village, which are: Al Toubasy , Al Hallaq , El Heresh , Abu al Halawah , As Sous , , Al Qurr , An Najjar , and other families,.

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 227 persons (9.4% of the population) were illiterate, of whom the majority were female, who constituted 76.7% of the illiterate population. Of the literate population, 18.1% read and write, 26% completed elementary education, 31.4% completed preparatory education, 10.6% completed secondary education, 1.1% has associate diploma and 3.4 had a specialized academic degree (See table 1).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	Not stated	Total
M	53	223	314	421	160	22	61	-	6	-	1,260
F	174	214	312	336	97	4	14	1	-	-	1,152
<b>T</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,412</b>

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

The field survey conducted in 2007 showed that there were four governmental schools in Ar Rihya village, two for males and two for females. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority shows in table 2.

No.	School name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1	Ar Rihya Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2	Al Farouq Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3	Ar Rihya Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
4	Ar Rihya Girls Elementary School.	Elementary	Female	Governmental

Ministry of Higher Education data revealed that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 47 classes, 63 teachers and 1,386 Students in Ar Rihya (See table 3).

		<b>Government</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Male</b>	No. of Schools	2	<b>2</b>
	No. of class	28	<b>28</b>
	No. of Teachers	38	<b>38</b>
	No. of Students	836	<b>836</b>
<b>Female</b>	No. of Schools	2	<b>2</b>
	No. of class	19	<b>19</b>
	No. of Teachers	25	<b>25</b>
	No. of Students	550	<b>550</b>

Source: Ministry of Higher Education –Hebron Directorate -2006/2007

The data also indicated that "Ar Rihya Society for Social Development Kindergarten" was the only kindergarten in the village, providing pre-school co-education. In 2005/2006, it served 75 children, of which 38 were males and 37 were females.

The village, however, suffers from numerous problems in the educational sector, including a lack of classrooms, and the need to build a new elementary school for the girls, as the government is currently renting the school facilities.

## **Health Status**

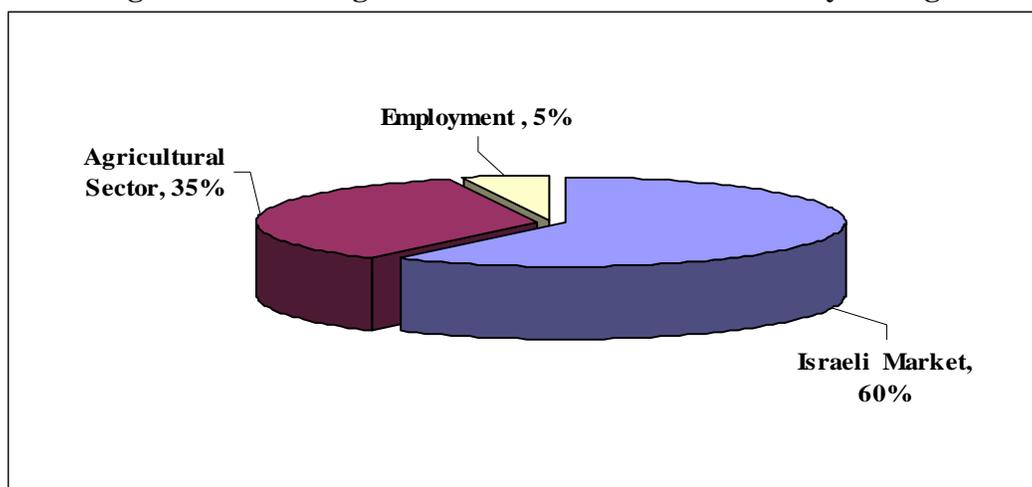
There are three medical facilities in Ar Rihya: a medical center supervised by Ar Rihya Charitable Society, a Mother and Child Care Center run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health and a private dentist clinic. The village lacks clinics, ambulances and pharmacies, and other needed medical facilities lie around 2.5 and 7 km from Ar Rihya to Yatta and to Hebron City, respectively.

The village officials state that Ar Rihya needs full-time doctors to provide medical diagnosis and treatment for the village's patients, in addition to a massive need for a well-equipped maternity hospital.

## **Economic Activities**

Residents of Ar Rihya village are largely dependent upon the Israeli labor market, with this sector comprising 60% of Ar Rihya's labor force. A significant portion, 35%, also depends on agricultural activities; the remaining 5% is employed in the public and private sectors. Two factories, a toilet paper production factory and a washing liquid factory, along with commercial institutions, including fifteen groceries, one clothing shop, a butcher, a blacksmith, a carpentry workshop and four service shops, serve as the economic base of the community. (see figure 1).

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Ar Rihiya village**



Based on a survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron localities, the social groups most affected by Israeli procedures are: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Small-holder farmers, 3) Families with six individuals and more and 5) Small-holder traders.

**Labor Force**

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, 2,412 people were in the working age group (10 years and above); of these, 681 people were economically active, of whom 71.5% were employed. There were 1,726 non-economically active persons in the village, of which 50% were students, 39.3% were housekeeping and 10.1% were unable to work, Females were over-represented in the non-economically active sector as housekeeping, see table 4.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Student	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
<b>M</b>	472	98	91	661	497	2	87	5	5	596	3	1,260
<b>F</b>	15	1	4	20	365	676	87	-	2	1,130	2	1,152
<b>T</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2,412</b>

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

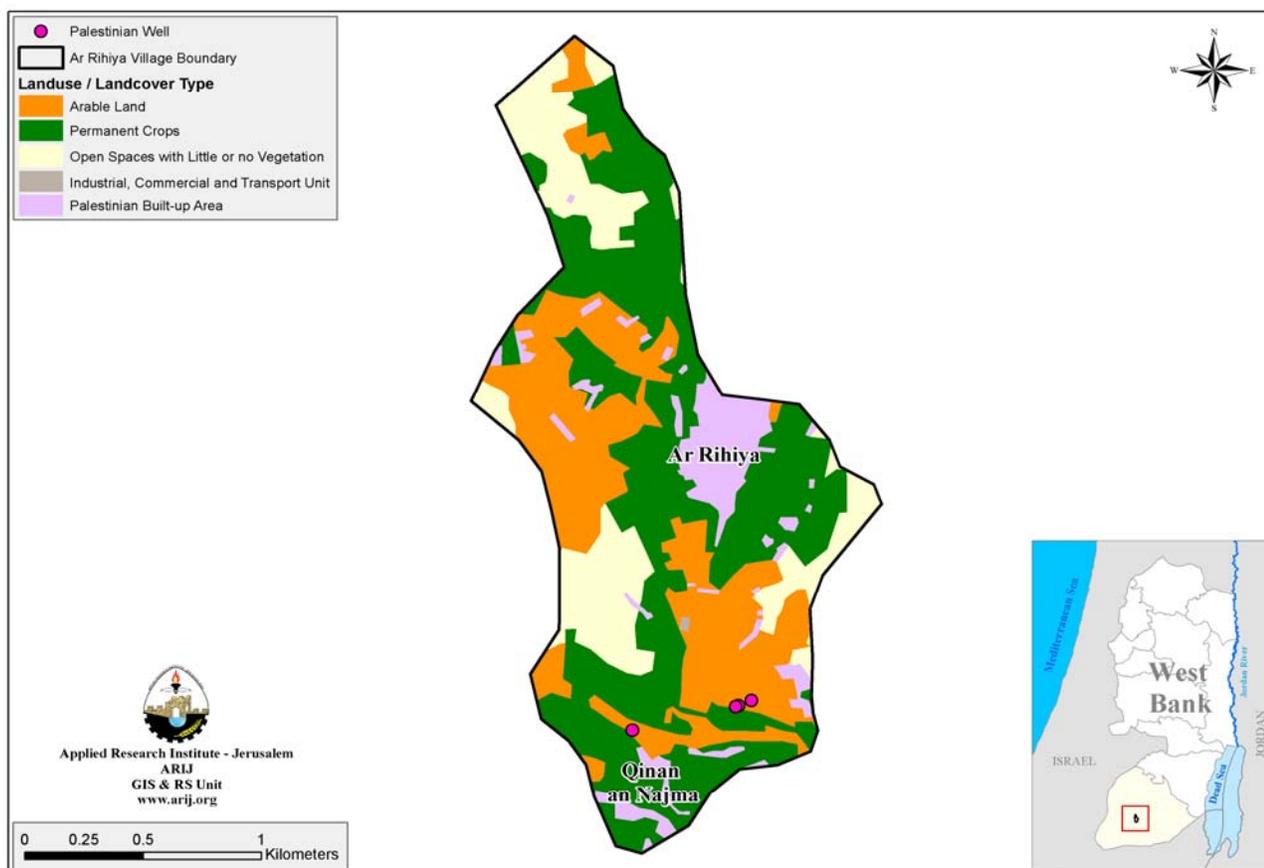
### Agricultural Sector

As mentioned earlier, Ar Rihiya village lies on a total area of 6,000 dunums, of which 5,000 dunums are considered agricultural lands, 4,950 dunums of which are already cultivated. Five hundred dunums of land within Ar Rihiya borders are suitable for reclamation.

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Uncultivated Area	Cultivated Area			
6,000	50	4,950	750	10	240

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

**Map 3: Land use/land cover in Ar Rihiya village**



There is one dunum of greenhouses used for growing cucumbers.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Ar Rihiya. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated covering an area of about 83 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are tomatoes, squash and snake cucumber (Faqous).

**Table 6: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Ar Rihya village (dunum)**

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
76	7	5	0	5	25	0	0	5	3	91	35

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

In the village of Ar Rihya, there is a total area of 4,965 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond trees, fig trees and grape vines.

**Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive tree in Ar Rihya village (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
620	0	0	0	48	0	7	0	75	0	270	0	1,026	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 8 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Ar Rihya. Cereals, in particular, wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops covering approximately 1,950 dunums.

**Table 8: Total area of field crops in Ar Rihya village (dunum)**

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Total 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
3,605	0	30	0	193	0	0	0	0	0	450	0	5	0	0	0	4,283	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data collected from Ar Rihya Village Council in 2007 indicated that the village residents depended on livestock rearing, such as sheep and goats, in addition to beehives and dairy production. The data indicated that around 90% of households were rearing and keeping domestic animals.

**Table 10: Livestock in Ar Rihya village**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	1,000	1,200	0	3	30	0	0	---	28

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

The seven km of agricultural roads in the village are presently only used by animals; the village needs to rehabilitate these roads in order to serve well the agricultural activities.

Farmers of the Ar Rihya village are involved and registered in agricultural societies. There are two main agricultural societies in the village; Ar Rihya Society for Agricultural Development, sponsored by Mohammed Jaber As Sous, and Ar Rihya Agricultural Society, ruled by Mohammad Ali Al Toubasy.

The main obstacles that face the agricultural sector development in the village are the high prices of animal feed, the lack of capital, and unsuitability of the roads leading to the agricultural lands.

### **Institutions and Services**

There are three main institutions in Ar Rihya providing infrastructural and social welfare services to residents. These institutions include Ar Rihya Village Council, Ar Rihya Society for Agricultural Development, and Ar Rihya Agricultural Society.

### **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

**Telecommunication Services:** Approximately 30% of Ar Rihya housing units are connected to a telecommunication network.

**Water Services:** Ar Rihya connected to a water network provided by the Palestinian Water Authority through the Yatta Well in 1985; all housing units in the village are connected to a water network. Alternative water resources include cisterns and a water reservoir with a capacity of 300 cubic meters, located within the community itself.

**Electricity Networks:** Since 1985, the Israeli Electric Company (Al Qutriya) has been the major provider of electrical energy to Ar Rihya, where all housing units are connected to the network. However, the village suffers from the weak electric current.

**Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage disposable network in Ar Rihya and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits.

**Solid Waste Collection Services:** Joint Services Council owned trucks, which transport the waste to Ad Deirat dumping site, owned by the Joint Services Council and located 10 km from the village, collects solid wastes in the village daily. The waste is disposed through burning or burying.

The village suffers from environmental pollution from Wad Abu Al Samen wastewater, in addition to tree uprooting caused by the Israeli forces.

**Transportation Facilities:** Public transportation in Ar Rihya village consists of three public buses and a taxi office, serving to transport people between Ar Rihya and the nearby villages and cities. However, it is an underdeveloped system due to the shortage in taxis number; travelers also face challenges posed by flying Israeli checkpoints located around the village.

There are few kilometers of roads in the village, with four km of well-kept paved main road, a one km paved link road, and seven km of agricultural roads, which are unpaved and in need of rehabilitation.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

The Israeli settlement of Hagai, occupying 1,500 dunums of land borders Al Rihiya village from the north, as well as the Ze'eivi military site, 400 dunums, also bordering the village from north.

## Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, Ar Rihiya Village Council has implemented four projects for development of the village's infrastructure. The project funded by outside donors, which included:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Funded by</b>
<b>1</b>	Open agriculture roads-2005	Agricultural	Charitable Societies Union
<b>2</b>	Paved internal roads -2006	Infrastructure	Islamic Development Bank - PECDAR
<b>3</b>	Water reservoir -2007	Water	ICRC
<b>4</b>	Construction cisterns, plastic houses and home gardens	Economics	ARIJ

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Ar Rihya Village Council, the village is suffering from shortages in infrastructural development and social services. Table 12 below summarizes development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				7 km
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	*				One km
6	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*				
<b>Health Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*		
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*				
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Schools	*				elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*				
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				500 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				40 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				4 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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