

Dura Town 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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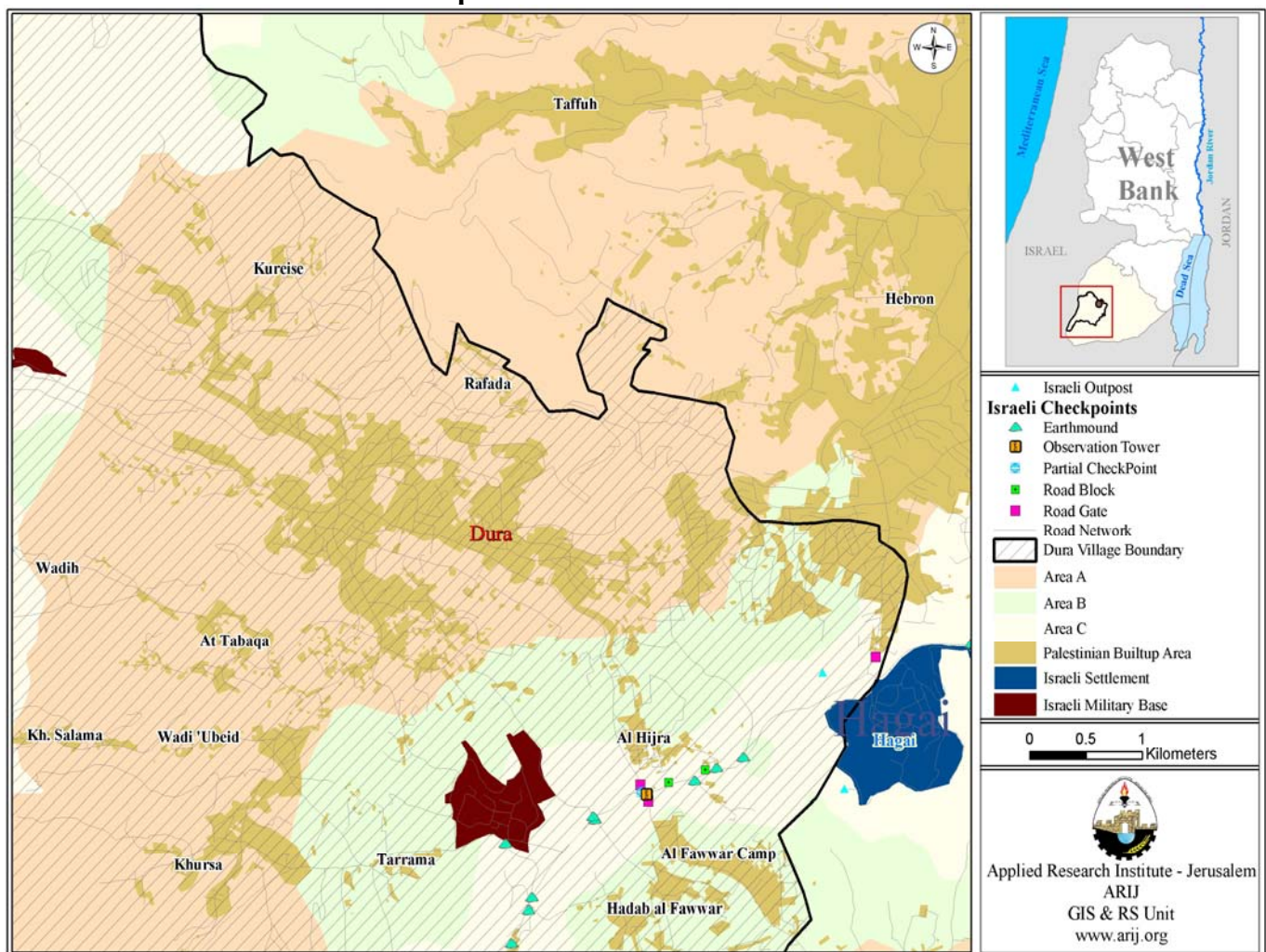
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Dura Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Dura is a Town in the Hebron Governorate which is located 6 km to the west of Hebron city in southern part of the West Bank. Dura is bordered by Yatta Town and Hebron city to the east, Taffuh and Idhna Towns to the north, As Samu' and Adh Dhahiriya Towns to the south and 1948 Armistice Line to the west (See map 1).

Map 1: Dura location and borders



The total area of Dura town is estimated to be 17,600 dunums, of which 7,100 are built-up areas, 8,220 are agricultural lands, and 1,270 are forests, uncultivated areas, or public lands. Dura municipality has a master plan for 15,251 dunums of town lands.

Dura town is located on a mountainous area west of Hebron city at an elevation of 839 m above sea level, with a mean rainfall 436 mm, an average annual temperature of 16 °C, and average annual humidity at 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Dura town is governed by a municipal council since 1967, the council was appointed by Palestinian National Authority. Today it comprises of 11 members with 92 paid employees. In addition to drafting and implementing development programs, the council provides a number of services to the residents of Dura, including:

- Infrastructure Services such as water, electricity and solid waste disposal.
- Health Services.
- Social development services.
- Road construction and repair,
- Construction of public buildings, particularly schools.

Dura municipality has twelve departments that facilitate services to the residents, these departments include:

1	Administration	7	Study and Planning
2	Public relations	8	Water
3	Accounting	9	Computer Services
4	Procurement	10	Health and Environment
5	Collection	11	Traffic
6	Engineering	12	Emergency and First Aid

History

Dura town has an a long history, according to a Dura Municipality source - the name Dura is derived from "*Dour*" (دور) which is Canaanite name means dwelling or high place. The old name of Dura was "*Adurem*" (أدوريم) which has a biblical meaning of two places where farmers collect their harvest. Dura did actually have two places that had been traditionally used for harvesting and making hay. The original population of Dura was compromises from two families: Al Swaty and Abu Sharar.

Photo of Dura town

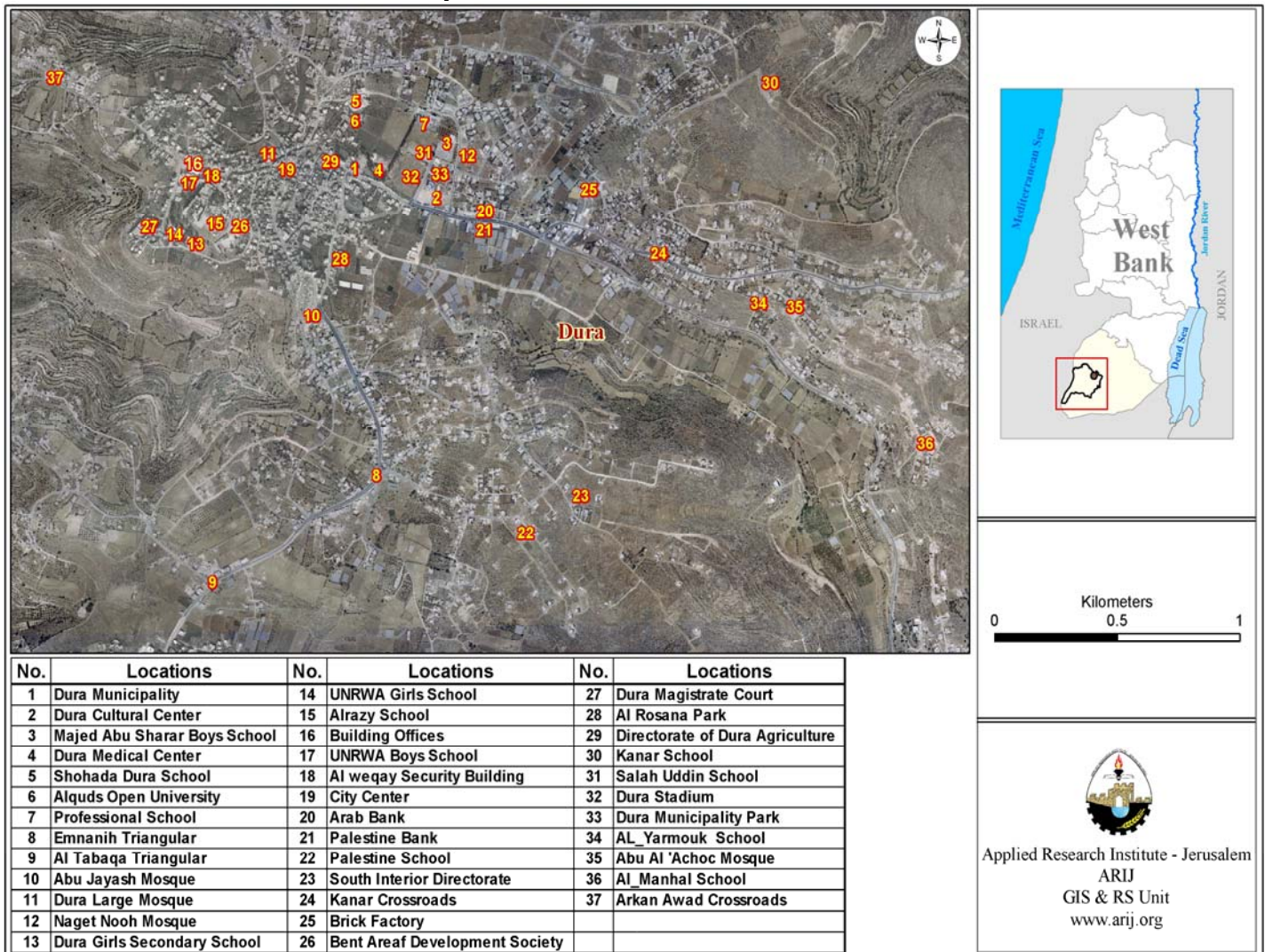


Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are five mosques in Dura town: The Dura large mosque, Al Mojahead mosque, Al Omary mosque, Kinar mosque and Saed Aby Waqas mosque.

There are also a number of archeological and historical sites in the town, most notably are; Al naby No'h shrine, Abu Arqub shrine, Alshek Hasan shrine and Mati shrine.

Map 2: Main locations in Dura town



Population

The total population of Dura, in 2007, is estimated to be 23,046 people. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of these 11,761 were males and 11,285 female.

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census results show a distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex. That young people are the most predominant in the town: the 0-14 age group constitutes 43.1% of the total population, the 15-64 age group 53.8% and the 65 + age group about 2.9%. The table below reveals that the sex ratio in the town was 103.3 males for every 100 females. In terms of percentages, the males in Dura constitute 50.8% of the population. This data includes population figures from the villages of Dura, Rafada, Al Hijra, Kureise and At Tabaqa.

Families

The population of Dura predominantly from the following families: Al Swaty, Al 'Amayra, Amro, Al Sharha, Al Darweash, Al Maslamea', Al Darbeai', and Al Awawda'.

Education

According to (PCBS), Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 results, about 1,079 persons were illiterate (5.5% of the total population) in Dura town, of whom 72.7% were female. Of the literate population, 2,197 persons (11.3%) received no schooling, 9,869 persons (50.6%) had elementary and preparatory education, 3,248 persons (16.6%) had a secondary degree, and 3,121 persons (16%) had an associate diploma or a bachelor's degree and other degree. Table 1 shows educational attainment by sex in Dura town:

Sex	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

The field survey data indicated that there are three levels of education in Dura town: pre-school (kindergartens); basic and secondary education. The data also reveals that there were 19 schools, of which 7 schools are for males, 8 schools are for females and 4 schools are co-educational. Most of the schools are supervised by the public sector (14 schools); there are two schools that are supervised by private sector and three schools that are governed by UNRWA. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority shows in table 2.

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1	Salah Uddeen Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2	Al Shaheed Majid Abu Sharar Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
3	Ibn Sina Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4	Al_Razi Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
5	Kanar Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
6	Dura Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
7	Dar Al salam Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
8	Dura Trained Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
9	Shuhdea' Dura Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
10	Al_Aqsa Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
11	Al_Huda Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
12	Palestine Co-education Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
13	Al_Yarmouk Co-education Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
14	Jerusalem Co-education Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
15	Al_Manhal Co-education Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Private
16	Al Sedeeq Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Private
17	Dura Girls Elementary School One	Elementary	Female	UNRWA
18	Dura Girls Elementary School Two	Elementary	Female	UNRWA
19	Dura Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	UNRWA

Source: ARIJ database, 2006/2007

According to Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there was 7,714 students 323 teachers and 232 classes in Dura schools (See table 3).

		Government	Private	UNRWA	Total
Male	No. of Schools	5	1	1	7
	No. of class	80	10	13	103
	No. of Teachers	113	15	18	146
	No. of Students	2,794	373	436	3,603
Female	No. of Schools	6	0	2	8
	No. of class	72	0	19	91
	No. of Teachers	106	0	23	129
	No. of Students	2,507	0	644	3,151
Co-education	No. of Schools	3	1	0	4
	No. of class	28	10	0	38
	No. of Teachers	35	13	0	48
	No. of Students	762	198	0	960

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006/2007

As of 2007, there were ten kindergartens in the town; all of them supervised by private sector. These kindergartens provide pre-school education services to more than 558 children in the town, see table 4.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Al Shorouq Kindergarten	2	60	3	Private
2.	Al Hanan Al Namuthageah Kindergarten	2	42	2	Private
3.	Sonbulat'h Palestine Kindergarten	4	95	4	Private
4.	Al Seddiek Kindergarten "A"	4	86	4	Private
5.	Al Seddiek Kindergarten "B"	3	94	4	Private
6.	Al Aqsa Kindergarten	2	35	2	Private
7.	Asanfear Kindergarten	2	25	2	Private
8.	Al Bulabl Kindergarten	1	12	1	Private
9.	Souna'h Al Hyea Kindergarten	3	66	3	Private
10.	Rnad Kindergarten	2	43	2	Private

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006/2007

The educational sector in Dura town is suffering a severe lack of classrooms. Many of the schools in Dura have been forced to rent classrooms to meet increasing student enrolments.

Health Status

The health sector in the town is run by either governmental, private or UNRWA sectors. The main health institutions in Dura town are: the Dura clinic, the UNRWA clinic, the Maternity & Pediatric Centres (2), and the Emergency Centre for Military Medical Services. The town is also served by a governmental health centre which provides doctors, and other medical needs. Table 5 below shows the health institution in the town by supervising authority.

Institution	Governmental	Private	UNWRA	NGO
Physician Clinic	1	1	1	
Dental Clinic	1	1	1	
Health Clinic	2		1	
X-Ray Centre		1		
Medical Lab		1		
Maternity & Pediatric Centre	2			
Pharmacy		17		
Ambulance	1			
Physiotherapy Centre		1		
Total	7	22	3	

In the case of emergencies, residents of Dura are required to travel to Hebron hospitals and health centers, which can be as far away as 9 km from Dura town. Municipality officials cite several obstacles facing the health sector in the town. These include; a lack of finances, insufficient medicine and healthcare equipment, insufficiency of specialist doctors, lack of hospitals, and lack of appropriate size buildings necessary for a health centre.

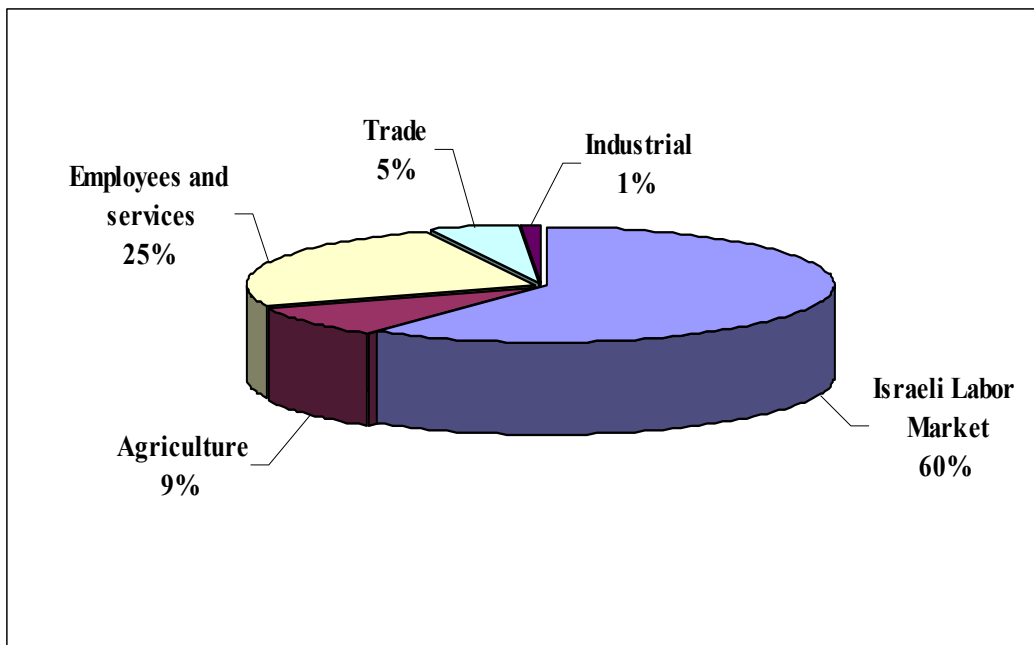
Economic Activities

Data collected from Dura municipality indicated that Dura's populations are mainly dependent on the Israeli labor market; with nearly 60% of the total labor force in the town engaging in Israeli labor market. Employment in governmental and private sector forms the second largest labor area. , 25% of the village's labor force is engaged in these sectors. Dependability on the agriculture sector decreased in Dura town in recent years, merely 9% of the labor force now working in agriculture sector. Trade and commercial sector comprises of about 5% of Dura workers and an even smaller proportion of residents depend on industrial sector within the actual town.

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

- Employees and services (25%).
- The Israeli Labor Market (60%).
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (5%).
- Agriculture Sector (9%).
- Industrial Sector (1%).

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Dura town



The economic base of Dura town also depends on many economic institutions including factories, oil stations, olive pressing, stone cutting factories, soap factories, and small craft stores. Additionally there are over 150 grocers, 19 clothing shops, 8 butchers, 16 blacksmiths, 15 carpenters, 24 public services, and a further 180 other shops servicing Dura.

Based on the field survey conducted in October 2007 by ARIJ the social groups most affected in the town by the Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families with six individuals and more, 3) Small scale farmers, and 4) Small scale traders.

Labor Force

According to PCPS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007 results. Of 19,514 people above the minimum working age, 6,355 people (32.6%) were economically active people – in the labor force, - of whom 85.6% of which were currently employed,. 14.4% of the total population were unemployed and for a multitude of reasons. The total number of economically non-active persons (i.e. those out of the labor force) stood at 13,159. 59.6% of which were students and 29.4% were housekeeping (See table 6):

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	1,274	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

Since the outbreak of second Intifada in 2000 many Palestinian workers have been unable to reach their places of work both in Israel and the West Bank. Consequently, many workers from Dura lost their largest source of income and due to successive closures within the Hebron Governorate; traders are hindered in marketing their products and expanding commercial activity.

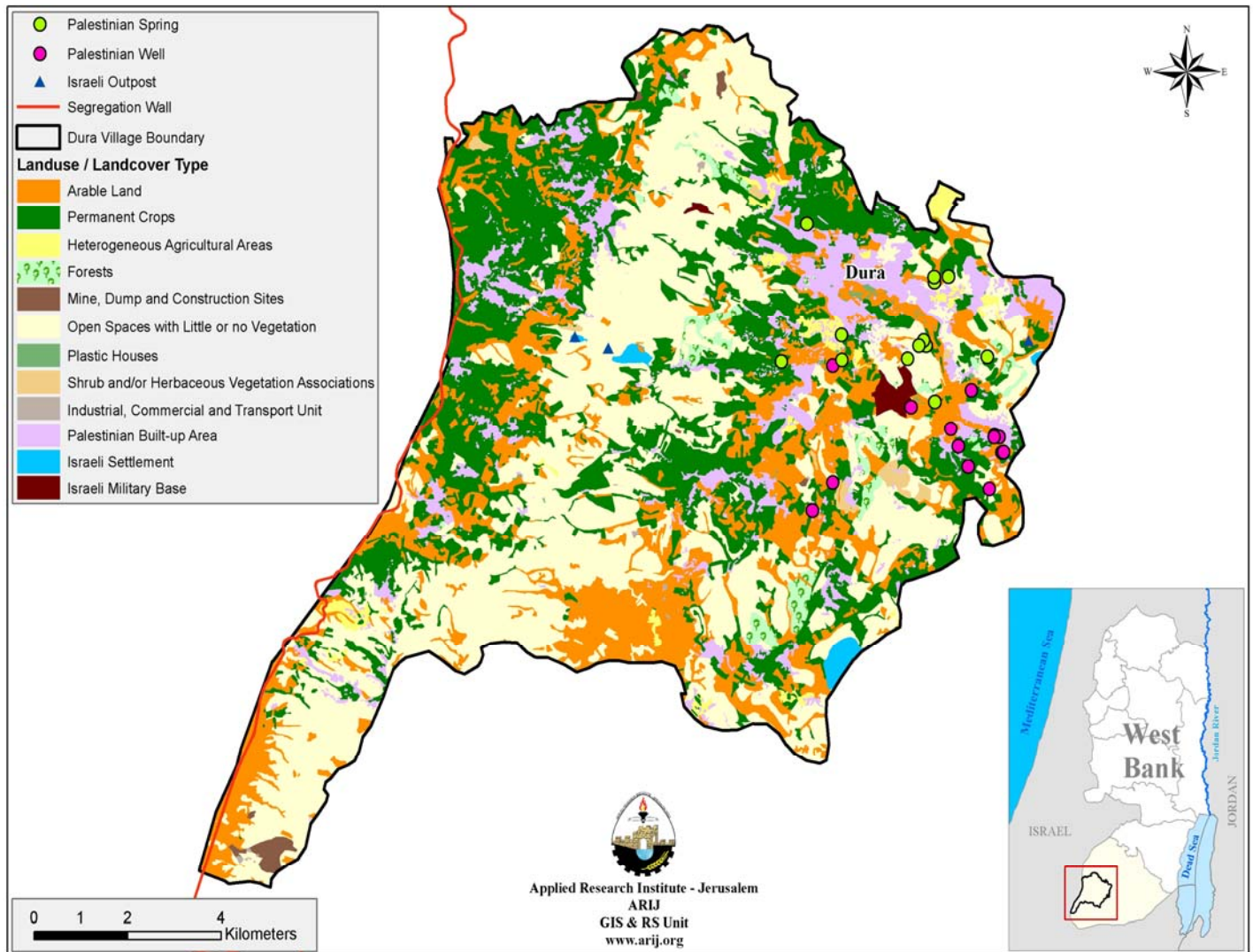
Agricultural Sector

Dura town lies on a total area of 17,600 dunums. 8,220 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 6,912 dunums are currently cultivated.

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
17,600	6,912	1,308	7,100	270	1,000

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/land cover and segregation wall in Dura town



There are about 133.8 dunums of plastic houses. About 123.5 dunums of this area are solely used for growing cucumbers.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Dura. The irrigated leafy vegetables, such as white cabbage, parsley, and spinach are the most cultivated vegetables with an area of about 232 dunums. In addition the fruity vegetables are commonly cultivated within this area, such as squash, tomato and snake cucumber.

Table 8: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Dura Town (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
189	119.6	0	232	8	29.3	0	133	20	185	217	698.9

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are 4 types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Dura which spread over a total area of about 19 dunums. These plants are thyme, mint, chamomile and sage.

Total aromatic medicinal plants		
Rain-fed	Irrigated	Total
12	7	19

In the village of Dura, there is a total area of 3,158 dunums of Olive tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly plum trees, apricot trees, 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
3158	0	0	10	424	1	85	0	157	0	1115	0	4939	11

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 11 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Dura. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most commonly cultivated crops with an area of about 630 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops, such as common and bitter vetch and lentils, is common in Dura.

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
630	0	9	0	75	0	0	0	0.5	0	170	0	4	0	0	0	893	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Dura village are also dependent upon rearing livestock, such as sheep, goats, chicken. Dura also has many bee hives.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
343	2,500	1,150	4	9	65	4	308,600	---	550

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

Rainwater is the main source of irrigated in Dura town, but a recent field survey indicated that farmers in the town depend highly on springs and cisterns for irrigated their crops. The town also needs to construct new roads in order to cover the vast agricultural area of the town.

Israeli activity in Dura area, is accountable for the uprooting of approximately 780 olive trees, 500 grapes vines, 350 almond trees and a further 900 forest trees. The agriculture sector in the town is suffering from the following problems:

- Lack of water and capital

- Lack of pastures
- Difficulty in marketing agricultural products
- Lack of agricultural development programs in the town.
- In addition to unfeasibility of agriculture activities.

Institutions and Services

Dura has many public institutions and ministry offices; these include:

- Office of Ministry of Social Affairs.
- Office of Ministry of Post and Telecommunications.
- Security Office.
- Directorate of South Interior.
- Directorate of Dura Agriculture.
- Office of Ministry of Labor Force.
- Directorate of Financial south of Hebron.
- Directorate of South Income Tax.
- Customs and Tax Directorate.
- Directorate of South Educational.
- Dura As Shrea' Court.
- Dura Magistrate Court.
- DCO (District Cooperation Office).

In addition to the public institutions, Dura has 17 societies and clubs, which are:

1. Dura Municipality: established in 1967, it is a public “service” organization working under specific regulations and by-laws enacted and improved over years in order to render the best municipal services for its citizens.
2. Palestinian Red Crescent: Established in 2006, this society was created to provide emergency health services, and providing services for people with special needs.
3. Dura Young Men’s Sport Club: Established in 1946, it provides sport activities to the youths.
4. Dura Women's Club: It provides educational and training services for women.
5. Women Cultural Center: for development and promoting woman.
6. Bent Al Reef development Society: it is a leader in providing services in order to raise awareness among rural women through courses and operational projects. It is also a kindergarten
7. Al ‘Anwar Cultural Center: this center is for Children and Youth, it provides courses in curriculum subjects, including languages and IT..
8. Dura Ahli Club: Established in 1994, in the membership of 500, the club holds cultural activities includes lectures and symposiums, sports activities, and other social activities
9. Agricultural Industrial Society: Established in 2004, this society-generates income for women through the manufacture of food and food products.
10. Dura Martyrs’ Cultural Center: Is founded by Dura Municipality in 1998 to be a place for bringing people together of all ages and both sexes who aim at intensifying and unifying social and official endeavors in the town.

11. Al-Quds Open University -Dura area: Established in 1999, this centre was established after the increasing number of students in the Hebron area. The Centre educates citizens from Dura and the villages surrounding it, especially for girls. It also provides university degrees in interdisciplinary teaching and administration
12. Dura Teachers Forum.
13. Ibdea'h (Innovation) Institution.
14. Youth care Institution.
15. Dura Islamic Charitable Society: Established in 1995
16. Joint Services Council: Established in 2000.
17. Haifa Center for Peace.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Dura town has been connected to a telecommunication network for many years. Municipality officials estimate that 98% of the housing units are connected to the network.

Water Services: Since Dura municipality assumed control of the water network, it has invested great time, energy, and money into the expansion and rehabilitation of the water system. The water network was provided by the Israeli Water Company (MECOROT) in 1966. Currently, municipal officials estimate that 85% of housing units have access to the water network. The alternative sources of water network are cisterns, springs and water tanks. There are two springs in the town which are: Omran spring and Kinar spring. The water of springs are sometimes used for drinking livestock and irrigated agriculture crops. There is one water reservoir in Dura with a 5000 cubic meter capacity

Municipal officials cite several obstacles to a sustainable water supply in Dura. These include general reduction in water supply; insufficiency of the water network in meeting demand, water pollution, and an increase in water losses through ruptures and leaks in the network.

Electricity Networks: Since 1976, Dura town has been connected to an electrical network supplied by the Israeli National Electrical Company (Qutria). According to Dura officials, approximately 98% of housing units are connected to the network. Officials, however, cite obstacles to the continued expansion of the network in meeting growing demand. Factors include; a lack of electricity generation and the existence of open electrical line which results in a sporadic loss of current.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: Dura is not connected to any sewage network; hence wastewater is disposed of in septic tanks and cesspits. Municipal officials note that this is one of the primary obstacles to safe sewage disposal and a main pollutant.

Solid Waste Collection Services: Dura Municipality controls the collection of solid waste in the town. Dura Municipality has its own refuse trucks which collect the solid waste from residential areas and send it to Hebron municipality dumping site approximately 25 kilometers from Dura

itself. The primary means of solid waste disposal is burning or burial. According to municipal data, solid waste generated daily in Dura town is estimated about 17 tons.

Transportation Facilities: Since Dura town is a main town in Hebron Governorate, it has a sufficient transportation means. There are four buses, 90 formal taxies (owned by taxi offices) and 32 informal taxies provide transportation services in internal and outside the town. The main problem face of transportation in the town is unsuitable roads.

While Dura boasts 35 kilometers of well-maintained, paved roads, there are still an additional 17 that are in a poor state of repair, and 57 km of road are completely unpaved, see table 13.

Road Condition	Road length (km)		
	Main roads	Internal roads	Agricultural roads
Paved roads in good condition	28	7	-
Paved roads in bad condition	11	6	-
Unpaved roads	45	12	-
Total	84	25	-

Source: ARIJ database, 2006/2007

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Four Israeli settlements have been constructed around Dura town, Hagia settlement to the east, Adora settlement from south, Negohot settlement to southwest and Otnel settlement to the south east. In addition to settlements Dura town also affected by Israeli permanent checkpoint located between Dura and Hebron city on the entrance of Al Fawar camp (Al Fawar checkpoint).

Israeli occupation is the main hindrance of the development and utilizing of natural resources in Palestinian territory. Dura is one of the Palestinian localities that are constantly subjected to Israeli aggressions. Many areas are isolated and confiscated from the town and about 12 housing units and institutions have been destroyed.

Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, Dura Municipality had implemented many development projects in the town, which provides primary services to the residents. Table 14 shows some of these projects.

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1.	Rehabilitation and paving internal roads.	Infrastructure	Dura municipality
2.	Building new Al Marhoom Taha Al Rajeya school	Education	Eng. Osama Taha Al_Rajeya
3.	Construction part of Stadium sports	sports	Mhomaud yoseaf nowzea
4.	Rehabilitation school room	Education	PCADER
5.	Sewage disposal network phase one	Services	FDBDC Italy

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Dura municipality the town has suffered from shortages in many infrastructure and service requirements. Table 15 below summarizes development priorities in the town.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				^ 64 km
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				6 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*				15 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				1500 cubic meter
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				4 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	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns	*				
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock				*	
4	Veterinary Services				*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*				
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 20km main roads, 30km internal roads and 14km agricultural roads

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