

Idhna 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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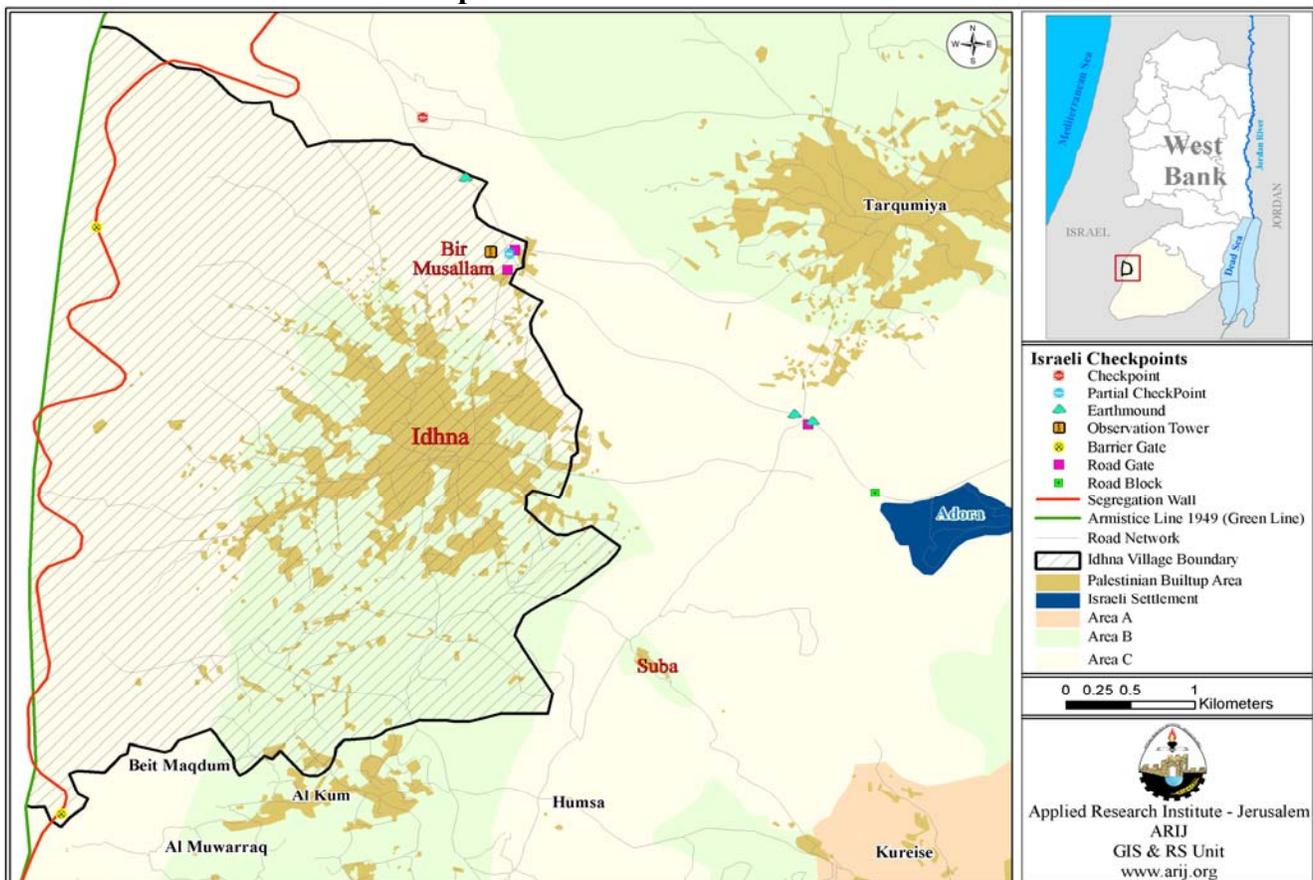
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Idhna Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Idhna is a town in Hebron Governorate located 15 km southwest of Hebron City in the southern part of the West Bank. Idhna is bordered by Tarqumiya town to the north, Taffuh town and Hebron city to the east, Al Kum village to the south and the 1949 Armistice Line (the Green Line) to the west (See map 1).

Map 1: Idhna location and borders



According to Ministry of Local Authority classification, the municipal area of Idhna includes the localities of Idhna, Suba, and Bir Musallam.

Idhna is located on low altitude hills ranging from 400m to 480m above sea level with mean annual rainfall in Idhna between 410 and 440, average annual temperature of 19° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60 % (ARIJ GIS).

A Municipal Council comprised of four members appointed by the Palestinian Authority governed Idhna from 1997-2005. In 2005, a new council was elected, consisting of 13 members with 29 employees.

In addition to drafting and implementing development programs, the council provides a number of services to the residents of Idhna, including:

- Infrastructure services such as water, electricity and solid waste disposal;
- Health services;
- Social development services; and
- Road construction and restoration, and the construction of public buildings, particularly schools.

Idhna municipality is divided into departments, which are:

- General administration
- Public relations
- Engineering
- Water
- Electricity
- Accounting and computer services
- Health services

History

The name of the town can be traced back to the Canaanite name “Ishna”, roughly translated as “firm” or “strong.” When the place was established as a Roman town, the name became Idhna, as it is known today. (Arraf, 1991)

Photo of Idhna



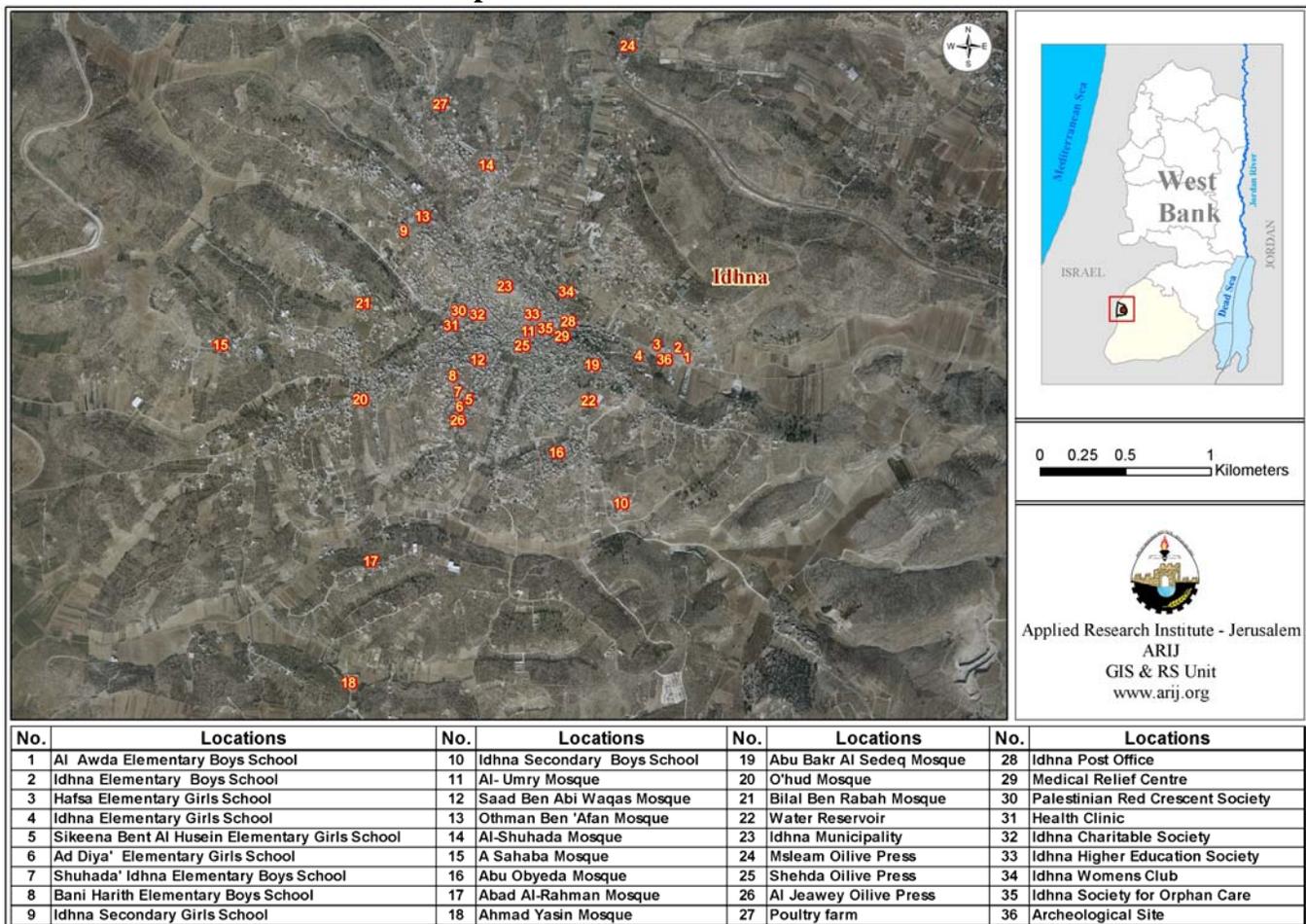
Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are a number of mosques in Idhna: Al-‘Umry Mosque, Sa’ad Ben Abi Waqas Mosque, Othman Ben ‘Afan Mosque, Abu Bakr Al Sediq Mosque, ‘Abad al-Rahman Mosque, Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque, Al-Shuhada’ Mosque, Khalet Al Ghazal Mosque, Ahmad Yasin Mosque.

Vestiges of Idhna’s long history persist in the form of ruins, generally clustered around the central hill. These include Alali Dar Basher, The Beit al-A’lam Ruins, The Beit al-Laban Ruins, and The Nabi Salih Ruins. (See map 2)

In the areas surrounding the town, artifacts, including coins, tombs, and caves from the Canaanite, Roman, Byzantine, and Islamic eras have been found.

Map 2: Main locations in Idhna town



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Idhna in 2007 was 19,012; of these, 9,723 were males and 9,289 were females. There were 3,118 households resident in 3,463 housing units, and the average household size was 6.1 at the time of

the census. The population of Idhna village constituted 3.44 % of the total population of Hebron Governorate.

Locality	Male	Female	Total
Idhna*	9561	9147	18,708
Bir Musallam*	103	86	189
Suba*	59	56	115
Total**	9,723	9,289	19,012

*Estimated numbers based upon the 1997 Census

** Source: PCBS 2008, Population, Housing and establishment, Census -2007, Final Results

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census results showed the distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex, data shows that young people are the dominant age group, with 42.3% of 14 years and younger, compared to only 54.4% of the population falling into the 15-64 age group, and 2.8% in the 65+ age group. The sex ratio in the town is 104.7 males for every 100 females, with males in Idhna constituting 51.1% of the population

Families

The Atumaizeh family and the Al Salimiya family are the two main families that reside in the town. Fifteen other families and nine refugee families constitute the rest of the total population in Idhna.

Migration

The data collected from Idhna Municipality indicates that there were more than 25 emigrants from the town as a result of the political and economic situation since the beginning of the second Intifada in 2000.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, about 975 persons were illiterate (7.5% of the total population) of whom 72% were female. Of the literate population, 1,806 persons (13.8%) received no schooling, 7,160 persons (54.8%) had elementary and preparatory education, 1,996 persons (15.3%) had secondary education, and 1,125 persons (8.6%) had an associate diploma or a bachelor's degree. Table 2 shows the educational attainment by sex in Idhna town:

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	272	855	1,634	2,050	1,126	206	475	6	43	17	6,684
F	703	951	1,632	1,844	870	87	284	2	4	1	6,378
T	975	1,806	3,266	3,894	1,996	293	759	8	47	18	13,062

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
This data includes population figures from the villages of Idhna, Suba, and Bir Musallam

There are ten governmental schools in the town; eight are elementary schools and two are secondary schools. Out of the ten schools, five are for males and five are for females; see table 3 for more details.

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Idhna Elementary Boys School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
2.	Idhna Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
3.	Al 'Awda School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4.	Shuhada' Idhna School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
5.	Bani Harith School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
6.	Hafsa Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
7.	Sikeena Bent Al Husein School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
8.	Ad Diya' School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
9.	Idhna Secondary Boys School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
10.	Idhna Secondary Girls School	Secondary	Female	Governmental

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

According to the data from the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there was 5,612 students, 198 teachers and 150 classes in Idhna. (See table 4).

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	5	0	5
	No. of class	76	0	76
	No. of Teachers	103	0	103
	No. of Students	2,800	0	2,800
Female	No. of Schools	5	0	5
	No. of class	74	0	74
	No. of Teachers	95	0	95
	No. of Students	2,812	0	2,812

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

As of 2007, there were 8 kindergartens in the town: 7 private and one run by a charitable society. These kindergartens provide pre-school education services to 517 children in the town; see table 5 for more details.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Ghassan Kanafani Kindergarten	2	100	3	Private
2.	Charitable Kindergarten	--	100	--	Charitable society
3.	Al Zohour Kindergarten	--	50	--	Private
4.	Doha	3	75	3	Private
5.	Al Bsteean	3	61	3	Private
6.	Al Eman	2	57	2	Private
7.	Palestine	1	24	1	Private
8.	Al Nowreas	2	50	2	Private

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

The educational sector in the town is suffering from the following problems:

- Lack of classrooms: Idhna schools have been forced to rent classrooms so as to meet the demands of the increasing student numbers.
- Evening education because of lack of classrooms.

Health Status

The governmental, private and NGO sectors provide health services in the town. The main health institution in the town is the Red Crescent Medical Centre with an emergency unit, general clinic, physician clinics, X-ray unit, medical lab, women health care clinic, and physiotherapy unit. In addition, there is the Medical Relief Centre that consists of physician clinics and a medical lab. The town is also served by a governmental health centre, which provides doctors, as well as vaccination services for children, among other services. Table 6 shows the health institutions in the town by supervising authority.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	-	5	-	2
Dental Clinic	-	3	-	-
Health Clinic	1	-	-	2
X-Ray Centre	-	-	-	1
Medical Lab	-	2	-	2
Maternity & Pediatric Centre	2	-	-	-
Pharmacy	-	5	-	-
Ambulance	-	-	-	1
Physiotherapy Centre	-	-	-	1
Total	3	15	-	9

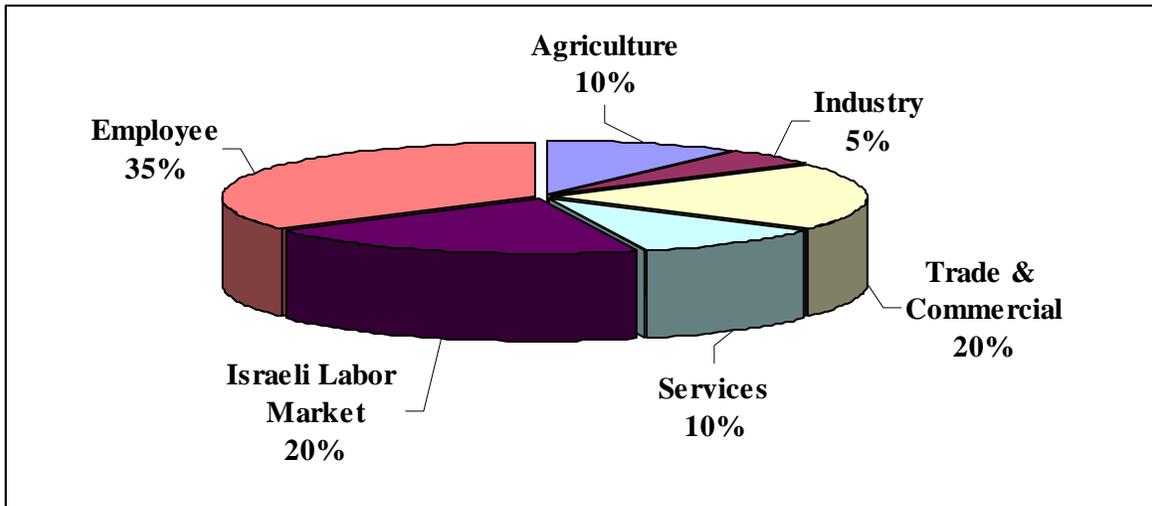
In emergency cases, residents of Idhna use Hebron hospitals and health centers 15 km from the town. Municipality officials cite several obstacles facing the health sector in the town, including insufficiency of medicine in pharmacies, insufficiency of specialist doctors, lack of hospitals, and the lack of buildings of a size necessary for a health centre.

Economic Activities

Data collected from Idhna municipality indicates that employees in governmental or private sector are the main economic base comprising 35% of the total working age population. According to town officials’ estimates, the economic base of the town consists of the following sectors:

- Government or Private Employees (35%)
- Israeli Labor Market (20%)
- Trade Sector (20%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Industrial Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Idhna town



Other commercial establishments in the town include 400 grocers, 30 clothing shops, 3 butchers, 6 blacksmiths, 6 carpenters, 20 private services shops and 20 junk stores (scrap shops). In addition, there are many olive pressing, stone cutting and soap factories.

Based on ARIJ survey in 2007, the unemployment rate in the town stood at 35%. The survey data also indicated that 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. Housekeepers and children;
3. Families with six individuals and more;

4. Small-holder farmers; and
5. Small-holder traders.

Labor Force

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 70.5% of the population of Idhna were of working age (10 years and above). Of the 13,062 people above the minimum working age, 4,045 (31%) were economically active (in the labor force), of whom 74.6% were employed, and the remaining 25.4% were either unemployed or have never worked. The total number of economically non-active persons (i.e. those out of the labor force) stood at 9,017, 53.4% of whom were students, 35.1% were housekeepers, and 11.5% were unable or unwilling to work. (See table 7):

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	2,771	484	427	3,682	2,387	8	402	33	172	3,002	6,684
F	246	30	87	363	2,430	3,156	357	11	61	6,015	6,378
T	3,017	514	514	4,045	4,817	3,164	759	44	233	9,017	13,062

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results
This data includes population figures from the villages of Idhna, Suba, and Bir Musallam

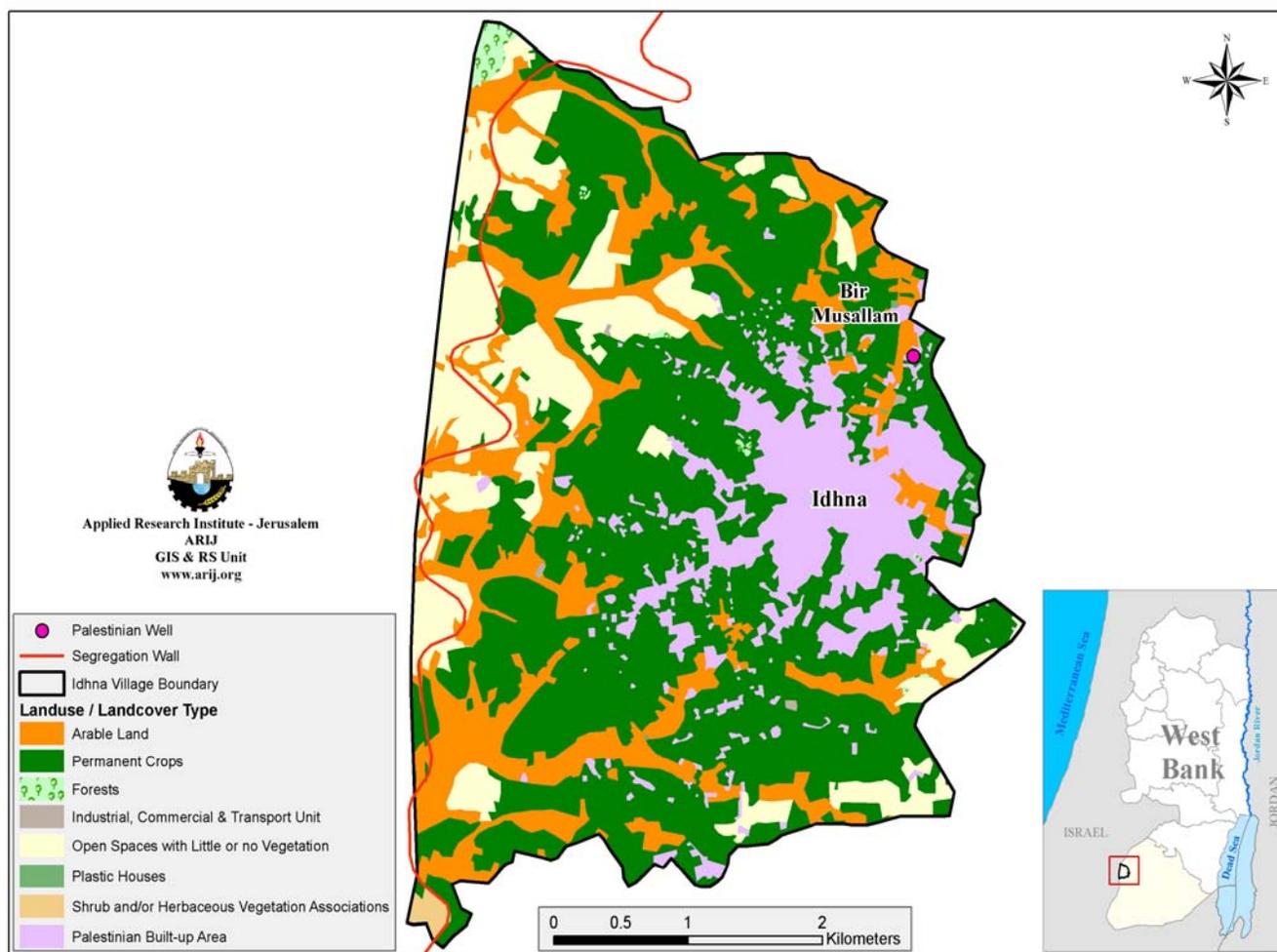
Agricultural Sector

Idhna town lies on a total area of about 19,780 dunums of which 11,500 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 10,040 dunums are cultivated. (See table 8 and map 3)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Uncultivated Area	Cultivated Area			
19,780	1,640	10,040	3,050	50	5,180

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Idhna town



There are seven greenhouses in Idhna town within an area of about five dunums. Two dunums of this area are used for growing tomatoes and three dunums are used for the cultivation of summer cucumber.

Table 9 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of Idhna. The fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 539 dunums, where the most common fruit vegetables cultivated within this area are squash, snake cucumber and tomato. In addition, there is cauliflower cultivated in the town with a total area equal 80 dunums.

Table 9: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Idhna 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.
486	53	5	21	35	5	0	12	10	70	536	161

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

In the town of Idhna, there is a total area of 7,435 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond trees, fig trees and grape vines. (See table 10)

Olives		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
7,435	0	134	0	35	0	73	0	642	0	8,319	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 11 shows the total field crops cultivated in the town of Idhna Cereals, in particular, wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 1,910 dunums; in addition to dry legumes (such as lentil, broad bean and chick-peas) that is planted within a total area of 170 dunums. Local tobacco covers an additional 130 dunums of land in Idhna town.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
1,910	0	25	0	170	0	95	0	130	0	2,330	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data collected from Idhna municipality indicates that Idhna residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production. Statistics also show that 30% of the households are rearing and keeping domestic animals. In total, there are approximately 1,055 cows, 1,000 goats and 5,200 sheep in addition to 44 poultry farms with approximately 433,000 birds, as well as 150 beehives that belong to Idhna's residents.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
1,055	5,200	1,000	35	10	300,000	133,000	150

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

In addition to the water network, farmers in the town depend on springs and rainwater wells for irrigation. There is about 15 kilometers of agricultural road in the town suitable for tractors and agricultural hardware, but this is largely insufficient. The town is in need of new roads in order to cover the vast agricultural area of the town. Israeli activity in Idhna is accountable for the destruction of approximately 3,000 olive trees, 200 grapes vines, 300 almond trees and 200 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 economic unfeasibility of the sector.

Institutions and Services

In Idhna town, there are many public institutions and ministry offices, most of them located in the building of Idhna Municipality. These include the Post Office, the office for Ministry of Social Affairs, the office for the Ministry of Agriculture, two primary health centers, and a branch for the Hebron Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In addition to the municipal council and public institutions, a number of other institutions offer services to the citizens of Idhna, such as:

- The Higher Education Society
- The Palestinian Red Crescent Society
- The Idhna Student's Conference
- The Idhna Young Men's Sport Club
- The Idhna Sport Club
- The Idhna Charitable Society
- The Idhna House of Islamic Alms and Charity
- The Health Relief Society
- The Idhna Women's Club
- The Idhna Women's Conference
- The Idhna Society for the Care of Orphans
- Al 'Isra' Cultural Center
- Al 'Anwar Cultural Center

Table 13 shows the number of institutions in Idhna by type.

Table 13: Number of institutions in Idhna by type						
Type of institution						
Governmental	Charitable	Women	NGO	Agriculture	Sports	Religious
3	2	2	3	1	2	9

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Since 1998, Idhna has been connected to a communications network provided by the Palestinian Communications Company. Municipality officials estimate that 80% of the housing units are connected to the network with the municipality placing additional phone booths in streets and public squares. The council has recently approved the construction of a cellular communications signal tower (Jawwal).

Water Services: Since Idhna municipality assumed control of the water network, it has invested a great amount of time, energy, and money into the expansion and rehabilitation of the water system. The network was originally provided in 1974 by the Israeli Water Company (MECOROT) during the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. Until recently, the water network served only 40% of housing units. Currently, municipal officials estimate that 95% of housing units have access to the water network. Nonetheless, there is still heavy dependence on alternative water sources. People are sometimes forced to draw from communal wells, but the water is becoming increasingly polluted. In addition, there are about 10 springs in the town, the

main springs being: Al Balouta spring, Al Balad spring and Al Bas springs. Furthermore, the water is also utilized for livestock and agriculture.

Idhna possesses a reservoir with a 500 cubic meter capacity. Municipal officials cite several obstacles to a sustainable water supply in Idhna. These include general reduction in water supply, insufficiency of the water network in meeting demand, water pollution, and an increase in water lost through ruptures and leaks in the network.

Electricity Networks: Since 1994, Idhna has been connected to an electrical network that is supplied by the Israeli National Electrical Company (Qutria), and managed by the Palestinian Electricity Company. According to Idhna officials, approximately 95% of housing units are connected to the network. Officials do cite obstacles to the continued expansion of the network in meeting growing demand. Factors include lack of electricity generation and the existence of open electrical line.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: Idhna is not connected to a sewage network; hence, wastewater is disposed of in septic tanks and cesspits. Municipal officials note that one of the primary obstacles to safe sewage disposal, with the resultant public health concerns, is sewage runoff from the adjacent Israeli Settlement of Adora.

Solid Waste Collection Services: Idhna has a private landfill site; “Juret Al ‘Araj”, at a distance of two kilometers from the community, as well as trucks for the collection of wastes. The primary means of solid waste disposal is burning or burial.

Transportation Facilities: Idhna’s transportation network consists largely of 40 taxis dispatched from a central office, as well as 30 informal taxis (privately owned taxis). Transportation is hindered by a military checkpoint to the west of the town and flying checkpoints elsewhere, in addition to metal gates in the segregation wall, as well as a lack of suitable roads. In Idhna, there are 10 km of well-maintained and paved roads, another 10 km are paved but in bad condition, and 62 km of road are completely unpaved, see table 14.

Road Condition	Road length (km)		
	Main roads	Internal roads	Agricultural roads
Paved roads in good condition	3	7	-
Paved roads in bad condition	5	5	-
Unpaved roads	12	35	15

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Idhna is adjacent to the Green Line, and has suffered considerably from the Israeli occupation, particularly as a result of the construction of the Segregation Wall. According to municipal officials, some 3,000 dunums of town lands were confiscated during the Second Intifada. Furthermore, Idhna is surrounded by the Israeli settlements of Adora and Telem to the east-northeast, a bypass road that runs through the northern parts of the town, and the segregation wall that borders Idhna to the north and the west.

There is a permanent military checkpoint to the west, as well as numerous and unpredictable flying checkpoints elsewhere. A series of metal gates in the segregation wall allow Israeli military access to the area but prohibit Palestinian access to the lands beyond. As a result, access to health centers has been impeded, and ambulances routinely experience delays in transport.

Municipal officials attest that twenty houses were demolished during the Second Intifada. Wastewater dumping from the neighboring settlements has polluted Idhna’s water supply. In terms of agriculture, the occupation has taken a heavy toll; a number of agricultural roads have been closed or destroyed making the harvest of crops difficult. Olive trees have been uprooted, and various field crops and grazing lands have been destroyed. In terms of education, restrictions on mobility made reaching schools difficult. Students are forced to travel an average of six kilometers to get to their schools.

Approximately nine kilometers of the segregation wall have been constructed on Idhna land since 2004. While completed sections consist of austere grey 8m concrete slabs, unfinished sections incorporate vast lengths of razor wire.

Two historical sites have been isolated behind the wall, and twenty water sources (two springs and artesian wells) have been isolated from farmers or entirely blocked. Forty houses have had demolition orders placed on them, and ten have been destroyed because of the wall. Additionally, approximately 12 kilometers of roads have been obstructed and/or destroyed by the wall and 20 families isolated by the wall.

In terms of land and vegetation, municipal officials attest that 800 dunums of land have been confiscated for the construction of the Wall itself, and an additional 3,200 dunums have been isolated by the wall. Furthermore, the construction of the Wall resulted in the destruction of 2,500 trees.

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

As noted previously, the municipal council is particularly active in the sphere of project development and implementation. There are a number of projects that were in progress as of April of 2005, these include:

Table 15: Development plans and projects in Idhna town

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Repaving and repairing the Idhna-Suba-Dura road	Infrastructure	Islamic Development Fund in cooperation with Ministry of Local Government and Idhna municipality
2	Repairing and paving internal roads.	Infrastructure	The German government in cooperation with MOLG and Idhna municipality
3	Repaving the Khalla al-Ghazal road.	Infrastructure	Idhna municipality in cooperation with MOLG
4	Erecting high-tension power lines for the municipal area.	Infrastructure	Idhna municipality
5	Erecting medium-tension power lines for peripheral and agricultural areas.	Infrastructure	Idhna municipality
6	Building a public park.	Services	MOLG in cooperation with USAID

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Idhna municipality, the town has suffered from shortages in many infrastructure and service requirements. Table 16 below summarizes development priorities and needs in the town.

Table 16: Development priorities and needs for Idhna town						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			57 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*				20 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas			*		2,000 m ³
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network	*				10 km
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			*		

^ 12 km main roads, 35 km internal roads, and 10 km agricultural roads

In addition to these development priorities, there are a number of projects for future development, all of which are to be carried out in the next five years (“The Five Year Plan”):

- Establish a branch of al-Quds University in the municipality
- Build a departmental centre for the municipal branches (a portion of the land needed for this complex has already been purchased by the municipality)
- Establish an urban defense centre, for the preservation of citizens’ possessions and ways of life
- Build a cultural centre
- Build schools (in order to reduce the dependence upon rented classrooms and evening classes)
- Establish a public library
- Build a centre for advanced medicine
- Install a sewage network
- Extend the water network to remote and peripheral areas of the municipality
- Open and pave new entrance routes into the municipality
- Continue paving internal roads
- Create new agricultural roads
- Build an environmentally suitable solid waste landfill site
- Invest in a solid waste disposal truck
- Purchase a bulldozer and excavator (for earth moving and road construction)
- Install additional electrical transformers
- Construct an irrigation reservoir
- Build sidewalks along the streets

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