

Taffuh 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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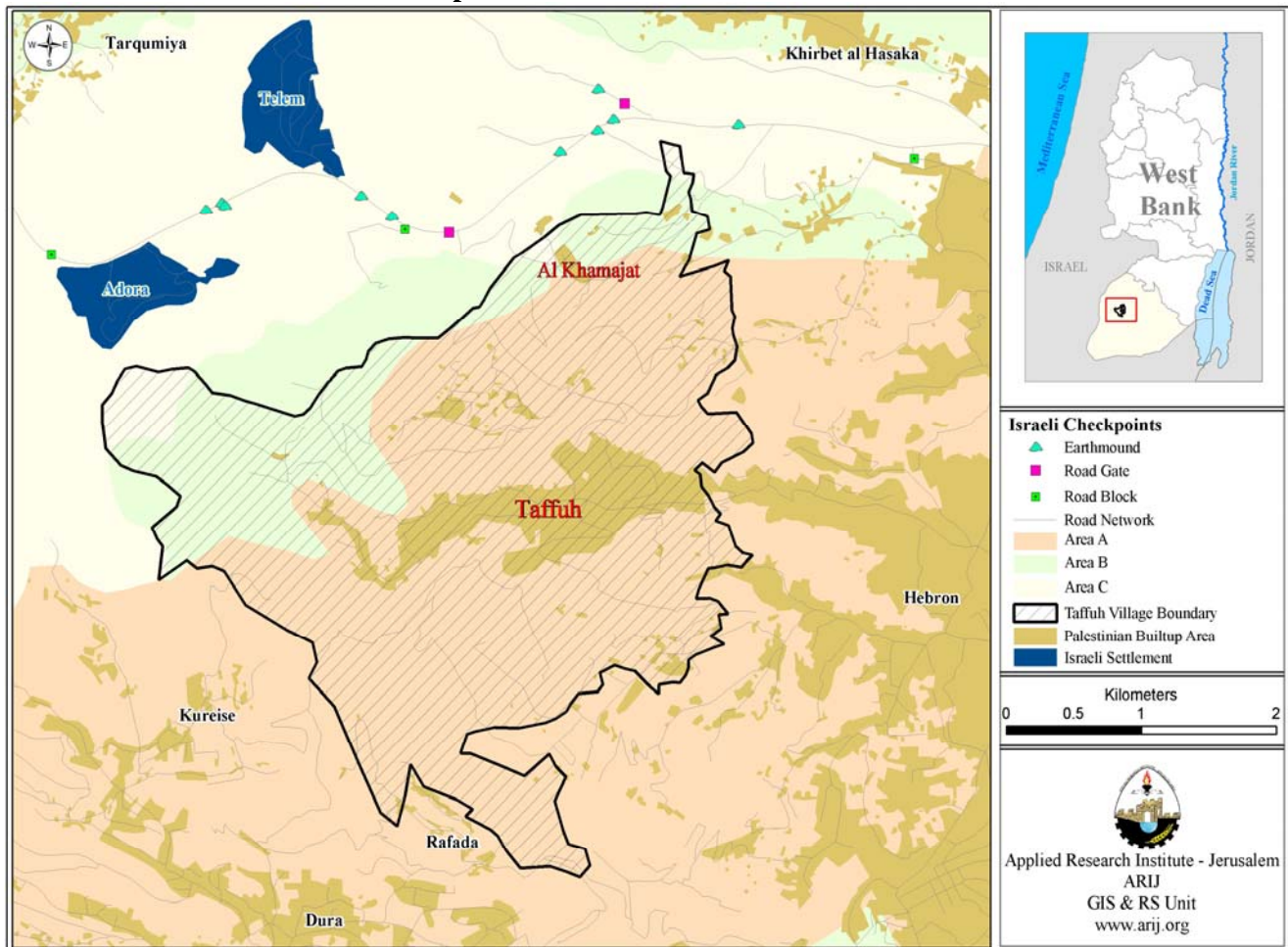
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Taffuh Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Taffuh is a town in the Hebron Governorate located six km west of Hebron city. The town is bordered from east by Hebron city, from west by Idhna, from north by Beit Kahil and from south by Dura (See map 1).

Map 1: Taffuh town location and borders



Taffuh is located on a mountain area adjacent to the borders of Hebron City, at a moderate elevation of 850 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Taffuh town is 457 mm, the average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

As Taffuh is located in a mountainous area, it lacks any agricultural lands. However, Taffuh lands extend to reach Khirbet Jamrura, an uninhabited agricultural area that lies adjacent to the

Green Line. In recent years, the Israeli forces have confiscated most of Jamrura lands and have restricted the access to the remaining lands.

According to the classifications of the Ministry of Local Authority, Taffuh municipal boundaries include the localities of Taffuh and Al Khamajat. From 1979 until 1995, Taffuh was administered by a Village Council. Since 1995, the town has been governed by a Municipality council appointed by the Palestinian Authority (Ministry of Local Government). In 2005, 11 members were elected to form a new municipal council. Twenty employees work in the municipality and serve the infrastructural and social needs of the town residents.

The Municipality has two headquarters; one at the entrance of the town and a second located in the middle of the town.

History

Taffuh is a Canaanite town and it is considered one of the ancient towns in the region. The town was very well known for apple tree plantings, so the name Taffuh was derived from "Beit at Toffah", a name meaning 'the house of apples'.

Khirbet Astas and Khirbet al Khamajat are ruins located to the north of Taffuh, which have been always considered a part of Taffuh town.

Photos of Taffuh



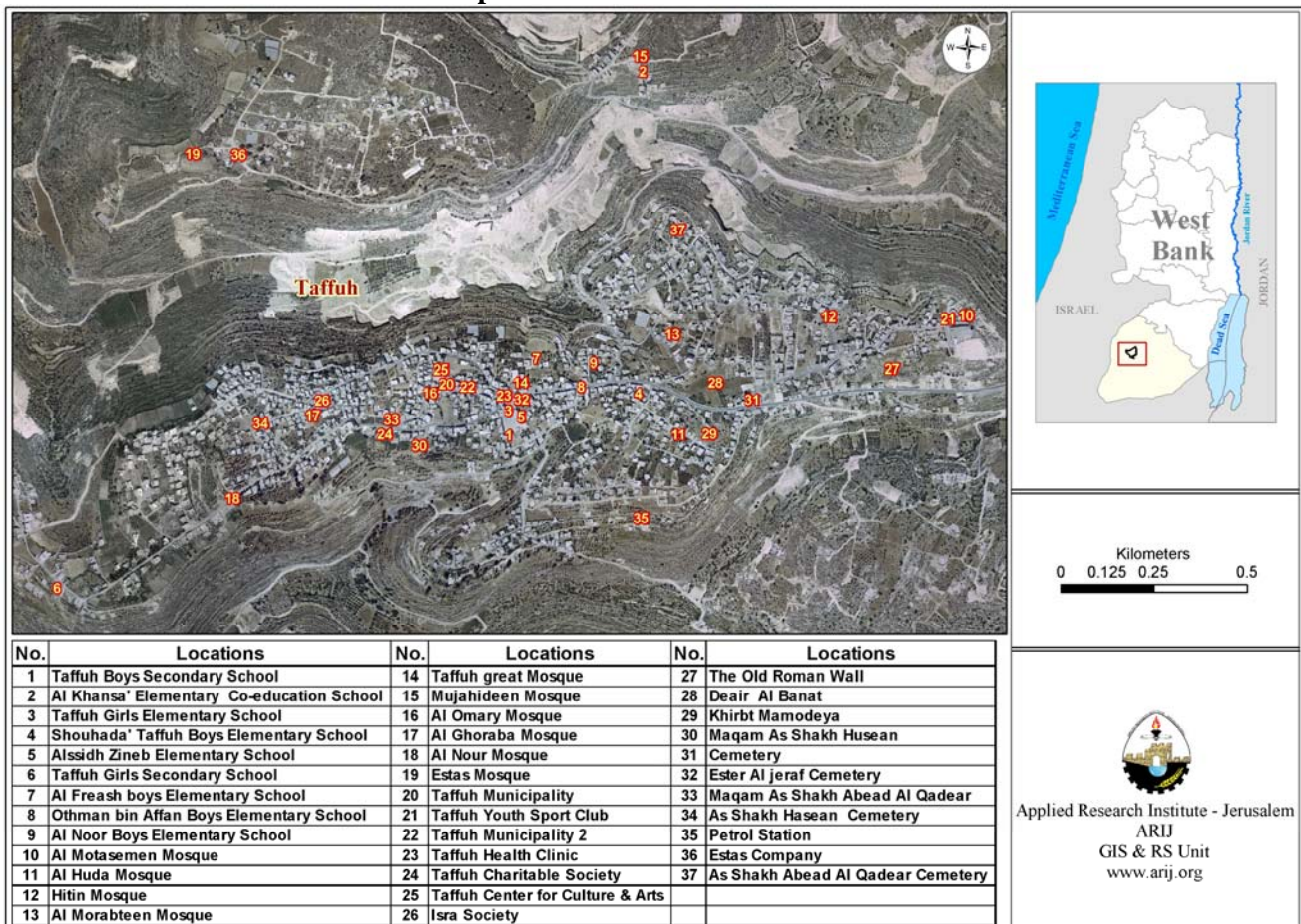
Religious and Archaeological Sites

Several congregational mosques in Taffuh town provide community worship and Friday prayer services. These mosques are: Taffuh Al-Kabir Mosque (مسجد تفوح الكبير), Al Umary Mosque (المسجد العمري), AL Ghuraba' Mosque (مسجد الغرباء), Hiteen Mosque (مسجد حطين), Al Mujahideen

Mosque (مسجد المجاهدين), Al Huda Mosque (مسجد الهدى), Al Murabiteen Mosque (مسجد المرابطين), Al Mu'tasimeen Mosque (مسجد المعتصمين), Al Nour Mosque (مسجد النور), and Astas Mosque (مسجد أسطاس).

Taffuh town is a very ancient town and of archaeological and historical importance. Excavations in the area have revealed ruins from 3000 BC, from the Canaanite period through to the Roman Empire era. The town was, and still is, surrounded by a very historic Roman Wall, as well as many other archaeological sites that have been discovered, but unfortunately are not put to recreational or tourist use. These sites include ancient martyrs' graves, a Roman Prison, a Roman Courthouse, a very ancient monastery and ruins of an ancient church. Caves from the Canaanite period were discovered in the north, in Khirbet Astas and Khirbet al Khamajat, and in the middle of Taffuh town. In addition, there are several Islamic historical sites in Taffuh, for example, the shrine of Al Sheikh Abdul Qader (one of Amr ibn al 'Aas Islamic Military Force leaders), and the shrine of Sheikh Hussein. (See map 2)

Map 2: Main locations in Taffuh town



Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Taffuh in 2007 was approximately 10,597 people, of whom 10,443 people were

living in Taffuh and 154 people were living in Khirbet al Khamajat. There were 1,759 households living in 1,948 housing units. Table 1 shows the population of Taffuh town by locality and sex in 2007.

The population of Taffuh town constituted then 1.91% of the total population of Hebron Governorate.

Locality	Male	Female	Total
Taffuh*	5,311	5,131	10,443
Al Khamajat*	74	81	154
Total**	5,385	5,212	10,597

*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 data classifies the Taffuh population by age groups and sex. The data showed that 48.1% of the population were less than 15 years old, 50% were in the age group 15-64 years old and 1.7 % of the total town population were 65 years old and older. The sex ratio in the town was 103 males for every 100 females with males constituting 50.8% of the population and females constituting 49.2%

Families

The residents of Taffuh are comprised of many families such as Irzeiqat, At Taradeh, Khamayseh, and Zo'mot and Ghanem families.

Education

According to the 2007 census, 6.2% of the residents were illiterate; women (72.1%) comprised a greater percentage of the illiterate population than men (27.9%). Of the literate population, 17.7% of residents could read and write, 29% completed elementary education, 26.8% completed preparatory education and 20.2% completed their secondary and higher education. Table 2 shows the education status in Taffuh by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Master	PhD	Total
M	119	545	1,120	899	514	110	165	14	1	3,487
F	308	674	877	944	455	51	80	1	-	3,390
T	427	1,219	1,997	1,843	969	161	245	15	1	6,877

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

Field survey data indicates that there are three levels of education in Taffuh town: preschool (kindergartens), elementary and secondary education. There are ten schools in the town, of which

four are boys' schools, three are girls' schools and three are co-educational schools. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 3.

School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1. Taffuh Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2. Shuhda' Taffuh Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3. Al Noor Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4. Othman bin Affan Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
5. Taffuh Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
6. Taffuh Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
7. Sayedah Zeinab Elementary School for Girls	Elementary	Female	Governmental
8. Al Khansa' Elementary Co-education School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
9. Al Najah Co-education School	Elementary	Co-education	Private
10. Dar Al Salam Co-education school	Elementary	Co-education	Private

Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data showed that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 115 classes, 151 teachers and 3,768 students in Taffuh town (See table 4).

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	4	0	4
	No. of Class	52	0	52
	No. of Teachers	68	0	68
	No. of Students	1718	0	1718
Female	No. of Schools	3	0	3
	No. of Class	48	0	48
	No. of Teachers	63	0	63
	No. of Students	1724	0	1724
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	2	3
	No. of Class	6	9	15
	No. of Teachers	7	13	20
	No. of Students	107	219	326

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

In 2007, there were three kindergartens in Taffuh town. These kindergartens provided pre-school education services to 247 children. Table 5 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Taffuh Charitable Society Kindergarten	4	87	4	Charitable
2.	Taffuh Charitable Society Kindergarten (Kroom al Garabeh).	3	86	4	Charitable
3.	Al Najah Kindergarten	4	110	4	Private
4.	Al Aqsa Kindergarten	2	70	3	Private

The main obstacles facing the development of the educational sector in Taffuh town are:

1. Scarcity of schools
2. The limited spaces in the available schools
3. The long distance that the students have to take to reach schools

Health Status

In spite of the health facilities provided in Taffuh town (Table 6), they do not meet the demands and requirements for sufficient diagnostic and therapeutic medical and surgical care.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	Total
Physician Clinic	1	4	-	5
Dental Clinic	-	2	1	3
Medical Lab	-	-	1	1
Medical Center	-	-	1	1
Pharmacy	-	3	-	3
Physiotherapy Center	-	-	1	1
Total	1	9	4	14

In Taffuh, there are five health clinics for ambulatory patients, one medical center, three pharmacies, a physical therapy center and a medical laboratory; however, there is no hospital, mother and childcare center, medical imaging or X-ray center and the town lacks medication and ambulances. Furthermore, in the case of emergencies, patients are sent to Hebron city (6 km away) or to Bethlehem city (40 km away) as there are no emergency rooms or any health care facility intended to provide rapid treatment for victims of sudden illness or trauma.

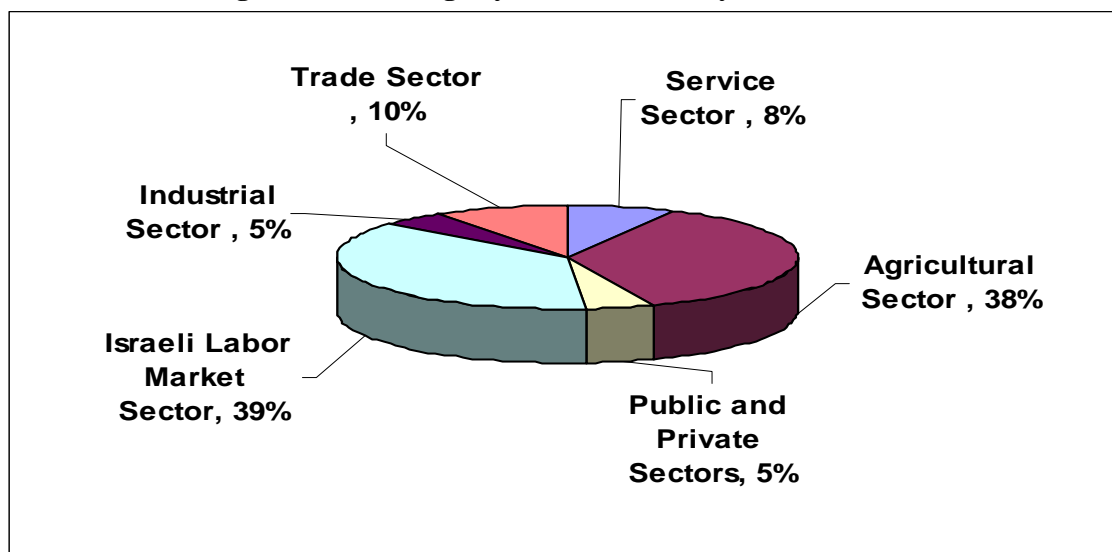
Economic Activities

In the past, Taffuh residents were mainly dependent on agricultural activities they cultivated in Jamrura area. Presently, the productivity of agricultural lands has declined due to a shortage of water, lack of capital and limited available arable lands due to land confiscation.

According to ARIJ survey, in 2007, 38% of residents were engaged in agricultural activities. The survey also indicated the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy; listed below by percentage: (See figure 1).

- The agriculture sector 38 %
- The service sector 3 %
- Israeli labor market 39 %
- The industrial sector 5 %
- The trade sector 10%
- The Public and Private sector 5%,

Figure 1: Percentage by economic activity in Taffuh town



The main economic institutions in Taffuh include carpenter and blacksmith workshops, and plastic and clothing factories. The economic base of the town is also dependent upon commercial institutions including 70 groceries, 10 clothes shops, 2 butchers and more than 12 service shops.

The survey also indicated that the social groups most affected in the town by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada are: 1) Previous workers in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families of six individuals or more, 3) Small- scale farmers, 4) Small- scale traders, and 5) Housekeepers and children.

Labor Force

In 2007, the percentage of participants in the labor force in Taffuh town was 66.6% of the total population of the town, with women’s participation assessed at 49.3% (3,390 women in total). The labor force in Taffuh town was then 6,877 people in total, of which 29.3% were economically active, and 70.7% were non-economically active. Of the economically active, 88.2% were employed. The largest groups of the non-economically active were students and housekeepers, who constituted 54.7% and 35.5%, respectively. Table 7 shows the labor force in Taffuh town.

Sex	Economically Active				Non 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	1,632	139	76	1,847	1,349	8	212	24	47	1,640	3,487
F	145	6	16	167	1,309	1,720	120	-	74	3,223	3,390
T	1,777	145	92	2,014	2,658	1,728	332	24	121	4,863	6,877

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

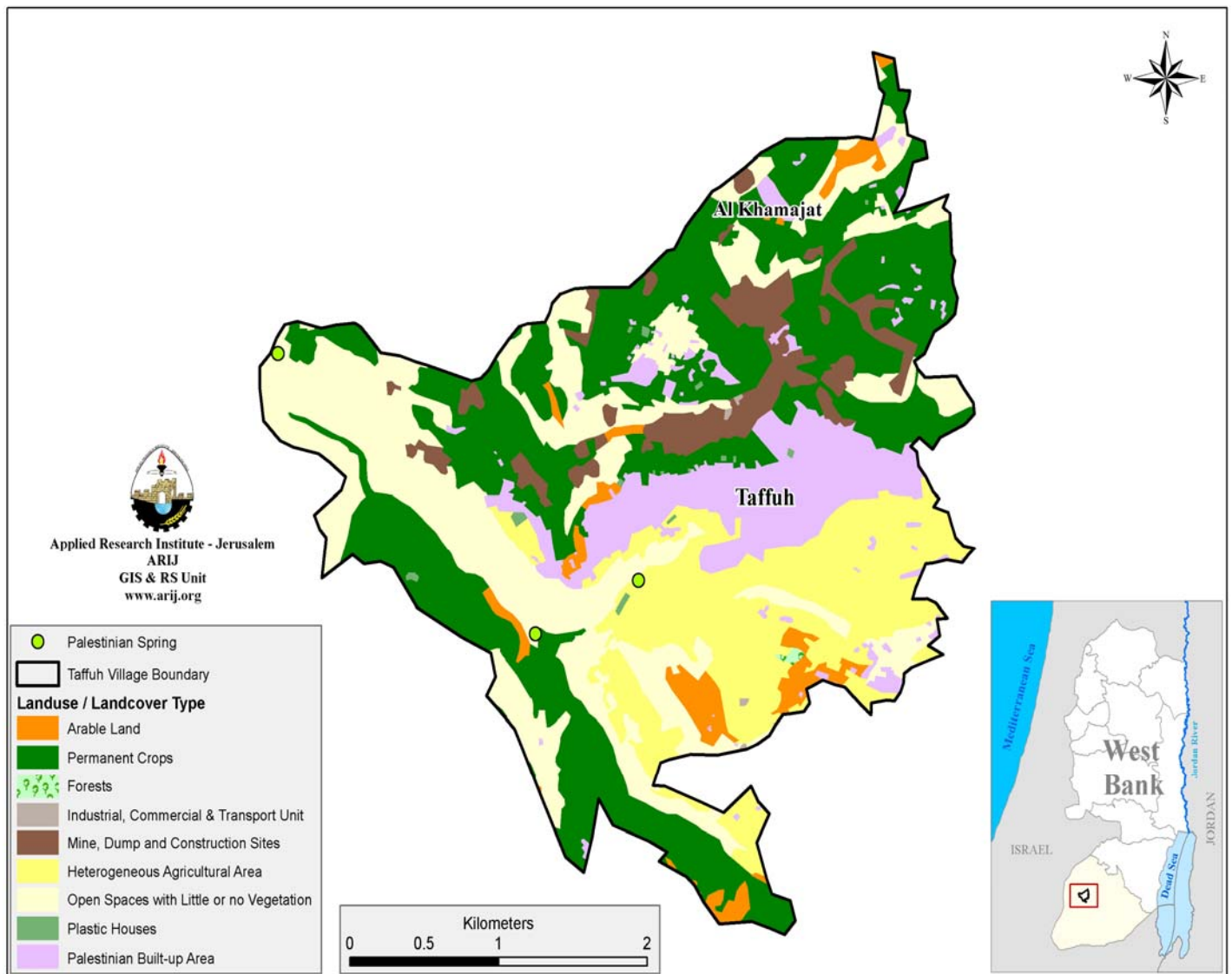
Agricultural Sector

Taffuh town lies on a total area of 12,000 dunums of which 8,000 dunums are considered arable land, though only 7,022 dunums are cultivated.

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
12,000	7,022	978	2,000	100	1,900

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Taffuh town



There are 14 dunums of greenhouses used for the production of fruits and vegetables. Of these, 8 dunums are used for growing cucumbers.

Table 9 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of Taffuh. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 605 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are tomatoes and squash.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
605	29	2	30	25	15	0	32	67	75	699	181

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Thyme is the main aromatic and medicinal plant cultivated in Taffuh and it spreads over a total area of about 3 dunums.

In the town of Taffuh, there is a total area of 2,254 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area include stone fruits trees such as plum trees, pome fruit trees such as apple trees, and grape vines.

Olives		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
2,254	0	780	0	253	0	135	0	374	0	3796	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Cereals, in particular wheat, white corn and barley, are the most cultivated crops in Taffuh, covering an area of about 2,098 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops such as common vetch are common in the town (See Table 11).

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
2,098	0	12	0	383	0	300	0	10	0	2,803	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data collected from the Taffuh Municipality indicates that town residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production. The data indicates that 10% of the households are rearing and keeping domestic animals, such as cows, sheep, goats and poultry. There are around 20 poultry farm in addition to 26 beehives.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee-hives
154	550	600	65	10	50,000	2,000	26

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The agricultural sector in Taffuh suffers from a lack of water resources, capital and is in need of a feasibility study. Land confiscation also hinders agricultural development in the town.

Institutions and Services

The preeminent local institution in Taffuh is the municipality, which was established in 1996. It provides public services to the residents such as water, electricity, solid waste, as well as organizes and issues building licenses, etc. Other governmental and private institutions include:

1. Taffuh Zakat Committee for tithing and alms. Established in 1995 with nine members, the Committee is based on social welfare and fair distribution of wealth to poor and destitute people.
2. Taffuh Charitable Society for health and educational services, established 1980.
3. Taffuh Center for Culture and Arts
4. Al Isra' Society for Special Needs
5. Taffuh Sports Club, established in 1982 as an athletic facility equipped for sports and physical training, in addition providing cultural programmes for town youth.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Approximately 20% of the housing units in the town are connected to the telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** The main source of water in Taffuh town has been provided by the Palestinian Water Authority since 1998; approximately 55% of the housing units are connected to the water network. Other alternative water sources include cisterns, water tankers and six springs; the springs are: These sources are used in domestic and agricultural activities, such as providing water for vegetables greenhouses. In addition, Taffuh Municipality owns a water reservoir with a capacity of 400 m³. However, the town suffers from many problems regarding water services. For example, many housing units are still unconnected to a water network and the water tankers are very expensive and even housing units connected to the water network suffer from insufficient quantity of water provided.
- **Electricity Services:** Approximately 70% of the housing units in Taffuh town are connected to an electric network. The Israeli Electric Company Al Qutriya has been the only electricity provider since 1987. However, the electricity services in the town are poor and are in need of reconstruction. For example, the electric current is very weak and the prices are very high.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Solid waste in the town is collected daily by a solid waste management system managed by Taffuh Municipality in cooperation with the Joint Services Council for Planning and Development- North West Hebron. The waste is collected by a truck owned by the municipality and sent to a dumping site (El Jalaf/ Ein Al Bustan) that lies 5 km away from the community. Burning is the main method used to dispose of the solid wastes.

- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** The sewage disposal system in Taffuh is chronically under-funded. There is no sewage disposable network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed in cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** The public transportation in Taffuh town consists of three public buses and a taxi office, to transport people between Taffuh and the nearby towns. However, the transportation system in Taffuh suffers from Israeli checkpoints and sand mounds around the town. In Taffuh, there are about 4 km of well paved main roads, in addition to 6 km of main roads and 3 km of link road that are paved but in poor condition. Also, there are around 3 km of main roads, 2 km of link roads and 5 km of agricultural roads that are currently unpaved and need to be paved.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Israeli forces have 9,000 dunums confiscated most town lands in the Jamrura area, and have imposed access restrictions on the remaining lands. In addition, Jamrura/Tarqumiya checkpoint and Adoura settlement are located on about 6,000 dunums of land to the northwest of Taffuh town, their existence impeding and preventing the entry of the town residents to their agricultural lands in that area.

In 2006, the Israeli Authority began construction of the segregation wall on the Jamrura area north side of the town. The length of the concrete wall that passes through the town is about 2.5 km. In the construction process, 15 cisterns were destroyed by the Israeli forces, 11 households have been isolated outside the town and more than 450 dunums of land have been confiscated for the wall construction.

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

Taffuh Municipality designed a development plan that includes a variety of projects. Since 2004, the municipality has implemented several projects from this plan, some which have been funded by foreign donors, including:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Building Taffuh Sports Club	Sport	Save the Children
2	Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	Al Aqsa Fund and Taffuh Municipality
3	Completion of the water network extension	Infrastructure (water)	The Municipalities' Fund
4	Opening of a new road (Ein Deeb)	Infrastructure	Taffuh Municipality

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Taffuh Municipality, there are many infrastructural needs within the town. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the town.

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Taffuh						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				15 km
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			500 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas		*			5 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			*		
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			4000 dunums
2	Building Cisterns		*			200 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock				*	
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			30 greenhouses
7	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

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