

# Umm Lasafa Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem  
ARIJ

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar program

2009

## Acknowledgments

*ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.*

*ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.*

*ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.*

## *Background*

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the 'Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment'; a project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The 'Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment' was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Hebron Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Hebron Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile/>

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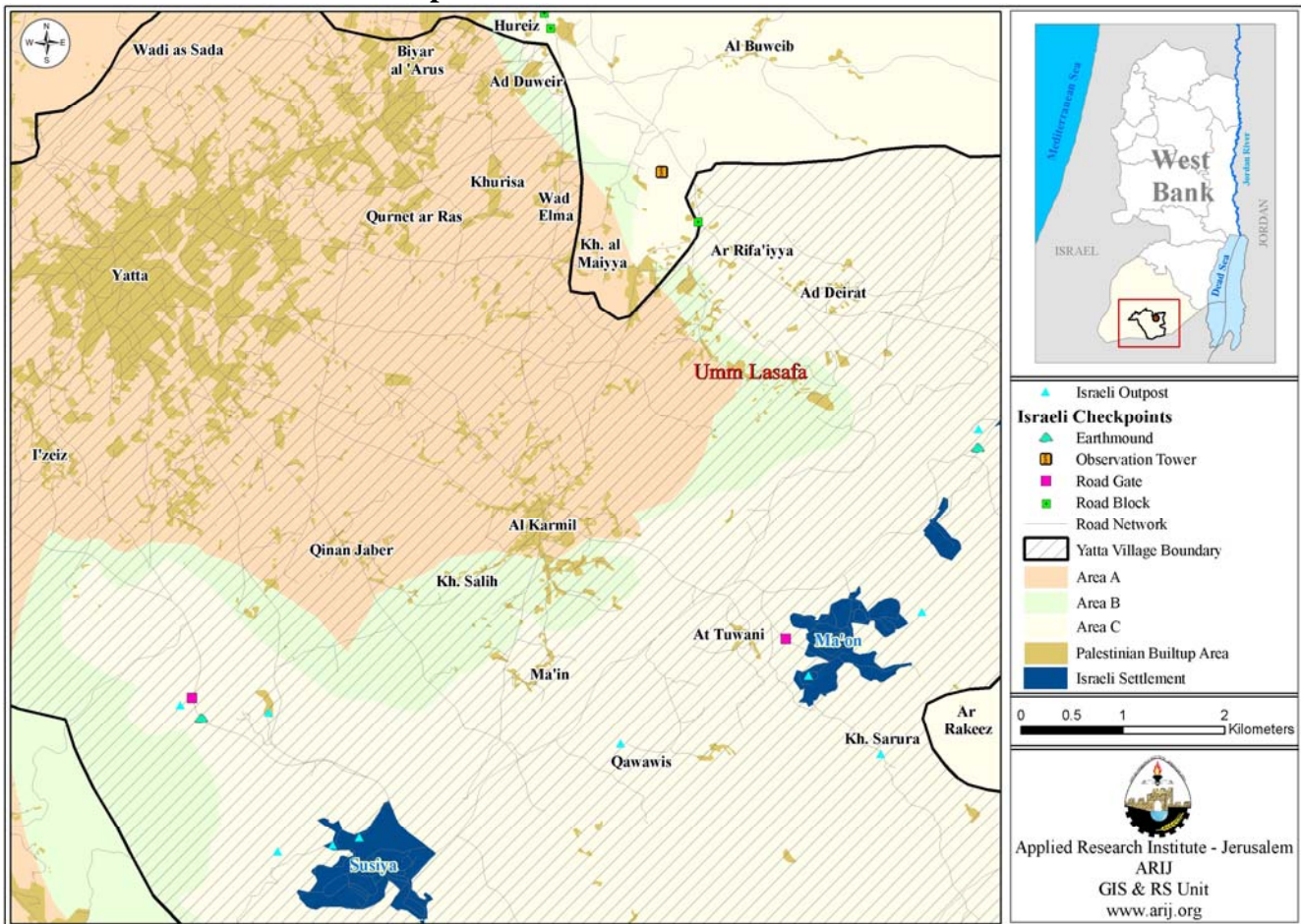
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## *Umm Lasafa Village Profile*

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Umm Lasafa is a Palestinian village in the Yatta village boundary. It is located 25 kilometres south of Hebron City in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by the Bedouin communities to the East, Al Karmil village to the South, Khallet al Maiyya village to the West, and to the North by Ad Deirat and Ar Rifa'iyya villages (See map 1).

**Map 1: Umm Lasafa location and borders**



According to the village survey data, the total area of Umm Lasafa village is 5,000 dunums. Of the total area about 2,000 dunums are considered as built-up area and 2,000 dunums, agricultural land, in addition to 1,000 dunums being confiscated by the Israeli Forces to construct settlements, military bases or bypass road. The village has a master plan on 3,000 dunums.

Umm Lasafa is considered to be a rural area as it complies with the demographic and institutional criteria relevant to rural areas. Since 1996, Umm Lasafa village has been governed by the village

council appointed by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Authorities; the council comprises five members and one full-time employee. The village council is based in a rented building and provides infrastructure services for the village including electricity, solid waste collection in addition to social and human services to the residents.

Umm Lasafa village lies on moderate hill adjacent to the desert at an elevation of 734 m above sea level. The average annual temperature is about 18 °C, and the average annual humidity is 60.5%. Mean annual rainfall is 303.1 mm (ARIJ GIS, 2006).

According to the village officials, four areas are included in Umm Lasafa village, these are: Marah Samour, 'Emera, Sha'eb El Sous, and Khallet Qezan.

## **History**

The history of Umm Lasafa village dates back to the Roman era. One suggested route of the name comes from the belief that after the rain the village becomes radioactive due to existence of certain rocks. The residents of the village are Indigenous to the area.

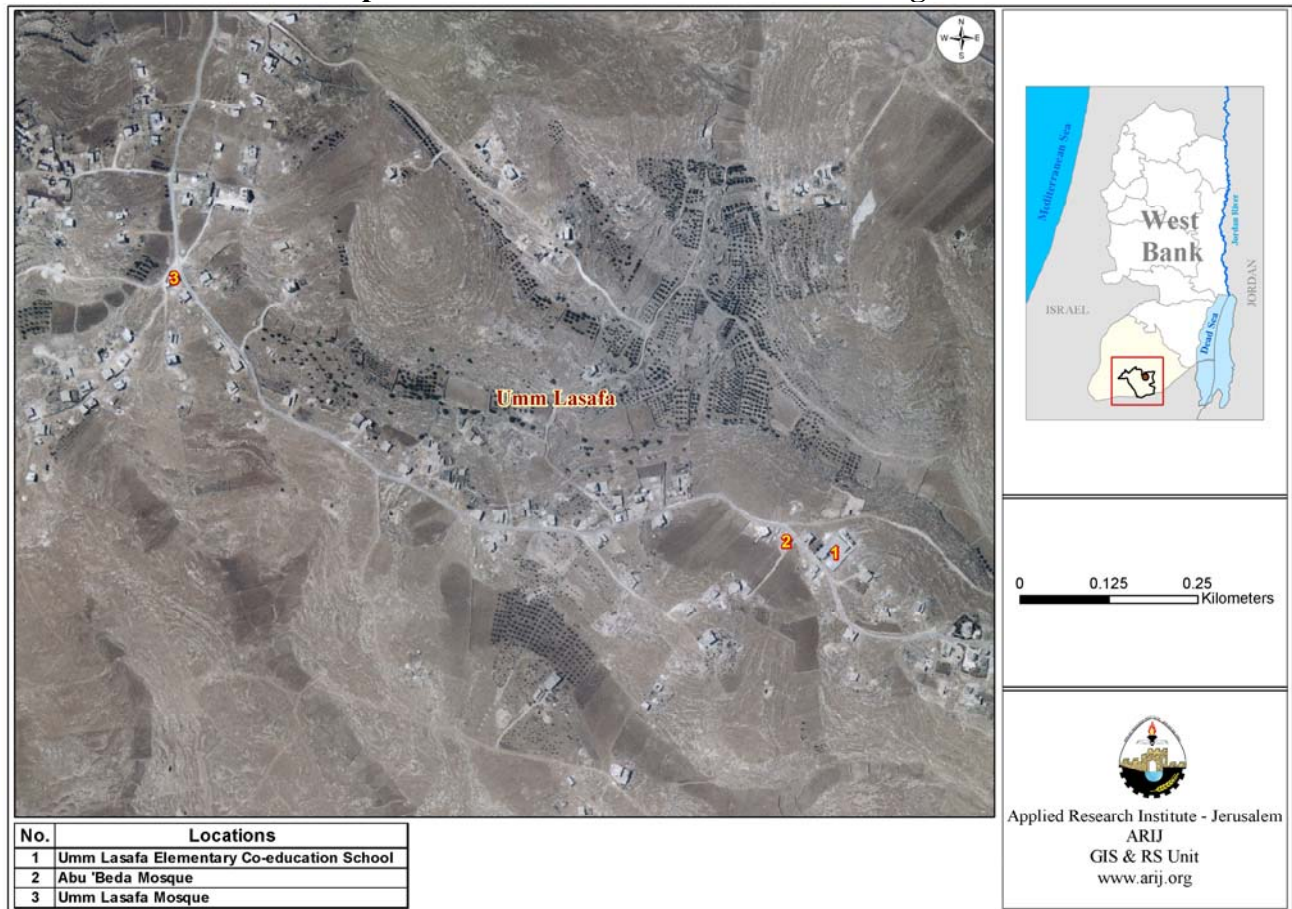
### **Photos of Umm Lasafa**



## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are two mosques in the village serving the residents; these are Umm Lasafa Mosque and Abu 'Beda Mosque. Additionally, there are three sites of historical and archaeological interest in the village including Kherbit Umm Lasafa, Palace of Abu Shaban and Abu Shaban Spring.

**Map 2: Main locations in Umm Lasafa village**



## Demography and Population

According to the Population Census conducted in 2007, the total population of Umm Lasafa was about 853 people, of whom 438 inhabitants were male and 415 inhabitants were females. There were 110 households living in 142 housing units. The average household size was 7.8 people.

### Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Population Census data showed the distribution of Umm Lasafa population by age group and sex. The table shows that the largest age group, constituting 52.5% of the total population, is between 0-14 years. The 15-64 age groups constitute 45.8% and the 65 and over constitute just 1.7% of the total population. The sex ratio in the village was 101 males for every 100 females, in terms of percentage, the males consists 51.3% of the total population and the female consists 48.7% of the total population.

### Families

The main families in the village are as follows: Abu Hmaid, Qar'esh, Awad and other Families, which contribute of the total population.

## Education

Table 1 shows educational attainment by sex in Umm Lasafa village as in 2007, the table shows that 20.2% of the population 10 years and above were illiterate of whom 36.2% were males and 63.8% were female, 36.5% of the people could read and write, but had no formal education. The table also shows that 22.5% had completed elementary school, 15.2% had finished preparatory school. Only 4% of residents had completed secondary school and 3.1% continued their higher education (associate diploma and above).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	38	105	67	34	9	1	3	-	0	0	257
F	67	85	50	45	12	1	2	1	0	0	263
<b>T</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>520</b>

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

According to field survey data, there is one school supervised by Government sector in Umm Lasafa village, "Umm Lasafa Elementary Co-Education School". The data of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) reveals that at the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007, there were 152 students, 7 classes, and 9 teachers in Umm Lasafa village. There is one kindergarten in Umm Lasafa village "Umm Lasafa Kindergarten" which provides pre-school education services to 30 children. It supervised by a private institution.

The students in Umm Lasafa village are forced to travel 3.5 kilometres to reach Khallet al Maiyya schools so as to complete the elementary education and to travel 10 kilometres to reach Yatta schools to complete the secondary education. The education sector in Umm Lasafa is suffering from the lack of schools, which is causing leakage among students

## Health Status

There is only one health centre in the village "Umm Lasafa Maternity and Paediatric Centre", which is supervised by the Governmental sector. The village officials state that the residents in the village are suffering from the lack of health center where the residents are forced to travel about 10 or 25 km to reach Yatta or Hebron hospitals and health centers.

## Economic Activities

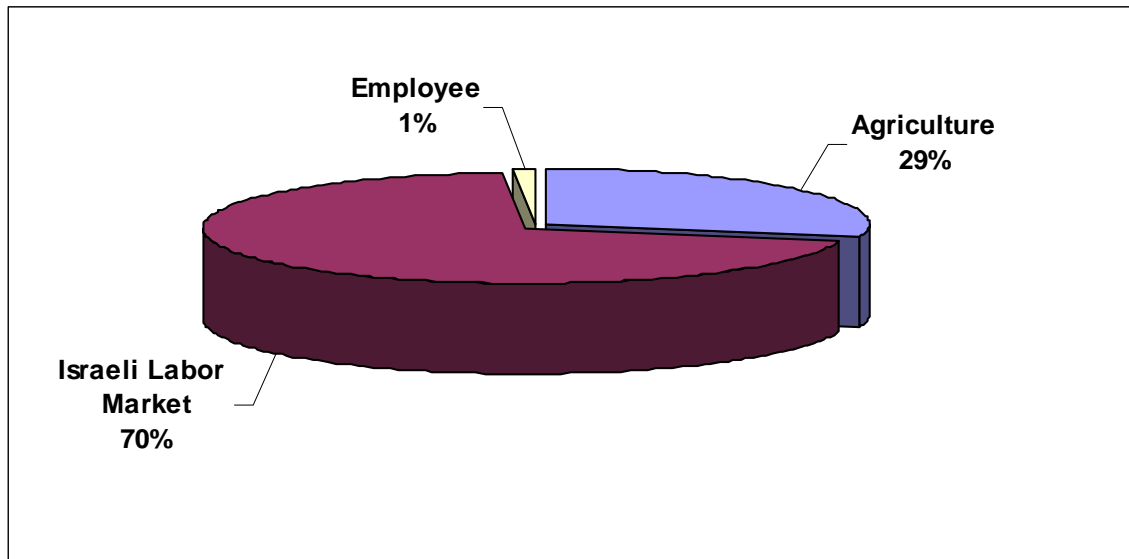
According to the village profile questionnaire in 2007, about 70% of the population of Umm Lasafa village in working age were working inside the Israeli labor market. The economic base in the village indicated that also the residents depended on agricultural activities with percentage equal 29%, and only 1% of the residents are depending on government or private jobs. In terms of the industrial sector, there is only one grocery serving the village.



The survey also showed the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy. It is indicated by percentage in the following list and in Figure 2:

- The Agricultural Sector 29%,
- Israeli Labor market 70%,
- The Employee Sector 1 %.

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Umm Lasafa village**



Umm Lasafa village lacks economic institutions. The villagers depend mostly on Yatta markets. There is just one small grocery store that provides food and consumer products.

The village officials indicated that the social groups in the village most affected by Israeli activities since the Second Intifada are: 1) Previous workers in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 3) Small-holding farmers, 4) Housewives and children, 4) Other.

### **Labour Force**

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census- 2007, there were 149 economically active persons and 326 non-economically active persons. Out of economically active, 88.6% were employed persons and 11.4% were currently unemployed or unemployed never worked. The percentage of males employed is higher than females with 90.2% for males and 9.8% for females. The largest group of non-economically active was the students which form 51.5%, the housekeeping form 40% of the non-economically active and 8.5% were unable to work or not working and not looking for work or other groups.

**Table 2: Umm Lasafa population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007**

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	119	9	8	136	84	1	9	-	27	100	<b>257</b>
F	13	-	-	13	84	129	5	-	32	226	<b>263</b>
<b>T</b>	132	9	8	149	168	130	14	-	59	326	<b>520</b>

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

## Agricultural Sector

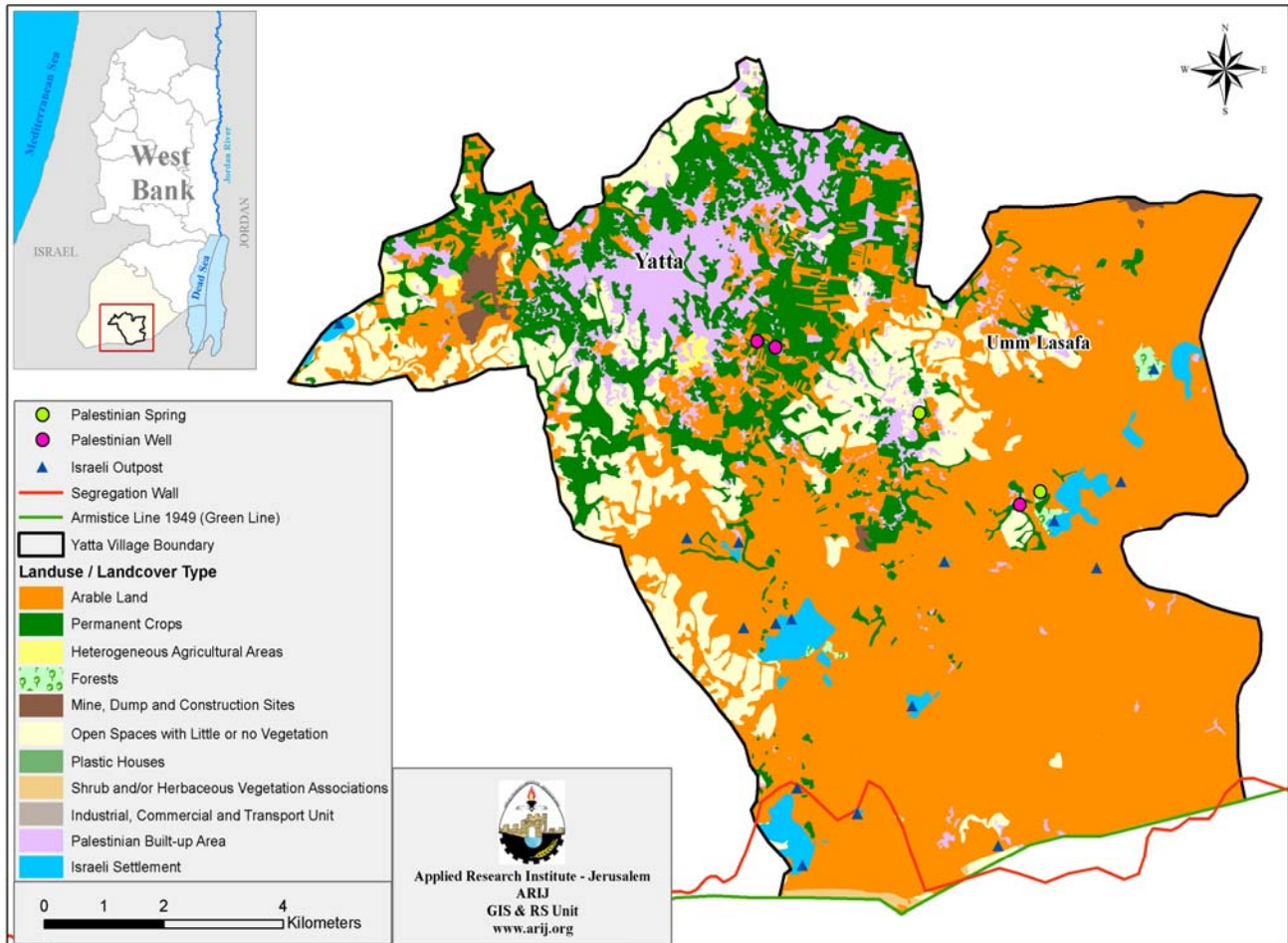
According to the data collected from the village council in December 2007, the agricultural land forms about 40% of the village land (about 2,000 dunums), about 150 dunums are arable land but uncultivated due to the lack of water, capital and the unfeasibility in economic for agriculture. The reclaimed land in the village is estimated to be 700 dunums. Umm Lasafa village is known for planting olive trees, grapes trees, and almonds trees in addition to the field crops.

The total length of agricultural roads is 3.5 km; these roads are suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines but are insufficient.

The data also indicates that the residents of Umm Lasafa village are also dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock. About 90% of the households rear and keep livestock. Most people keep sheep and goats with numbers equalling 2,500 and 200 respectively, in addition there are about 150 cattle.

The village officials state that the agricultural sector in the village is suffering from the lack of capital and water, in addition to the Israeli activities, where the Israeli Forces confiscating about 30 dunums of land planted with field crops.

**Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Umm Lasafa village.**



## Institutions and Services

The main institution in Umm Lasafa village is the village council, founded in 1996; in addition, there is the Umm Lasafa women committee.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Until the end of 2007, there was no telecommunications network in Umm Lasafa village.
- **Water Services:** Umm Lasafa village is not connected to a water network. The alternative water sources in the village are the cisterns and water tanks. In addition, there is Abu Shaban spring which used only for domestic purposes. The main problems of the water

services in the village are the lack of network, the high prices of water tanks and the pollution of cisterns.

- **Electricity Services:** Umm Lasafa is connected to electricity network since 2000. The electricity provided by the Israeli National Electric Company (Qutria). Almost all of the housing units are connected to the network. The electricity services in the village are suffering from the weak current because the electricity generators are located about 3.5 km away from the village, in addition to the internal network being unregulated.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Umm Lasafa village lacks a sewage network. The residents in the village depend on cesspits or open channels for sewage and wastewater disposal.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** In Umm Lasafa village, there is a solid waste management system operated by the village council. The village is a member of Yatta Joint Services Council which is responsible for the management and collection of the solid waste by special vehicles and being transported from the residential areas to a special dumping site (Ad Deirat dumping site) which is 5 km from the built-up area, where it is burned or buried.
- **Transportation Services:** Umm Lasafa village is served by ten informal taxis. Village officials state that people travel by using private cars that are unregistered. The transportation sector in the village is suffering from several primary obstacles including the presence of military road blocks and earth mounds, the lack of main paved roads, and a scarcity of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, there are 3,000 metres of main roads which is paved but in poor condition, and 3,000 metres of main roads which are unpaved. In addition there are 2,000 kilometres of internal roads that are unpaved and about 3,500 metres of agricultural roads are unpaved.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Umm Lasafa village is surrounded by two settlements, which are located east of the village “Karmae’l” and Ma’on” settlements. Karmae’l settlement occupies 300 dunums and Ma’een settlement occupies 50 dunums of the villages' land. In addition to that, the city is surrounded to the southeast by bypass road 'Route 60' which occupied 40 dunums of the village land. The village is also closed by a metal gate, “Mashahed Erfayya Metal Gate” constructed by Israeli military forces. The Israeli forces destroyed five housing units and /or institutions belonging to Umm Lasafa’s residents.

## Development Plans and Projects

The village officials cite that since 2004, four projects have been implemented for the village, which are:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Cisterns	Water	GVC
2	Water Reservoir on the Spring (capacity equal 150 m <sup>3</sup> )	Water	GVC
3	Cesspits and sewage disposable	Health Infrastructure	GVC & Oxfam
4	Construction new electricity network	Electricity	Local society

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Umm Lasafa village council the village has suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural and services needs. Table 4 shows the 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	*				11.5 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				6 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*		
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network		*			
<b>Health Needs</b>						
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				*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Elementary & Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			Elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns	*				50
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				50
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 6 km main roads, 2 km internal roads, and 3.5 km agricultural roads

**References:**

- Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ). *GIS Database*. 2006-2009.
- Ministry of Agriculture. *Agricultural Status Database in Hebron Governorate*. 2006.
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- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing and Establishment Census- Final Results*. Ramallah, Palestine. 1997 -2007.