

# Az Zubeidat Village Profile



Prepared by



**The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem**

Funded by



**Spanish Cooperation**

**2012**

## ***Acknowledgments***

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

*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 report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jericho Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Jericho 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 Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

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 the Jericho 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 special emphasize on agriculture, environment and water.

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

## Table of Content

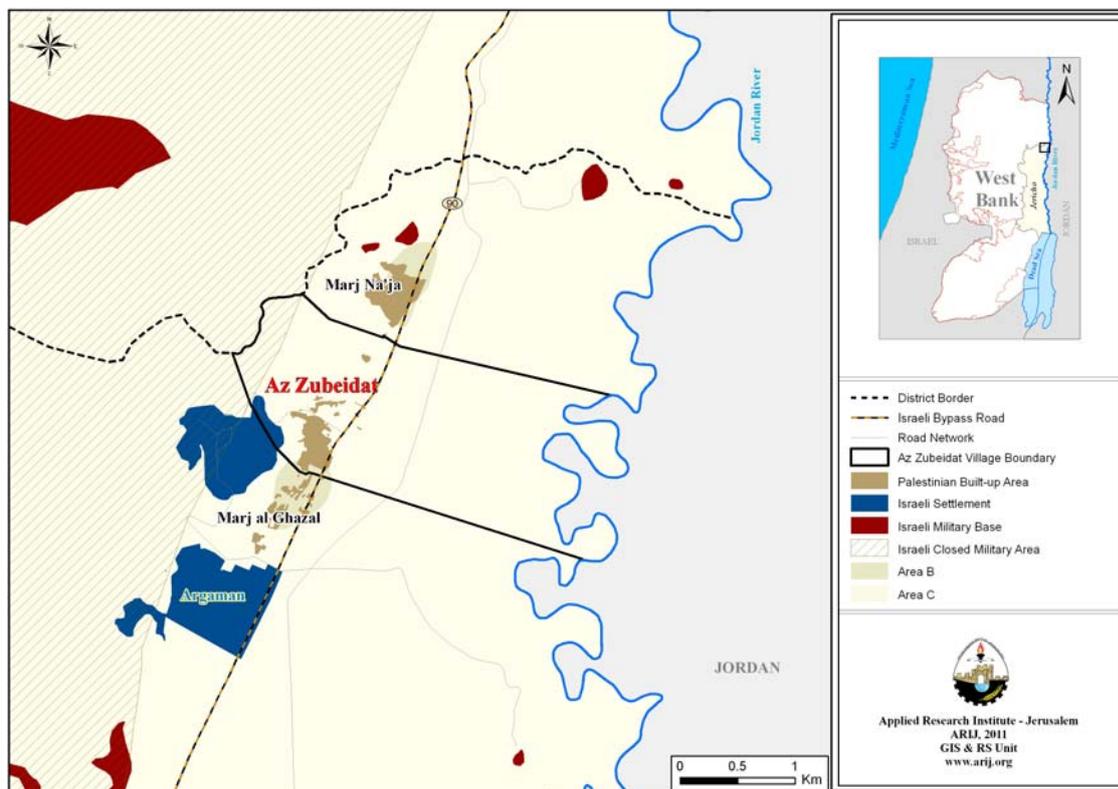
<b>Location and Physical Characteristics</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>History</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Religious and Archaeological Sites</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Population</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Education</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Health Status</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Economic Activities</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Agricultural Sector</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Institutions and Services</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Development Plans and Projects</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Village Development Priorities and Needs</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>References</b> .....	<b>21</b>

# Az Zubeidat Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Az Zubeidat is a Palestinian village in Jericho Governorate located (horizontally) 35.4km north of Jericho City. Az Zubeidat is bordered by the Jordan River to the east, Marj Na'ja village to the north, Tubas city to the west, and Marj al Ghazal village to the south (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2010) (See map 1).

**Map 1: Az Zubeidat location and borders**



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2010

Az Zubeidat is located at an altitude of 275m below sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 192mm. The average annual temperature is 23 °C, and the average annual humidity is approximately 48% (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2010).

Since 1995, Az Zubeidat has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. However, the Village Council does not own a permanent headquarters, or a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Az Zubeidat, including (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011):

- Managing and maintaining the drinking water network.
- Collecting solid waste, rehabilitating, restoring and paving roads, and providing social development services.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the village.
- Providing a transportation service.

## History

Az Zubeidat village's name came from Az Zubeidat tribe which descends from Bir as Sabe' area (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

The establishment of the village goes back to the year 1948, and its residents are originally indigenous Bedouin from Bir as Sabe' area (See photo below for Az Zubeidat village) (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

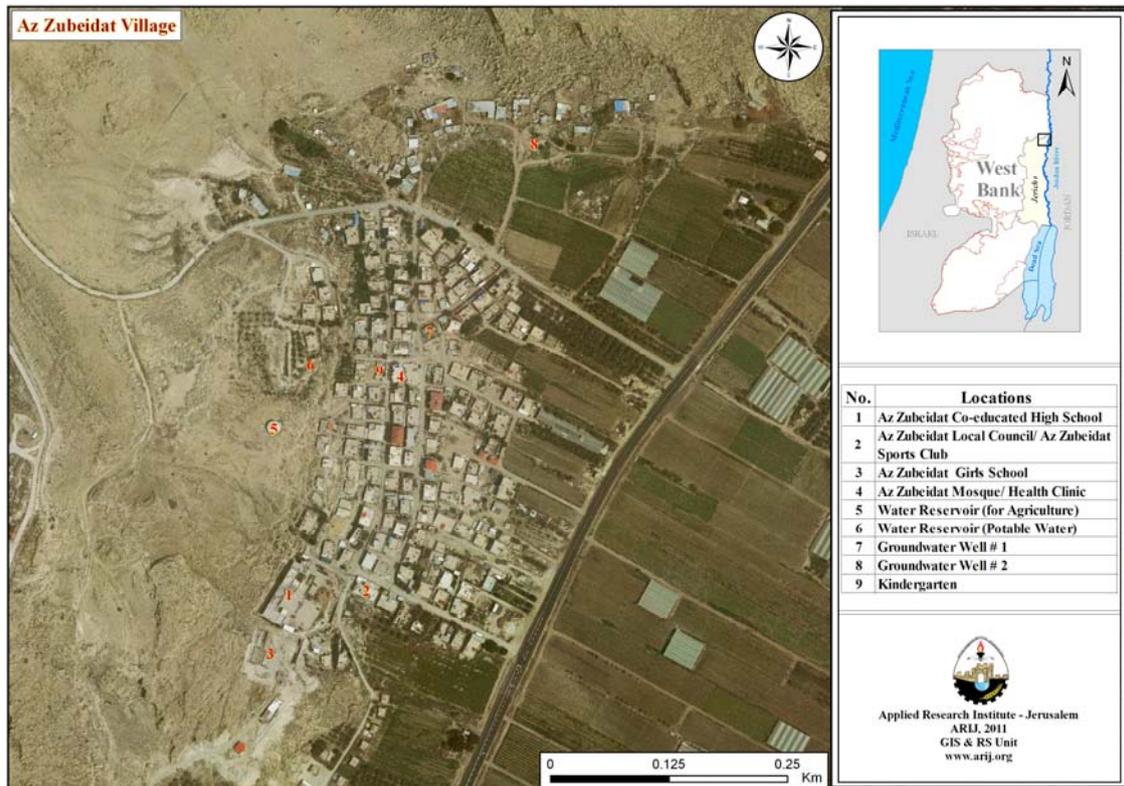
**Photo 1: General landscape of Az Zubeidat village**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in the village; Az Zubeidat Mosque. As for the archaeological sites, till the present day, none have been discovered (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Az Zubeidat village**



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2010

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Az Zubeidat in 2007 was 1,357; of whom 696 were male and 661, female. There were additionally registered to be 199 households living in 199 housing units.

## Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Az Zubeidat was as follows: 48.8% were less than 15 years, 49.2% between 15 - 64 years, whilst 1.8% fell in the 65 years and older category. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village was 105.3:100,

meaning that males and females constituted 51.3% and 48.7% of the population, respectively.

## Families

Az Zubeidat residents are composed of one main family; the Az Zubeidat's (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Az Zubeidat population was approximately 10.4%, of whom 78.9% were females. Of the literate population, 19.6% could only read and write, with no formal education 25.8% had elementary education, 26.8% had preparatory education, 11% had secondary education, and 5.5% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Az Zubeidat, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Az Zubeidat population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007**

<b>S E x</b>	<b>Illite- rate</b>	<b>Can read &amp; write</b>	<b>Elem- entary</b>	<b>Prepa- ratory</b>	<b>Secon- dary</b>	<b>Associate Diploma</b>	<b>Bache- lor</b>	<b>Higher Diploma</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>Un- known</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>M</b>	20	87	119	151	55	5	29	-	1	1	3	<b>471</b>
<b>F</b>	75	92	117	94	45	5	11	-	-	-	3	<b>442</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>913</b>

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

With regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Az Zubeidat in the academic year 2010/2011, there were two public schools in the village; both run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) (see table 2). It is noted however that there are no kindergartens in the village (Directorate of Education in Jericho, 2011).

In the village there are also 484 students, 42 teachers, and 25 classes (Directorate of Education in Jericho, 2011). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 19.

**Table 2: The Schools in Az Zubeidat by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Az Zubeidat Boys High School	Government	Mixed
Az Zubeidat Girls Elementary School		Females

Source: Directorate of Education in Jericho, 2011

## Health Status

There are a few health centers available in Az Zubeidat village; a governmental health center, a “motherhood and childhood care” center and three physicians' clinics; one governmental, one private and one run by UNRWA. However, in case of the absence of required health services and in emergency cases, residents of Az Zubeidat head to Jericho Governmental Hospital in Jericho city or Rafidiya Governmental Hospital in Nablus Governorate; each of which are 50km in distance from the village (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

Nevertheless, the health sector in the village suffers many obstacles and problems, including:

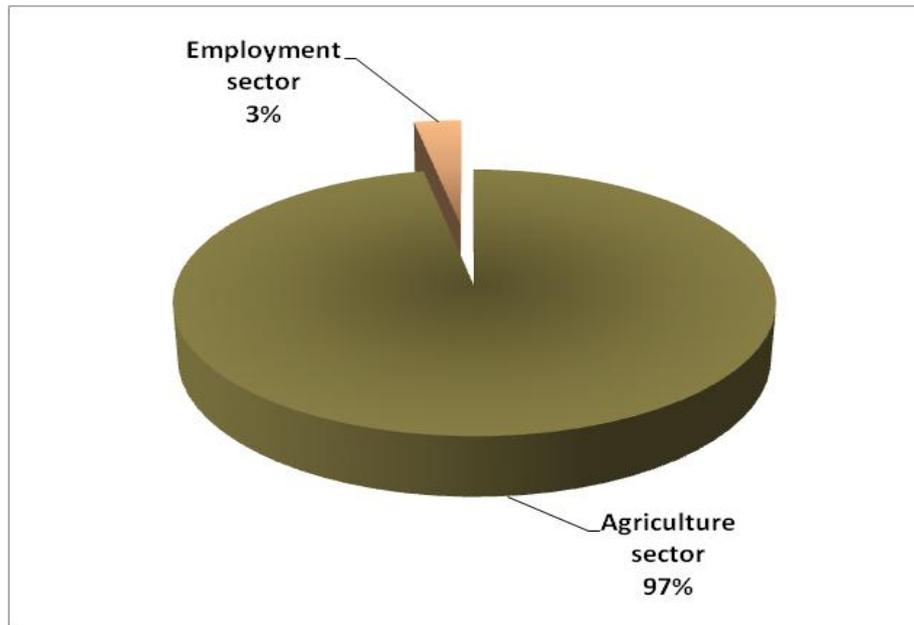
1. The lack of a permanent health center.
2. The lack of specialized physicians.
3. The lack of a permanent and constantly available ambulance in the village.
4. The lack of a medical laboratory.
5. The lack of a radiology center.

## Economic Activities

The economy in Az Zubeidat is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the agriculture sector, which absorbs 97% of the camp’s workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2011 to realize this study showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Az Zubeidat is as follows:

- Agriculture Sector (97%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (3%)

**Figure 1: Economic activity in Az Zubeidat village**

Source: Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011

In term of commercial and industrial productions in Az Zubeidat village, there are no facilities in the village; there being only 4 grocery stores and one store for agricultural tools (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

Moreover, the unemployment rate in Az Zubeidat has reached around 80%, and it was found that the social group most affected in the village as a result of the Israeli restrictions and procedures, is the agriculture sector (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

### **Labor Force**

According to the PCBS's Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.6% of Az Zubeidat labor force was deemed to be economically active, of whom 93.2% were employed, and 68.8% were not economically active; of whom 61.6% were students and 30.7% were housekeepers (See table 3).

**Table 3: Az Zubeidat population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007**

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Un-employed	Un-employed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	214	5	13	232	203	-	31	1	1	236	3	471
F	46	-	1	47	184	193	14	1	-	392	3	442
T	260	5	14	279	387	193	45	2	1	628	6	913

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

## Agricultural Sector

Az Zubeidat lies on a total area of about 4,123 dunums of which 3,944 dunums are considered to be 'arable' land, and 131 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See table 4 and map 3).

**Table 4: Land use and land cover in Az Zubeidat village in 2010 ( area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (3,944)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
4,123	131	36	61	3,017	830	0	0	0	0	48

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011.

Agricultural production in Az Zubeidat depends mostly upon springs and underground wells, and residents cultivate many different kinds of vegetables using these production methods; mainly, cucumbers and tomatoes (See table 5).

**Table 5: Total area of cultivated lands in Az Zubeidat village (dunum)**

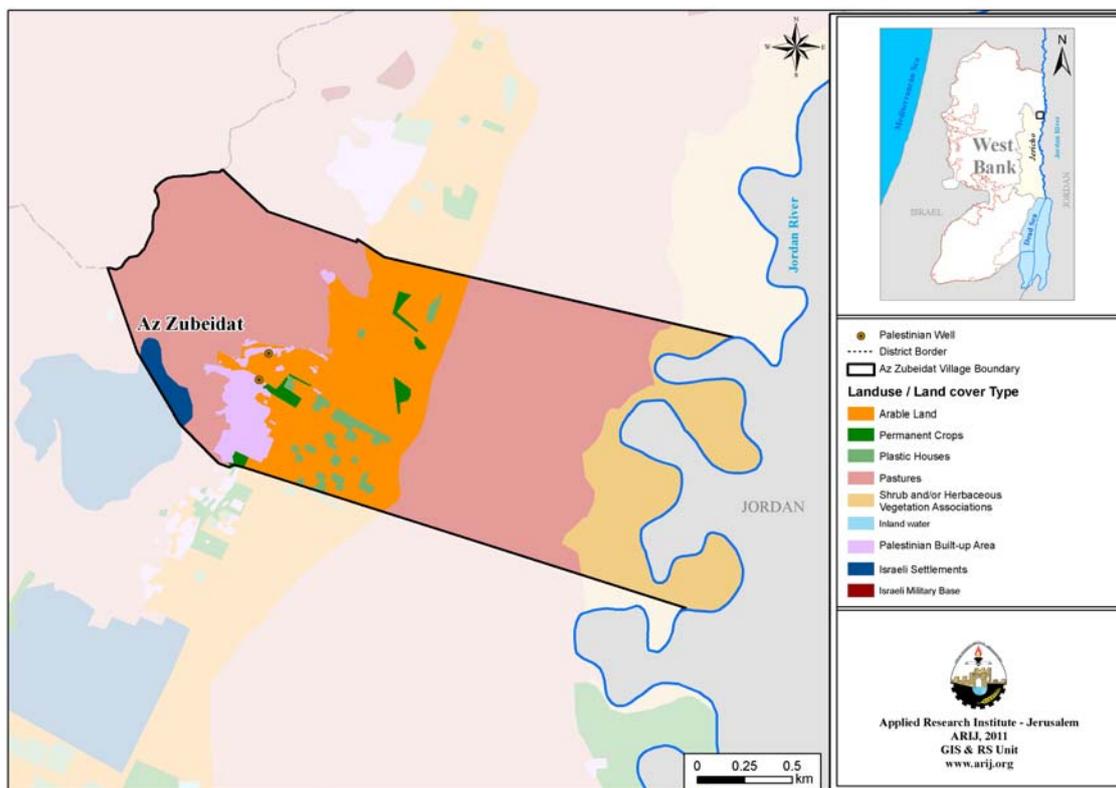
Vegetables	Citrus	Grapes	Palm		Banana	Total area
			area	No. of trees		
683	0	8	186.5	2240	0	877.5

Source: Jericho & Al Aghwar Directorate of Agriculture – Jericho, 2011

The difference in the two sets of results of agricultural areas, obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit, is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture, who in combination with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey considering a definition of agricultural areas based on the size of ownership. Thus, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas instead of seasonal ones. The survey did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas which contains some

springs. ARIJ’s survey however indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This illustrates the bigger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover in Az Zubeidat village**



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011

The field survey shows that only 60% of the residents in Az Zubeidat rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep and bees (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011) (See Table 6).

**Table 6: Livestock in Az Zubeidat village**

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
19	809	0	0	38

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

Source: Jericho & Al Aghwar Directorate of Agriculture – Jericho, 2011

There are also around 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011):

**Table 7: Agricultural roads in Az Zubeidat village and their lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	5
For animals only	1
Unsuitable	1

Source: Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011

Nevertheless, the agricultural sector in the village faces some problems and obstacles, mainly (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011):

- The weak economic feasibility of establishing new agricultural projects and ventures.
- The existence of Israeli checkpoints which surround agricultural areas in the village, causing a number of difficulties for agricultural expansion, marketing and workers near these points.
- The confiscation of agricultural lands by Israeli Occupation Forces.
- The lack of capital for agricultural ventures.
- The lack of water resources.
- The hard access to agricultural lands.
- The village's need for improved varieties of animals, in addition to financial support for agricultural development.

## Institutions and Services

Az Zubeidat village has no governmental institutions, but does maintain a couple of local institutions which provide services to various segments of society in the areas of culture, sports and others, including (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011):

- **Az Zubeidat Village Council:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the village and providing various services to its population including infrastructure services.
- **Sports Youth Club:** Founded in 1990, and licensed later by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with an interest in all sports, cultural and social activities.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Az Zubeidat has been connected to a public electricity network since 1987; served by Al Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity to the village. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011):

- The weak source of electricity.
- The old and worn out condition of the network and its resultant need for rehabilitation.
- The need to rehabilitate the village's central electricity panel and room.

It is noted that Az Zubeidat residents suffer in terms of means of electronic communications, given is not connected to a telecommunication network (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

### Transportation Services

There are 2 public taxis and one bus considered to be the main means of transportation in Az Zubeidat village, in addition to 20 private cars (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011). As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 4.5km of main roads and a total of 2.5km of secondary roads (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011) (See table 8).

**Table 8: Roads in Az Zubeidat village**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	1.5	0.5
2. Paved but in poor condition	1	1
3. Unpaved	2	1

Source: Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011.

## Water Resources

Az Zubeidat is provided with water by the privately owned Israeli 'Mekerot' Company, through the public water network established in 2001. Approximately, 100% of the housing units are connected to the water network (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

Based on the results of the project implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Italian Group of Civil Volunteers (GVC)<sup>1</sup>, which aims to promote and support farmers who are suffering from difficult living conditions in the Jordan Valley, the average rate of water supply per capita in Az Zubeidat village was recorded to be approximately 250 liters per day. The quantity of water supplied to Az Zubeidat in 2011 was about 500 cubic meters/ day, which is equivalent to 15 thousand cubic meters per month. Here it should be noted that no Az Zubeidat citizen in fact consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at around 40%. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Az Zubeidat is an estimated 150 liters per day (GVC & FAO, 2011).

Moreover, located in the village are 3 underground wells used for agricultural purposes, such as the cultivation of vegetables, palm trees and grape vines. The quantity of water extracted from the wells in 2009 was approximately 332,899 cubic meters per year (GVC & FAO, 2011).

Furthermore, the water sector in the village suffers many obstacles and problems; mainly (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011):

1. The need to rehabilitate the village's drinking water reservoir.
2. The need to rehabilitate the drinking water network.
3. The need to rehabilitate the agricultural water reservoir.
4. The need to rehabilitate the agricultural irrigation network.

## Sanitation

Az Zubeidat lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits as their main means of waste-water disposal (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 210 cubic meters, or 76,650 cubic meters annually. At an individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is

---

<sup>1</sup> The project was implemented in cooperation with the Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG) and the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), with the support of the Palestinian Water Authority and the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, and funded by the Italian Cooperation.

approximately 105 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both the environment and public health.

## **Solid Waste Management**

The Joint Services Council for Development and Planning for the Management of Solid Waste in Jericho & Al Aghwar is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in the village, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 20 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste; especially as only 70% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Az Zubeidat benefit from solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Council collects the solid waste twice a week and transports it through a waste vehicle owned by the Joint Council to Zahrat al Finjan sanitary landfill in Jenin Governorate which is located 75km away from the village. The common method for solid waste treatment in this dumping site is through burying the waste (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011). It is noted that the cost of disposing the waste in Zahrat al Finjan dumping site is 40 NIS per ton (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Az Zubeidat is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Az Zubeidat residents is nearly 0.9 ton or 347 tons per annum. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard, and next by plastic (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

## **Environmental Conditions**

Like other villages and camps in the governorate, Az Zubeidat experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

### **Water Crisis**

The depletion of the groundwater sources through 'Mekorot' privately owned and controlled Israeli wells, which were given a monopoly over the excavation, restoration, distribution and sale of water, whilst Palestinians were forbidden from constructing new

wells and/or restoring existing ones. In many cases, as holds true in Az Zubeidat village, the local authority relies heavily on the purchase of water from Mekorot Israeli Company to provide the village with water. The Company, through the wells it owns, extracts large quantities of ground water, whereby it pumps the bulk of this water for the benefit of the illegal Israeli settlements, as settlers, mainly those in the Jordan Valley area, use huge quantities of water (ARIJ, 2011). Moreover, located in the village are two wells belonging to Mekorot Company, namely: Marj Na'ja no. 14 and Argaman no. 29 (ARIJ – WERU, 2012).

### **Wastewater Management**

The absence of a public sewage network means that most village residents rely of the use of cesspits, and/or the discharge of wastewater in the streets for the disposal of wastewater, especially in winter, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers at this time. All of this causes environmental damages, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as the wastewater mixes with water and contaminates it, thus making it inappropriate for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows from time to time wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and/or residents' health (ARIJ – WERU, 2012).

### **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Az Zubeidat village was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 36 dunums (1% of the total village area) were classified as area “B” where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security matters. Area “B” constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the town’s population resides in area “B” which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the town. On the other hand, approximately 4,087 dunums (99% of the total village area) are classified in area “C”; where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area “C” Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration. It is noted that most of the lands lying within area “C” are agricultural and open spaces (table 9).

**Table 9: The Geopolitical divisions of Az Zubeidat village according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of total village area
Area A	36	1
Area B	0	0
Area C	4,087	99
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,123</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

### Az Zubeidat Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Thousands of dunums have been lost in the village through Israeli confiscations of lands for different Israeli benefits, including the establishment of the Israeli settlement Argaman and the Israeli bypass road no. 90 in order to connect this settlement with its neighboring ones. It is worth mentioning that the real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) along these roads, extending to approximately 75 m on both sides of the road (table 10).

**Table 10: Israeli settlements constructed over Az Zubeidat village's lands**

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated	Population of settlers
Argaman	1970	48	166

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

### Israeli Violations in Az Zubeidat Village

The Israeli government targets Palestinian houses and establishments in area "C" on the pretext of being completely under Israeli military and security control according to the Oslo II Accords. Palestinians who want to reconstruct or build in area "C" have to ask for a permit from the Israeli Civil Administration. However, the Israeli government puts bureaucratic barriers for Palestinians to get approved such a construction permit by imposing exhaustive details of administrative procedures and conditions which may take months and even years to obtain the correct permission from the Israeli authority. This all comes in addition to the high cost spent for obtaining the permit, which cannot be afforded by many area C residents. In most cases those permits are rejected under the pretext that they don't meet the required Israeli conditions. Consequently, Palestinians are forced to build with no permits in response to the population growth and the need for adequate shelter (as in accordance with the basic human right of housing and warmth).

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009, The Israeli Civil Administration presented a number of Az Zubeidat village residents with 15 stop-work orders to halt constructions in a number of

properties including residential barracks, animal barns, warehouses for fodder, etc. under the pretext of unlicensed construction in an area under the Israeli control according to the Oslo agreement.

Also on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010 Israeli bulldozers demolished and uprooted 6 trees, each of which was over 50 years in age, planted near Israeli bypass road no. 90. These were owned by the village citizens Ibrahim Zubeidat and Saleh Zubeidat. The trees were uprooted under the pretext that they affect the functioning of Argaman's surveillance cameras. The Israeli bulldozers also demolished 6 commercial stalls along bypass road no. 90, with the Israeli authority confiscating items such as fruits and vegetables sold at these stalls.

In addition, in July 2011, Israeli bulldozers demolished an animal barn in Az Zubeidat, owned by Palestinian farmer Fayez Ahmed Ali Zubeidat with the reason of building without a permit (see above for problems related to obtaining building permissions). Fayez however subsequently benefited from a project implemented by the Union of Small Farmers in Al Aghwar. This project established 10 barns in Al Jiftlik and Az Zubeidat villages, each costing approximately 1,372 Euros to construct. The barn that was demolished was constructed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 in an area adjoining Argaman settlement.

### **The Impact of Israeli Occupation on the Environment of Az Zubeidat Village**

The Israeli practices in Az Zubeidat village have not stopped at land confiscation and demolitions; they have extended to include destroying and polluting the environment of the village. The Israeli Settlement 'Argaman' played a major role in exacerbating the environmental problems in Az Zubeidat. The village suffers from groundwater and spring pollution because of wastewater leakages from Argaman settlement to water basins and their resources within village boundaries. This led to the water contamination of Arab Az Zubeidat Well, due to the mixing of the well's water with the flowing wastewater of the settlement.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Az Zubeidat village council has implemented several development projects in Az Zubeidat, during the past five years (See Table 11).

**Table 11: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Az Zubeidat During the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of a school for girls	Educational	2010 - 2011	JICA
Construction of the sports club	Entertainment	2011	K.F.W
Pavement of roads	Infrastructure	2010	USAID

Source: Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011

### Proposed Projects

Az Zubeidat Village Council, in cooperation with civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the perspectives' of the participants in the workshop:

1. Supporting farmers through providing them with an irrigation network and needed fertilizers.
2. Rehabilitating agricultural roads.
3. Establishing new greenhouses and rehabilitating old ones.
4. Supporting livestock breeders with feed, improving the quality of sheep and providing a veterinary clinic.
5. Providing a resident physician and a nurse to work on permanent basis in the health clinic.
6. Supporting the youth centers through providing younger residents with sports services/supplies and providing them with new educational, cultural and health courses, in addition to strengthening the current courses available for students.
7. Restoring health facilities in schools and providing students with adequate stationary supplies.
8. Providing a typical kindergarten for children.
9. Providing a building for the women center.
10. Rehabilitating the village's artesian wells.
11. Providing modern/updated agricultural equipments.
12. Establishing a public sewage network.

## Village Development Priorities and Needs

Az Zubeidat suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's feedback (Az Zubeidat Village Council, 2011).

**Table 12: Development priorities and needs in Az Zubeidat village**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			7km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			2km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			1km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			500m
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			2 underground wells
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			5km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			5km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			25 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			one health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			one clinic
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			all levels
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			150 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns			*	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			70 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			500 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			100 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*		30 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

\*2km are main roads, 1km is a sub road and 4km are agricultural roads.

## References

- *Az Zubeidat Village Council*, 2011.
- Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Jericho, 2010/2011. Directorate of Education; A database of schools. Jericho – Palestine.
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*. 2009. Jericho, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2010/2011. Directorate of Agriculture data. Jericho - Palestine.
- Group Christian Volunteers (GVC) & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2011), retrieved January 2012 from: <http://www.gvcfao-database.org/>.
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)*, 2011. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2010) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) & Spanish Centre of New Water Technologies (CENTA)*, 2010. Proposed System for a Good Environmental Management of Wastewater in the West Bank, 2010. Bethlehem - Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2010. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing unit Database. Bethlehem - Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2012. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem - Palestine.
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)*, 2011. Israeli Violations & Environmental Degradation in Jericho & Al Aghwar Governorate, To Where!!!. Bethlehem, Palestine.