

Al Qubeiba Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem 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 "Village Profiles and 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 the Jerusalem Governorate.

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

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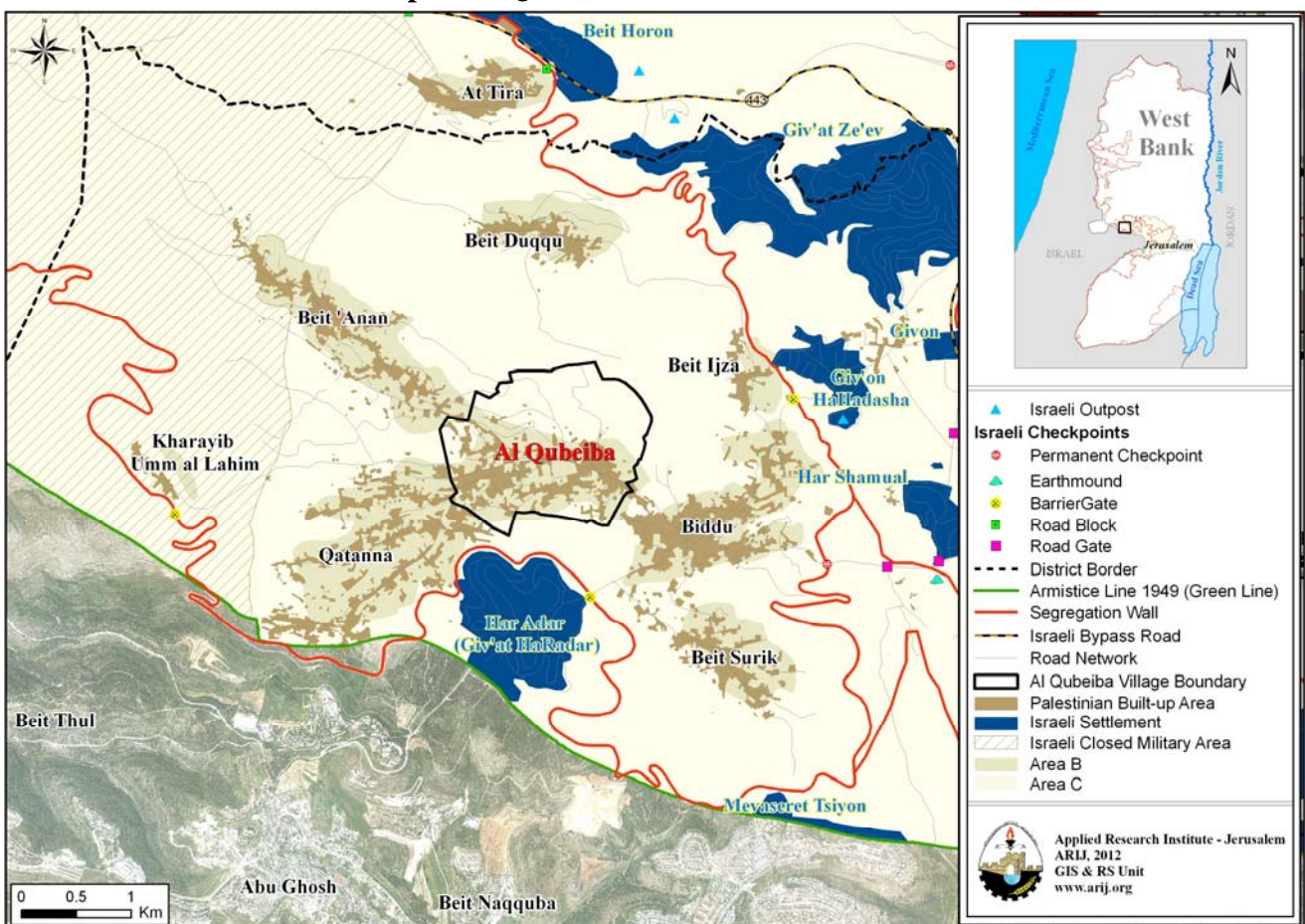
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Al Qubeiba Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Qubeiba is a Palestinian village in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 12km north-west of Jerusalem City. It is bordered by Beit 'Anan and Qatanna to the east, Beit Duqqu to the north, Biddu town to the west, and Biddu lands to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Al Qubeiba location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Al Qubeiba is located at an altitude of 751m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 601.5mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60.4% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1999, Al Qubeiba has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority in addition to 4 permanent employees. The

Village Council owns a permanent headquarters but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Al Qubeiba, including (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010):

1. Establishing and maintaining the water network.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement and rehabilitation, street cleaning and social development services.
3. Implementing projects and case studies for the village.
4. Protecting historical and archeological sites.
5. Providing headquarters for governmental services; post and security.

History

Al Qubeiba is thought to be Emmaus, where Jesus Christ shared bread with two of his disciples (Robinson, 2005). And the name is thought to be derived from "Qibab" ('domes'), as the ceilings of the village buildings are dome-shaped (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

The village was established in the 19th century; its residents are the native inhabitants of the village (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010) (See photo below for Al Qubeiba village).

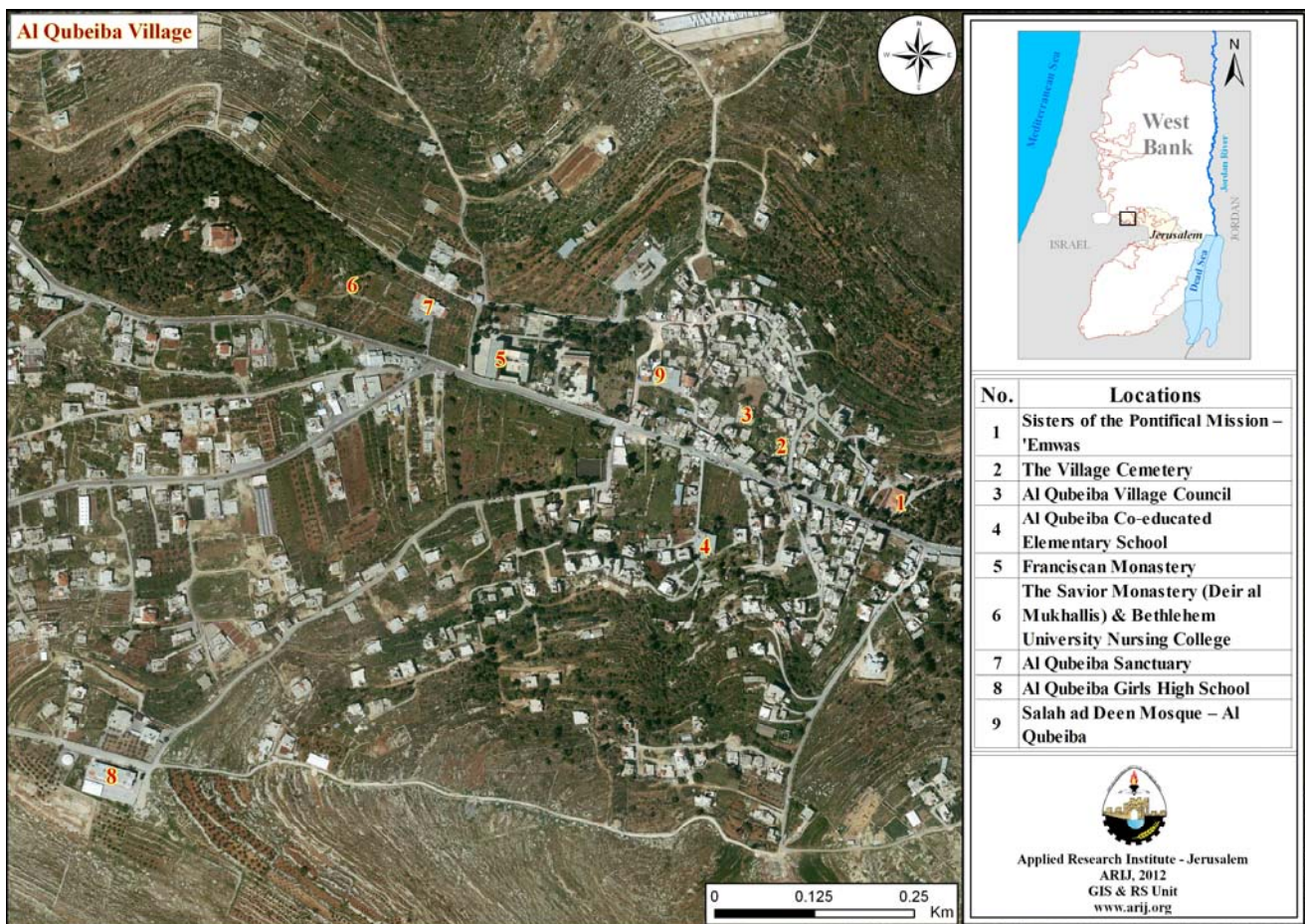
Photo 1: Al Qubeiba village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque in the village, Salah ad Din Mosque. There are also a church, Latin monastery, the Savior (Al Mukhallis) monastery and the Franciscan Monastery (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

Map 1: Main locations in Al Qubeiba Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Qubeiba in 2007 was 2,860; of whom 1,457 were male and 1,403 female. There were 555 households living in 628 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 Al Qubeiba was as follows: 39.2% were less than 15 years old, 54.3% were between 15 - 64 years old, and 3.6% were over 65. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 103.8:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.9% and 49.1% of the population respectively.

Families

Al Qubeiba residents are from several families, mainly the Hammudah, Makhtoob, Zahran, Sarah, Is'eed, Wahran, 'Amro, Ramadan and Ma'ali families (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Immigration

According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ, approximately 150 people have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate amongst the Al Qubeiba population was approximately 4.9%, of whom 75.8% were females. Of the literate population, 10.2% could only read and write with no formal education 27.4% had elementary education, 32.1% had preparatory education, 14.6% had secondary education, and 9.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Al Qubeiba by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Al Qubeiba population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Elem- entary	Prepa- ratory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bach- elor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	24	107	286	368	159	31	52	1	7	-	-	1,035
F	75	100	270	284	137	37	54	1	5	-	30	993
T	99	207	556	652	296	68	106	2	12	-	30	2,028

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are three public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and one private school (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Al Qubeiba by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority in the scholastic year 2010/2011

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al Qubeiba Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Al Qubeiba Girls High School		Females
Al Qubeiba Girls Elementary Higher School		Females
Al Farooq Elementary School	Private	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the village there are 921 students, 58 teachers, and 35 classes (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 26 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There is one local kindergarten in the village supervised by a private body and responsible for a total number of 72 children (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Students also attend schools in neighboring villages if the village schools cannot provide a specific level of education. These schools include King Ghazi Boys High School, Beit Duqqu schools or Beit 'Anan school. They are 1.5km, 5km and 2km in distance from the village respectively (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

The Israeli occupation means that physical access to schools can be difficult. This problem affects students at Beit Duqqu Boys High School in Beit Duqqu; the road to Beit Duqqu has both permanent and partial checkpoints (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

The educational sector in Al Qubeiba village faces other obstacles, mainly:

1. A need for an elementary school.
2. The lack of a high school for males.

Health Status

There are few health centers in Al Qubeiba village. There is a governmental clinic run by the Ministry of Health, a governmental medical laboratory, a private dental clinic, a private veterinary clinic and the nuns' private clinic, two ambulances and a governmental pharmacy. In case of the absence of required health services and in emergencies, residents of Al Qubeiba go to Wi'am Health Center in Beit Surik (3km from the village) or Carmel Center in Biddu town (1.5km from the village) (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

The health sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, principally the lack of health clinics in the village (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

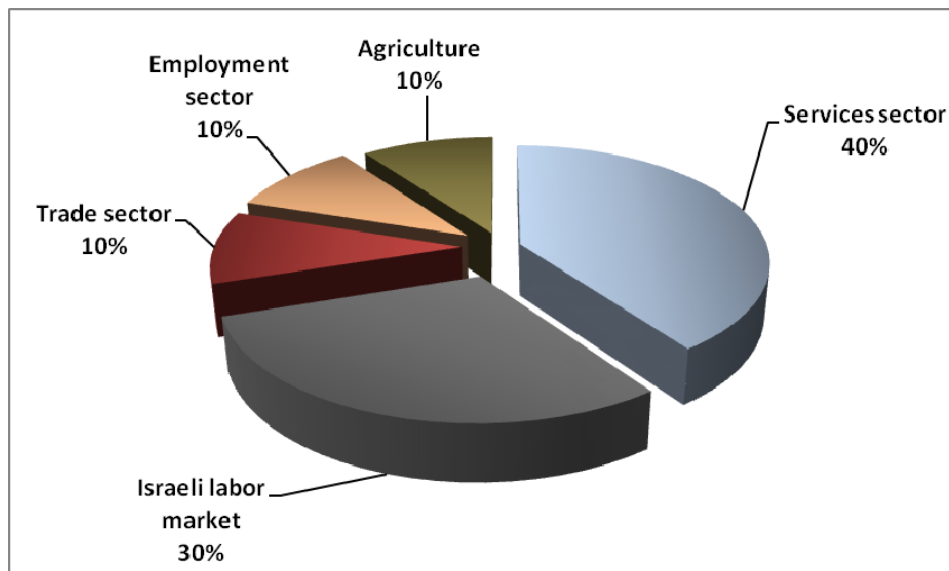
Economic Activities

The economy in Al Qubeiba is dependent on several sectors, mainly the services sector, which absorbs 40% of the workforce (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010) (See Figure 1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2010 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Al Jib is as follows:

- Services sector (40%)
- Israeli labor market (30%)
- Trade sector (10%)
- Government or private employees sector (10%)
- Agriculture sector (10%)

Figure 1: Economic activity in Al Qubeiba village



Source: Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010

In terms of commercial and industrial productions in Al Qubeiba village, there are 15 grocery stores, 2 bakeries, 1 butchery, 1 vegetable and fruit store, 3 different services stores, 4 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry etc.), an olive oil press, a store for agricultural tools and an agricultural nursery (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Al Qubeiba has reached around 50% (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 32.8% of s labor force was economically active, of whom 77.6% were employed, and 65.7% were not economically active, of whom 53.3% were students and 34.5% were housekeepers (See table 3).

Table 3: Al Qubeiba 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	434	67	67	568	376	2	66	8	15	467	0	1,035
F	82	5	10	97	335	458	63	-	10	866	30	993
T	516	72	77	665	711	460	129	8	25	1,333	30	2,028

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

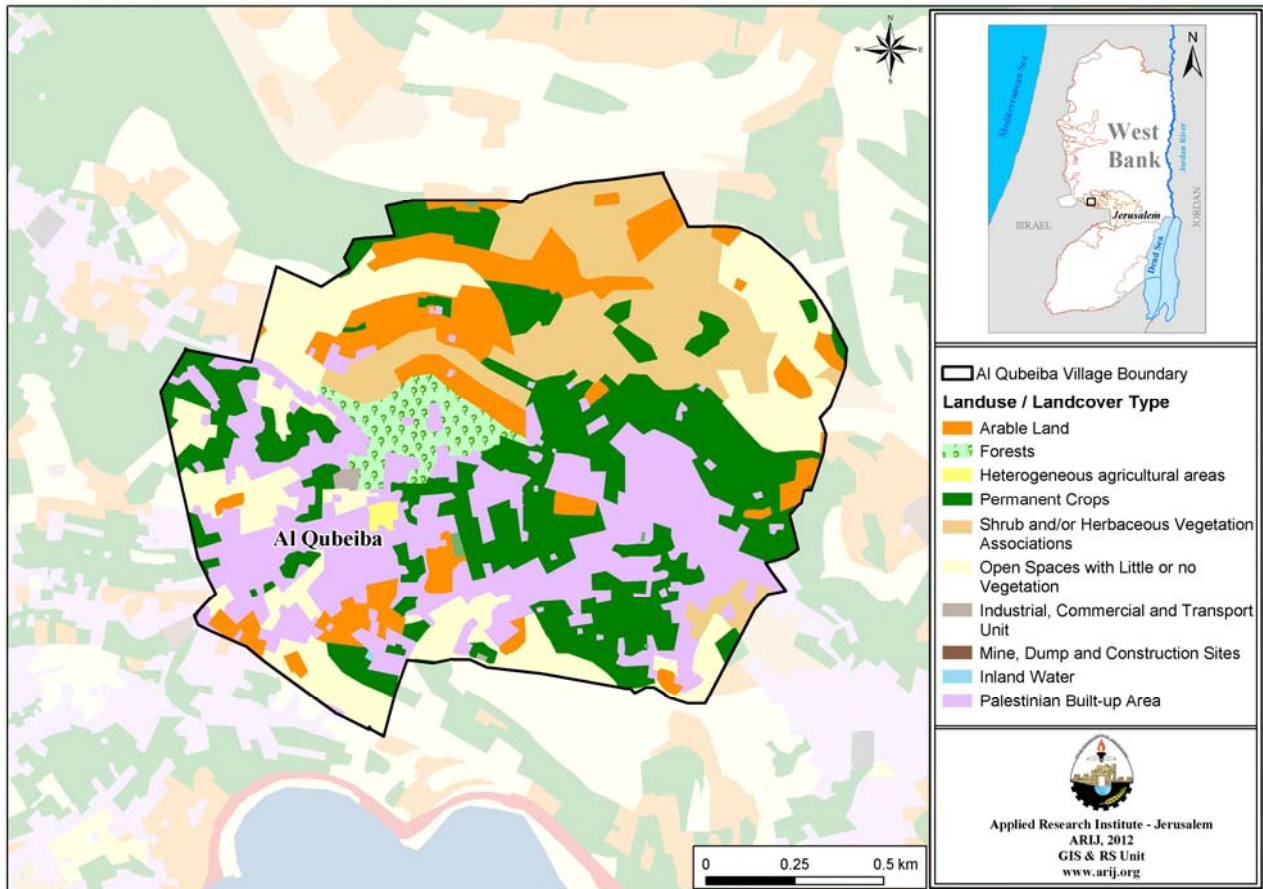
Al Qubeiba has a total area of around 2,160 dunums of which 1,140 are considered 'arable' land and 535 dunums registered as 'residential' (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Al Qubeiba village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,140)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
2,160	535	540	3	329	268	0	79	402	4	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Al Qubeiba village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Al Qubeiba village is known for the cultivation of olives; in total 237 dunums of land are planted with olive trees.

Table 5: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Al Qubeiba Village (dunum)

Fruits trees	Rainfed	Irrigated
Olives	237	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone fruits	19	0
Pome fruits	3	0
Nuts	7	0
Other fruits	62	0
Total Area	328	0

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Al Qubeiba, only dry legumes, mainly beans, are being cultivated in the area, covering an area of about 1 dunum (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010).

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, 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. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 3% of the residents in Al Qubeiba rear and keep domestic animals such as goats and sheep (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010) (See Table 6).

Table 6: Livestock in Al Qubeiba Village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	132	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are also around 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010), divided as follows:

Table 7: Agricultural roads in Al Qubeiba village and their lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	2
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	4

Source: Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010

However, the agricultural sector in the village faces some obstacles, mainly:

- Lack of agricultural roads to gain access to the agricultural lands.
- Lack of water sources.
- Lack of economic feasibility.
- Lack of capital.

Institutions and Services

Al Qubeiba village has some governmental institutions, including an office for the Ministry of Agriculture, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These institutions include (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010):

- **Al Qubeiba Village Council:** Founded in 1999 by the Ministry of Interior with the goal of solving issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Al Qubeiba Club:** Founded in 2003 by the Ministry of Sports & Youth, the Club provides sports, social, and cultural activities for young people.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Al Qubeiba has been connected to a public electricity network since 1971. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 98% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network. However, the village faces some problems concerning electricity, including (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010):

1. The high voltage network was built on residential areas and lands which are suitable for construction.
2. Weak electricity current at some times and in some areas.
3. High cost of electricity.

Al Qubeiba is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Transportation Services

5 public taxis and one bus are the main means of transportation in Al Qubeiba village (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010). There are 6km of designated 'main' roads and 3km of 'secondary' roads (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010) (See Table 8).

Table 8: Roads in Al Qubeiba Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	3	3
Paved but in poor condition	3	-
Unpaved	-	-

Source: Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010

Water Resources

The West Bank Water Department provides Al Qubeiba with water purchased from an Israeli company (Mekerot), supplied through the public water network established in 1985. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010). Approximately 48,000 cubic meters of water were supplied to Al Qubeiba through Mekerot in 2010, giving an average rate of water supply per capita of 41 liters per day. However, no Al Qubeiba citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 40%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the actual rate of water consumption per capita in Al Qubeiba is 25 liters per day. Water supply for Al Qubeiba residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

However, domestic rainwater harvesting cisterns (in addition to water tanks which cost 15 NIS for each cubic meter) form an additional source of water for the population, as the quantity of water provided through the public network is considered insufficient and does not meet the residents needs (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Sanitation

Al Qubeiba lacks a public sewerage network and most of the village residents use cesspits as their main means of waste-water disposal (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 63 cubic meters, or 23,040 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in Al Qubeiba, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 20 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

The Joint Services Council for the north-west villages of Jerusalem (B) is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee (around 20 NIS/month) is charged to the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, only 20% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Al Qubeiba benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 30 containers¹ distributed throughout the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste on a bi-weekly

¹ Each with a capacity of 1m³

basis, then transports it using a waste vehicle to Al Bireh dumping site (located 2km outside the village), where it is burned (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Al Qubeiba is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Al Qubeiba residents is nearly 2.2 tons, or 810 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis:

- Water is cut off by Mekerot for long periods of time, mainly in summer, due to Israeli control over Palestinian water resources.
- Amounts of water supplied to citizens are insufficient.
- High rate of water losses because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- Lack of a public water reservoir in the village to cover the residents' water needs during water cut offs.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Al Qubeiba residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. Additionally, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas with no concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid Waste Management:

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Al Qubeiba and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control.
- There is no system in the village and the governorate to separate hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, so hazardous and industrial solid waste are collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Al Bireh landfill for disposal by burning.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Al Qubeiba

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Al Qubeiba village was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 1,162 dunums (53.8% of the total village area) were assigned as area 'B', where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Approximately 998 dunums (46.2% of the total village area) were classified as area 'C', where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In area 'C' Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration (Table 9).

Table 9: The geopolitical divisions of Al Qubeiba village according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,162	53.8
Area C	998	46.2
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	2,160	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Problems in Al Qubeiba after the Outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000 (Ramallah City as an Alternative to Jerusalem)

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000, residents of Al Qubeiba and the surrounding villages have lost their link with Jerusalem City, previously the primary source of employment, education, and health services. Residents of Al Qubeiba have therefore started to use Ramallah City to fulfill these needs. Until 2002, residents were able to use Israeli bypass road no. 443 to access Ramallah; they have now been prohibited from using the road by Israeli authorities and must travel using indirect roads with poor infrastructure to Ramallah and to other villages, doubling the time taken to travel to Ramallah. This has caused many residents of Al Qubeiba to move to Ramallah to avoid delays and disruptions caused by Israeli obstacles to travel and routine mistreatment at Israeli checkpoints.

Israeli Military Orders Issued in Al Qubeiba Village

The Israeli authorities have issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Al Qubeiba village for various military purposes. These orders include:

1. Israeli military order 107/03/T: issued on 31st December 2003 to confiscate 238.4 dunums of the lands of Qatanna, Biddu, Beit Surik, and Al Qubeiba villages for construction of the Segregation Wall.

2. Israeli military order 84/03/T: issued on 9th December 2003, confiscating 192.2 dunums of land from Qatanna and Al Qubeiba villages for construction of the Segregation Wall.
3. Amendment to Israeli military order 92/04/T: issued on 8th December 2011, confiscating 116 dunums of land from Qatanna and Al Qubeiba villages for construction of the Segregation Wall. The amendment includes extending the validity of the military order until 2014 to complete construction of the Segregation Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Al Qubeiba Village Council has not implemented any development projects during the past five years (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Proposed Projects

Al Qubeiba Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop 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. Constructing a school for boys.
2. Providing job opportunities for the unemployed youth.
3. Constructing a building for the club and furnishing it with sports equipments.
4. Establishing a women's center that supports the rehabilitation and development of women in the village.
5. Reclaiming agricultural lands and eliminating fallow lands.
6. Establishing a landfill away from residential areas.
7. Establishing a sewage network.
8. Combating harmful wild animals.
9. Establishing a center for vocational and industrial education.
10. Addressing the weaknesses in the electricity network.
11. Establishing recreational parks and gardens for children.

Village Development Priorities and Needs

Al Qubeiba suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 10 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's feedback (Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010).

Table 10: Development priorities and needs in Al Qubeiba

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			9.5km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			7km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			3km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			10km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			15km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		25 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste		*		1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		1 health clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools		*		
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			all levels
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools		*		
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1000 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		350 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

*3km are main roads, 1.5km are sub roads and 5km are agricultural.

Source: Al Qubeiba Village Council, 2010.

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