

Ar Ram Town 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, town 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 Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities 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 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 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

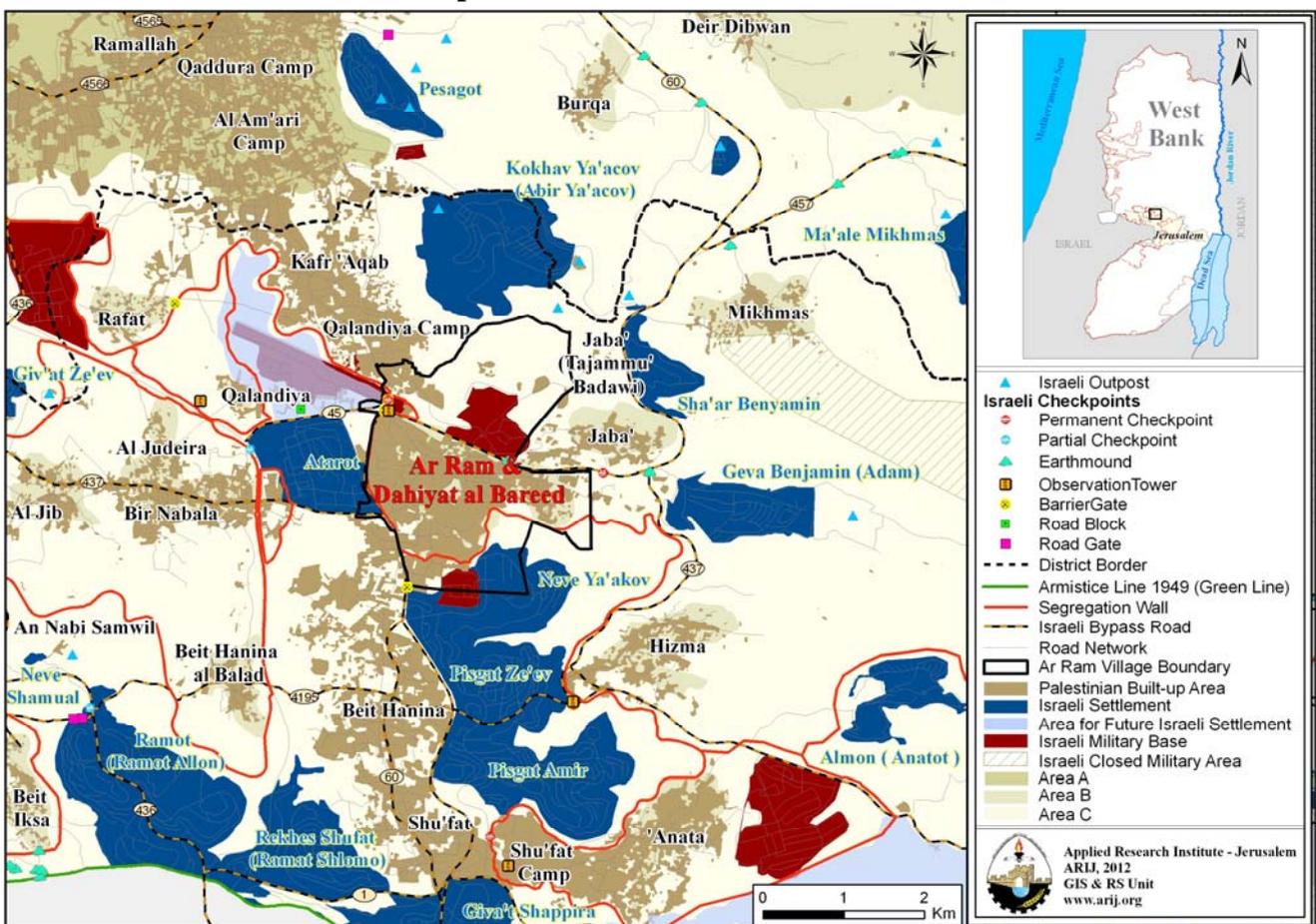
Location and Physical Characteristics	4
History	6
Religious and Archaeological Sites	6
Population	8
Education	8
Health Status	10
Economic Activities	11
Agricultural Sector	12
Institutions and Services	14
Infrastructure and Natural Resources.....	15
Impact of the Israeli Occupation.....	18
Development Plans and Projects.....	23
Locality Development Priorities and Needs	25
References.....	26

Ar Ram Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Ar Ram is a Palestinian town in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 8.1km north of Jerusalem City. Ar Ram is bordered by Jaba' village to the east, Kafr 'Aqab and Qalandiya Camp to the north, Bir Nabala to the west, and Beit Hanina to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Ar Ram location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Ar Ram is located at an altitude of 718m below sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 464.2mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1982, Ar Ram has been governed by a local council which is currently administrated by 15 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in addition to 58 permanent

employees. The Local Council owns a permanent headquarters and 5 vehicles for the collection of solid waste. It has a pick-up truck, a tractor and a small hammer (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the local council to provide a number of services to the residents of Ar Ram, including (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011):

- Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement, and rehabilitation, street cleaning and social development services.
- Providing public markets.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the town.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.
- Protecting governmental properties.
- Providing sanitary slaughterhouses and organizing slaughter of animals.
- Organizing the construction and issuing of licensing processes.
- Providing a sewage network.

History

Ar Ram town was known as 'Ar Ramah' ('the high hill') during the Roman era. However, later, Arabs have diverted its name into "Aram", which was the name used by the Franks during the Middle Ages (Al Dabbagh, 1991).

The town was established during the Roman era; many of its residents are descended from the native families of Ar Ram, in addition to families displaced from the village of Qaluniya, as Khattab family. (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011) (See photo below for Ar Ram town).

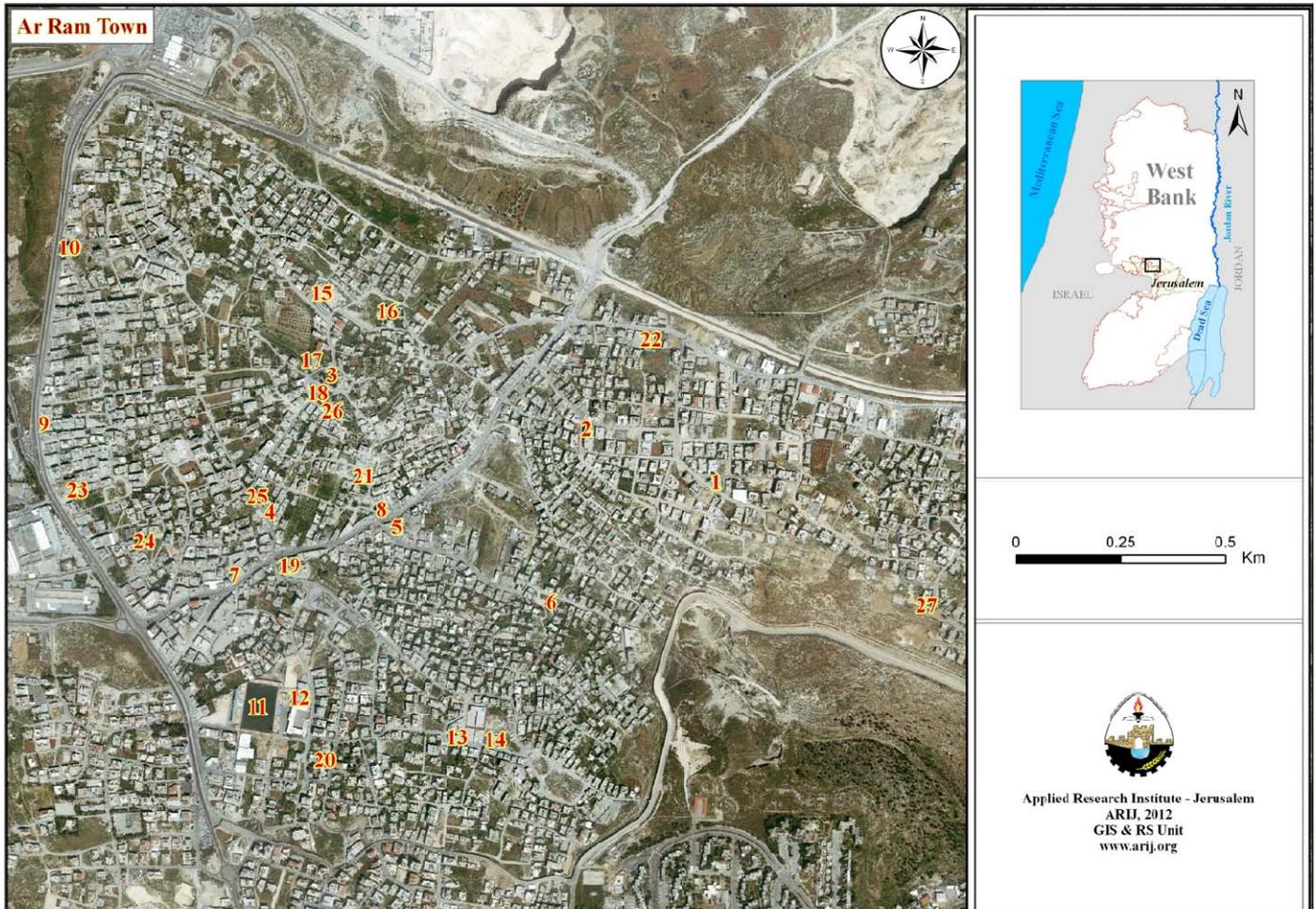
Photo 1: General Landscape of Ar Ram



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are six mosques in the town, Mu'ath ben Jabal, Handthala, Muna, Bilal ben Rabah, Anas ben Malik and Ar Ram Mosques (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011). The town once had several sites of archaeological interest containing remains of old buildings, some ruins (Khirab), including: Khirbet 'Adasa, Khirbet Deir Salam and Khirbet Ras at Taweel (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Ar Ram Town



No.	Locations	No.	Locations	No.	Locations
1	Ar Ram Local Council Headquarters	10	Palestinian House of Fatwa	19	Al Maqasid Charitable Society/ Police Station/ Ministry of Labor
2	Ma'ath ben Jabal Mosque	11	Faysal al Huseini Stadium	20	Governorate Headquarters
3	Ar Ram Old Mosque	12	Al 'Ummah School & College	21	Muslim Youth Society
4	Handthala Mosque	13	Anas ben Malik Mosque	22	An Nahda School
5	Muna Mosque	14	Masqat Health Center	23	Al 'Ahd School
6	Bilal ben Rabah Mosque	15	Ar Ram Boys High School	24	Ruwad al Ghadd School
7	Ministry of Interior/ Sharia Court	16	Ar Ram Girls High School	25	Ministry of Education
8	Civil Liaison/ Ministry of Social Affairs	17	Ar Ram Girls Elementary School	26	Ar Ram Cemetery
9	Ministry of Agriculture	18	Ar Ram Citizens Society/ Ar Ram Club	27	Ar Ram Public Park

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Ar Ram in 2007 was 18,356, of whom 9,450 were male and 8,906 female. There were 4,149 households living in 7,530 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 Ar Ram was as follows: 28% were less than 15 years old, 41.5% between 15 - 64 years of age, and 2.1% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 106.1:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.5% and 48.5% of the population respectively.

Families

Ar Ram residents are from several families, mainly the Ramiyah, Ghazawnah, Khattab, As Salaymah, Shweiki, Dweik, Abu Gharbiyah, Julani, Jaber, Ghaith, Jaradat, Mator, An Natsha, Al Qawasmi, Al Huseini and Abu 'Asab families (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

Immigration

According to field survey conducted by ARIJ, approximately 20,000 persons have left the town since the Second Intifada in 2000 (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate amongst the Ar Ram population was approximately 4.1%, of whom 68.6% were females. Of the literate population, 12.9% could only read and write with no formal education, 25.2% had elementary education, 28% had preparatory education, 15.9% had secondary education, and 13.2% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town by sex and educational attainment (2007).

Table 1: Ar Ram population (10 years of age 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	122	647	1,338	1,383	749	183	378	8	68	12	36	4,924
F	267	594	1,074	1,301	776	258	320	4	33	4	34	4,665
T	389	1,241	2,412	2,684	1,525	441	698	12	101	16	70	9,589

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are 7 public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in addition to 11 schools run by private bodies (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011) (See Table 2).

Table 2: The Schools in Ar Ram by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al Aqsa Islamic High School/ The Suburb	Government	Female
Al 'Ummah High School	Government	Male
Husni al Ashhab Elementary School	Government	Male
Al Bayruni Boys Elementary School	Government	Male
Ar Ram Boys High School	Government	Male
Ar Ram Girls High School	Government	Female
Ar Ram Girls Elementary School	Government	Female
Al Quds Islamic School	Private	Mixed
Bara'em al Waha al Khadra' School	Private	Mixed
Ma'ath ben Jabal Elementary School	Private	Mixed
Bridge Academy School	Private	Mixed
The Holy Lands School	Private	Mixed
Al Majd Elementary School	Private	Mixed
Al Faris Elementary School	Private	Mixed
An Nahda Islamic School	Private	Mixed
Al 'Ahd Elementary School	Private	Mixed
Ruwad al Ghadd School	Private	Mixed
Marah wa Farah Elementary School	Private	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the town there are 4,371 students, 299 teachers, and 190 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, and the average number of students per class is approximately 23 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are 10 local kindergartens run by different bodies, attended by 634 children in 2011. Table 3 shows these kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 3: The Kindergartens in Ar Ram by name and supervising authority

Kindergarten Name	No. of Children	Supervising Authority
Al Faris as Sagheer Kindergarten	74	Private
Al Majd Model Kindergarten	45	Private
An Nahda Islamic Kindergarten	174	Private
Bara'em al Waha al Khadra' Kindergarten	41	Islamic Civil Society
The Holy Lands Kindergarten	75	Private
Bridge Kindergarten	41	Private
Ruwad al Ghadd Kindergarten	67	Private
Farah wa Marah Kindergarten	50	Private
Ma'ath ben Jabal Kindergarten	41	Private
Al Quds Islamic Kindergarten	26	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

The educational sector in Ar Ram faces some obstacles, primarily:

- The overcrowded classrooms.
- The lack of required educational equipment.
- The lack of adequate playgrounds and fields.
- The lack of an appropriate and healthy environment.
- The lack of required courses, mainly in terms of qualification-granting courses for educational staff.

Health Status

There are a variety of health centers available in Ar Ram town: 8 private and one governmental health centers, 20 private physician clinics, 10 private dental clinics, 4 private and one governmental radiology centers, 2 motherhood and childcare centers, one private physiotherapy center, 4 private and one governmental medical laboratories, and 8 private pharmacies. In the absence of any required health services or in emergencies, patients are sent to Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city (10km from Ar Ram), or Al Maqasid and Al Muttala' Hospitals in Jerusalem city, 7km from the town (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

The health sector in the town faces numerous obstacles and problems, primarily:

- The lack of a hospital in the town.
- The lack of a headquarters for the civil defense.
- The lack of an ambulance.
- The lack of equipment in existing health centers.
- The difficulties in accessing hospitals due to the Israeli occupation.

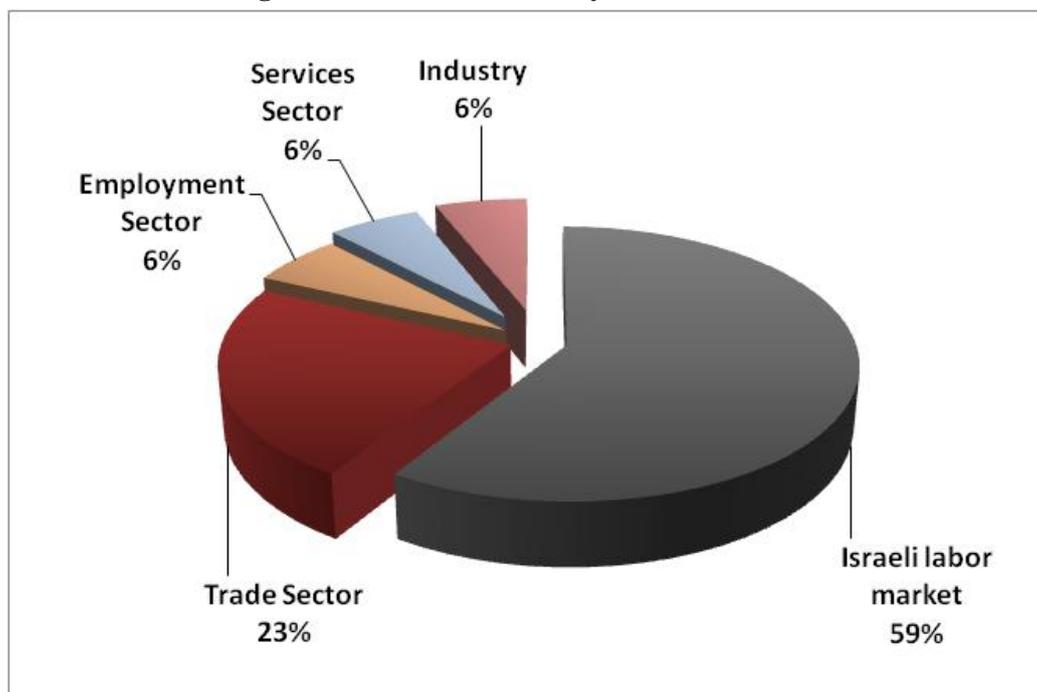
Economic Activities

The economy in Ar Ram is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs approximately 59% of the town's workforce (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011) (See Figure 1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2011 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Ar Ram is as follows:

- Israeli labor market (59%)
- Trade Sector (23%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (6%)
- Services Sector (6%)
- Industry (6%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Ar Ram town



Source: Ar Ram Local Council, 2011

In terms of commercial, economic and industrial activities in Ar Ram town, there are: 62 grocery stores, 12 bakeries, 38 butcheries, 10 vegetable and fruit stores, 210 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith etc.), and 170 different services stores, in addition to 4 stone crushers, 4 stone quarries and an olive oil-press (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Ar Ram was approximately 15% in 2011, and it was found that the social groups most affected in the town as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures were as follows (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011):

1. Workers in the trade sector.
2. Workers in industry.
3. Workers in the services sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 36.7% of the Ar Ram labor force were economically active, of whom 88.1% were employed, and 62.2% were not economically active, of whom 47.1% were students and 4.2% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Ar Ram population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	2,659	185	168	3,012	1,414	7	289	66	77	1,853	59	4,924
F	443	17	48	508	1,398	2,482	187	17	31	4,115	42	4,665
T	3,102	202	216	3,520	2,812	2,489	476	83	108	5,968	101	9,589

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

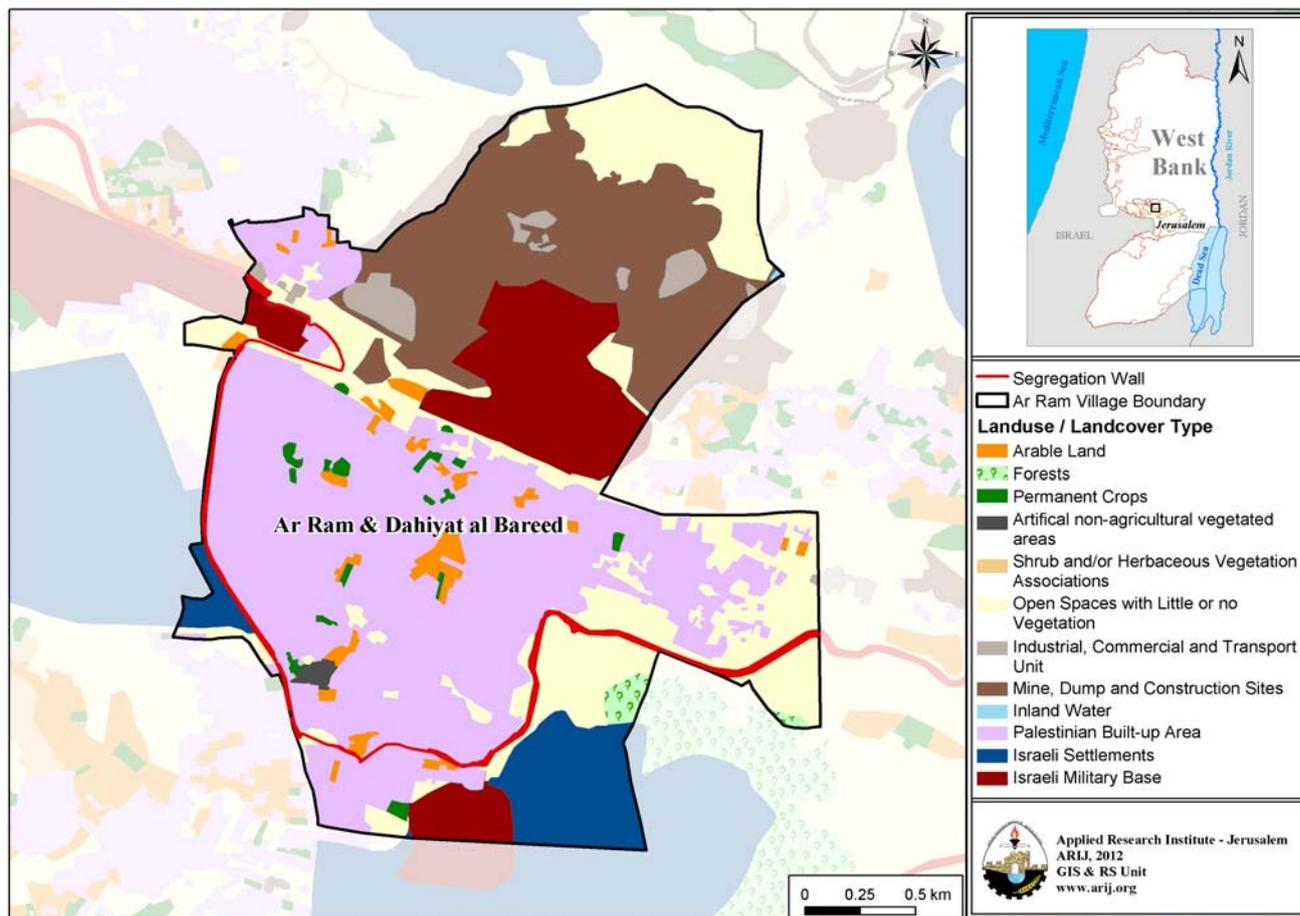
Ar Ram has a total area of around 6,706 dunums, of which 184 dunums are considered 'arable' land and 2,613 are registered as 'residential' (See table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Ar Ram town in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built-up Area	Agricultural area (184 dunums)				Inland water	Forests	Open Space	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
6,708	2,613	50	0	0	134	2	41	1,394	1,277	1,197

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Ar Ram town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Ar Ram town is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 119 dunums of land cultivated with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Ar Ram (dunum)

Fruit trees	Rainfed	Irrigated
Olives	119	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	5	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	16	0
Other fruits	0	0
Total Area	140	0

Source: 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 1% of the residents in Ar Ram rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, goats, sheep, and bees (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011) (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Ar Ram town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
80	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	12

* Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are no agricultural roads in the town (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems and obstacles, principally (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011):

- The confiscation of lands.
- The lack of large plots of land due to land confiscation.

Institutions and Services

Ar Ram town has some governmental institutions: a police station, an office for the Ministry of Agriculture, an office for the Ministry of Labor, an office for the Ministry of Social Affairs, an office for the Ministry of Interior, a Chamber of Commerce, Magistrate Court and Sharia Court. There are also a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011):

- **Ar Ram Local Council:** Founded in 1982, and currently is under the supervision of the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of solving issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Sunflower ('Abbad ash Shams) Society.**
- **Women of Islam Society.**
- **Ar Ram Youth Society.**
- **Ar Razi Institution for Development.**
- **Ar Ram Youth Club.**
- **The Housing Council.**
- **Ar Ram Citizens Society.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Ar Ram has been connected to a public electricity network since 1972. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network. However, many town residents face some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011):

- The wooden electricity columns are old and in need of renovation.
- The existence of high-pressure transformers near public buildings.
- The random excavations for ground cables.

Ar Ram is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

Transportation Services

120 public taxis and 5 buses, in addition to 20 unlicensed/illegal cars, are the main means of transportation in Ar Ram town (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011). There are 7km of designated 'main' roads and 17km of 'secondary' roads (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011) (See Table 8).

Table 8: Roads in Ar Ram town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	2	8
Paved but in poor condition	5	7
Unpaved	-	2

Source: Ar Ram Local Council, 2011

Water Resources

Ar Ram is provided with water by Jerusalem Water Authority (for Ramallah and Al Bireh areas) through the public water network established in 1948. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011). The quantity of water supplied to Ar Ram through Jerusalem Water Authority in 2009 was approximately 1,200,000 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Ar Ram is 55 liters per day (ARIJ & CENTA, 2010). However no Ar Ram citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 25%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level (ARIJ & CENTA, 2010). Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Ar Ram is 40 liters per day. The rate experienced by Ar Ram residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

The water authority has adopted an upward rate to determine water costs whereby the price of water increases in tandem with the increase in water consumption. Table 9 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 9: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012 (one month bill cycle)

Consumption Category (m ³)	Domestic (NIS/m ³)	Industrial (NIS/m ³)	Tourist (NIS/m ³)	Commercial (NIS/m ³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m ³)
0 – 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

Sanitation

Ar Ram has a public sewerage network, established in 1980 (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011). According to the results of the community survey conducted by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) in 2010 as part of the project ‘A Proposed Environmentally Sound Wastewater Management System for the West Bank’, almost half of Ar Ram housing units (51%) use the sewerage network as a major means for wastewater disposal, while the rest (49%) use cesspits (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 1,973 cubic meters, or 720,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 33 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected through the sewerage network and 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 both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

Ar Ram Local Council is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee (approx. 250 NIS/year) has been charged to each housing unit served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for good management of solid waste, as only 20% of these fees are collected from town citizens (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Ar Ram benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 300 different sized containers spread throughout the locality. The local council collects the solid waste from the

containers on a daily basis and transports it through a waste vehicle to El 'Eizariya dumping site, 15km from the town center, where it is buried (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Ar Ram is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Ar Ram residents is nearly 40 tons, or 14,600 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Ar Ram experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems are identified by the Ar Ram Local Council as follows:

Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the town.
- High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- Weak water pumping and pressure within the public network.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in some neighborhoods (49%) forces the town residents to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and to 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 town. 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. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.
- The Segregation Wall is directly affecting the efficiency of wastewater management in the town. The Wall was constructed above the sewage lines and the main carrier line in the network is located behind the Segregation Wall, hindering the role of the local council in conducting maintenance works in case of any malfunction or blockage in the main pipe (Photo 2). Currently, when a malfunction in the main pipe occurs, Ar Ram Local Council informs Jerusalem Municipality, which is responsible for fixing the pipe. However, Jerusalem Municipality does not cooperate with all maintenance requests, further aggravating the problem (ARIJ, 2010).

Photo 2: The Wall constructed above the sewage lines

Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Ar Ram 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. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is hazardous to human health, a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.
- There is no system in the town 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 El 'Eizariya landfill for disposal by burial and burning.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared Town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared town was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 2,226 dunums (33.2% of the total town 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. Area 'B' constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, towns, and some camps. Most of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared's population resides in area 'B' which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the town.

Approximately 4,482 dunums (66.8% of the total town area) is 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. Most of the lands lying within the area 'C' are urban areas, stone quarries, Israeli military bases, and open space (Table 9).

Table 9: The geopolitical divisions of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed town according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	2,226	33.2
Area C	4,482	66.8
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	6,708	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed town has had land confiscated for various Israeli purposes, including the construction of Israeli settlements and military bases on the town's territories and its surroundings, and the construction of Israeli bypass roads and military checkpoints. Below is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscation of Ar Ram town lands.

During the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government has confiscated 371 dunums (5.5%) of land from Ar Ram to establish the Israeli settlements of Neve Ya'akov' south of Ar Ram town, and the Atarot Industrial settlement west of the town (Table 10).

Table 10: Israeli Settlements constructed over Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated from Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed (dunums)	Population of settlers (2009)
Neve Ya'akov	1970	315	20,383
Industrial 'Atarot	1970	56	Industrial zone
Total		371	20,383

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

Israel has also confiscated parts of the town's lands to construct a number of Israeli military bases on the town territory and its surroundings. Ar Ram town is surrounded by Israeli military bases from the northern, southern, and western sides. 700 dunums (10.4% of the town's total area) of land were confiscated for the construction of the three military bases.

Israel has also confiscated land from Ar Ram to construct a number of bypass roads, including bypass roads 60 and 45 to connect Israeli settlements established on the town's lands with neighboring settlements. The real threat of the bypass roads lies in the buffer zone area drawn by the IOF along the road, which extends to 75m on each side. Residents of the neighboring village of Jaba' must enter the center of Ar Ram town and then cross the bridge over Road 60 to access their village, as the main entrance to Jaba' village from the eastern side, which intersects with bypass road 60, was closed after the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000. The road was blocked by the IOF with earth-mounds and is still closed, negatively impacting the lives of Palestinian citizens in Jaba' and Ar Ram as they must navigate a daily traffic crisis in order to leave their locality. Additionally, the closure of this entrance has cost Palestinian citizens of Jaba' and Ar Ram time, psychological strain, environmental pollution, and economic difficulties.

Israeli Military Checkpoints on Ar Ram's lands and its surroundings

Qalandiya Israeli Military Crossing (Previously known as Qalandiya Checkpoint)

Qalandiya is located south of Ramallah city on the road linking Ramallah with Jerusalem. In late 2001, Israel transformed Qalandiya checkpoint into a massive military crossing encircled by barbed wire; electronic barriers were added to the crossing for inspection, iron gates and surveillance cameras were installed to control the entry of people through closed lanes, and two-meter long rotating barriers were constructed.

This crossing is considered one of the most significant military checkpoints in the West Bank and one of the most difficult crossings into the occupied city of Jerusalem. Qalandiya Crossing forms an important contributing factor to the suffering and humiliation of Palestinians traveling to and from Ramallah, especially those holding the Jerusalem identity (the blue ID) who have been excluded outside the Jerusalem city limits through the construction of the Segregation Wall. These communities include Kafr 'Aqab, Ar Ram and other nearby localities. In order to enter or exit Jerusalem city, Palestinian citizens are forced to wait for long hours at the checkpoint to undergo daily inspection, causing large traffic jams and increasing the suffering of Palestinian citizens holding green IDs and travelling to Ramallah.

Israeli actions at Qalandiya create enormous psychological strain for citizens, increase the cost of travel, and contribute to pollution in the surrounding area where large numbers of cars accumulate whilst waiting to cross. Qalandiya crossing also impedes Palestinian access to health and educational services on a daily basis. Qalandiya forms a flashpoint for Israeli-Palestinian tensions and has therefore seen the death of martyrs, many arrests, and shootings.

Jaba' Israeli Military Checkpoint

Jaba' military checkpoint is located near the entrance of Ar Ram and is a permanent checkpoint at the southern entrance of Ramallah city, currently the primary city in the West Bank. This checkpoint forms a significant impediment to the movement of Palestinians to and from Ramallah city, and is considered a symbol of daily Palestinian sufferings as it has been the location of many Israeli violations of Palestinian rights, including arrests, shootings, and closures.

Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed Town and the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan

The construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall has had a negative and destructive impact on Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed town. According to the last amendment of the plan, published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry (30th April 2007), the Wall extends 6km over Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed town, isolating around 1,202 dunums of its lands (17.9%) from its southern and western sides. The isolated lands include open spaces, parts of the Palestinian residential area, Israeli settlements and military bases (Table 10).

Table 10: the land classification of the lands to be isolated lands by the Segregation Wall in Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed Town - Jerusalem Governorate

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Agricultural areas	20
2	Open spaces & forests	402
3	Palestinian residential area	190
4	Israeli military base	157
5	Israeli settlements	371
6	Wall zone	62
Total		1,202

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Palestinians living in Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed and other neighboring villages have lost their connection with Jerusalem City, previously their main destination for educational, employment, and health services. Residents of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed have therefore started using Ramallah City to fulfill these needs. The Segregation Wall has contributed further to the isolation of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed town and many of the surrounding villages from Jerusalem city.

Israeli Occupation Authorities Close the Only Exit for Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed Town

Gadi Shamni, commander of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank, has issued a new military order in the form of announcement number (09/02/S¹) for the closure of the 'Seam Zone'. This military order applies to Jabal as Sumood (As Sumood Mountain) in Ar Ram town, which was separated from Ar Ram by the Segregation Wall. Jabal as Sumood is inhabited by nearly 5,000 people. This region includes a number of Palestinian civil and international institutions, including the Rosary Sisters School, the Jerusalem Hotel, the Maps Department of the Arab Studies Society, the Welfare Association, and the World Bank. The Israeli military order issued on 1st February 2009 states that Jabal as Sumood is a closed military area with the closure of the main gate built on the Segregation Wall in Dahiyat al

¹ In the military order, the Israeli occupation mentioned three extremely dangerous issues which already has been mentioned in previous orders, namely:

This declaration shall take effect within 45 days after its date of issue, after which no person will be allowed to enter the region and reside in it, also, everyone in this area referred to as "seam zone", will have to leave it immediately.

Bareed. The order declares all lands and housing located in the target site as 'closed areas' that cannot be entered or used except in special circumstances identified by the Israeli military order. The Israeli Civil Administration stated that Palestinian civilians holding the West Bank ID (green ID) living in Jabal as Sumood should go to the Israeli Civil Administration to apply for 'magnetic' cards in preparation for permits that would allow them to enter their own homes in Jabal as Sumood. The Israeli military order allegedly aims to prevent 'terrorists' from entering Israel. However, the real goal of the military order is to complete the construction of the Segregation Wall around the city of Jerusalem, stifling and isolating the city completely by closing the gate built in the Wall in Dahiyat al Bareed. This gate is located north of Jabal as Sumood and is the only entrance connecting Jerusalem directly to Ar Ram. Ar Ram citizens holding Jerusalem identity cards must walk long distances to enter Jerusalem either through Qalandiya or Hizma crossings. Students living in Ar Ram and studying in Jerusalem are most severely affected by this situation, especially in the morning when the Qalandiya crossing is badly overcrowded. Students therefore have two choices: either to arrive very early at the crossing or to miss their first class. Jerusalemites who have been excluded from the Jerusalem city boundaries by the Segregation Wall are forced to send their children to schools within the occupied city of Jerusalem so that the occupation administration cannot remove their Jerusalem identities with the argument that they do not need to live in Jerusalem.

The Segregation Wall and the Suffering of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed Town Residents

With the completion of the Segregation Wall plan, the urbanized area of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bareed town will be isolated from neighboring Palestinian towns and villages and from Jerusalem city as it will be surrounded by the Wall as well as the settlement belt and Israeli military bases on four sides. The Wall also splits the town geographically and socially, as part of the town will be inside the Wall and the bulk of it outside the Wall and outside the Jerusalem city limits. The Wall will also prevent further urbanization in Ar Ram. Israeli occupation authorities constructed the Wall close to the urbanized areas in the town and between some houses, increasing the total area of land confiscated from the town, and minimizing the area available for future urban expansion. Israeli policies and plans have led to a high population density in the town due to the lack of land for construction and expansion, forcing the residents to expand vertically to house the population.

The Segregation Wall will isolate Palestinians living in the town and carrying Palestinian IDs from Jerusalem City, cutting off educational, health, social and economic services. Access to the holy city will be limited to those holding the Jerusalem identity who will have to pass through military checkpoints to enter the city and show their Jerusalem IDs to prove their right to travel, work, and live in the city. This will generate further suffering and increased difficulties in mobility and communication. This step aims at the re-delineation of Jerusalem City borders as part of Israeli plans seeking to change the demographics of the city in favor of the Israelis, and seeks to exclude neighborhoods of high Palestinian population density from Jerusalem City. The Israeli segregation plan has contributed to the migration of many Ar Ram residents into Jerusalem city to maintain their Jerusalem identities and their right to reside, to worship, and to access education and healthcare in the city.

Israeli Military Orders Issued in Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared Town

The Israeli occupation authorities have issued a set of military orders to confiscate lands in Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared town for various military purposes. These include:

1. Israeli military order 06/04/T: issued on 21st January 2004 to confiscate 76 dunums of Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared, Hizma and Beit Hanina towns for the Segregation Wall construction.
2. Israeli military order 100/04/T: issued on 28th December 2004 to confiscate 49.3 dunums of land from Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared town for the construction of Qalandiya Military Checkpoint.
3. Israeli military order 48/04/T: issued on 23rd May 2004 to confiscate 16.6 dunums of land from Ar Ram & Dahiyat al Bared town for the Segregation Wall construction.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Ar Ram Local Council has implemented several development projects in Ar Ram during the last five years (See Table 11).

Table 11: Implemented development plans and projects in Ar Ram during the last five years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of Masqat Medical Center's building	Public Services	2007	Omani Authority for Charitable Activities
Rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	2007	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
Maintenance of Ar Ram northern entrance/ Phase I	Infrastructure	2007	Pontifical Mission
Establishment of Ma'ath ben Jabal sewage line	Infrastructure	2007	Ar Ram Local Council
Maintenance of Ar Ram northern entrance & beautifying the overall appearance of the main road/ Phase II	Infrastructure	2008	USAID-OTI & Ar Ram Local Council
Provision of 50 large-sized solid waste containers	Public Services	2008	The World Bank
Provision of fuel for waste collection vehicles	Public Services	2008	The World Bank
Construction of a retaining wall and settling the garden ground	Infrastructure	2008	The World Bank
Provision of spare electricity parts for street's lightings	Infrastructure	2008	The World Bank
Provision of spare car parts for waste collection vehicles	Public Services	2008	The World Bank
Pavement of Al Qassam street	Infrastructure	2008	The World Bank
Establishment of a public park	Public Services	2008	CHF-PARCS
Establishment of a public library and a multi-purposes hall	Public Services	2009	CHF-LDR

Establishment of a public park/ phase II	Public Services	2009	CHF-EJP
Establishment of a sewage network/ phase I/ Saudi	Infrastructure	2009	Saudi Fund/ Islamic Bank
Establishment of a sewage network/ phase II	Infrastructure	2009	The Arab Bank
Provision of a solid waste vehicle with a piston	Public Services	2010	KFW through Municipal Fund
Provision of a wiring car for sewage lines	Infrastructure	2010	KFW through Municipal Fund
Construction and finishing an additional floor in the multi-purposes hall	Public Services	2010	CHF-LDR
Rehabilitation of the Public Services Center	Public Services	2010	CHF-LDR
Pavement of internal roads	Infrastructure	2011	Municipal Fund
Establishment of a sewage network	Infrastructure	2011	Islamic Development Bank
Construction of retaining walls and a cafeteria for Ar Ram Boys School	Educational	2011	ARD

Source: Ar Ram Local Council, 2011

Proposed Projects

Ar Ram Local Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Conducting a field survey with Ar Ram residents to identify the town's development needs more accurately.
2. Conducting awareness sessions in several areas including, order and security, sanitation and cooperation with the municipality.
3. Establishing a civil defense and an emergency center.
4. Providing projects for the development of infrastructure.
5. Establishing a solid waste landfill.
6. Establishing a wastewater treatment unit.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Ar Ram suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 11 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the local council's feedback (Ar Ram Local Council, 2011).

Table 11: Development Priorities and Needs in Ar Ram

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			10.5km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			1500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			5km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			300 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			2 vehicles
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools			*	
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns			*	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*	

*3km are main roads, 7km are sub roads and 0.5km are agricultural roads.

Source: Ar Ram Local Council, 2011

References

- Al Dabbagh, M. (1991) Our Country, Palestine; Chapter 8, Part Two. Kafr Qari' – Palestine. Dar al Huda Press.
- Ar Ram Local Council, (2011).
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), (2010). A Special Case Study about: Al-Ram Municipal Council. Bethlehem. Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), (2012). Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2010) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), (2012). 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) & Spanish Centre of New Water Technologies (CENTA), (2010). Proposed System for a Good Environmental Management of Wastewater in the West Bank, 2010. Bethlehem - Palestine.
- Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Jerusalem, (2011). Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2010/2011). Jerusalem – Palestine.
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. (2009). Jerusalem, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), (2010). Directorate of Agriculture data. (2009/2010). Jerusalem - Palestine.
- Jerusalem Water Authority (2012). Jerusalem Water Authority's Website; Data Retrieved on the first of March. <http://www.jwu.org/newweb/atemplate.php?id=87>.