

# Biddu Town 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 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>.

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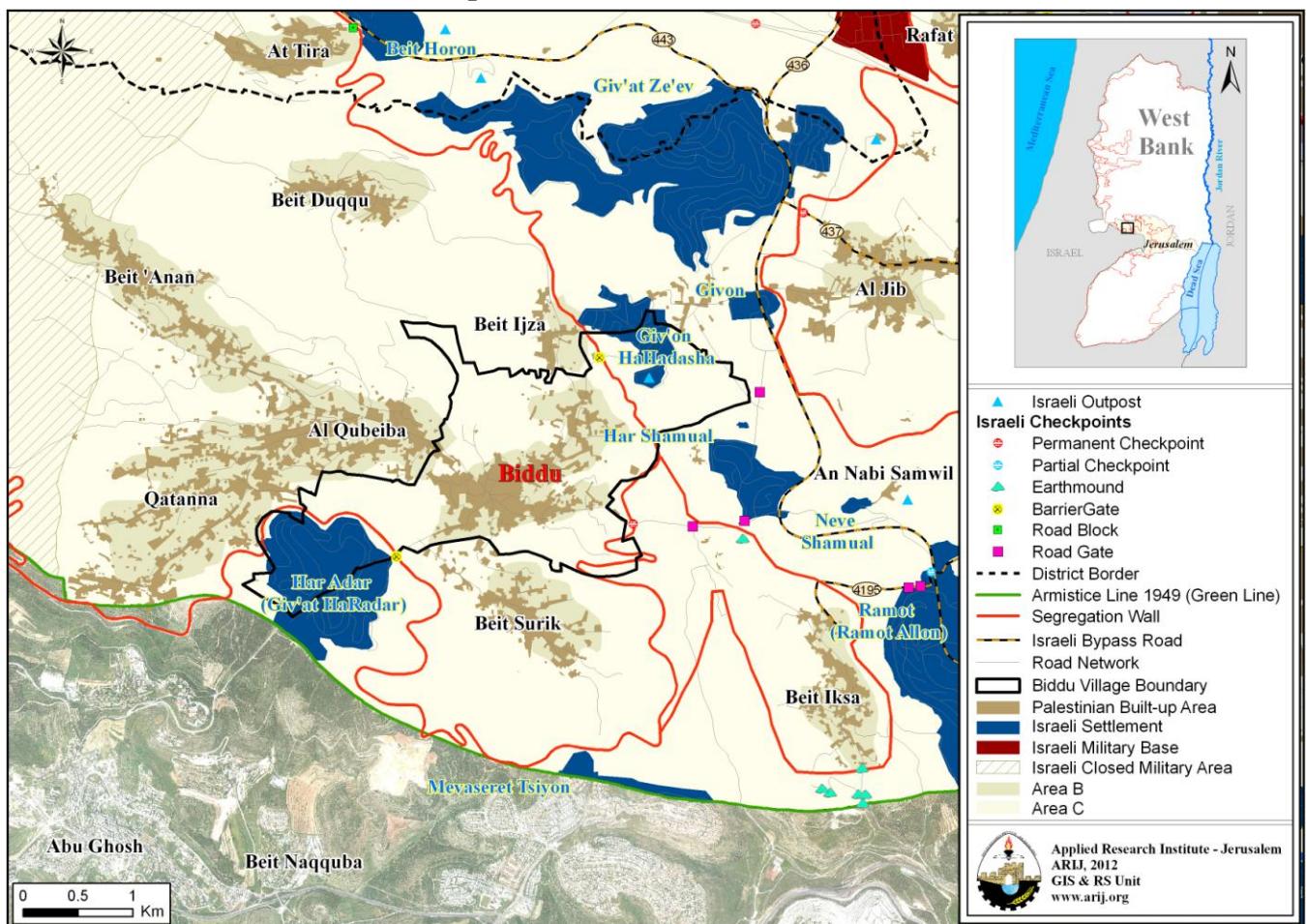
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# Biddu Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Biddu is a Palestinian town in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 10.1km north-west of Jerusalem City. Biddu is bordered by Beit Iksa to the east, Beit Ijza to the north, Al Qubeiba to the west, and Beit Surik town to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

**Map 1: Biddu location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Biddu is located at an altitude of 837m below sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 604.3mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1997 Biddu has been governed by a local council, which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in addition to 18 permanent

employees. The local council owns a permanent headquarters, and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste. It also owns a water tank (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the Local Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Biddu, including (Biddu Local Council, 2010):

- Establishing and maintaining the water network.
- Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement, and rehabilitation, street cleaning and social development services.
- Providing an ambulance.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the town.
- Providing transportation vehicles.
- Establishing and managing kindergartens.
- Protecting governmental properties.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.
- Providing headquarters for governmental services (post, security, etc.).
- Organizing the processes of construction and license-issuing.

## History

Some claim that Biddu town was named in relation to three ancient stony olive presses (Bidud) that the town was known for. However, some say that three brothers of Bedouin origin ('Badu' in Arabic) from Al Karak were the first to inhabit the town and it was therefore named Biddu in tribute (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

The establishment of the present-day town dates back to 1948. However, its history can be traced back to the Roman era. Its residents are descended from inhabitants of Salbit locality, which is located southeast of Ar Ramlah (Biddu Local Council, 2010) (See photo below for Biddu town).

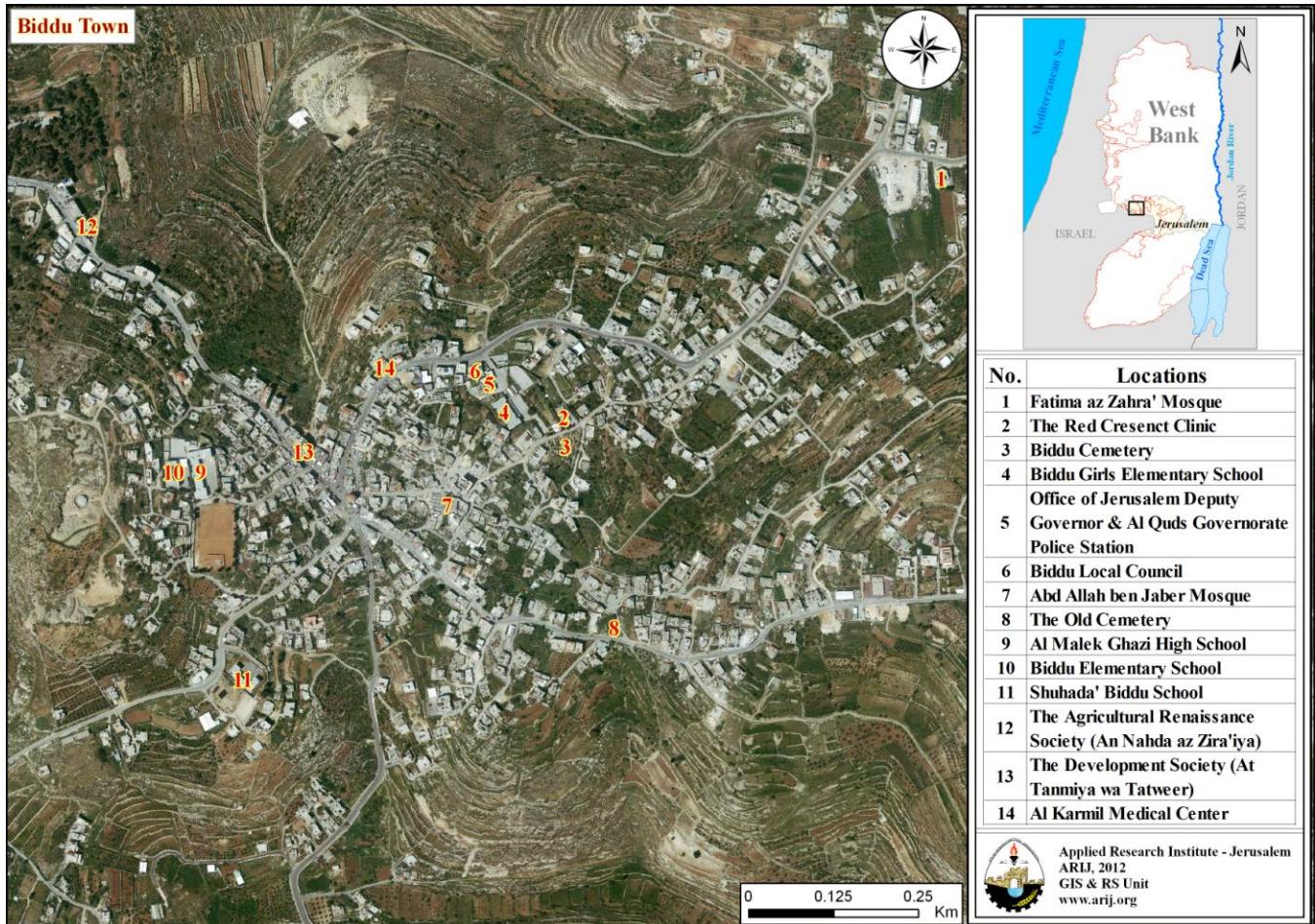
**Photo 1: General Landscape of Biddu**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the town, Abd Allah ben Jaber and Fatima az Zahra' Mosques. There are several archaeological sites: the Old City in Al Hosh, several shrines, and some ruins (Khirab). All of these sites are qualified for tourism (Biddu Local Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Biddu Town**



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Biddu in 2007 was 6,129, of whom 3,168 were male and 2,961 female. There were 1,157 households living in 1,179 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 Biddu was as follows: 41.2% were less than 15 years old, 54.6% between 15 - 64 years old, and 2.4% 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 107:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.7% and 48.3% of the population respectively.

## Families

Biddu residents are from several families, mainly the Mansour, Abu 'Eid, Badwan, Ash Sheikh, 'Ayyash, Al Khdour, Sa'adah, Samarah, Ad Dali and Hmeidan families (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

## Immigration

According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ, approximately 15 persons have left the town since the Second Intifada in 2000 (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate among Biddu population was approximately 4.5%, of whom 70.8% were females. Of the literate population, 12.6% could only read and write with no formal education, 28.4% had elementary education, 32% had preparatory education, 13.9% had secondary education, and 8.2% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town by sex and educational attainment (2007).

**Table 1: Biddu population (10 years of age and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007**

S E x	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Elem- entary	Prepa- ratory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bach- elor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	56	279	624	751	305	74	102	2	9	2	20	2,224
F	136	265	600	625	291	53	91	-	1	-	17	2,079
T	192	544	1,224	1,376	596	127	193	2	10	2	37	4,303

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are three public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in addition to a school run by a private body and another run by UNRWA (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
King Ghazi Boys High School	Government	Male
Biddu Boys Elementary School		Male
King Ghazi Boys Elementary School		Male
'Ahabab ar Rahman Elementary School	Private	Mixed
Biddu Girls Elementary School	UNRWA	Female

**Source:** Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the town there are 2,144 students, 105 teachers, and 65 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 20, and the average number of students per class is approximately 33 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are two local kindergartens run by a private body, attended by a total number of 250 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 Biddu by name and supervising authority**

Kindergarten Name	No. of Children	Supervising Authority
'Ahabab ar Rahman Kindergarten	190	Private
Tala'i' al Islam Kindergarten	60	Private

**Source:** Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

To access secondary education students attend neighboring villages' schools, including Al 'Umawiyah High School in Beit Ijza which is 1km from Biddu (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

The educational sector in Biddu faces some obstacles, mainly:

1. The lack of a university in the area.
2. The lack of computers and IT equipment in schools.

## Health Status

There are two health centers available in Biddu town: a governmental health center and a center for the Red Crescent. There are 4 private medical laboratories, a private motherhood and childcare center, two private physiotherapy centers, 3 private radiology centers, 4 physician clinics; one governmental, two run by private bodies, and one run by an NGO, 5 private specialized clinics, and 4 private pharmacies. There are two private hospitals in the town, Al Carmel and Al Quds. Biddu Local Council owns one ambulance. In the absence of any required health services or in emergencies, patients are sent to health

centers in neighboring localities, including Al Muttala' Hospital, Al Maqasid Hospital and Al 'Oyoon Hospital. Each of these is in Jerusalem city about 15km from Biddu. Alternatively, residents are sent to Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city, 12km from the town (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

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

1. Ambulances are prevented by the Israelis from entering Jerusalem to transport patients.
2. Patients are only allowed by the Israelis to enter Jerusalem city under certain procedures.

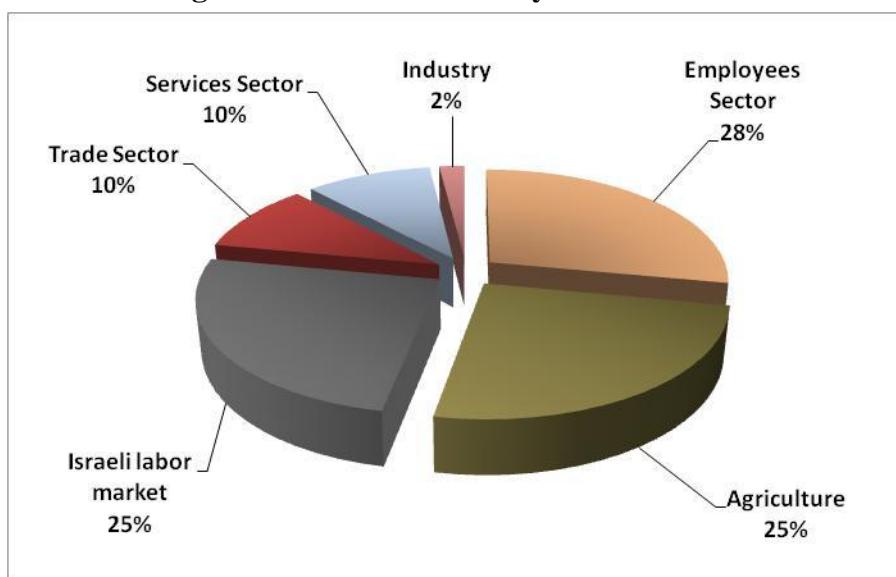
## Economic Activities

The economy in Biddu is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the employees sector, which absorbs approximately 28% of the town's workforce (Biddu Local Council, 2010) (See Figure1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2010 shows that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Biddu was as follows:

- Government or Private Employees Sector (28%)
- Agriculture Sector (25%)
- Israeli labor market (25%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Industry (2%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Biddu town**



Source: Biddu Local Council, 2010

There are some commercial, economic and industrial activities in Biddu town, primarily the manual embroidery industry. Additionally, there are 16 grocery stores in the town, 4 bakeries, 8 butcheries, 4 vegetable and fruit stores, 15 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith, etc.) and 18

different services stores, in addition to 7 stone and marble crushers, 3 stone quarries, two olive oil-presses, two stores for agricultural tools, one agricultural nursery, 9 stores for sanitary ware, two stores for electric equipments, two car-wash stores and two stores for car rental (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Biddu reached around 65% in 2010, and it was found that the social groups most affected in the town as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures, are the following (Biddu Local Council, 2010):

- Workers in the agricultural sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in industry.
- Workers in tourism.

## Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 33% of Biddu labor force were economically active, of whom 81% were employed, and 66% were not economically active, of whom 52% were students and 34.3% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

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

S E X	Economically Active			Not Economically Active						Un- known	Total	
	Emp- loyed	Currently Unemp- loyed	Unemp- loyed (Never worked)	Total	Stud- ents	House- keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other			
M	1,011	148	103	1,262	690	4	161	13	66	934	28	2,224
F	139	5	14	158	788	970	126	1	21	1,906	15	2,079
T	1,150	153	117	1,420	1,478	974	287	14	87	2,840	43	4,303

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

Biddu has a total area of around 5,363 dunums, of which 2,629 dunums are considered 'arable' land and 685 are registered as 'residential' (See table 5 and map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Biddu town in 2010 (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built- up Area	Agricultural area (2,629 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					
5,363	685	1,278	1	92	1,258	0	26	988	77	960

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012

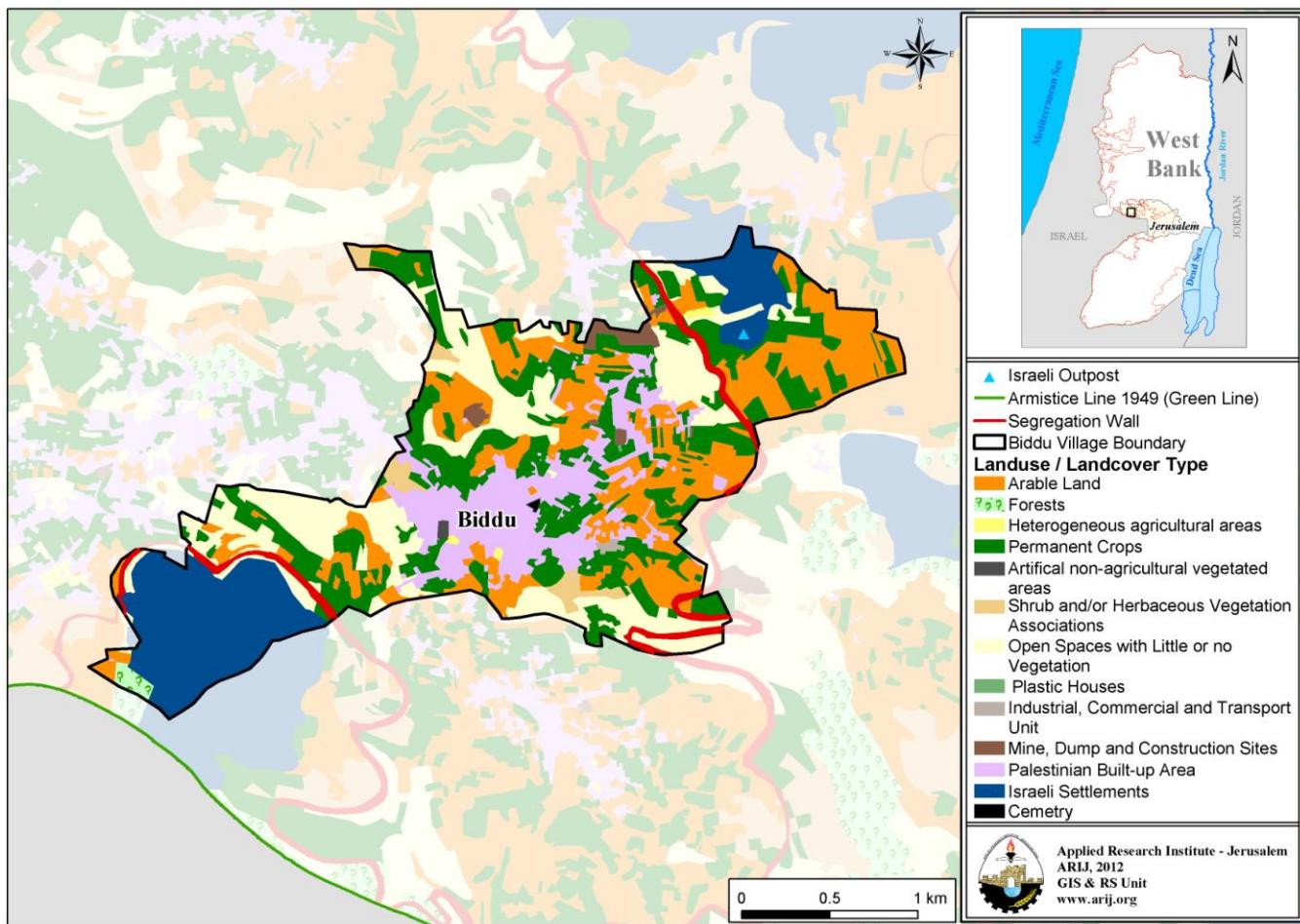
**Map 3: Land use/land cover in Biddu town**

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables planted in the area. The most common crop cultivated within this area is cauliflower.

**Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Biddu town**

Cultivated vegetables	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Fruity vegetables	0	0
Leafy vegetables	0	0
Green legumes	11	1
Bulbs	0	0
Other vegetables	5	1
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Biddu town is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 490 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

**Table 7: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Biddu town**

Fruit trees	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Olives	490	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	110	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	40	0
Other fruits	184	0
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

As for the field crops and forage in Biddu, cereals, particularly wheat and barley, are the most cultivated covering an area of about 35 dunums (See table 8).

**Table 8: Total area of field crops in Biddu town**

Fruit trees	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Cereals	35	0
Bulbs	0	0
Dry legumes	0	0
Oil crops	0	0
Forage crops	10	0
Stimulating crops	0	0
Other crops	0	0
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>

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 5% of the residents in Biddu rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, goats, sheep, and chickens (Biddu Local Council, 2010) (See Table 9).

**Table 9: Livestock in Biddu town**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
73	605	495	0	0	0	0	7,000	4,000	85

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are around 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town (Biddu Local Council, 2010), divided as follows:

**Table 10: Agricultural roads in Biddu town and their lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	3
For animals only	2
Unsuitable	2

Source: Biddu Local Council, 2010

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems and obstacles, primarily (Biddu Local Council, 2010):

- The existence of the Segregation Wall.
- The lack of capital.
- The lack of lands suitable for grazing.
- The limited structural planning.
- Closing gates and preventing farmers from accessing their lands.

## Institutions and Services

Biddu town has a few governmental institutions, including a post office, an office for Social Affairs and a police station. Additionally there are a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Biddu Local Council, 2010):

- **Biddu Local Council:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Interior with the goal of solving issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Biddu Sports Club:** Founded in 1970 by the Ministry of Interior. The Club provides sports, social, and cultural activities to young people.
- **Biddu Women Club:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Interior. The Club specializes in food manufacturing.
- **Biddu Women Center:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Interior, the Center provides different courses for women and is interested in embroidery.
- **An Nahda Rural Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior and dedicated to agriculture.

- **Biddu Development Society:** A socio-cultural society founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior.
- **Nawafeth Youth Center:** A cultural center that focuses on young people and was founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Interior.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Biddu has been connected to a public electricity network since 1975. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 80% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network. However, many town residents face some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Biddu Local Council, 2010):

- Some households are not connected to the network.
- The lack of sufficient transformers.
- The need to transfer the high pressure to ground level pressure.

Biddu is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

### Transportation Services

16 public taxis and 2 buses, in addition to 200 unlicensed/illegal cars, are the main means of transportation in Biddu town (Biddu Local Council, 2010). There are 9km of designated ‘main’ roads and 4km of ‘secondary’ roads (Biddu Local Council, 2010) (See Table 11).

**Table 11: Roads in Biddu town**

<b>Status of Internal Roads</b>	<b>Road Length (km)</b>	
	<b>Main</b>	<b>Sub</b>
Paved & in good condition	6	3
Paved but in poor condition	3	1
Unpaved	-	-

Source: Biddu Local Council, 2010

### Water Resources

The West Bank Water Department provides Biddu with water purchased from Mekerot, an Israeli company, through the public water network established in 1985. Approximately 90% of the housing units are connected to this network. Water tanks are considered the alternative resource for water; each cubic meter of water from the tanks costs 7 NIS (Biddu Local Council, 2010). The quantity of water supplied to Biddu through the public network is approximately 10,000 cubic meters/ month; therefore,

the average rate of water supply per capita in Biddu is 48 liters per day (Biddu Local Council, 2010). However no Biddu 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. Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Biddu is 36 liters per day. The rate experienced by Biddu residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

The town has a water reservoir with a capacity of 500 cubic meters, in addition to 500 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

## Sanitation

Biddu lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits and endocrines as their main means of wastewater disposal, in addition to random disposal of wastewater (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 197 cubic meters, equating to 72 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 29 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and endocrines 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

Biddu Local Council is considered 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. 20 NIS/month) has been charged to the population 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 25% of these fees are collected from town citizens (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Biddu benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 80 containers<sup>1</sup> spread throughout the locality. Biddu Local Council collects the solid waste from the containers six times a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to Wadi Abu Za'roor dumping site, located 2km from the town center, where it is usually burnt and sometimes buried (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Biddu is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Biddu residents is nearly 7.1 tons, or 2,605 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

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<sup>1</sup> each with a half cup capacity

## Environmental Conditions

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

### Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long periods of time in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
  1. Israeli control over Palestinian water resources means that the West Bank Water Department purchase water from Mekerot, since the available amount of water does not meet the residents' needs.
  2. High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- As the water network is only able to pump water slowly and inefficiently, the town's water reservoir is often empty or very low.

### Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network means most town residents use cesspits and endocrines for the disposal of wastewater, especially in winter as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. This causes environmental damage, health problems, and facilitates the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. 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 and endocrines are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids, on a sporadic basis, the need to use sewage tankers. 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 or to residents' health.

### Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Biddu 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 Wadi abu Za'roor landfill for disposal by burning.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical Status of Biddu Town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Biddu was divided into areas ‘B’ and ‘C’. Approximately 1,332 dunums (24.8% 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 Biddu’s population resides in area ‘B’ which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the town. Approximately 4,031 dunums (75.2% 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 agricultural and open space (Table 12).

**Table 12: The geopolitical divisions of Biddu 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	1,332	24.8
Area C	4,031	75.2
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,363</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

### Biddu Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Many dunums have been confiscated in Biddu by the Israeli authorities for various purposes. These purposes include the construction and expansion of settlements and outposts, in addition to the construction of the Segregation Wall, through which Israel aims to control the north-west region of Jerusalem governorate, because it includes the Israeli settlements constituting part of Giv’at Ze’ev bloc. This scheme is part of Israel’s plan to annex all settlements in the West Bank into Israel, considering them an essential part of the State of Israel because “[annexation] contributes to security, to political standing, to the economy and to the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel” as stated by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American president George Bush (11<sup>th</sup> April 2005).The following is a detailed description of land confiscations in Biddu.

During the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government has confiscated 813 dunums of land from Biddu to establish the Israeli settlements of Har Adar (Giv’at HaRadar) and Giv’ot Ha’hadasha. These settlements are currently inhabited by around 4,500 Israeli settlers, and constitute part of the Israeli settlement bloc Giv’at Ze’ev, which includes 5 settlements (Table 13).

**Table 13: Israeli Settlements constructed over Biddu lands**

<b>Settlement Name</b>	<b>Year of construction</b>	<b>Area confiscated from Biddu (dunums)</b>	<b>Population of settlers (2009)</b>
Har Adar (Giv'at HaRadar)	1986	627	3,400
Giv'on Ha'hadasha	1980	186	1,113
<b>Total</b>		<b>813</b>	<b>4513</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Lands belonging to Biddu town have also been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to build the Giv'at Zima outpost. During the past twenty years, Israel has built 232 such outposts in the West Bank. Typically mobile caravans established by settlers on stolen lands, outposts often form the nuclei of new settlements and tend to be an extension of a nearby 'mother settlement'. The epidemic of Israeli outpost construction began with a Sharonian call for Jewish settlers to take control over Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although consecutive Israeli governments have not officially sanctioned these illegal outposts, the state provides them with military protection and infrastructure services, facilitating their permanent existence and encouraging further expansion. After 2001 Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implicitly sanctioned the expansion of outposts, leading to an increasing number of outposts. Israeli occupation forces have assisted the Israeli settlers in moving to and settling in these outposts, in addition to protecting them and providing infrastructure to guarantee their continuing survival.

### **Biddu Town and the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan**

The Segregation Wall Plan has had a negative and destructive impact on the town of Biddu. According to the last amendment of the plan, published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry (30<sup>th</sup> April 2007), the Wall will extend over 4 km of Biddu's land and will isolate 1,670 dunums of land (31% of the total area of Biddu) from the north-eastern side of the town. The isolated areas are open space and agricultural lands (which form an important source of capital for many Palestinian families), in addition to Palestinian lands where settlements are built, and part of the built-up area (Table 14).

**Table 14: the land classification of the isolated lands to the west side of the Segregation Wall in Biddu Town - Jerusalem Governorate**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Land classification</b>	<b>Area (dunums)</b>
1	Agricultural areas	621
2	Open space	141
3	Israeli settlements	813
4	Wall zone	95
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,670</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

## Suffering of Palestinians in Biddu Caused by the Construction of the Segregation Wall

Palestinian farmers in Biddu town are denied access to their lands isolated behind the Wall. They cannot access their lands without a permit issued by the Israeli Liaison Office allowing them to pass through gates within the Wall. Access to isolated agricultural lands is limited to those farmers who are able to prove their land ownership to the Israeli Civil Administration. Permits<sup>2</sup> are issued to those whose names are listed in the property ownership documents, usually elderly people. Additionally, the Israeli Civil Administration issues these permits seasonally and must be renewed. Finally, issued permits do not allow the labor force or equipment farmers need to cultivate isolated land appropriately.

## Ramallah City as a Substitute for Jerusalem City

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Palestinians living in Biddu and other towns have lost their link with Jerusalem City, previously the primary source of employment, educational, and health services. Residents of Biddu have therefore started using Ramallah City to fulfill these needs. Until 2002, residents of Biddu were able to use Israeli bypass road 443 to access Ramallah; they have now been prohibited from using this road by Israeli authorities and must travel using indirect roads with poor infrastructure to Ramallah and other villages. Israel built concrete and steel barriers and imposed fines on Palestinians to prevent them from using the bypass road. This has caused many people living in Biddu 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 Biddu Town

The Israeli occupation authorities have issued a set of military orders to confiscate lands in Biddu town for different military purposes. These include:

1. Israeli military order 107/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 238.4 dunums of lands in Qatanna, Beit Surik, Biddu and al Qubeiba to build the Segregation Wall.
2. Israeli military order 108/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 334.3 dunums in Biddu, Beit Surik and Beit Iksa for the Segregation Wall construction.
3. Israeli military order 109/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 334 dunums of lands in Qatanna, Biddu and Beit Surik to construct the Segregation Wall.
4. Israeli military order 75/04/T: issued on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 to confiscate 336.1 dunums of Qatanna, Biddu and Beit Surik for the Segregation Wall construction.
5. Amendment to military order 75/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to confiscate 214.5 dunums of lands in Biddu, Qatanna and Beit Surik to build the Segregation Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the military order until 2014 to complete the Wall construction.

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<sup>2</sup> Obtaining a permit is not an easy process, and it is usually denied for the owners of the isolated lands.

6. Israeli military order 76/04/T: issued on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 to confiscate 263.7 dunums of lands in towns of Biddu, Beit Surik, Beit Iksa and An Nabi Samuel for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
7. Amendment to the Israeli military order 76/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to confiscate 149.7 dunums in Biddu, Beit Surik, and Beit Iksa for the construction of the Segregation Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the order until 2014 to complete the construction of the Wall.
8. Amendment to the military order 95/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to confiscate 119.8 dunums of lands in Beit Ijza and Biddu for the Wall construction, the amendment included extending the validity of the military order until 2014 to complete the Wall construction.
9. Israeli military order 96/04/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004 and confiscates 71.9 dunums of Biddu's lands to build the Segregation Wall.
10. Amendment to the military order 96/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and confiscates 119 dunums in Biddu to build the Segregation Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the order until 2014 to complete the construction of the Wall.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Biddu Local Council has implemented several development projects in Biddu during the last five years (See Table 15).

**Table 15: Implemented development plans and projects in Biddu during the last five years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of a multi-purposes hall	Public Services	2010	Kuwait Arab Fund
Construction of a cultural center	Public Services/ Educational	2010	Ministry of Finance
Rehabilitation of roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Local Government
Construction of an elementary school for boys	Educational	2010	Ministry of Finance
Construction of a health facility in the girls school	Educational	2010	USAID

Source: Biddu Local Council, 2010

### Proposed Projects

Biddu 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. Expanding the town's structural plan.
2. Paving main and internal roads in the town.
3. Constructing and paving agricultural roads and providing agricultural and domestic cisterns and home gardens.
4. Establishing a cultural center with a multi-purpose hall.
5. Establishing an industrial school and a university in the area.
6. Providing a vehicle for solid waste.
7. Establishing a sewage network and a waste landfill.
8. Establishing a center for the disabled.
9. Establishing a center for the Civil Defense, assisting in the role of police and security services.
10. Rehabilitating archeological sites.
11. Constructing a stadium in accordance with international standards.
12. Strengthening the role of women through the establishment of projects for women and empowering them in terms of culture, education, and economics.
13. Providing a sanitary slaughterhouse.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Biddu suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the local council's feedback (Biddu Local Council, 2010).

**Table 16: Development Priorities and Needs in Biddu**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*		6km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			24km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			24km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			1500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			24km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			200 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		two health centers
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			industrial school
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			120 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*		15 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		200 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		50 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

\*3km are sub roads and 3km are agricultural roads.

Source: Biddu Local Council, 2010.

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