

Beit Dajan Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2014

Acknowledgments

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

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

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

Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Nablus Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in improving 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 insecure political, economic and social conditions in Nablus 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 Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with a focus on the agricultural sector.

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

Table of Contents

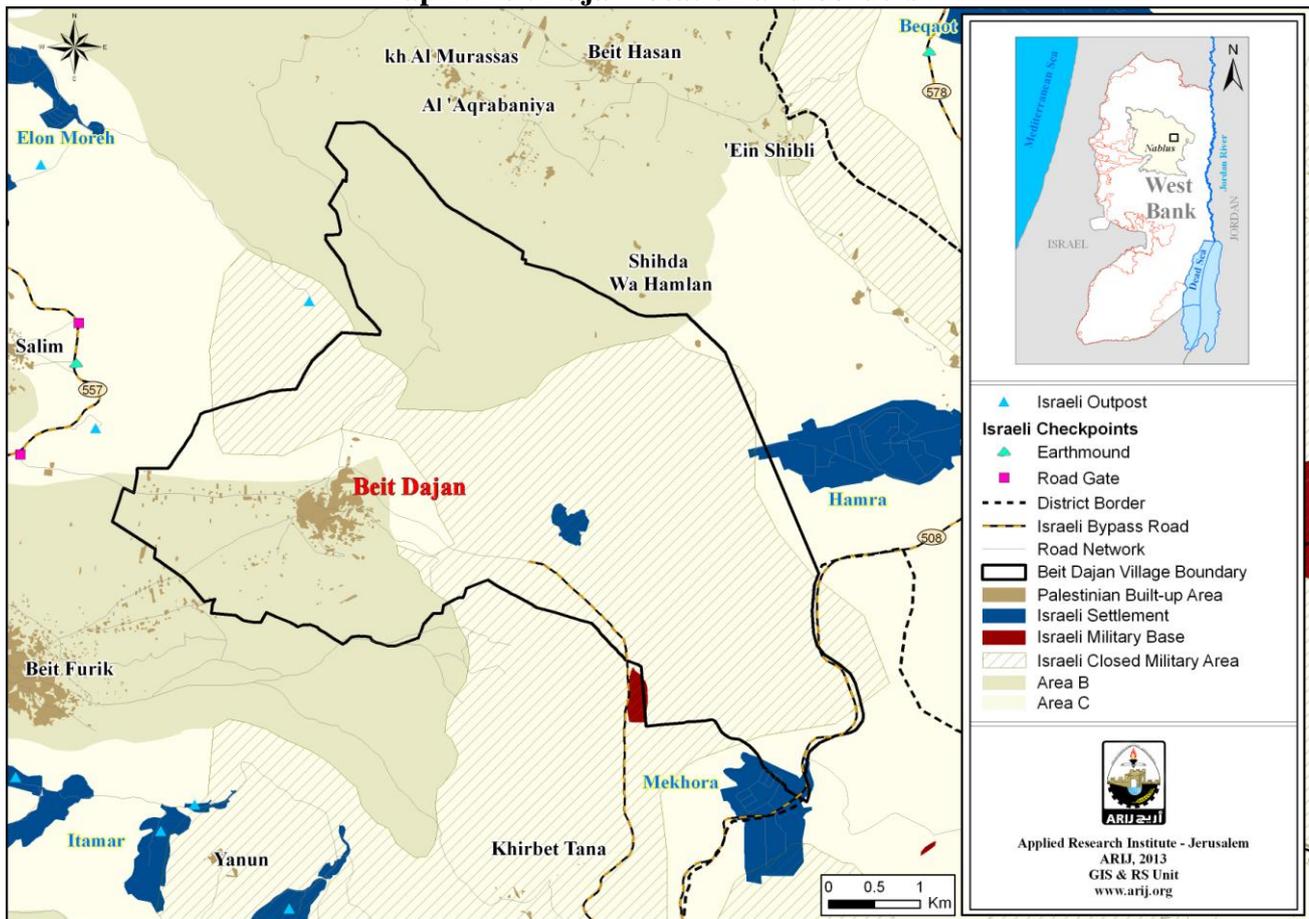
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	12
<i>Environmental Conditions</i>	14
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	17
<i>Implemented Projects</i>	17
<i>Proposed Projects</i>	17
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	18
<i>References:</i>	19

Beit Dajan Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit Dajan is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 10.74km east of Nablus City. It is bordered by Furush Beit Dajan to the east, Al ‘Aqrabaniya to the north, Deir al Hatab and Salim to the west, and Beit Furik to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Beit Dajan location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Beit Dajan is located at an altitude of 512m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 343.3mm. The average annual temperature is 20°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 56% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Beit Dajan village consists of approximately 26,878 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which was stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of local government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the demographic

variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent the space and the borders of private property in the district. It is also not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1996, Beit Dajan has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 4 permanent employees, and 5 part time employees working for the council, which has a permanent headquarters that is included within the ‘Joint Services Council East of Nablus’ (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

The Council’s responsibility to provide a number of services to the residents of Beit Dajan, includes (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water network.
- The establishment of the electricity network.
- Waste collection, street cleaning and public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Provision of a sewerage system service.

History

Beit Dajan village was named relating to a Canaanite God that used to be worshiped in Iraq and was called “Dajon”, which in Syriac means “the house of wheat”, due to it being famous for the cultivation of wheat at the time.

The current village was established during the Roman era, with its residents descending from Da’il in Syria and Beit Hanina in Jerusalem Governorate (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

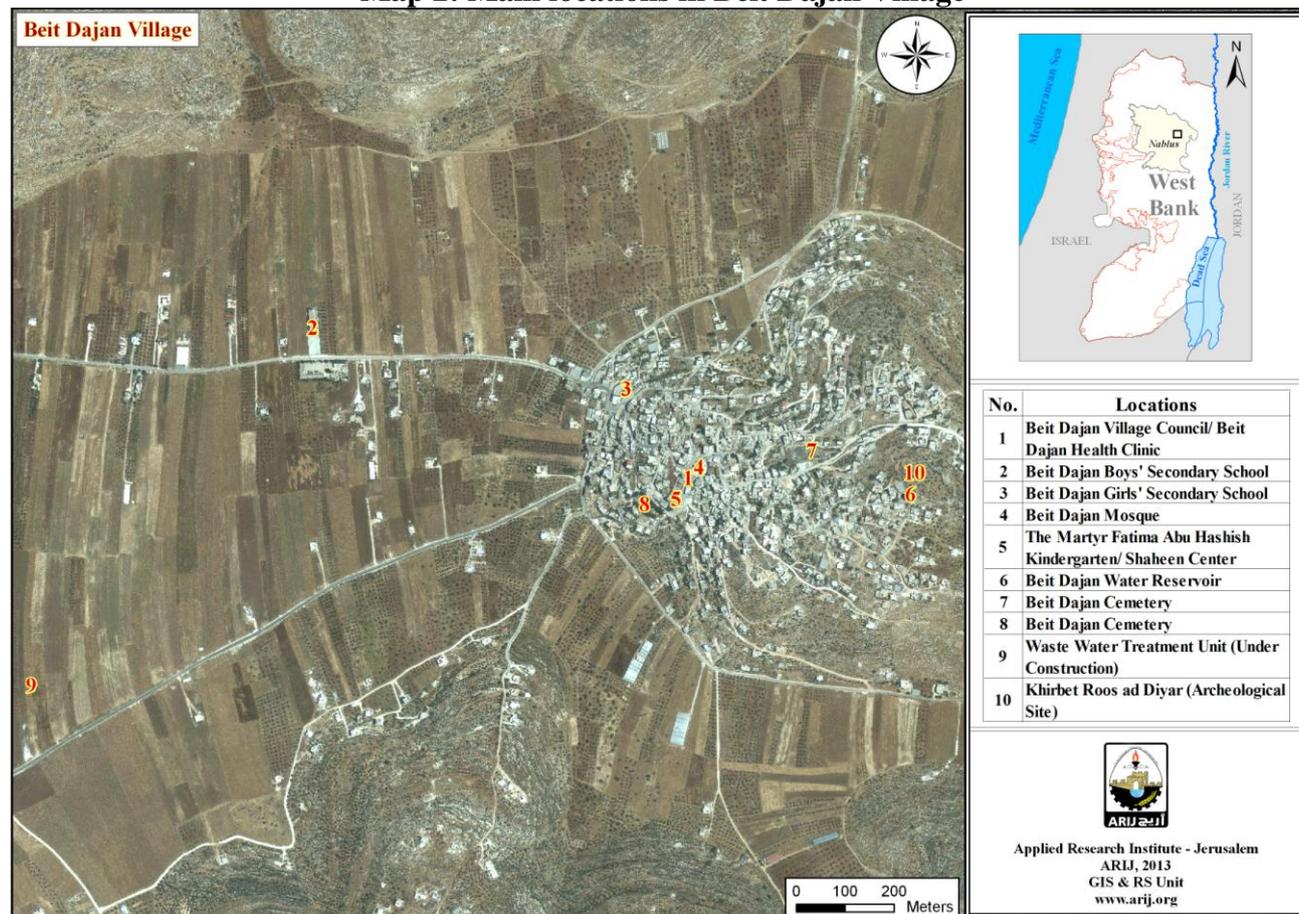
Photo of Beit Dajan



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is only one mosque in the village (Beit Dajan Mosque). The village has several archaeological sites including: Khirbat ‘Erfan as Suqoor and Khirbat Roos ad Diyar (ruins). All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to qualify as a tourist location, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Beit Dajan Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beit Dajan in 2007 was 3,432, of whom 1,726 were male and 1,706 female. There were additionally 640 households registered as living in 740 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 Beit Dajan is as follows: 35.1% were less than 15 years of age, 60.5% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.6% were 65 years or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 101.2:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.3% and 49.7% of the population, respectively.

Families

Beit Dajan residents are from several families, including Abu Habash, Hanini, Abu Hanish, Abu Thabet, Hanaysha, Dar Hamid, Dar Hajj Muhammad, Abdul Jalil, Abu Sa'adah, Abu Ghneim, Abu Za'lan and Abu Halawan (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Beit Dajan population is approximately 6.3%, of whom 81% are females. Of the literate population, 13.9% could only read and write, with no formal education, 26% had elementary education, 28.8% had preparatory education, 15.9% had secondary education, and 8.8% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Beit Dajan by sex and educational achievement in 2007.

Table 1: Beit Dajan population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	34	176	331	449	200	37	87	4	9	1	4	1,332
F	133	187	350	305	216	23	66	-	2	-	1	1,283
T	164	363	681	754	416	60	153	4	11	1	5	2,615

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, but there are no kindergartens (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Beit Dajan by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beit Dajan Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Beit Dajan Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 942 students, 52 teachers, and 32 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 18, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

The educational sector in Beit Dajan village faces a number of obstacles; mainly (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of classrooms at the girls' school.
- Some classrooms' need rehabilitation.
- The lack of suitable playgrounds at the village schools.

Health Status

Beit Dajan has Beit Dajan Governmental Health Clinic, a private general physician clinic and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidiya or the National Hospitals in Nablus city (12 km away) (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of an ambulance service.
- The lack of medicines permanently at the health clinic.
- The unsuitable location of the health clinic; on the second floor, thus it is unsuitable mainly for older people.
- The need for an independent and developed health center.
- The lack of a resident physician working on a daily basis in the health center; the physician works only 4 hours a day at the health clinic.

Economic Activities

The economy in Beit Dajan is dependent mainly on the services sector, which absorbs 25% of the village's workforce (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 for the distribution of labour by economic activity in Beit Dajan are as follows:

- Services sector (25%)
- Trade sector (20%)
- Israeli labor market (20%)
- Government or other employees sector (18%)
- Agricultural sector (15%)
- Industry (2%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labour force among main economic activities in Beit Dajan



Source: Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

Beit Dajan has 40 grocery stores, 3 fruit and vegetable stores, 1 bakery, 5 service stores and 6 different professional workshops (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Beit Dajan reached 18% and the group most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions has been workers in the agricultural sector (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 34.3% of Beit Dajan’s labour force was economically active, of whom 91.6% were employed, 65.6% were not economically active, 51.9% were students, and 40.2% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Beit Dajan population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Un-employed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	746	30	30	806	454	1	48	2	20	525	1	1,332
F	75	4	11	90	437	688	62		4	1,191	2	1,283
T	821	34	41	896	891	689	110	2	24	1,716	3	2,615

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

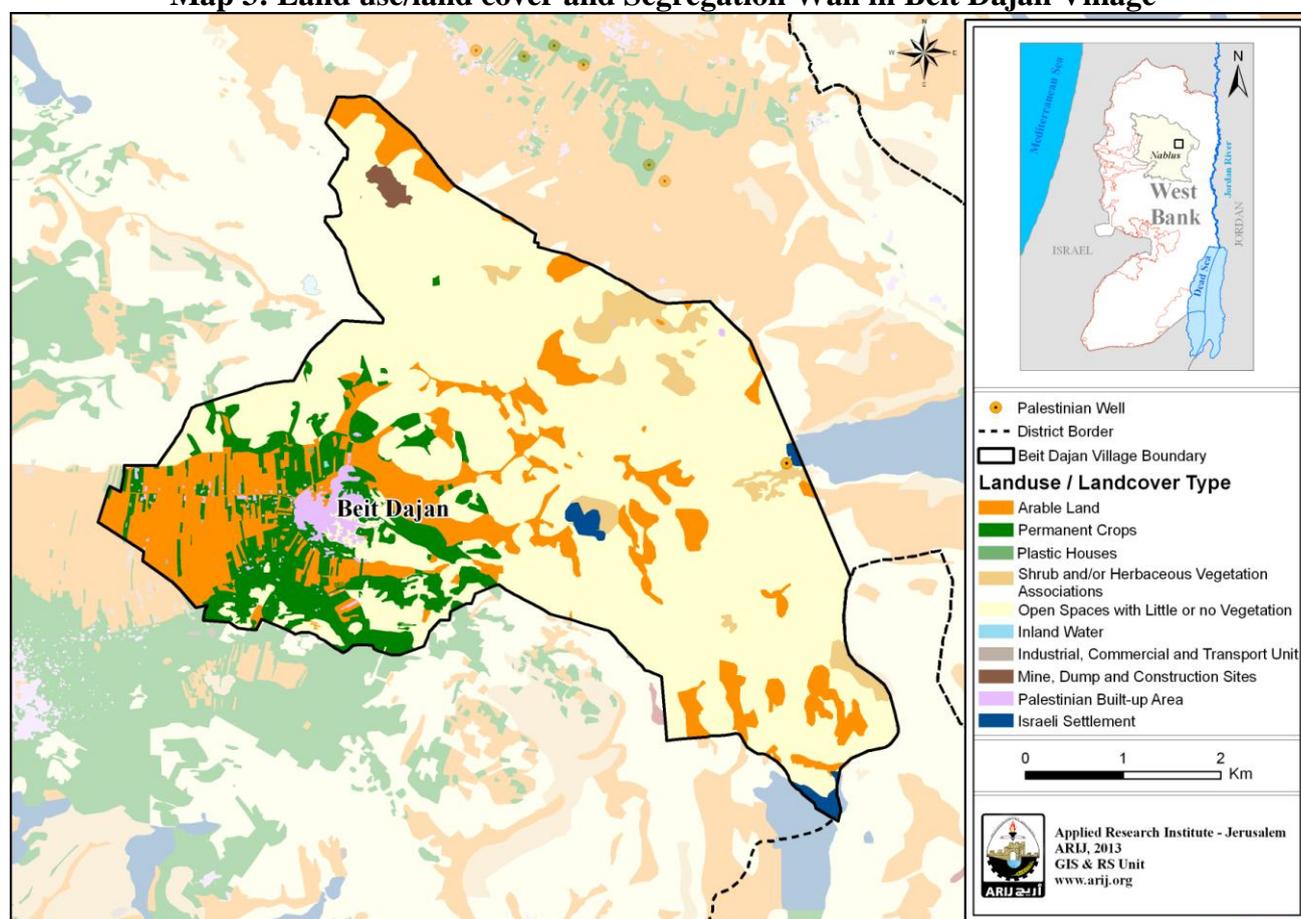
Beit Dajan has a total area of approximately 26,878 dunums of which 8,622 are ‘arable’ land and 384 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Beit Dajan village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (8,622)				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					
26,878	384	2,713	5	880	5,024	3	0	17,548	121	200

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Beit Dajan Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beit Dajan is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 5,181 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village. There are 5 dunums of greenhouses cultivated with different types of plants.

Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Beit Dajan (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
5,181	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	175	0	63	0	5,449	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Beit Dajan, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 1,010 dunums (See Table 6).

Table 6: Total area of forage and field crops in Beit Dajan (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
1,010	0	3	0	35	0	10	0	390	0	0	0	160	0	1,608	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural area is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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 and fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas were not considered. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 20% of the residents in Beit Dajan rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Beit Dajan

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
19	1,240	470	0	0	0	0	25,000	4,500	30

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 21 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Beit Dajan Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	7
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	4
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	-

Source: Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of agricultural roads.
- The high prices of the agricultural inputs.
- The lack of support from the concerned institutions and societies.

Institutions and Services

Beit Dajan village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- **Beit Dajan Village Council:** Founded in 1996 and was later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructural services.
- **Shahin Center Society:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of Culture with the aim of providing cultural activities, assisting educational courses and a kindergarten.
- **Beit Dajan Women Club:** Founded in 1990 and was later registered by the Ministry of Interior. The Society is interested in all issues relating to women, as it provides them with food processing workshops, development and health education courses in addition to manual work.
- **Beit Dajan Sports Club:** Founded in 1996 and was later registered by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, with an aim to implement different voluntary youth work.
- **The Rural women Development Society:** Founded in 1999 and is interested in supporting training and employment projects for women.
- **The Mothers School Society:** Founded in 2008 by the Ministry of Interior with the aim of supporting women through literate courses and children education courses, among others.
- **Beit Dajan Charitable Society:** Founded in 2011 by the Ministry of Interior. The Society's priority is to support needy families and implement development and investment projects.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Beit Dajan has been connected to a public electricity network since 1997. It is served by the 'Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company,' which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the North Electricity Company, and approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the high costs of the network's supplies of poles and cables (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Beit Dajan is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 50% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

There are 11 taxis in addition to 650 private cars in Beit Dajan (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). There are 17km of main roads and 3km of secondary roads in Beit Dajan (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013) (See Table 9).

Table 9: Roads in Beit Dajan Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	5	-
2. Paved & in poor condition	7	3
3. Unpaved	5	-

Source: Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

Water Resources:

Beit Dajan is provided with water by special sources such as wells in the village, through the public water network established in 2009. All housing units are connected to the network (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013)

The quantity of water supplied to Beit Dajan village in 2012 was recorded at approximately 90,000 cubic meters per year (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 64 liters/day. However, no Beit Dajan citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 12% (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). These losses occur at the main source, major transportation lines, along the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Beit Dajan is 56 liters per day (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). The average water consumption of Beit Dajan residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. In addition, the village has a water well that provides the people in the village with water and has 1000 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). In addition, the village has a water tank which holds 500 cubic metres (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

Beit Dajan has a public sewerage network. The percentage of housing units which are connected to sanitation in the village is 90%, and the remainder of the population use cesspits and septic tanks for wastewater disposal (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 174 cubic metres, or 63,000 cubic metres annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 45 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly into open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid Waste Management:

Beit Dajan village council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 6 NIS/ month per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013)

Most of the population in Beit Dajan benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 30 containers (of 1m³ capacity), 25 containers (of 250 litre capacity), and 80 containers (of 80 litre capacity), located at various points in the village. Beit Dajan village council collects the solid waste twice weekly and transports it using a waste vehicle to Eastern Beit Dajan dumping site 3 km from the village, where it is subsequently burned (Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit Dajan is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Beit Dajan residents is nearly 2.7 tons, or 988 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

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

Wastewater Management

The wastewater collected by a public sewerage network in the village means that Beit Dajan residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. 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, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. 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.

Solid Waste Management

The lack of a sanitary landfill to serve the village, is a health hazard and a source of contamination of groundwater basins and soil through the wringer resulting from waste, as well as odours and distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Beit Dajan village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beit Dajan was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 10,158 dunums (38% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 16,720 dunums (62% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Beit Dajan's population resides in Area B while most of the lands

lying within Area C are open spaces, agricultural lands, settlements, and Israeli military bases (See Table 10).

Table 10: The Geopolitical Divisions of Beit Dajan village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	10,158	38
Area C	16,720	62
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	26,878	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Beit Dajan village

Land belonging to Beit Dajan village has been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military bases and the construction of Israeli settlement roads. The village council of Beit Dajan states that most of the land located in the eastern part of the village is deemed to be a closed military zone. Thus, the Israelis have prevented entry or access to Palestinian residents. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of land of the village of Beit Dajan: -

Israel has confiscated an area of 199 dunums of Beit Dajan village for the establishment of "Al Hamra" and "Mekhora" settlements. Founded in 1971, "Al Hamra" settlement is located on the eastern side of Beit Dajan village; it covers an area of approximately 1,582 dunums and contains around 184 Israeli settlers. The settlement is built on Beit Dajan land as well as land from the neighboring village of Furush Beit Dajan. Founded in 1973, "Mekhora" settlement is located to the south-east of the village. It covers an area of 927 dunums and contains around 136 Israeli settlers. "Mekhora" is predominantly built on land belonging to Beit Furik and Al Jiftli villages.

Israeli authorities have also confiscated an area of 54 dunums from the village lands to establish a military base on the eastern side of the village.

Israeli checkpoints in Beit Dajan village

After the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Israeli occupation authorities established a military checkpoint at the entrance of Beit Dajan, consisting of an iron gate and concrete blocks. Earth mounds were also formed at the entrance of the village. This road closure remained until 2013, only being lifted following a decision by the Israeli Court of Justice. Until then, villagers had been forced to use another road passing through Beit Furik to enter Beit Dajan. At the entrance of Beit Furik and Beit Dajan village, Israeli forces established a permanent checkpoint and an observation tower on the settlement road connected to "Elon Moreh" settlement. This checkpoint still exists, but the Israeli occupation forces have reduced their presence in the area in recent year and their obstruction of the freedom of movement of the Palestinian citizens under the calm conditions at the moment.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of residents. Checkpoints continue to hinder freedom of movement and sever the links between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, as well as the connection between the villages and their agricultural lands. This has resulted in heavy economic losses for residents of Beit Dajan as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed. There are also a number of checkpoints on the road leading to “Elon Moreh” settlement used by the occupation forces to protect the security of the settlement.

Israeli bypass roads in Beit Dajan village

The Israeli authorities have constructed a number of bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank. These roads have involved the confiscation of thousands of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements with each other. It also impedes Palestinian territorial continuity, enabling further Israeli control over Palestinian territory. Israel has confiscated land from the eastern side of Beit Dajan village to construct two bypass roads. The first is a military road to link the camp which is located to the east of the village with "Mekhora" settlement. The second is Israeli settlement road No. 508 which connects "Mekhora" settlement to "Hamra" settlement. These roads extend 4km in length on the territory of Beit Dajan village.

Israeli military orders issued in the village of Beit Dajan

Israeli occupation authorities have issued a series of military orders in order to confiscate lands and stop construction work in Beit Dajan. In February 2013, Israeli authorities ordered Beit Dajan residents to halt the construction of 7 houses, under the pretext of prohibition of building without a license in Area C, as per the Oslo agreements, according to the Oslo agreement, and these notifications carry the following numbers: 150678;150679; 150680; 150681; 150682; 150683; and 150684. Israeli authorities refuse most construction permit applications by Palestinians in such areas.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Beit Dajan Village Council has implemented several development projects in Beit Dajan during the past five years (See Table 11).

Table 11: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Beit Dajan during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing retaining walls	Infrastructure	2008	CHF
Establishing a water network	Infrastructure	2009	European Union
Constructing a secondary school for boys	Educational	2010	Japanese Government
Paving sections of the secondary roads	Infrastructure	2010	UNDP
Establishing a sewerage network	Infrastructure	2012	European Union

Source: Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

Beit Dajan Village Council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants' in the workshop:

1. Paving secondary roads (9 km long).
2. Financing the sewerage network with sub-lines (4.5 km) and main lines (2 km).
3. Expanding the water network and installing a pressure modifier.
4. Expanding the electricity network and installing transformers.
5. Constructing and providing a services complex.
6. Building a school.
7. Providing containers for waste collection (100 containers).
8. Creating job opportunities.
9. Establishing public parks, clubs and playgrounds.
10. Constructing agricultural roads (12 km) and supporting farmers.
11. Establishing a sanitary landfill.
12. Providing alternative feed.
13. Providing an internal means of transport.
14. Marketing the handicrafts.
15. Constructing artesian wells.
16. Establishing a structural plan for the village and settling the lands.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beit Dajan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 12: Development Priorities and Needs in Beit Dajan

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			29 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			1.5-2 km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network			*	
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			6 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			60 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			the girls' secondary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			10,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns			*	
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			35 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			2,000 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			
Other Needs					
1	Provision of a multi-use pick up car	*			
2	Supplying household lines for the sewerage network	*			

[^] 12 km main roads, 3 km secondary roads and 14 km agricultural roads.

Source: Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

References:

- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2014. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit Database. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2014. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2012) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2013. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013.*
- *Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Nablus, 2012. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2011/2012). Nablus – Palestine.*
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.*
- *Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2010. Directorate of Agriculture data (2009/2010). Nablus – Palestine.*