

Deir al Hatab 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 about as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment"; the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions in the 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 the 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

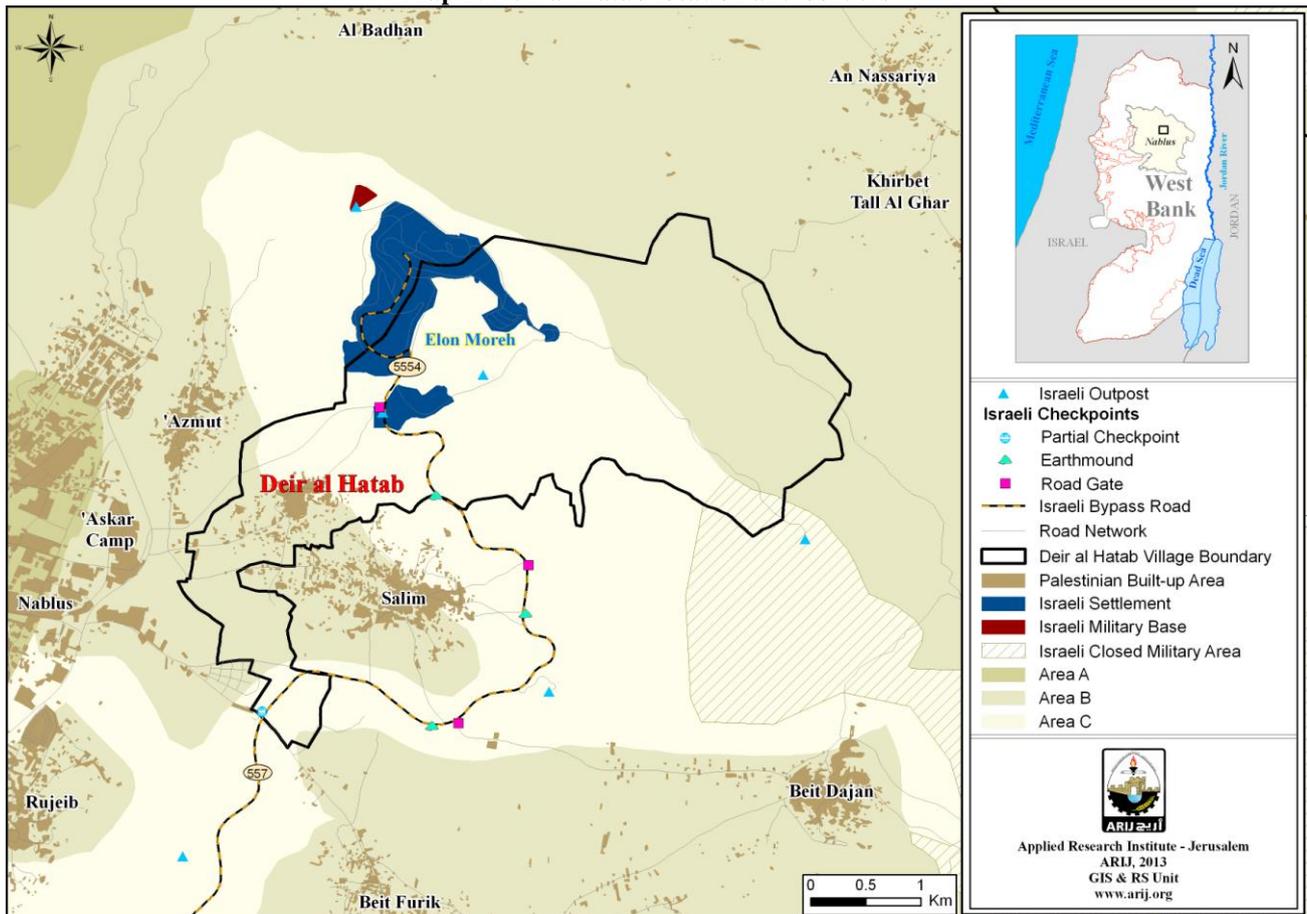
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> _____	4
<i>History</i> _____	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> _____	6
<i>Population</i> _____	6
<i>Education</i> _____	7
<i>Health Status</i> _____	8
<i>Economic Activities</i> _____	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i> _____	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i> _____	11
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> _____	12
<i>Environmental Conditions</i> _____	13
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</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

Deir al Hatab Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Deir al Hatab is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 5.7km east of Nablus City. It is bordered by BeitDajan to the east, Al ‘Aqrabaniya and ‘Azmutto the north, ‘Azmut and Nablus city to the west, and Salim village to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (see map 1).

Map 1: Deir al Hatab location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Deir al Hatab is located at an altitude of 510m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 420.24mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 59% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Deir al Hatab village consists of approximately 11.464 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 1994, Deir al Hatab has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 3 employees working for the council. The council owns permanent headquarters which is included within the east Joint Services Council. The Council does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Deir al Hatab, including

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water
- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity networks.
- Road rehabilitation, construction, paving and social services.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Organization of transportation.

(Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013)

History

Deir al Hatab village's name derives from the old monasteries' inhabited by Christians. It is said that it was called "Deir al Dahab", and during this time, the residents were targets of frequent violence and theft believing that the village possesses an abundance of gold. Therefore, their distinguished citizens and elderly suggested that they rename it "Deir al Khashab" in order to avoid thieves' greediness and violence. Later on, it was renamed "Deir al Hatab".

The village was established more than 1000 years ago during the Roman period. Its residents originally came from Al-Salt in Jordan, Al- Lod in the occupied lands of 1948 and al-Bireh city in Ramallah (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

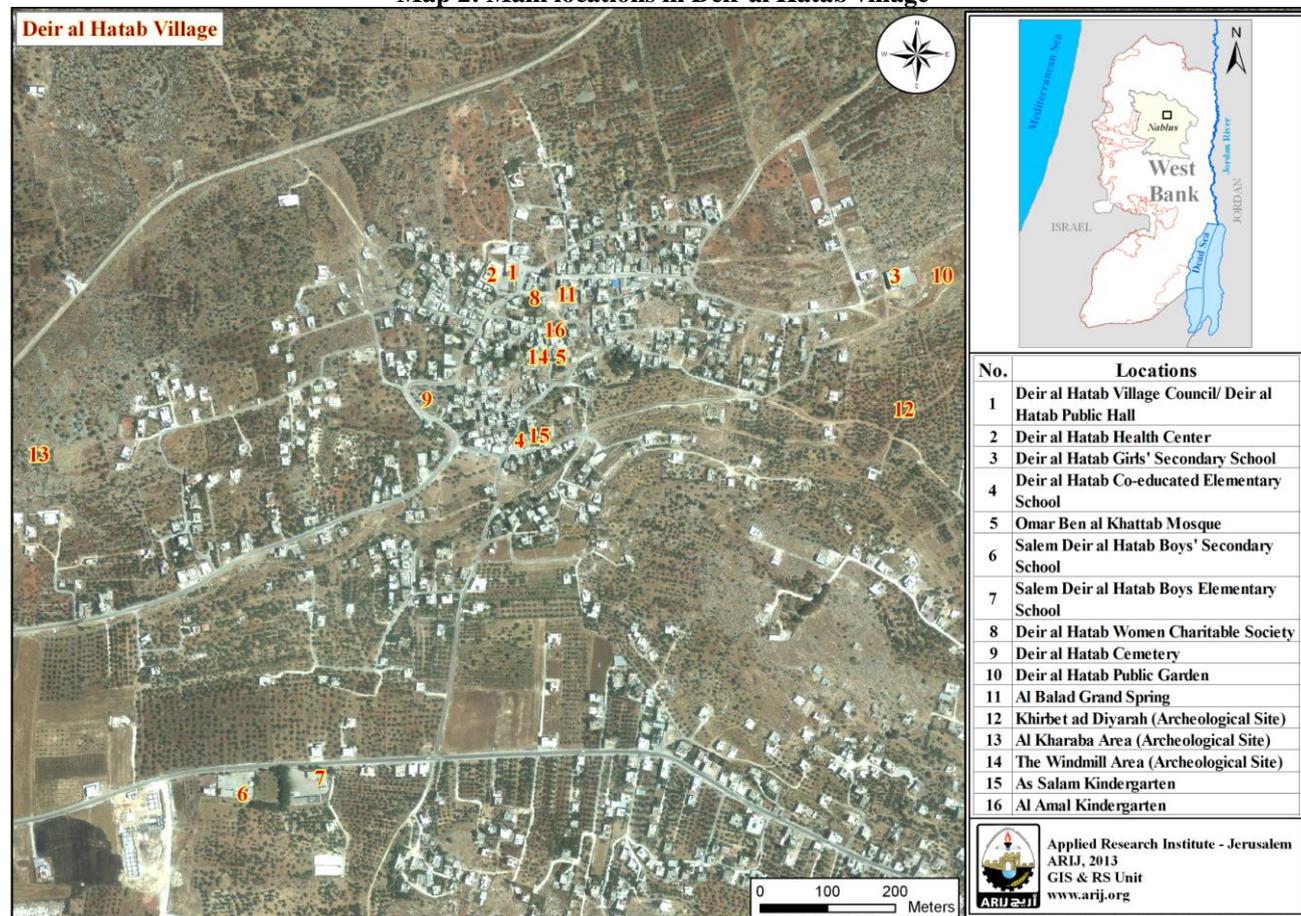
Photo of Deir al Hatab



Religious and archaeological sites

There is one mosque in the village (Umar ibnAl-Khattab Mosque). The village does not have any archeological sites. (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Deir al Hatab village



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir al Hatab in 2007 was 2179, of whom 1079 were male and 1103 were female. There were 368 households registered as living in 430 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Deir al Hatab was as follows: 38.9% were less than 15 years of age, 57.4% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.7% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 100:97.6, meaning that males and females constituted 49.4 and 50.6% of the population, respectively.

Families

Deir al Hatab residents are from several families, including the Hussein, Omran, Odeh, Zamel, 'Amor, Shehada, Al-Hajj As'ad, Othman, and al-Mash'ate families (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census- 2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the population of Deir al Hatab is approximately 5.8%, of whom 83.1% are females. Of the total population, 17.7% could only read and write with no formal education, 23.5% had elementary education, 20.9% had preparatory education, 18.8% had secondary education, and 13.4% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Deir al Hatab by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Deir al Hatab population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	16	123	178	178	164	65	89	2	7	1	0	823
F	79	167	207	164	145	29	26	0	0	0	0	817
T	95	290	385	342	309	94	115	2	7	1	0	1.640

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are two public schools in the village, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Deir al Hatab by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Deir al Hatab Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Deir al Hatab Co-education Secondary School	Government	Co-education

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

There are 405 students, 23 teachers, and 14 classes in the village. 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).

There is only one kindergarten in Deir al Hatab village, which is run by a private organization (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Deir al Hatab village by name and supervising authority

Name of kindergarten	No. of classes	No. of teachers	Supervising authority
Al-Amal Kindergarten	2	2	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

However, in cases where higher levels of education in certain subjects are not available, for example in the field of science, students enroll at Nablus City Schools which is located 5km away from Deir al Hatab. (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Deir al Hatab village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The long distance between the school and the village center
- The location of the Deir al Hatab Girls' Secondary School near the street of ElonMoreh settlement and non-existence of a wall around the school for the girls' safety.
- The overcrowded classrooms, which calls for the need of a new school.

(Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

Health status

Deir al Hatab has some health facilities. It has Masqat governmental health clinic, a governmental medical lab, and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidia Governmental Hospital in Nablus City (5km away).

(Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of an ambulance.
- The insufficient working days of the medical physician, which is only twice a week.
- The lack of an X-ray center and specialized medical labs with full medical equipment.
- The unavailability of some medicines

(Deir al HatabVillage Council, 2013)

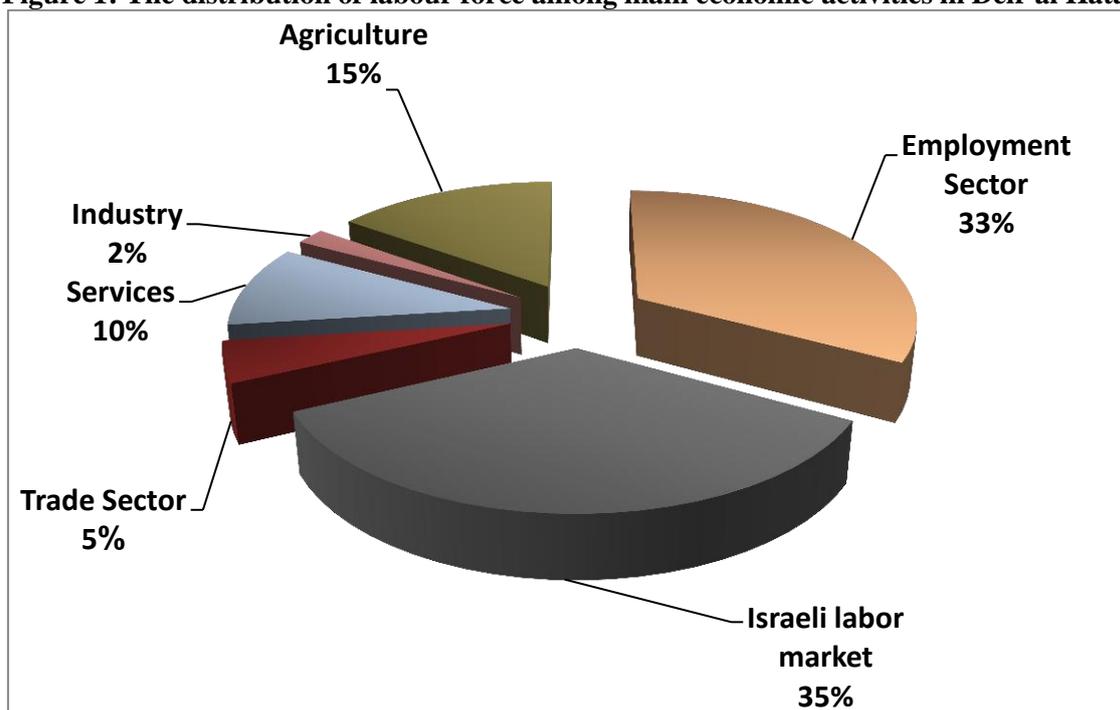
Economic activities

The economy in Deir al Hatab is dependent primarily on the Israeli labour market which absorbs 35% of the village's workforce (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013) (see figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 on the distribution of labour according to economic activity in Deir al Hatab are as follows:

- Israeli labour market (35%)
- Government or other employees sector (33%)
- Agricultural sector (15%)
- Services sector (10%)
- Trade sector (5%)
- Industry (2%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labour force among main economic activities in Deir al Hatab



Source: Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013

Deir al Hatab has 13 grocery stores, 2 different service stores, and 4 professional workshops (such as blacksmiths, carpenters etc.) (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Deir al Hatab reached 20%. The groups most affected economically by Israeli restrictions have been the Agricultural sector (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, 29.4% of Deir al Hatab’s labour force was economically active, of whom 89% were employed, 70.6% were not economically active, 56.2% were students, and 34.6% were housekeepers (see table 4).

Table 4: Deir al Hatab population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Not economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	389	38	13	440	324	1	41	7	10	383	0	823
F	40	1	1	42	327	400	39	8	1	775	0	817
T	429	39	14	482	651	401	80	15	11	1,158	0	1,640

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

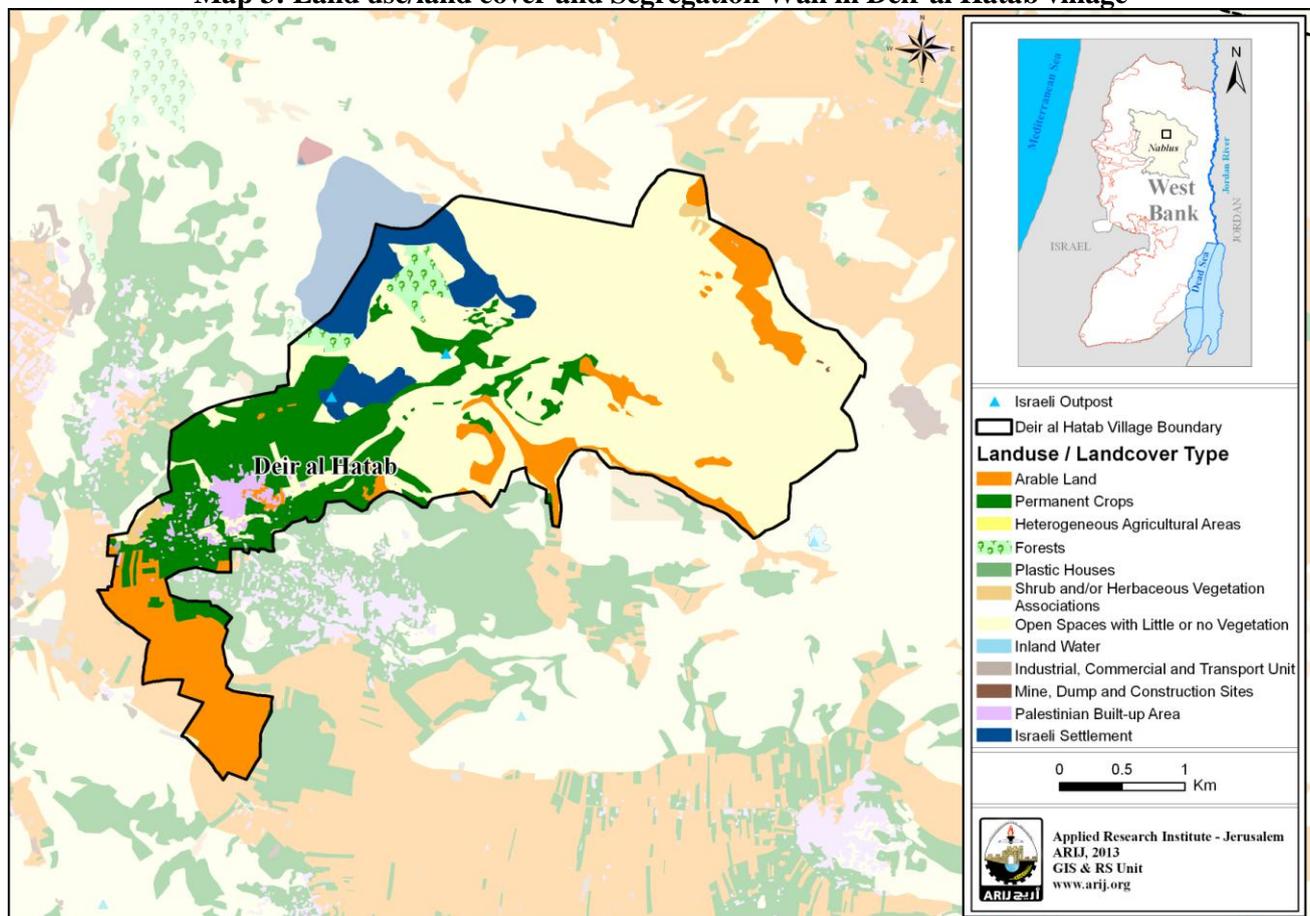
Deir al Hatab has a total area of approximately 11.464 dunums of which 3.849 is arable land and 189dunums are registered as residential land (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Deir al Hatab village (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (3,849)				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					
11.464	189	2.080	1	100	1.668	0	207	6.553	7	659

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Deir al Hatab village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

The different types of vegetables are rain fed and irrigated in open spaces in the village of Deir al-Hatab. An increasing number of species are grown in the village, such as green beans, which covers about 3 dunums (Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010). There is also one dunum of greenhouses planted with different types of vegetation (Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010).

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Deir al Hatab is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2.915dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Deir al Hatab (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stonefruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2.915	0	0	0	6	0	11	0	120	0	37	0	3.089	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture- Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Deir al Hatab, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 565dunums (see table 7).

Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in Deir al Hatab(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.
565	0	6	0	43	0	1	0	210	0	0	0	11	0	836	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 4.5% of the residents in Deir al Hatab rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Deir al Hatab

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Beehives
35	850	175	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	30

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 20 km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural roads in Deir al Hatab village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	10
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	-

Source: Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- The lack of water available in the village.
- The lack of range lands due the confiscation of most of it by the occupation forces.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The confiscation of lands by the occupation forces, and the lack of access to other agricultural land without permits or prior security coordination by the Israeli Civil Administration as it is close in proximity to ElonMoreh settlement.

(Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and services

Deir al Hatab village has no governmental institutions and it has a number of local organizations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Deir al Hatab Village Council:** Founded in 1994 and later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, as well as infrastructural services.
- **Deir al Hatab Charitable Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs with the aim of providing various services concerning health services such as health education and food safety.

(Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Deir al Hatab has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982. It is serviced by the Israeli Qatari Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village and 80% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network.

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

Transportation services:

There are 5 taxis and 100 private cars in Deir al Hatab (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013). There are 2.7km of main roads and 6.5km of secondary roads in Deir al Hatab (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Deir al Hatab village

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	1.8	2.5
2. Paved and in poor condition	0.9	1
3. Unpaved	-	3

Source: Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013

Water resources:

Deir al Hatab is provided with water by the Israeli Microt Water Company through a public water network. 100% of the housing units are connected to the network (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Deir al Hatab village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 98.500 cubic meters per year (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 110 liters/day. However, no Deir al Hatab citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses which is estimated at 45% (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013). This loss occurs at various points including the main source, along major transport lines, within the distribution network and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Deir al Hatab is estimated to be roughly 60liters per day (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013). The average water consumption of Deir al Hatab residents is low compared to the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 3.5 NIS (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

Deir al Hatab lacks a public sewerage network and most of the residents use cesspits as the primary means of wastewater disposal (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 119 cubic meters, or 43,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 48 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. 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 and to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid waste management:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste in Nablus 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 10 NIS per household is charged to the residents and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. 100% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Deir al Hatab benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 20 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste twice weekly and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zahret al Finjan dumping site in Jenin Governorate, 30 km away from the village, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir al Hatab is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Deir al Hatab residents is nearly 1.7 tons, or 628 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

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

Water crisis

The public water network is in poor condition and the water loss amounts to 45%.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewerage network in the village means that Deir al Hatab residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets. This is particularly common in winter as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods contribute to 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 the residents' health.

Solid waste management

Deir al Hatab village does not face any problems concerning the management of solid waste, as the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environmentally friendly landfill serving the village, as well as most of the other localities in the Nablus Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Deir Al Hatab village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Deir Al Hatab was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 4,783 dunums (42% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 6,681 dunums (58% 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 Deir Al Hatab's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land or has been taken for Israeli settlements (See Table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Deir Al Hatab village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	4,783	42
Area C	6,681	58
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	11,464	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Deir Al Hatab village

Hundreds of dunums of land belonging to Deir Al Hatab village have been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military outposts, and the construction of Israeli settlement roads. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of land of the village of Deir Al Hatab:

Israeli Settlements on Deir Al Hatab Village:

Israel has confiscated 659 dunums from Deir Al Hatab village for the establishment of "Elon Moreh" settlement, located to the north-eastern side of the village. Founded in 1979, and contains approximately 1595 Israeli settlers. It is partially built on the lands of Deir Al Hatab and 'Azmout village.

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on Deir Al Hatab land has had a profoundly negative impact on village residents and their property. Palestinian land owners are unable to access their lands, as they have been fenced off with barbed wire. Settlers have planted trees in these areas to reinforce their control over the area. The settlers have either stolen crops or damaged and burned a number of Palestinian owned trees and plants. Settlers have also attacked the land owners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their land, located near the settlements.

Israel has confiscated some lands from Deir Al Hatab and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements in the area for the purpose of the establishment of Israeli settlements, but also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Where according to the Land Research Center, the settlement "Elon Moreh" became a daily threat on the inhabitants living in the neighboring Palestinian villages. Since the establishment of this settlement in 1979, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked ,Animals, homes and other private property have also been attacked. Settlers have also cut off the village's electricity supply by destroying the electricity network.

According to the Land Research Center, in 2009 settlers constructed a barbed wire fence around a water spring (known locally as the Big Spring) which is one of the most important water sources in the village. The spring is located on the eastern side of Deir al-Hatab. This is in spite of a ruling by the Israeli Court of Justice, which states the right of Deir al-Hatab residents to this spring.

Israeli industrial zone on the territory of the village of Deir al-Hatab

The Israeli occupation authorities established an industrial area on the territory of Deir al-Hatab village, linked to "Elon Moreh" settlement. Around 50 dunums of land were confiscated for this purpose. The industrial area is located near the entrance of "Elon Moreh" to the south side. According to the Israeli website Shkhim, this industrial area contains businesses working in the meat transformation sector, spice factories, and animal skin processing factories to be used for religious purposes.

Israeli military base on the territory of Deir al-Hatab

Israeli authorities have confiscated 12 dunums from Deir al-Hatab for the establishment of a military base to the north-eastern side of the village , near to "Elon Moreh" settlement. This military site is located near to the entrance of "Elon Moreh" settlement in order to separate "Elon Moreh", and the it separates between the settlement and Deir al-Hatab, and 'Azmout.

Israeli checkpoints around Deir al-Hatab village

After the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities established checkpoints and iron gates at the entrance of Deir al-Hatab as well as Salim and 'Azmout. Flying checkpoints have also been established.

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 Deir al-Hatab as they are forced to travel further distances in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed. These checkpoints were partly removed in 2009, after years of suffering in this area . However a number of checkpoints still exist on the road leading to “Elon Moreh” settlement ” , the occupation forces use it to protect the settlements.

Israeli bypass roads on Deir al-Hatab village

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural land in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli security control on these roads. Israel has confiscated Deir al-Hatab village territory for the construction of Israeli bypass road No. 555, which links “Elon Moreh” settlement with “Huwwara” checkpoint and “Itamar” settlement. This road runs 15km in length and 20m wide, with 3km running on Deir al-Hatab land. The rest of the road is established on land belonging to ‘Azmout and Salim villages. This road starts from Huwwara area to connect “Itamar” settlement with “Elon Moreh” settlement.

According to the Land Research Center, this settlement road was established in 1996 with a width of 20 meters, on the village territory of Deir al-Hatab, 'Azmout and Salim. This road surrounds the residential area from the east side and isolates Deir al-Hatab residents from their agricultural land; the Land Research Center estimates the isolated area is approximately 8,000 dunums, which is more than 70% of the total village area.

Israeli outposts in the Deir al-Hatab village

Land from Deir al-Hatab was also confiscated by Israeli settlers for establishing two illegal settlement outposts to the east of the village on the hills that surround “Elon Moreh” settlement. The aim of these outposts is to extend “Elon Moreh” settlement and in turn, control more Palestinian land.

During the past two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Bank, which later became known as settlement outposts. The outposts are foundations for new settlements, and tend to be extended branches of a mother settlement a few miles away. The process usually begins with the establishment of mobile caravans on the land that has been taken by the settlers. Establishing settlement outposts was encouraged by Ariel Sharon; the aim was for Jewish settlers to occupy Palestinians hill tops and create facts on the ground, so that Palestinians could not claim the land if there was ever to be a future solution between the two sides. Consecutive Israeli governments have provided security and logistical support for these outposts. Since 2001 when Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister, there has been a significant increase in the number of outposts across the West Bank. The Israeli army has also supported illegal Israeli settlers in their relocation to the settlements, in

addition to providing security and infrastructure support. This is to ensure the permanence of the settlements.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Deir al Hatab Village Council has implemented several development projects in Deir al Hatab during the past five years (see table 12).

Table 12: Implemented development plans and projects in Deir al Hatab during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing a health center	Public Services	2008	Oman charitable Organization
Constructing and paving roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Constructing and paving roads	Infrastructure	2011	USAID
Establishing a public park	Public Services	2011	The World Bank
Establishing a Public hall	Public Services	2012	The World Bank

Source: Deir al Hatab Village Council, 2013

Proposed projects

Deir al Hatab 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 workshop participants:

1. Establishing a sewerage network (approx. 8km)
2. Building new boys' school
3. Establishing a public water reservoir (500 meter cubic)
4. Implementing agricultural projects
5. Implementing investment projects
6. Constructing an educational kindergarten and headquarters for the village association.
7. Constructing retaining walls
8. Furnishing the Village Council building
9. Providing a tractor and a splash tank
10. Providing solid waste containers
11. Rehabilitating the public park
12. Providing agricultural equipment especially for the Village Council
13. Constructing a new women's club
14. Constructing an educational center
15. Creating development projects and courses
16. Paving the secondary roads (approx. 6km)

Locality development priorities and needs

Deir al Hatab suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 13: Development priorities and needs in Deir al Hatab

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			12.2km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			9.5km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			2km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500M ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			7km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*		*	3km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			25 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Boys' secondary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Deir al Hatab Girls' Secondary School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			For all schools
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			150 Cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks			*	
4	Provision of veterinary services			*	
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			150 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	The need to lift electricity	*			

[^]0.9km main roads, 1,3km secondary roads, and 10km agricultural roads

Source: Deir al Hatab 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.*
- *Deir al Hatab 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.*