

Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets which contain compiled demographic information and a needs assessment of the populations of each city, town, and village in the Ramallah Governorate. These publications come as a result of the comprehensive study of all localities in the Governorate and aim to depict the overall living conditions there, whilst also presenting plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the Jerusalem population. This was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" a 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 of the Ramallah region, along with reporting the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions there.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and their existing limitations. Based on these findings, the project further aims to conduct a needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in the Ramallah 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 a focus on the *agricultural sector*.

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

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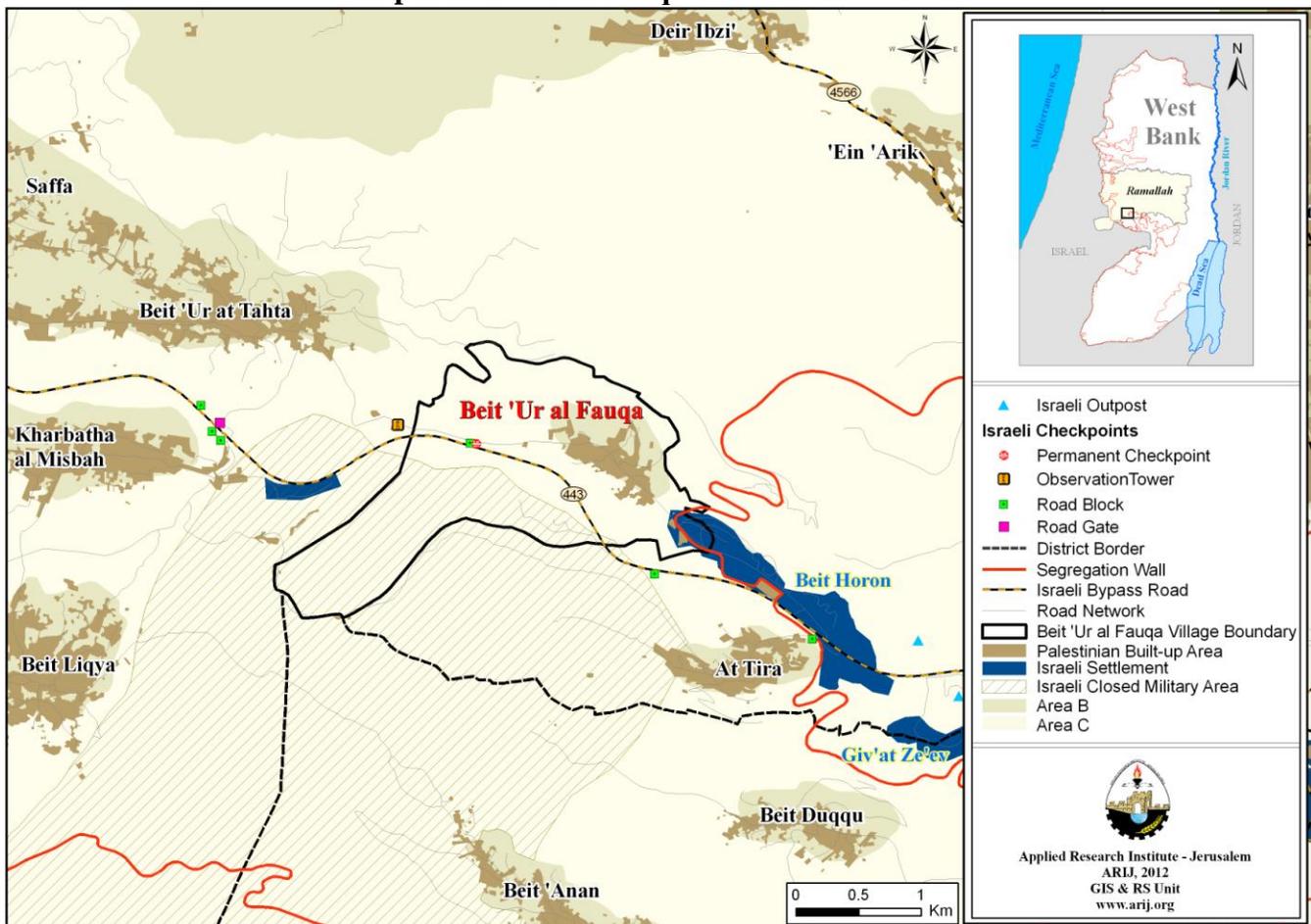
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Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit 'Ur al Fauqa is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 8.4km west of Ramallah City. Beit 'Ur al Fauqa is bordered by Beituniya town lands to the east, Deir 'Ibzi' village to the north, Beit 'Ur at Tahta and Kharbatha al Misbah to the west, and At Tira village and Beit 'Anan lands to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Beit 'Ur al Fauqa location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Beit 'Ur al Fauqa is located at an altitude of 597m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 580.7mm. The average annual temperature is 17 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1996, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa has been governed by a village council included within the Joint Services Council for Saffa, Beit ‘Ur, At Tira and Beit Sira. The village council is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority; the council owns a permanent headquarters but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa, including (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

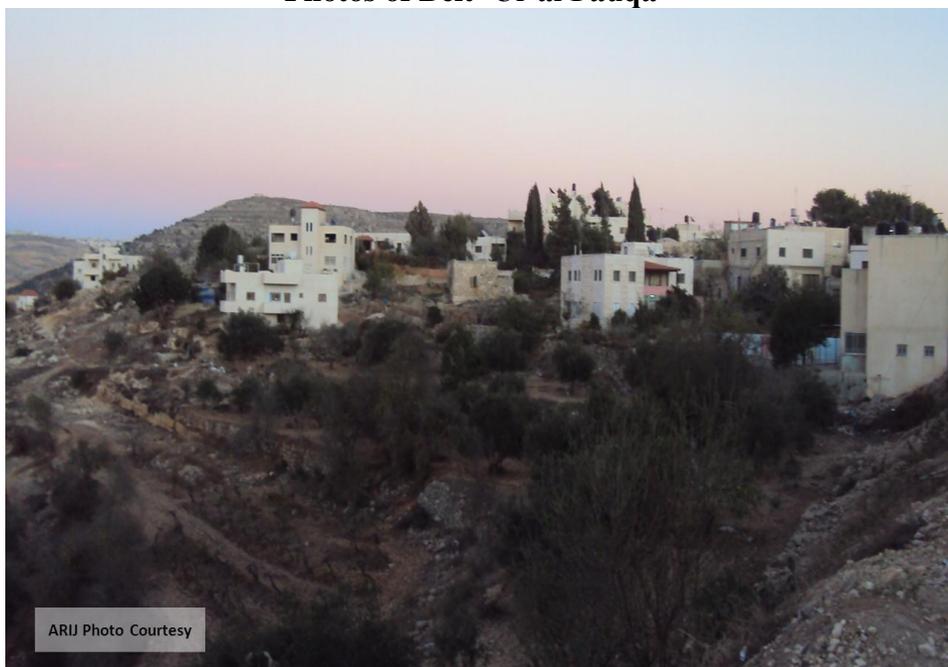
1. Infrastructure services, such as water and electricity provision and management.
2. Solid waste collection and social development services.
3. Provision of transportation.

History

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa was established by the Canaanites, who named it ‘Beit Horon al ‘Ulya’ (literally ‘the high cave’) (Al Dabbagh, 1991).

The village was established hundreds of years ago; the current residents are originally from Dura in Hebron (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village).

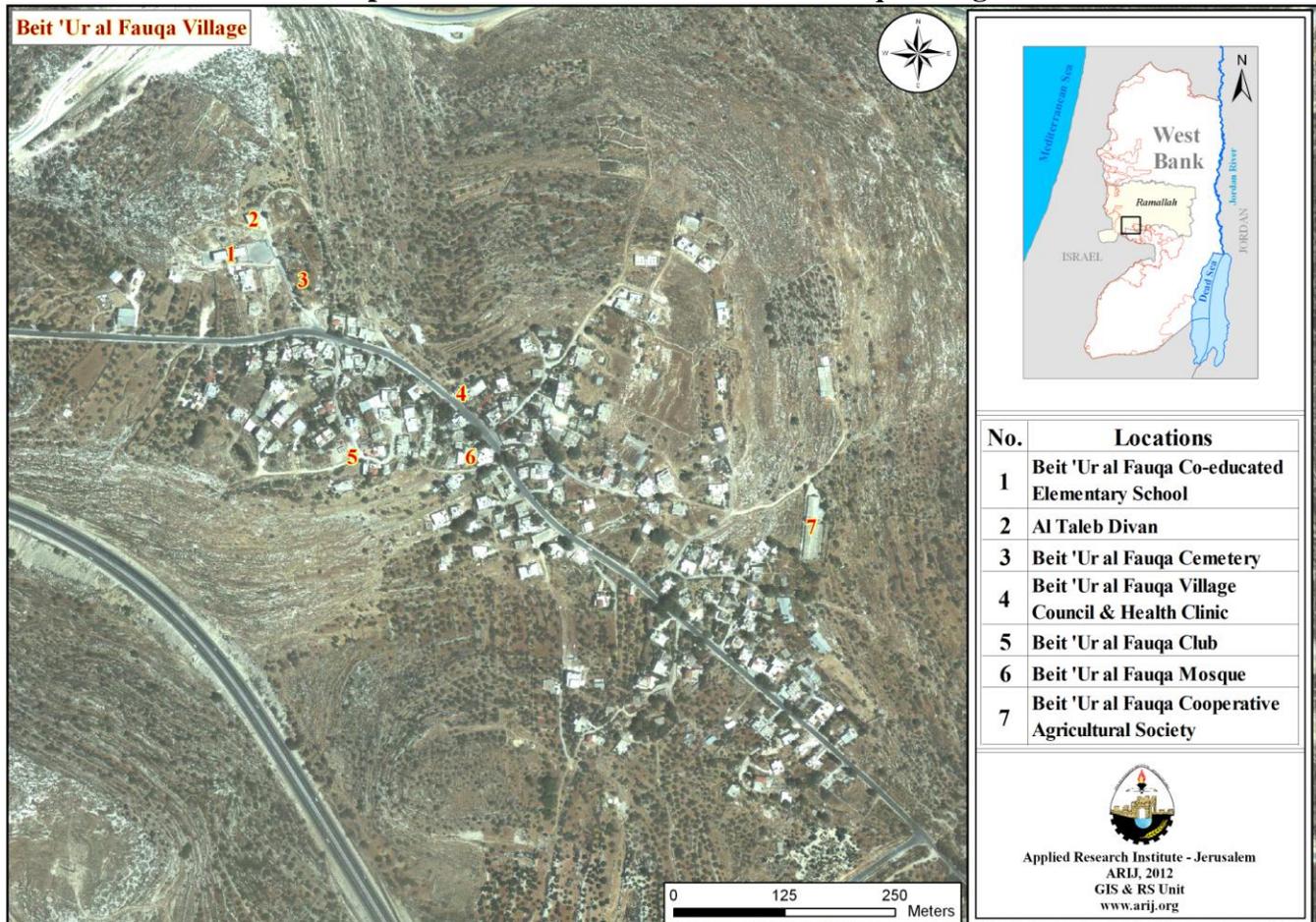
Photos of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque in the village, Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Mosque. There are several sites of archaeological interest, including an old mosque and a hosting room (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011), Khirbet Deir Hassan, Khirbet Qrein'a, Khirbet az Zeit and Khirbet Harfoosh (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beit 'Ur al Fauqa in 2007 was 812, of whom 412 were male and 400 female. There were 178 households living in 185 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 'Ur al Fauqa was as follows: 35.8% were less than 15 years of age, 60.3% were

between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.8% were 65 years old or over. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 103:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.7% and 49.3% of the population respectively.

Families

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa residents are from several families, mainly the Samarah, Taleeb, Zahran, ‘Olwi, Al Hajj, Rayyan and Abu Teir families (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that 8 families have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa population was about 7%, of whom 76.7% were females. Of the literate population, 7.7% can only read and write with no formal education, 18.1% had elementary education, 32.8% had preparatory education, 19.6% had secondary education, and 14.2% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa population (10 years of age and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	10	19	63	110	68	12	29	-	2	1	-	314
F	33	28	48	91	52	11	31	-	1	-	3	298
T	43	47	111	201	120	23	60	-	3	1	3	612

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There is one public school in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Coeducated Elementary School) and there are no kindergartens in the village (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

In 2011 the village had 89 students, 9 teachers, and 6 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school was nearly 10, whilst the average number of students per class was approximately 15.

Due to the lack of high schools in the village, students head to Beit Liqya village or Beituniya town schools to complete their secondary education (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

The educational sector in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village faces some significant obstacles, mainly (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

- The large distances between the high schools and the village.
- Harassment by Israeli occupation forces and settlers of students travelling to and from school.
- The existence of the Segregation Wall on the road leading to the high schools.
- The difficulties in accessing some schools (At Tira and Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Co-educated School) because of permanent and partial checkpoints at the village entrances.

Health Status

There are no health centers or services available in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa. Therefore, residents of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa use private clinics in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta, 5km from the village (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village faces some obstacles and problems, including:

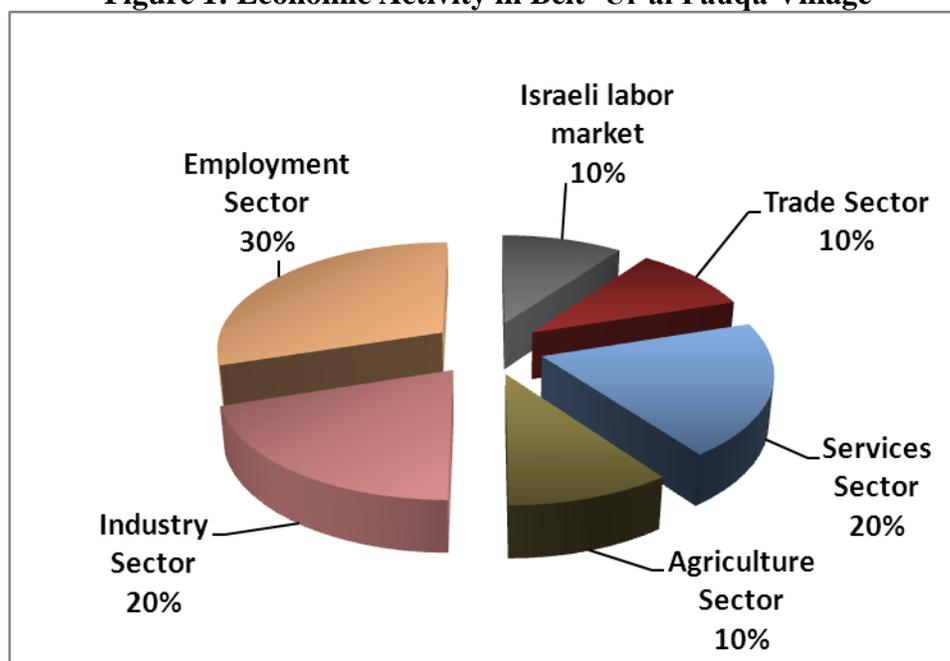
1. The lack of health or medical services in the village.
2. The difficulties in reaching the nearest health clinics.
3. The lack of a village ambulance.

Economic Activities

The economy in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the employees sector, which absorbs 30% of the village workforce (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011) (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ staff in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa are as follows:

- Government or Private Employees Sector (30%)
- Services Sector (20%)
- Industry (20%).
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Israeli Labor Market (10%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village

Source: Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011

There are 3 grocery stores, 12 different professional workshops, and 5 different service stores in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa reached approximately 20% in 2011, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions are (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the services sector.
- Workers in industry.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in the employees sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 36.4% of the Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa labor force was economically active, of whom 95.1% were employed, 63.6% were not economically active, 51.4% were students, and 37% were housekeepers (See Table 2).

Table 2: Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	183	6	1	190	104	-	17	3	-	124	-	314
F	29	-	4	33	96	144	25	-	-	265	-	298
T	212	6	5	223	200	144	42	3	-	389	-	612

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

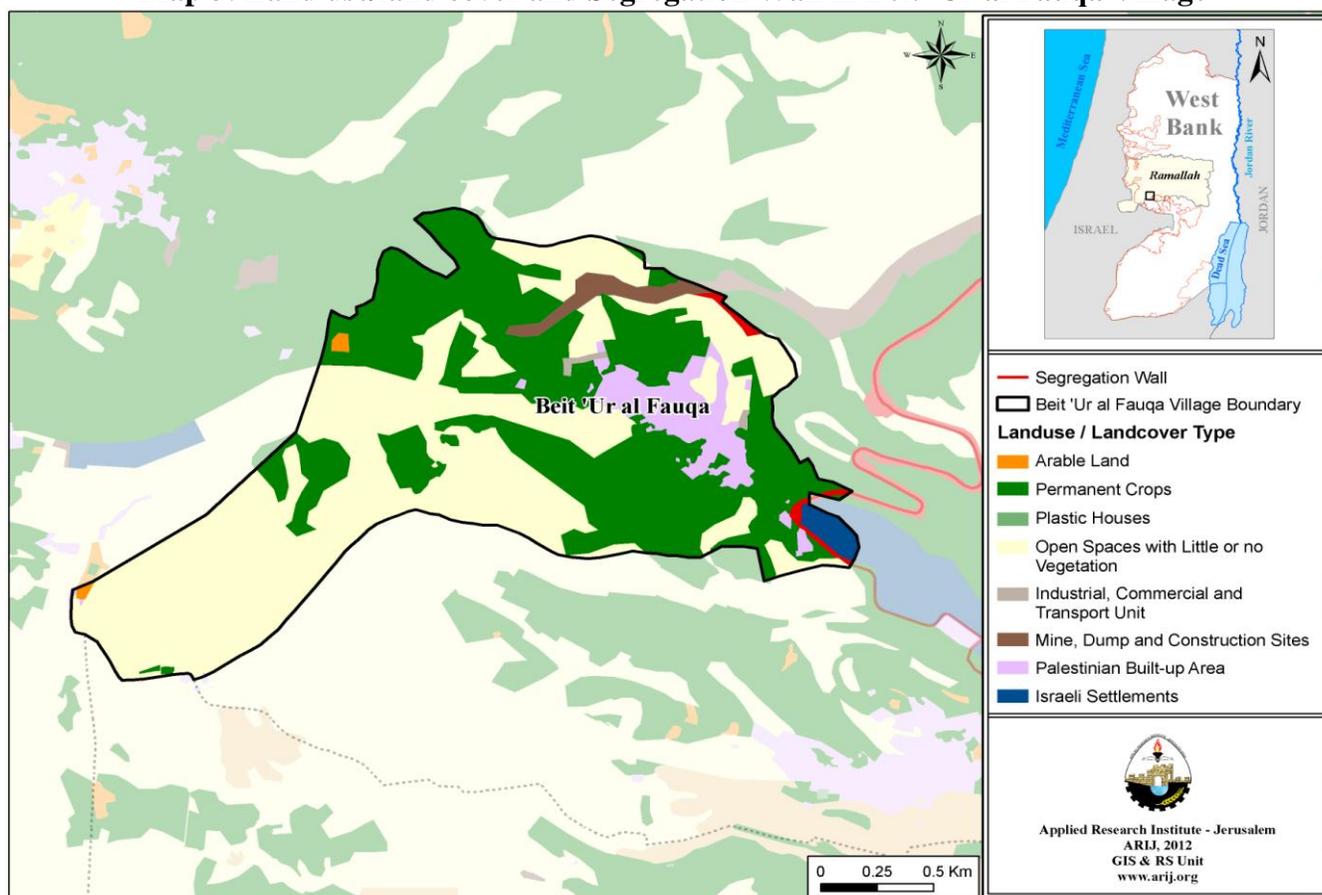
Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa lies on an area of 3,516 dunums, of which 1,440 dunums are arable land and 203 dunums are dedicated to residential services (see Table 3 and Map 3).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,440)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlement, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
3,516	203	1,430	0	0	10	0	0	1,753	77	43

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa. The most common crop cultivated within this area is squash.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
40	2	0	0	20	3	10	0	2	0	72	5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa is famous for olive cultivation; there are 775.5 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 5: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village (dunum)

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.
775.5	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	30	0	42	0	868.5	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 80 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as lentils (See Table 6).

Table 6: Total area of field crops in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village(dunum)

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
80	0	20	0	32	0	10	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	192	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

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 staff shows that 3% of the residents in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
23	142	213	0	0	0	0	101,600	10,500	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are approximately 10 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	4

Source: Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011.

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems and obstacles, including (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

- The lack of access to agricultural lands due to the Segregation Wall.

- The confiscation of lands by the Israeli occupation.
- The lack of wells to assist farmers in land cultivation.
- The lack of awareness and experience in agriculture on the part of many farmers.
- The lack of agricultural tools and fertilizers.
- The lack of capital.

Institutions and Services

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village has no governmental institutions. However, the village has a number of local institutions and associations to provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

- **Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Sports Club:** Founded in 2001 by the village’s youth with an interest in sports and cultural activities for young people.
Hasad Center: Founded in 2004 by the Belgian Government, the Center specializes in displaying Palestinian heritage and arranging Dabkah dancing.
- **The Women’s Committee:** Founded in 2001 by the women of the village, with an interest in women issues in the village, particularly defending and claiming their rights.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company and is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents experience some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

1. The weak electrical power supply and power cuts during winter months.
2. The poor condition of the electricity network.
3. The electricity transformers are small and not sufficient to cover all residents.

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

5 public buses, 1 taxi and 12 illegal/unlicensed cars are the main forms of transportation in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village. In addition to the insufficient number of vehicles, residents must contend with the

existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads, the Segregation Wall, and the unqualified main streets (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011). There are 7km of main roads (5km of which are paved and in good condition and 2km of which are paved but in poor condition), and 30km of secondary roads (15km of which are paved but in poor condition, and 15km of which are unpaved) (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the village with water through a water network constructed in 1983. This network supplies water to almost 95% of the housing units in the village. The quantity of water supplied to the village reached approximately 29,710 m³ in 2008 (PWA, 2009), and therefore the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 100 liter/capita/day. However, no resident of Beit 'Ur al Fauqa consumes this amount of water due to water losses from the transfer of water and its distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units. Water losses reach approximately 50%, and therefore the average water consumption per capita is 50 liter/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is significantly less than the recommended amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

There are 30 household harvesting cisterns in the village. Finally, each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4.5 NIS (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

Beit 'Ur al Fauqa lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits for the disposal of waste water (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 33 cubic meters, or 12,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 35 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without concern for the environment. 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 Planning & Development for West of Ramallah Region 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 of 12 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good solid waste management and only 90% of these fees are collected from citizens (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Beit 'Ur al Fauqa benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then and then transferred to 15 containers distributed amongst different neighborhoods. The Joint Council collects the

solid waste from the containers twice a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to Saffa dumping site, 10km from the locality, where it is burnt (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit 'Ur al Fauqa is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Beit 'Ur al Fauqa residents is nearly 0.6 tons, equating to 208 tons per year (ARIJ _ WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, in Beit 'Ur al Fauqa 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 during summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- Lack of a public water reservoir in the village.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Beit 'Ur al Fauqa residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns), because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve in Beit 'Ur al Fauqa 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. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is 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.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 425 dunams (12.1% of the total village area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a 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, villages and some camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the village’s population resides in area B which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the village. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 3,091 dunams (87.9% of the total area), is 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. Most of the lands lying within the area C are agricultural areas and open spaces (table 9).

Table 9: The Geopolitical Divisions of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	425	12.1
Area C	3,091	87.9
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	3,516	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Thousands of dunams have been lost in the village through Israeli confiscations of lands. These confiscations benefit Israel in different ways, including but not limited to the building of Israeli settlements and outposts on the village’s lands, constructing Israeli bypass roads in order to connect settlements with neighboring ones, and the implementation of the Segregation Wall plan. Through the construction of the Segregation Wall Israel is aiming at isolating more area extending from the north to south in the western part of the West Bank, seizing the most fertile agricultural lands and isolating Palestinian communities into cantons (ghettos). This undermines the regional integration between Palestinian towns and villages. Furthermore, Israel will control Palestinian natural resources and will include the majority of Israeli settlements into the state of Israel. The following are details on the Israeli confiscation of the village’s lands:

Table 10: Israeli Settlements constructed over Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village’s lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated	Population of settlers
Beit Horon	1977	863	1,139
Total		863	1,139

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Israel confiscated an area of 863 dunums of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village lands (0.9% of the total village area) so as to build the Israeli settlement Beit Horon, which is a part of the Israeli bloc Giv’at Ze’ev. Beit Horon is inhabited by 1,139 Israeli settlers (table 10).

In 2005 the Israeli government proposed a plan that suggests the integration of all major Israeli settlements in the West Bank. These are Ma’ale Adumim, Ariel, Giv’at Ze’ev, Gush Etzion, and Modi’in Illit. It incorporates all lands on which those settlements are established into Israel behind the Wall, considering them an essential part of the Israeli State. The plan was considered important and wise because it “...contributes to security, political standing, economy and to the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel” as was said by the former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon when meeting with the former American president George Bush in 11th April 2005. With the implementation of the Segregation Wall plan; which is supposed to be completed by 2012, Israel will include the major Israeli settlements and blocs into its border. This is in addition to the other settlements that lie to the west of the Wall. Altogether, the total number of Israeli settlements and blocs that will be incorporated into Israel by the end of the Wall construction is 107.

The Government of Israel has also confiscated more land from Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village to construct Israeli bypass road no. 443¹ in order to connect Beit Horon with other neighboring Israeli settlements to the east (within Giv’at Ze’ev bloc), settlements in east and west Jerusalem, the Modi’in Illit bloc and settlements within the Green Line. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, which extends to approximately 75 m on each side of the road. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has a negative and destructive impact on the village. According to the latest revised route of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense’s website on 30th April 2007, the wall extends a length of 1.9 km on the land of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa and causes the isolation and confiscation of 878 dunums. This accounts for 1.4% of the total village area. The majority of the isolated lands are open spaces and agricultural areas which constitute a main source of income for many Palestinian families in the village (table 11).

Table 11: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa – Ramallah Governorate

Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
Agricultural Lands	9
Israeli settlements	863
Wall Zone	6
Total	878

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

¹ The Israeli bypass road 443 is considered the main link between Ramallah City and many other Palestinian Villages in the southwest of the City, such villages include Saffa, Beit Sira, Kharbatha al Misbah, Beit Ur at Tahta, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa At Tira and Betuniya.

Issued Military Orders in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa for the construction of the Segregation Wall, including the following:

- Israeli Military Order No. (50/05/T): Issued on the 22nd of March 2005. It confiscates a total land area of 1123 dunums from the lands of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa, Beit ‘Ur at Tahta and Deir ‘Ibzi’ villages for the construction of a bypass road.

Israeli Military Order No. (112/03/T): Issued on the 31st of December 2003. It confiscates a total land area of 480 dunums from the lands of Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa and Beituniya villages for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village council has implemented several development projects in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa during the past five years (See Table 12).

Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishment of a new water network	Infrastructure	2010	ANERA
Restoration of the old hosting building	Public Services	2010	Pontifical Mission
Establishment of a street lightings network	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Construction of an elementary school	Educational	2009	PECDAR & ANERA
Source: Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011			

Proposed Projects

Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the workshop participants (Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011):

1. Establishing a health clinic to serve the village.
2. Establishing a public park in the village.
3. Constructing agricultural roads (20 km).
4. Constructing agricultural cisterns (25 cisterns).
5. Constructing a headquarters for the club and kindergarten.
6. Creating small projects involving women.

7. Finding a solution to eliminate stray animals.
8. Supplying the village with trees and pesticides.
9. Establishing a sports stadium.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beit 'Ur al Fauqa 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 point of view (Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011).

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Beit 'Ur al Fauqa

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			13.2km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
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		*		1000m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			5km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			5km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			60 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			a health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			secondary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*		secondary level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1000 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			20 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*		12 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		200 tons/ year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*		3 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

*2.2km are main roads, 5km are sub roads and 6km are agricultural roads

Source: Beit 'Ur al Fauqa Village Council, 2011.

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