

Burham Village Profile



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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 Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Ramallah Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "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 unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Ramallah 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 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 the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

Table of Contents

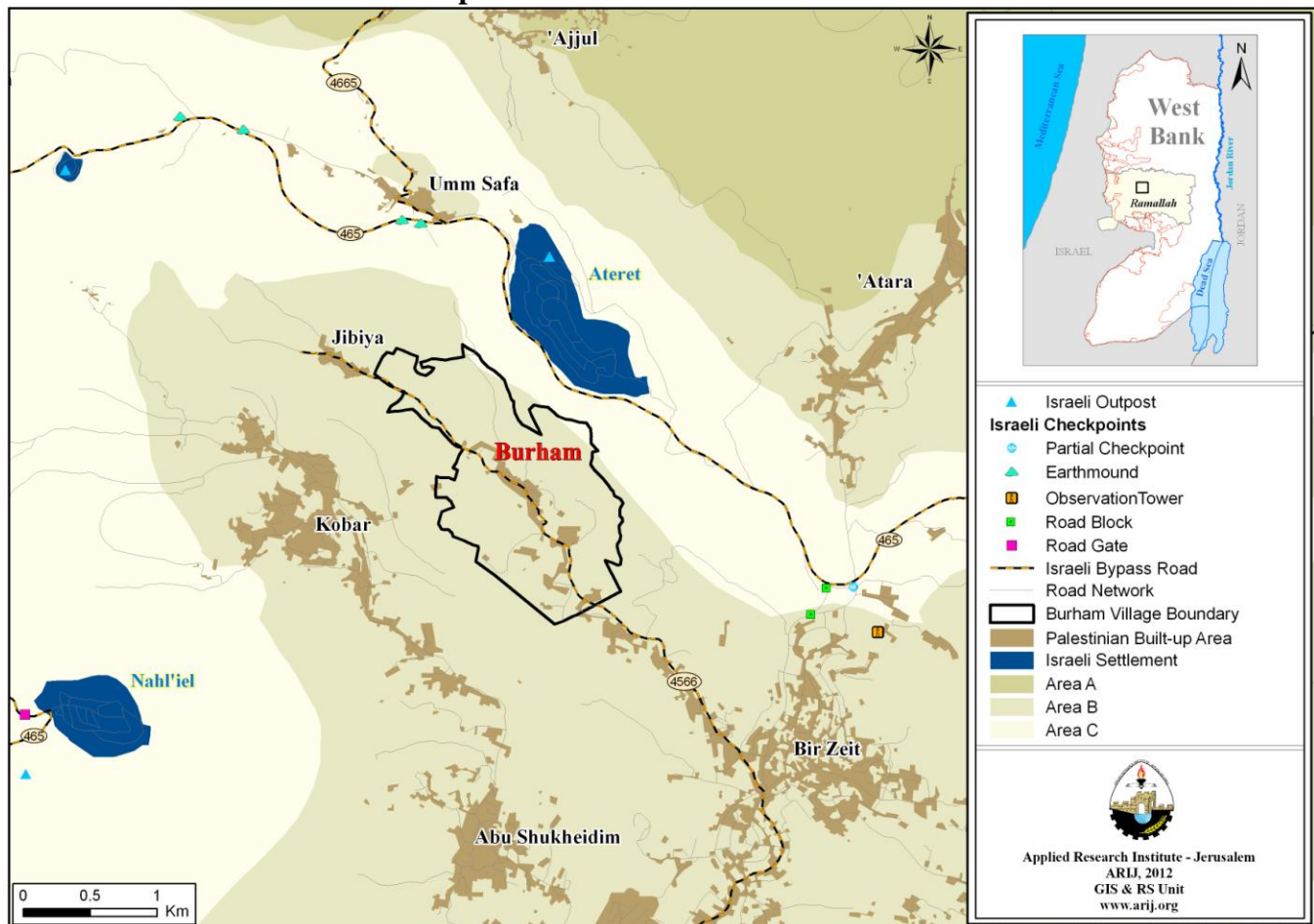
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	9
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	12
<i>Environmental Conditions</i>	14
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i>	15
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	16
<i>Implemented Projects</i>	16
<i>Proposed Projects</i>	16
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	17
<i>References:</i>	18

Burham Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Burham is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 9.8km north of Ramallah City. Burham is bordered by 'Atara village and Bir Zeit lands to the east, Umm Safa and Jibiya villages to the north, Kobar village to the west, and Bir Zeit town and Kobar lands to the south (ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Burham location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012

Burham is located at an altitude of 675m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 710.9mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1996, Burham has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by 5 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority with one employee. The village council has a (rented) permanent headquarters but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Burham Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Burham, including (Burham Village Council, 2011):

- Road construction, paving and restoration.
- Solid waste collection and street cleaning.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the village.

History

Burham village was named after a Sheikh called Ahmad Burham ad Dini who resided in the village (Burham Village Council, 2011).

The establishment of the village goes back to the Omayyad period (Burham Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Burham village).

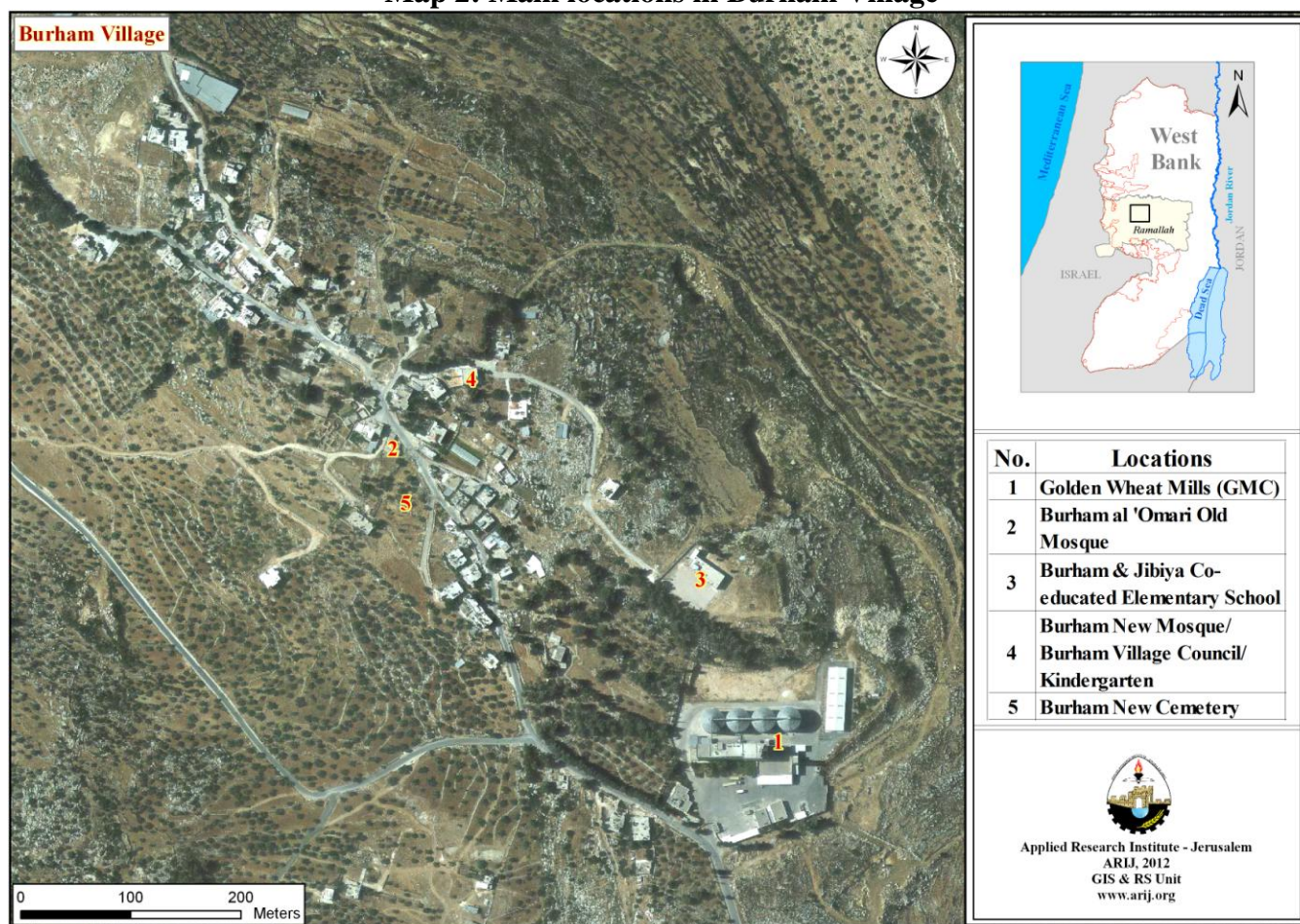
Photos of Burham



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village, Burham Old and Burham New Mosques. There are several sites of archaeological interest in the village: Al Burhani mosque, an old church, and Burham old city. None of these sites are qualified for tourism and all are in need of renovation and rehabilitation (Burham Village Council, 2011) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Burham Village



Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Burham in 2007 was 579, of whom 288 were male and 291 female. There were 120 households living in 130 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 Burham was as follows: 42.5% were less than 15 years of age, 53% were between 15 and

64 years of age, and 4% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village was 99:100, meaning that males and females constituted 49.7% and 50.3% of the population respectively.

Families

Burham residents are from several families, mainly the Dar Ali, Dar 'Aruri, Dar Hasan, Dar Falyan, and Abu Hareem families (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Burham population was approximately 4.5%, of whom 88.9% are females. Of the literate population, 15.1% could only read and write with no formal education, 20.6% had elementary education, 29.6% had preparatory education, 14.6% had secondary education, and 14.1% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Burham by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Burham 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	2	28	45	69	27	11	10	-	2	-	4	198
F	16	32	37	49	31	20	13	-	-	-	2	200
T	18	60	82	118	58	31	23	-	2	-	6	398

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There is one governmental co-educational school in the village, Burham & Jibiya Co-educated Elementary School, which is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MoEHE). There are no kindergartens in the village (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

In the village there are currently 110 students, 13 teachers, and 9 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 8, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 12.

Due to the lack of some educational levels in Burham students attend Prince Hasan Boys Secondary School and Al Majida Wasila Girls Secondary School, both located in Bir Zeit town 3km and 5km from Burham respectively (Burham Village Council, 2011).

The educational sector in Burham village faces some obstacles, mainly (Burham Village Council, 2011):

1. The lack of playgrounds in schools.
2. The lack of transportation for students.

Health Status

There are no health services available in Burham village. Therefore, residents of Burham use healthcare facilities in Bir Zeit town or Ramallah city, 5km and 20km from the village respectively (Burham Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, including (Burham Village Council, 2011):

1. The lack of any health services in the village.
2. The lack of an ambulance.

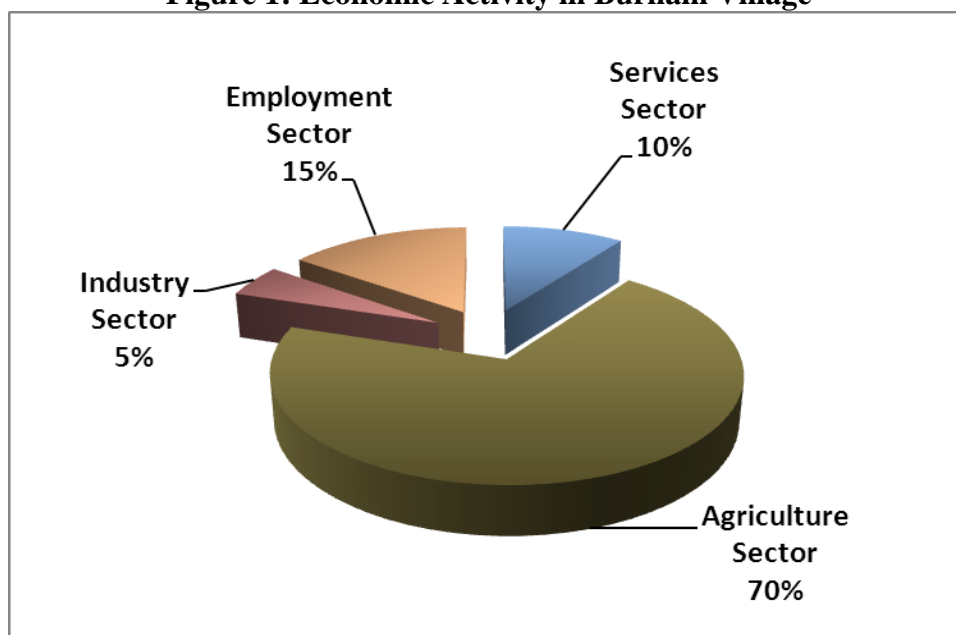
Economic Activities

The economy in Burham is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agricultural sector, which absorbs 70% of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Burham are as follows (Burham Village Council, 2011):

- Agriculture Sector (70%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (15%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Industry (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Burham Village



Source: Burham Village Council, 2011

Burham village has two grocery stores and the Golden Wheat Mills are also located in the village (Burham Village Council, 2011). The unemployment rate in Burham reached approximately 20% in 2011, and the economic groups most affected by policies and procedures associated with the Israeli occupation have been (Burham Village Council, 2011):

1. Agricultural workers.
2. Workers in industry.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 41% of the Burham labor force was economically active, of whom 79% were employed, 57.8% were not economically active, 54.3% were students, and 33.9% were housekeepers (See Table 2).

Table 2: Burham population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status-2007

S E X	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	97	28	-	125	56	-	12	2	-	70	3	198
F	32	6	-	38	69	78	11	2	-	160	2	200
T	129	34	-	163	125	78	23	4	-	230	5	398

Source: PCBS, 2009.

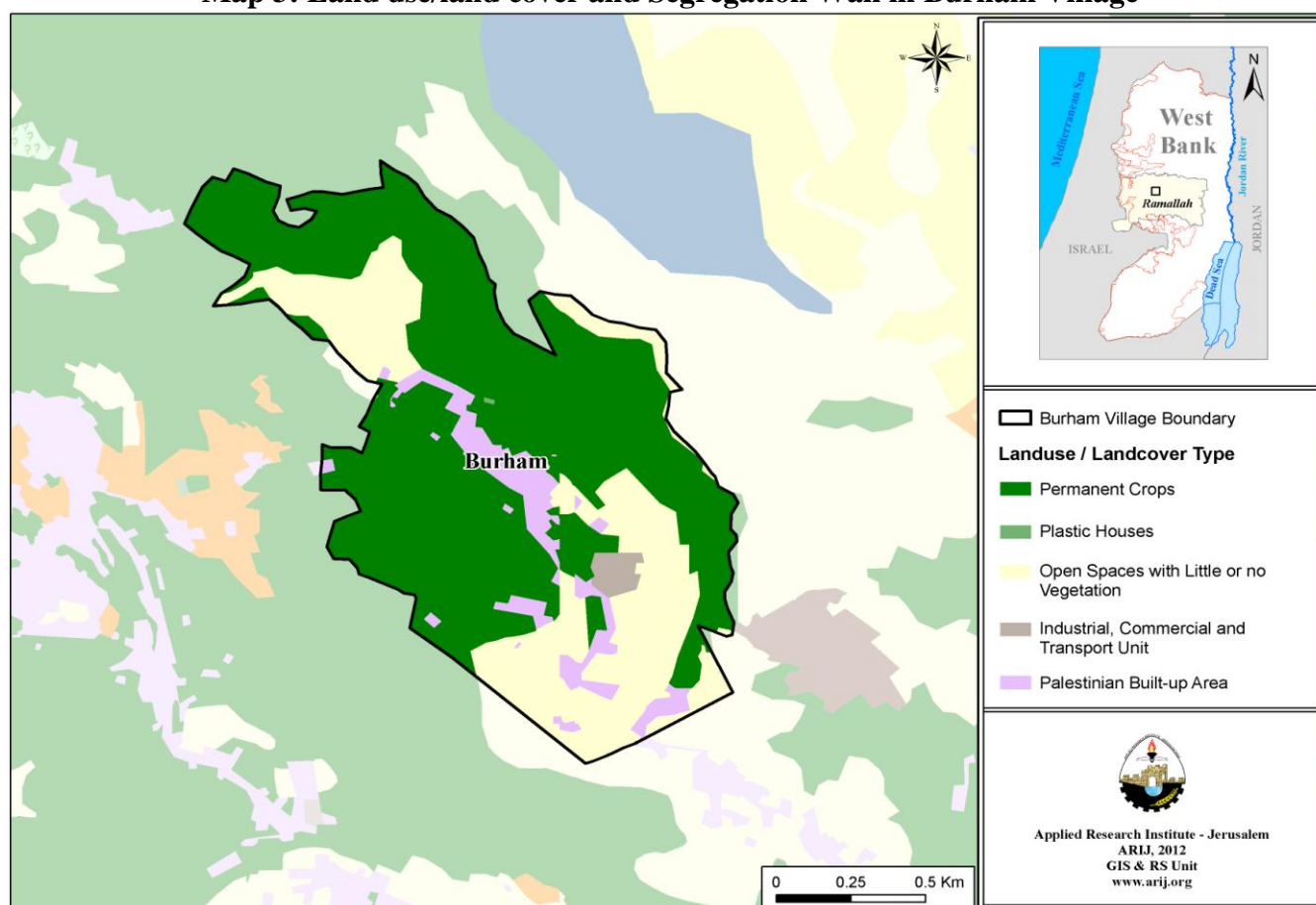
Agricultural Sector

Burham lies on an area of 1,935 dunums, of which 1,234 dunums are arable land and 138 dunums are dedicated to residential services (see Table 3 and Map 3).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Burham village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,234)				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					
1,935	138	1,233	1	0	0	0	0	542	22	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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

Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Burham. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is tomatoes.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Burham 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.
16	0	0	0	18	0	4	0	0	0	38	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Burham is famous for olive trees; there are 1,189.5 dunums of land planted with olive crops in the village.

Table 5: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Burham 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.
1,189.5	0	0	0	2.5	0	0	0	20.5	0	45	0	1,257.5	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Burham, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 60 dunums (See Table 6).

Table 6: Total area of field crops in Burham 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
60	0	11	0	13	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	94	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The field survey conducted by ARJ staff in 2011 shows that 5% of the residents in Burham rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and chickens (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Burham village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	49	167	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	22

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are approximately 50 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Burham Village Council, 2011):

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Burham Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	-
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	30
Unsuitable	10

Source: Burham Village Council, 2011

The agricultural sector in the village faces some obstacles and problems, primarily (Burham Village Council, 2011):

- The lack of water sources.
- The lack of agricultural equipment.
- The lack of capital to invest in agricultural business.
- The lack of labor force (agricultural workers).

Institutions and Services

Burham village has no governmental institutions. The Burham Village Council was founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of public issues in the village (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Burham has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents face some problems concerning electricity, mainly the need to rehabilitate and develop the network, the high costs of electricity, and the weak electrical current (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Burham is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

There are no vehicles for public transportation in Burham village; the residents use illegal/unlicensed cars or take taxis from the Bir Zeit taxi office. The lack of vehicles is the primary problem for villagers seeking to travel outside the village (Burham Village Council, 2011). There are 15km of main roads in Burham (See Table 9) (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Table 9: Roads in Burham village

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

Source: Burham Village Council, 2011

Water Resources:

Burham is provided with water by the Ramallah Water Company through the public water network established in 1980. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to the water network (Burham Village Council, 2011).

The quantity of water supplied to Burham in 2010 was about 15,596 cubic meters. The estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 79 liters/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). However, no Burham citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated to be 26.5%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Burham is approximately 58 liters per day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 10 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 10: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012

Consumption Category (m³)	Domestic (NIS/m³)	Industrial (NIS/m³)	Tourist (NIS/m³)	Commercial (NIS/m³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m³)
0 – 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

Sanitation:

Burham lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using endocrines and cesspits for wastewater disposal (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 23.6 cubic meters, or 8,601 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 41 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:

Burham 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 of 25 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good management of solid waste; only 30% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Burham benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from

households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 20 containers, each with a capacity of 1 cubic meter, spread throughout the locality. The Village Council collects the solid waste from the containers once a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to Bir Zeit municipality dumping site, 10km from the village, where it is burnt (Burham Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Burham is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Burham residents is nearly 0.4 tons, or 148 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, Burham 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 Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time during summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among populations. The Jerusalem Water Authority distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs simultaneously.
 - (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 to be used by residents during water shortages.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Burham residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the 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 Burham 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 Burham

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Burham was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,896 dunums (98% of the village’s total 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 all of the village’s population resides in area “B”. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 39 dunums (2% 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 a consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area “C” are agricultural areas and open spaces (table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Burham – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,896	98
Area C	39	2
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	1,935	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

There are no Israeli settlements on Burham lands, although a settlement is very close to the village and located on neighboring villages' lands. This includes Ateret Israeli settlement, which is built on lands of ‘Atara, ‘Ajjul and Umm Safa villages; 500 meters in distance north of Burham village. The settlement was constructed on 697 dunums of lands and is currently inhabited by 763 Israeli settlers.

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements around Burham have had a serious and significant impact on the village people and their properties. These attacks allow settlers to control more Palestinian lands adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from accessing their land. Settlers near Burham have also enclosed land using barbed wire and planted trees on Palestinian lands to

increase their control. They have also burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners to intimidate them and deter them from returning to their lands.

The Israeli occupation authorities have also established several bypass roads that stretch from the north to the south of the West Bank, demolishing hundreds of thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands. These roads link Israeli settlements together, fracturing Palestinian lands and enhancing Israel's security control. Israel has confiscated lands close to Burham village on the northern side for the construction of Israeli bypass road 465 to link Israeli settlements together. The real threat of the bypass roads lies in the area known as the Buffer Zone imposed by the Israeli army along the roads; the Buffer Zone typically extends 75 meters on each side of the road, dramatically increasing the amount of land affected by the road's construction.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Burham village council has not implemented any development projects in Burham during the past five years (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Proposed Projects

Burham 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 participants in the workshop (Burham Village Council, 2011):

1. Constructing a services complex.
2. Constructing artesian harvesting cisterns.
3. Rehabilitating internal streets and agricultural roads.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Burham 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 feedback (Burham Village Council, 2011).

Table 12: Development Priorities and Needs in Burham

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			13km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			5km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			5km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			2 springs
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			5,000m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			5km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			10km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			20 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			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			preparatory school
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			25 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			20 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			10 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			25 tons/ year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			5 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

* 3km are main roads, 5km are sub roads and 5km are agricultural.

Source: Burham Village Council, 2011

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