

# Deir 'Ammar Camp Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2012

## *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 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>.

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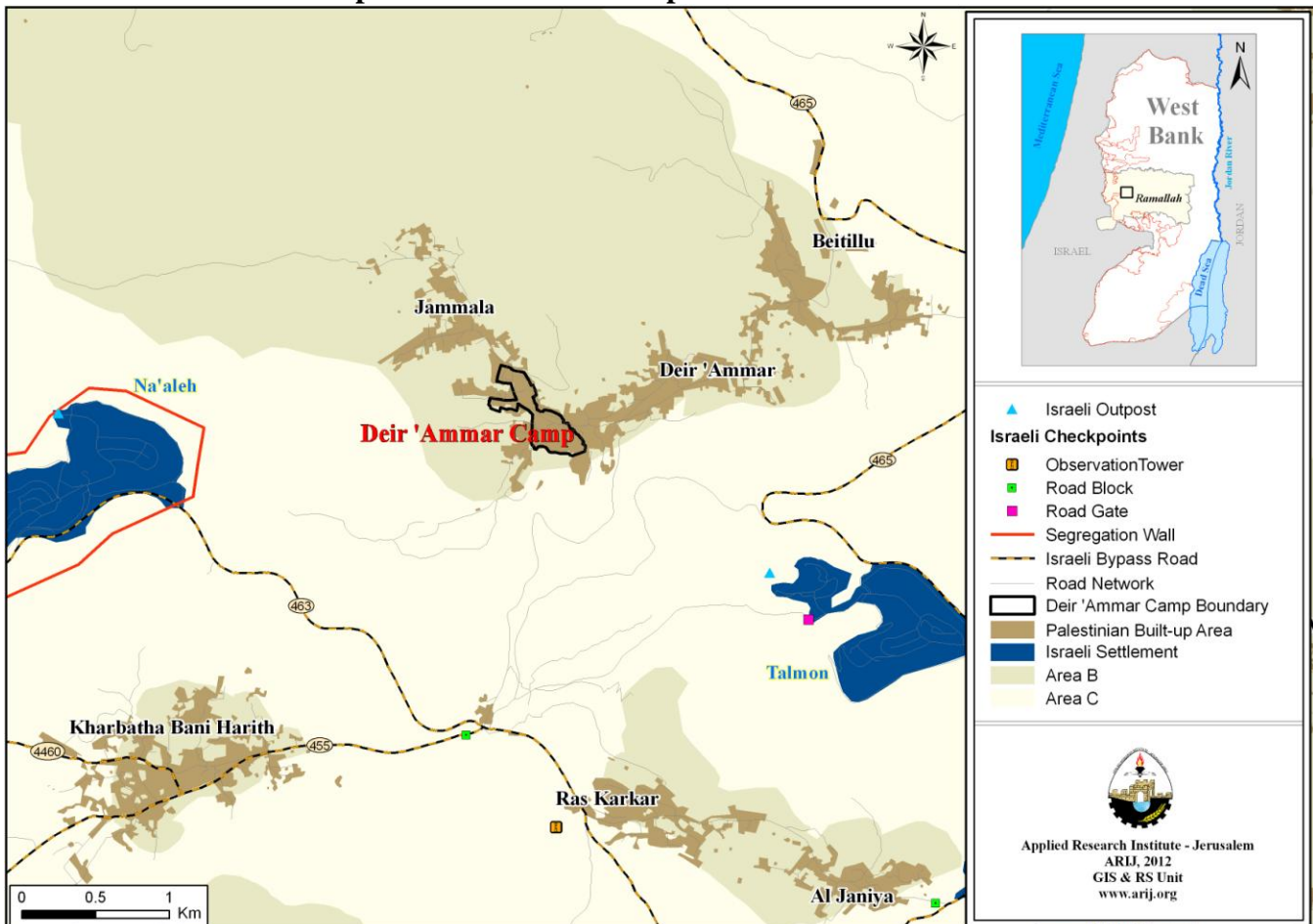
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# Deir 'Ammar Camp Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir 'Ammar Camp is a Palestinian camp in the Ramallah Governorate located (horizontally) 12 km northwest of Ramallah City. Deir 'Ammar Camp is bordered by Al-Itihad town from all sides (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Deir 'Ammar Camp location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Al-Jalazun Camp is located at an altitude of 547m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 577.3mm. The average annual temperature is 17 °C, and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1998, Deir 'Ammar Camp has been governed by a Services Committee, which is currently administrated by 7 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. Moreover, the Services Committee owns a permanent headquarters in which an employee works; moreover, it owns water

maintenance devices but it does not have a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the Services Committee to provide a number of services to the residents of Deir 'Ammar Camp, including (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011):

- Infrastructure services, such as the establishment and maintenance of a potable water network in addition to an electricity network, or generators.
- Waste collection, roads construction, pavement and restoration and streets cleaning.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the camp.
- Organizing the construction and the issuing of licenses processes.
- Providing public markets.
- Providing means of transportation.

## History

Deir 'Ammar Camp name came from the name of the land on which the camp was established; Deir 'Ammar village (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

The establishment of the camp goes back to the year 1948 and its residents originate from a number of localities, including: Beit Nabala, Der Tareef, Tirt Dandan, Sakiya and others (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011) (See photo below for Deir 'Ammar Camp).

### Photos of Deir 'Ammar Camp

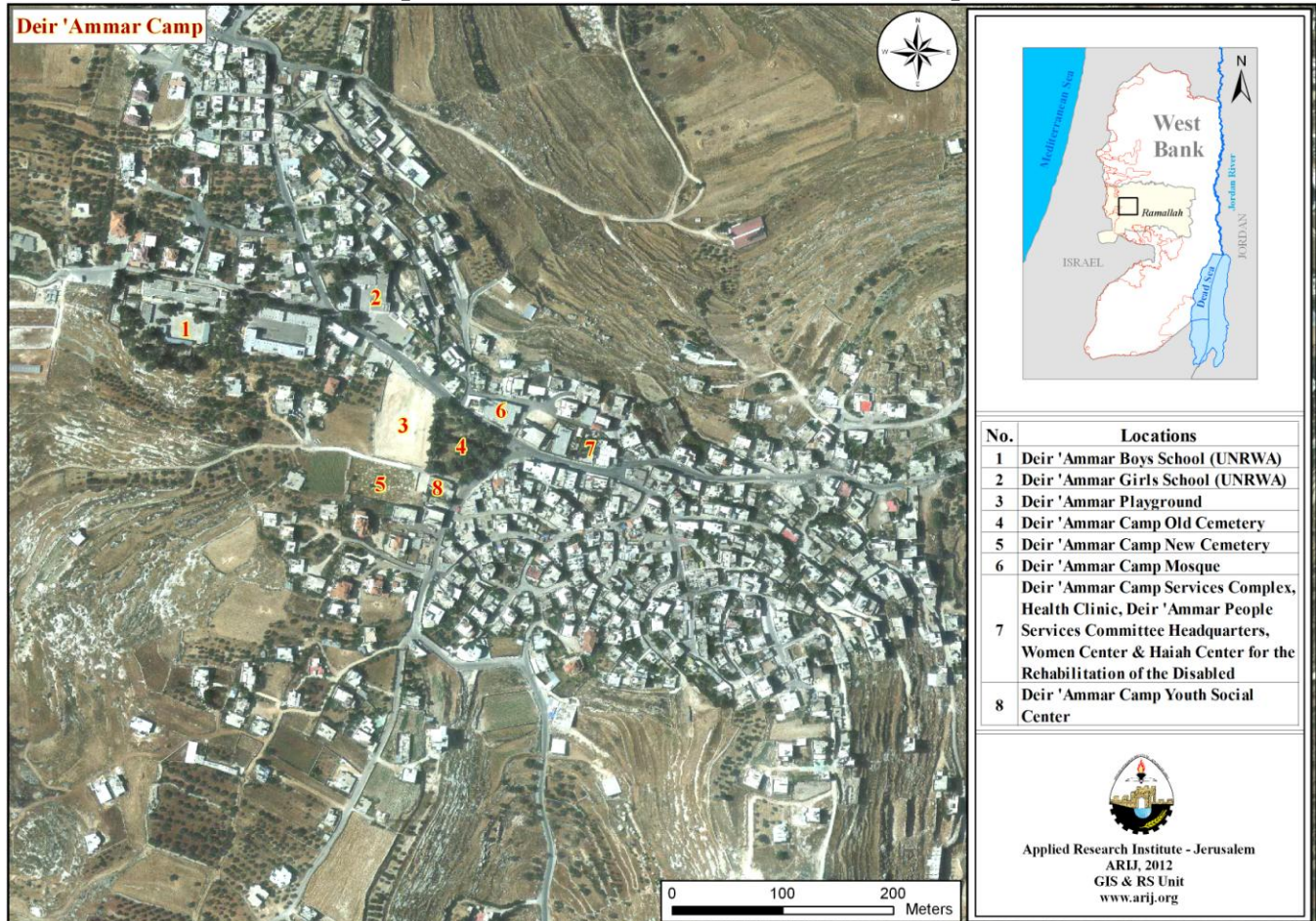


ARIJ Photo Courtesy

## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in the camp; Deir 'Ammar Camp Mosque. As for the archaeological sites, there has been no archaeological features discovered till the day (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Deir 'Ammar Camp**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir 'Ammar Camp in 2007 was 1,724; of whom 875 were male and 849, female. There were additionally registered 311 households living in 359 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 Deir 'Ammar Camp was as follows: 40.1% were less than 15 years, 57.1% between 15 -

64 years, whilst 2.4% fell in the 65 years and older category. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the camp is 103:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.8% and 49.2% of the population, respectively.

## Families

Deir 'Ammar Camp residents are composed of several families, mainly: Beit Nabala, Deir Tareef, Teir Dandan, Al 'Abbasiyah, Sakiya and others (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team in 2011 showed that 25 persons have left the camp since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Deir 'Ammar Camp population was approximately 5%, of whom 75.4% were females. Of the literate population, 13.1% could only read and write, with no formal education 25.8% had elementary education, 36.5% had preparatory education, 12.4% had secondary education, and 7.2% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in Deir 'Ammar Camp, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Deir 'Ammar Camp population (10 years 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	16	86	175	241	88	25	33	-	3	-	-	667
F	49	84	159	233	73	19	12	-	1	-	-	630
<b>T</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,297</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

With regards to basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Deir 'Ammar Camp in the academic year 2010/2011, there is only one school run by UNRWA; Deir 'Ammar Boys Elementary School (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). However, there are no kindergartens in Deir 'Ammar Camp (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

In the camp there are 414 students, 21 teachers and 14 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 20, while the average number of students per class is approximately 30.

Furthermore, the educational sector in Deir 'Ammar Camp suffers some obstacles, mainly the difficulty of access for the students of Deir 'Ammar Camp. This is due to the Israeli occupation harassments of students and the existence of permanent and partial checkpoints, all in addition to the lack of



transportations and the bad economic situation of the camp residents (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

## Health Status

There are few health centers available in Deir 'Ammar Camp, including; Deir 'Ammar Camp Health Center, a physician clinic run by UNRWA, a private specialized physician clinic, a physiotherapy center and a motherhood and childhood center. Furthermore, in emergency cases, residents of Deir 'Ammar Camp can head to Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city; 22km from the camp (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

However, the health sector in the camp suffers many obstacles and problems, including (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011):

- The distance between the camp and Ramallah city.
- The existence of Israeli checkpoints.
- The lack of an ambulance.

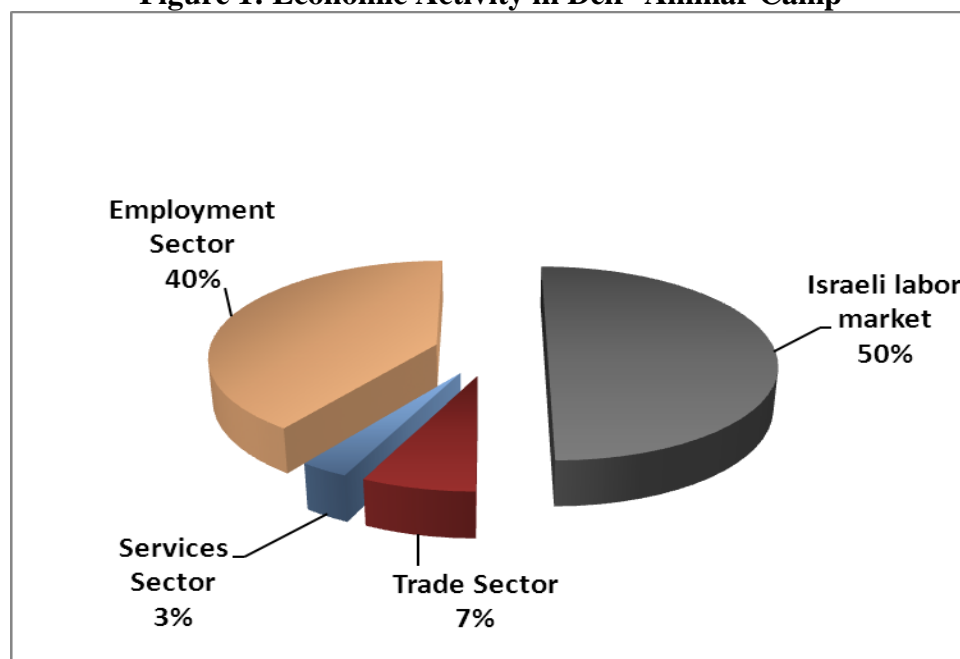
## Economic Activities

The economy in Deir 'Ammar Camp is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 50% of the camp workforce (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011) (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ team in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Deir 'Ammar Camp are as follows (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011):

- Israeli labor market (50%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (40%)
- Trade Sector (7%)
- Services Sector (3%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Deir 'Ammar Camp**



Source: Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011

In terms of commercial and industrial productions, there are 15 grocery stores in the camp, 2 vegetables and fruits stores, 3 butchers, 5 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith... etc.), 4 different services stores, and an olive oil-press (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

However, the unemployment rate in Deir 'Ammar Camp reached around 40% in 2011, and it was found that the social group most affected in the camp as a result of the Israeli restrictions and procedures, is workers in the services sector (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

**Labor Force**

According to the 2007 PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census, 31.8% of Deir 'Ammar Camp labor force was economically active, of whom 87.1% were employed, 67.5% were not economically active, 54.7% were students, and 34.3% were housekeepers (See table 3).

**Table 3: Deir 'Ammar Camp population (10 years 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	313	34	17	<b>364</b>	238	-	48	4	5	<b>295</b>	8	<b>667</b>
F	46	1	1	<b>48</b>	241	300	30	-	-	<b>580</b>	2	<b>630</b>
T	359	35	18	<b>412</b>	479	300	78	4	14	<b>875</b>	10	<b>1,297</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

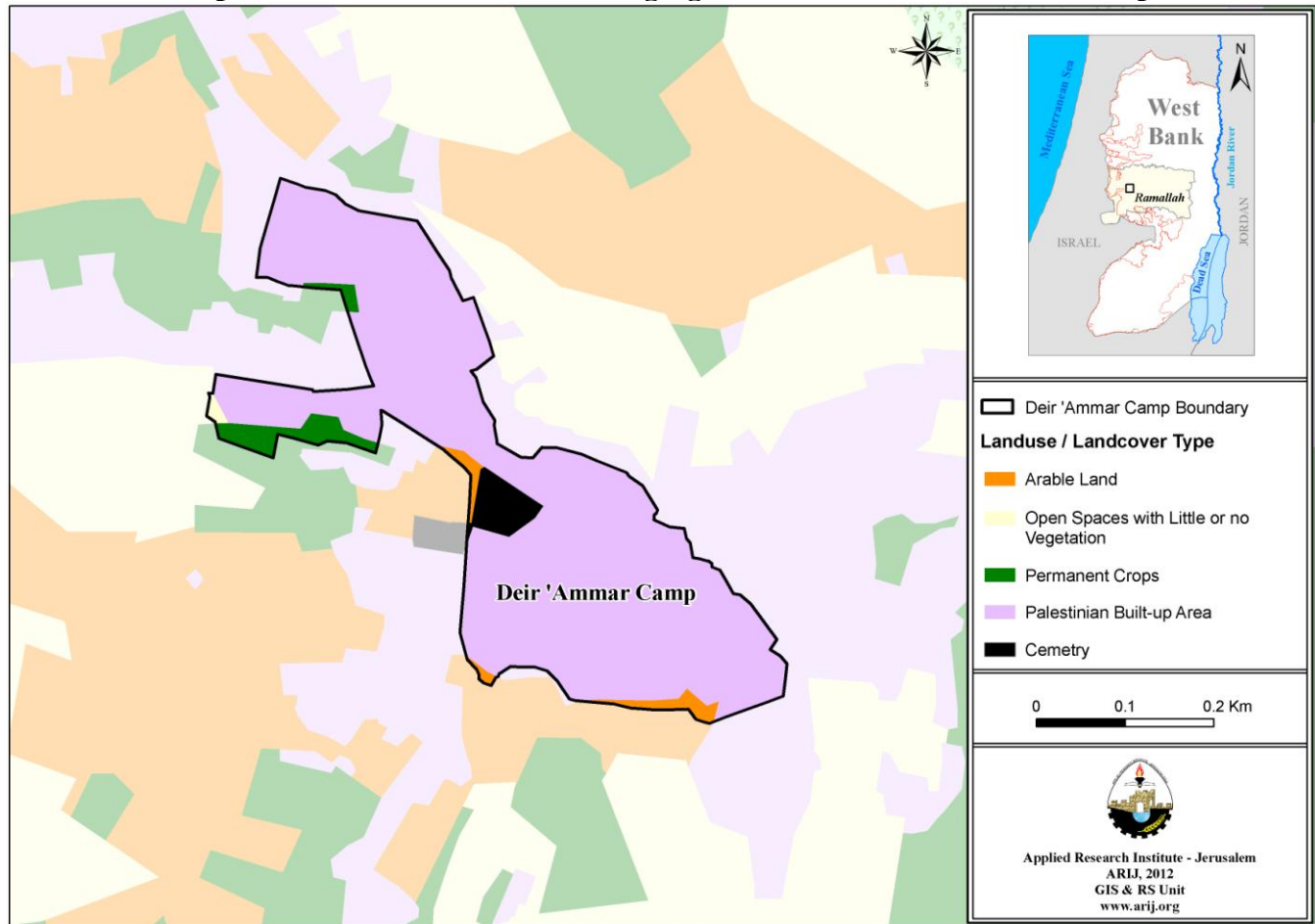
Deir 'Ammar camp lies on an area of 132 dunams; of which 8 dunams are considered arable lands, and 120 dunams are dedicated to residential services (see table 4 and map 3).

**Table 4: Land use and land cover in Deir 'Ammar camp in 2010 (area in dunam)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (8)				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					
132	120	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Deir 'Ammar Camp**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

There are no kind of plant resources in Deir 'Ammar Camp (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2010).

The field survey shows that residents in Deir 'Ammar Camp rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep and goats (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011) (See Table 5).

**Table 5: Livestock in Qarawat Deir 'Ammar Camp**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
1	13	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009*

Moreover, there are no agricultural roads in Deir 'Ammar Camp (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

## Institutions and Services

Deir 'Ammar Camp has no governmental institutions; however, it has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society in the areas of culture, sports and more, including (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

- **Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee:** Founded in 1998 by the Department of Refugee Affairs, with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the camp, providing various services to its population and implementing projects within the camp.
- **Haiah Center:** Founded in 2003 by the Ministry of Interior, it aims at helping the disabled people and providing them with needed tools.
- **The Women Center:** Founded in 2006 by UNRWA, the Center hopes to provide minor assistance to women in the camp.
- **The Youth Center:** Founded in 1998, with an interest in providing sports, cultural and voluntary services.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Deir 'Ammar Camp has been connected to a public electricity network since 1985; the Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the camp. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the camps are connected to the network (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011). However, the camp suffers some obstacles concerning electricity, mainly the weak electrical current and the presence of electricity poles in the streets (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

Furthermore, Deir 'Ammar Camp is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80% of the housing units within the camp boundaries are connected to phone lines (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

### Transportation Services:

Public buses, taxis and illegal/unlicensed cars are considered the main means of transportation in Deir 'Ammar Camp. However, along with the lack of vehicles in the camp, residents suffer from the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011). As for the road network in the camp, there are a total of 3km of main roads and a total of 7km of secondary roads (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011) (See Table 6).

**Table 6: Roads in Deir 'Ammar Camp**

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

Source: Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011

### Water Resources:

Deir 'Ammar Camp is provided with water by the West Bank Water Authority through the public network established in 1986. Approximately, 100% of the housing units are connected to the water network (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011). The quantity of water supplied to Deir 'Ammar Camp in 2008 was about 65,140 cubic meters/ year (PWA, 2009). The estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 95 liters/day (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011). Here it should be noted that no Deir 'Ammar Camp citizen in fact consumes this amount of water due to water losses. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines the distribution network, and at the household level due to the old network, thus the daily rate of water consumption per capita in Deir 'Ammar Camp is less than 95 liters (PWA, 2009). This is considered a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Deir 'Ammar Camp faces few problems concerning the water sector, mainly: the existing public water reservoir is not valid for use due to the cracks in it (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

### Sanitation:

Deir 'Ammar Camp lacks a public sewerage network with most of the camp residents using cesspits as their main means of waste-water disposal, or they dispose the waste-water randomly in open areas and valleys (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 143 cubic meters, or 52,112 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the camp, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 72 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by tankers directly to open areas or

nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be 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 the public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

### **Solid Waste Management:**

UNRWA is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. Solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in the camp (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

Most of the population in Deir 'Ammar Camp benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to containers spread throughout the camp. UNRWA collects the solid waste from the containers and transports it by waste vehicle to the camp's private dumping site; which is 5km from the camp, where solid waste is set on fire (Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir 'Ammar Camp is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the camp residents is nearly 1.8 tons, or 661 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

## **Environmental Conditions**

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

### **Water Crisis**

- In several neighborhoods water is cut off by the West Bank Water Department over long periods of time during summer for several reasons:
  - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources. Consequently, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from the Israeli company of Mekorot in order to satisfy residents' needs.
  - (2) High rate of water losses due to the age of the water network and its need of rehabilitation and renovation.
  - (3) Lack of a public water reservoir in good condition to be used for collecting water.

### **Wastewater Management**

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Deir 'Ammar Camp 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 camp. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns), as it mixes

with the waste water thus becomes unsuitable for drinking, 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 Deir 'Ammar Camp and the other neighboring communities in the governorate. This 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**

### **Geo-political Status of Deir 'Ammar Refugee Camp**

Deir 'Ammar refugee camp is a Palestinian refugee camp in Ramallah and Al Bireh Governorate, located 12km northwest of Ramallah city. The camp was established in 1949 after the Palestinian Nakba. According to UNRWA statistics, the camp hosts approximately 2,400 registered Palestinian refugees from several displaced Palestinian villages in Lid, Jaffa and Ramla areas. The total area of the camp is approximately 132 dunams (0.132 km<sup>2</sup>). The land ownership goes back to the non-refugee residents of Deir 'Ammar village; this land is currently situated in the middle of Deir 'Ammar and Jammala villages. Like other refugee camps, Deir 'Ammar has a very high population density as all construction takes place in a small area. There are no available lands for urban expansion in the camp; the population density reaches about 18.2 people/ km<sup>2</sup>.

According to UNRWA, one of the problems suffered by Deir 'Ammar residents is that many households are not connected to the public sewerage network; which leads to environmental disasters, especially in light of the population and urban congestion. Also, the camp suffers from the high rate of unemployment resulting from Israeli closures.

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Deir 'Ammar camp is located in Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security; however, like all other Palestinian refugee camps, Deir 'Ammar is under the administrative control of UNRWA.

In addition to the displacement of Palestinian families from their lands and the difficult humanitarian situation represented by the high rate of poverty, unemployment, overpopulation and deterioration of the

environmental situation, the Palestinian residents of the camp have been subjected to further problems as a result of the Israeli occupation. Part of Ramallah Governorate, Deir 'Ammar has faced difficulties due to closures and military checkpoints, settlements, military camps and bypass roads that surround the Governorate from all sides. The Israeli settlement Talmon is located 1,500 meters southeast of the camp. Also, the Na'aleh settlement and the Segregation Wall planned to be constructed around the settlement are 2,000 meters west of the camp, in addition to other nearby Israeli settlements east and north of the camp, such as Nahl'iel and Hallamish. Also, around 1,500 meters south of the camp is the Israeli bypass road 463 which is used solely by the Israeli settlers.

Deir 'Ammar refugee camp, as well as all Palestinian localities in the West Bank, are exposed daily to Israeli military attacks and arrests of Palestinian militants.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee has implemented several development projects in Deir 'Ammar Camp, during the last five years (See Table 7).

**Table 7: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Deir 'Ammar Camp During the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishment of a new water network	Infrastructure	2010	Water Authority
Pavement of roads	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Local Government
Construction of a males school	Educational	2011	Ministry of Local Government
<b>Source:</b> Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011.			

### Proposed Projects

Deir 'Ammar Camp, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the camp and the camp residents, look forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the camp. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the perspectives' of the participants in the workshop:

1. Expanding the public space of the camp.
2. Providing means of transportation in order to solve the problem of the long distance between the camp and Ramallah city.
3. Providing job opportunities for the camp residents.



4. Providing recreational places in the camp such as public parks.
5. Providing women's centers.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Deir 'Ammar Camp suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 8 shows the development priorities and needs in the camp, according to the Services Committee feedback.

**Table 8: Development Priorities and Needs in Deir 'Ammar Camp**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			3km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			9km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network		*		5km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			15 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste		*		2 vehicles
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns		*		20 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*	

\* 1km are main roads and 2km are sub roads.

Source: Deir 'Ammar Camp Services Committee, 2011

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