

Deir Nidham Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages 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 the 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 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 the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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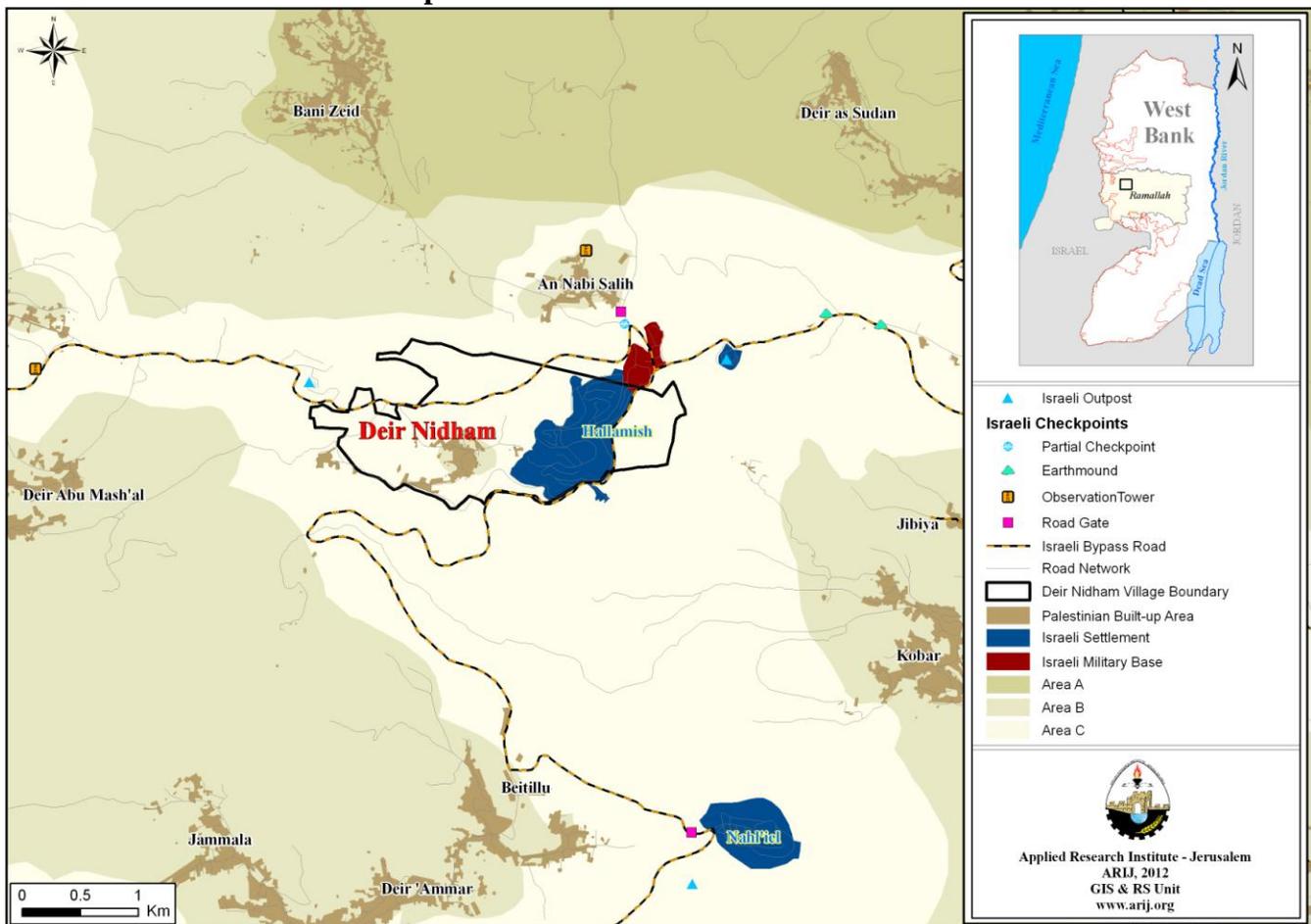
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Deir Nidham Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir Nidham is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 13.7km northwest of Ramallah City. Deir Nidham is bordered by Umm Safa and Kobar villages to the east, An Nabi Salih and Bani Zeid territories to the north, 'Abud village and Bani Zeid territories to the west, and Al-Itihad town to the south (See Map 1).

Map 1: Deir Nidham location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Deir Nidham is located at an altitude of 573m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 583mm. The average annual temperature is 17 °C and the average annual humidity is around 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1998, Deir Nidham has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by 7 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The village council owns a permanent headquarters where two employees work. However, the village council does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Deir Nidham, including the supply and maintenance of a drinking water network (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

History

The village's establishment dates back to 1700 AD, with its residents originating from the Beit Jibrin family in Hebron (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Deir Nidham village).

Photo of Deir Nidham



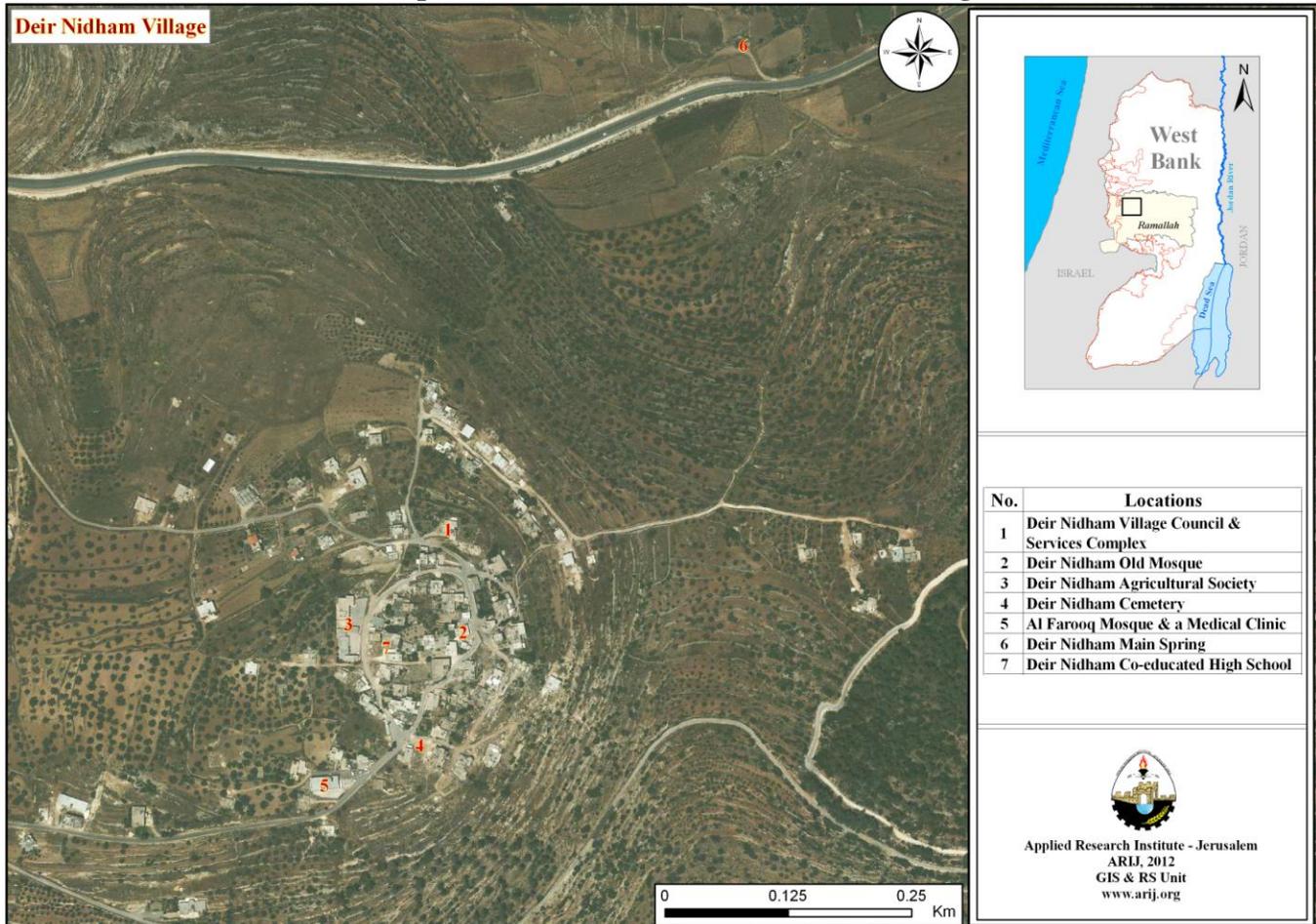
ARIJ Photo Courtesy

Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are two mosques in the village: Deir Nidham Old Mosque and Al Farooq Mosque. There are several sites of archaeological interest: Khirbet Tibna which contains destroyed walls, parts of columns and caves, Khirbet Umm al Tuqi, and Khirbet Hablata which contains

graves, a mosaic floor, oil presses and pools carved in rocks (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011) (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Deir Nidham Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir Nidham in 2007 was 826, of whom 439 were male and 387 were female. There were 139 households living in 136 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 Nidham was as follows: 41.3% were less than 15 years of age, 55.3% were between 15 - 64 years of age, and 3.4% were 65 years old or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village was 113.4:100, meaning that males and females constituted 53.1% and 46.9% of the population respectively.

Families

Deir Nidham residents are from several families, primarily the At Tamimi, Muzher, Al Khatib, Al 'A'raj, Hasan and Yahya families.

Immigration

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that around 72 persons have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Deir Nidham population was approximately 3.8%, of whom 91.3% were females. Of the literate population, 15.2% could only read and write, with no formal education 25.8% had elementary education, 27.3% had preparatory education, 17% had secondary education, and 10.7% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Deir Nidham by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Deir Nidham 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	2	35	51	112	73	20	17	-	4	3	-	317
F	21	56	104	52	29	13	7	-	-	-	1	283
T	23	91	155	164	102	33	24	-	4	3	1	600

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There is one public co-educational school in the village: Deir Nidham Co-educated Secondary School, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE). There are no kindergartens run by the Ministry of Education in the village (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

In the village there are 243 students, 21 teachers, and 12 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, and the average number of students per class is approximately 20

In the absence of appropriate levels of education in the village schools, students of Deir Nidham attend 'Abud High School in 'Abud village, 5km from the village (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

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

1. The lack of playgrounds and fields.
2. The small classrooms, which are in poor condition.
3. The lack of scientific laboratories and computer facilities.

Health Status

There is one governmental health center in Deir Nidham village and a motherhood and childhood care center. In the absence of any necessary health services and in emergency cases, residents of Deir Nidham attend Beit Rima's clinic in Beit Rima village, the Caritas center in 'Abud village, or Ramallah Health Directorate in Ramallah city (6km, 5km and 25km from the locality respectively). The health sector in the village faces some further obstacles, principally the lack of an ambulance in the village (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

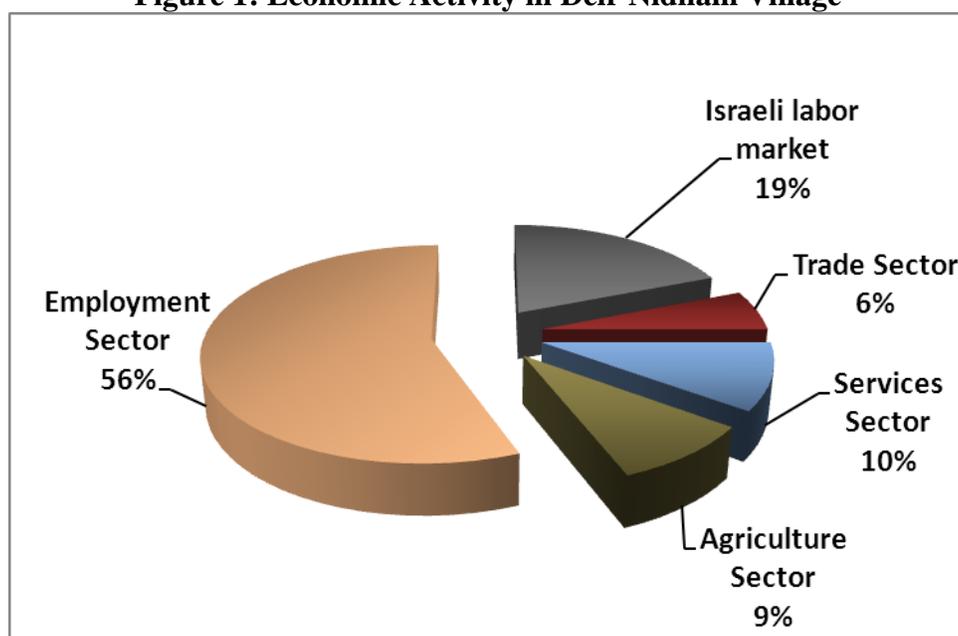
Economic Activities

The economy in Deir Nidham is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the employees sector, which absorbs 56% of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Deir Nidham are as follows:

- Government or Private Employees Sector (56%)
- Israeli Labor Market (19%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Agriculture Sector (9%)
- Trade Sector (6%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Deir Nidham Village



Source: Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011

There are 4 grocers' shops and one barber shop in the village (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Deir Nidham has reached around 25%, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions have been (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011):

1. Workers in the agriculture sector.
2. Workers in the trade sector.
3. Former workers in Israel.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31% of Deir Nidham labor force was economically active, of whom 76.9% were employed, 69% were not economically active, 56.8% were students, and 33.8% were housekeepers (See Table 2).

Table 2: Deir Nidham 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	143	23	10	176	123	-	11	7	-	141	-	317
F	5	-	5	10	112	140	21	-	-	273	-	283
T	148	23	15	186	235	140	32	7	-	414	-	600

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

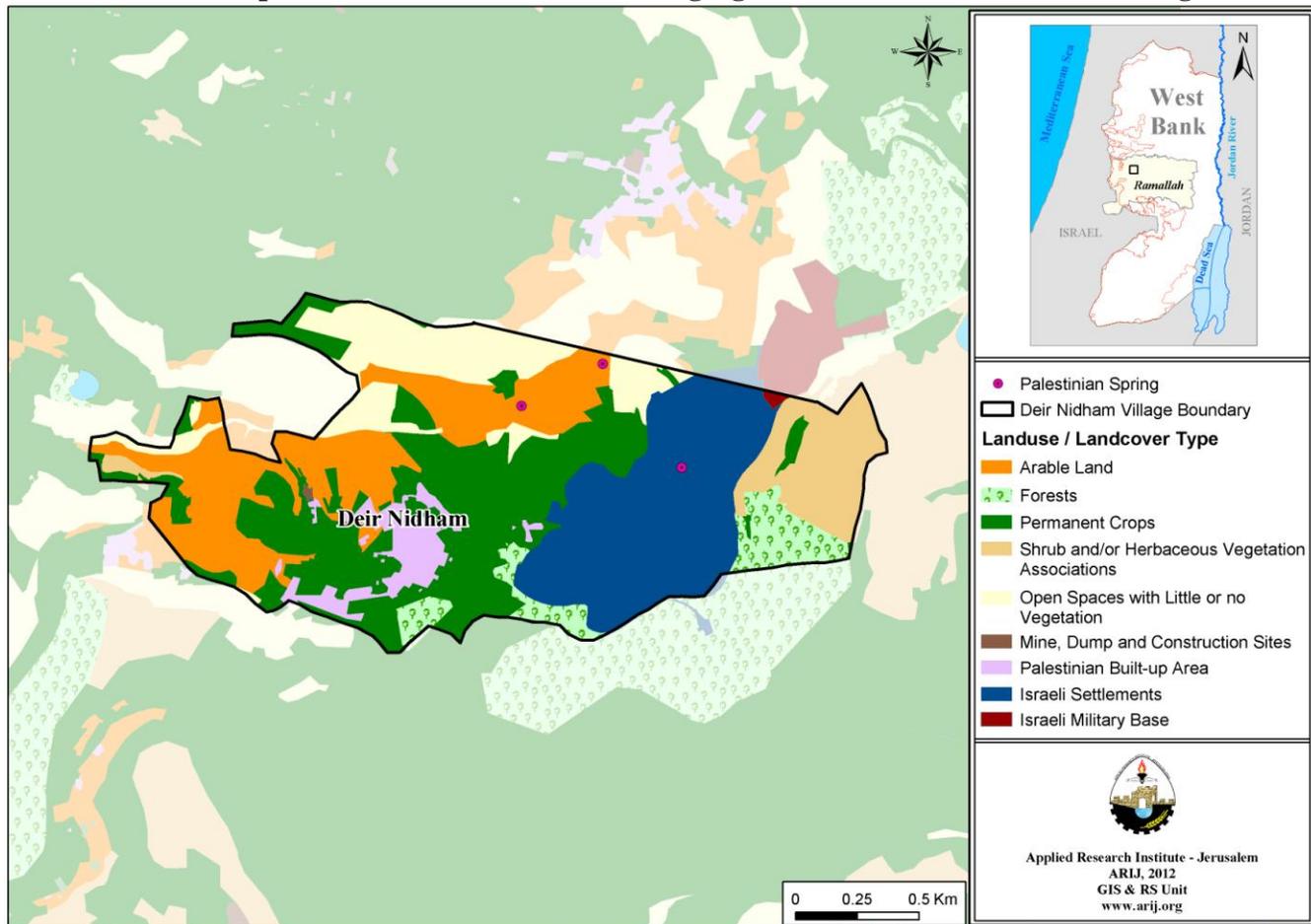
Deir Nidham has a total area of around 2,758 dunums of which 1,531 are considered 'arable' land and 116 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 3 and Map 3).

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

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,531)				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					
2,758	116	768	0	220	543	0	163	338	340	608

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

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

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Deir Nidham 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	8	0	2	9	2	7	0	5	0	37	12

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Deir Nidham is famous for olives; there are 937 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 5: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Deir Nidham 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.
937	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	40	0	35	0	1,018	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Deir Nidham, cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 65 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as beans (See Table 6).

Table 6: Total area of field crops in Deir Nidham 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
65	0	5	0	15	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	97	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 shows that 5% of the residents in Deir Nidham rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Deir Nidham village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	459	261	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are also around 15 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Deir Nidham Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	2
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	3
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	0

Source: Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011

The agricultural sector in the village faces some obstacles including (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011):

- The confiscation of lands due to the Israeli occupation.
- The lack of capital.
- The lack of agricultural awareness on the part of farmers.

Institutions and Services

Deir Nidham village has no governmental institutions; however, it has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011):

- **Deir Nidham Village Council:** Founded in 1998 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Deir Nidham Youth Forum:** Founded in 2000 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports with an interest in all sports, cultural and social activities for young people.
- **Deir Nidham Agricultural Society:** Founded in 1982.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Deir Nidham has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982. It is served by the Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 95% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network. However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, primarily the frequent electricity cut-offs during the winter (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

Deir Nidham is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 2% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

There are 5 public taxis, 2 buses and 35 cars in Deir Nidham. Villagers also use 'Abud village transport services. However, passengers and travelers face some obstacles due to the existence of military checkpoints and earth mounds (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011). There are 2km of main roads and 4km of secondary roads (See Table 9) (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

Table 9: Roads in Deir Nidham village

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

Source: Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011

Water Resources:

Deir Nidham is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1985. Approximately 95% of the housing units are connected to this network (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011). The quantity of water supplied to Deir Nidham in 2010 was approximately 24,000 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Deir Nidham is 80 liters per day (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011). However, no Deir Nidham citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 15%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011). Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Deir Nidham is 68 liters per day. The rate experienced by Deir Nidham residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters proposed by the World Health Organization.

The village has over 20 rainwater harvesting cisterns and a 100 cubic meter capacity reservoir, in addition to 5 springs. Small agricultural projects have been established on 3 of these springs (See Table 10) (Deir Nidham village Council, 2011).

Table 10: Water Springs in Deir Nidham Village

#	Name of Spring	Daily Average Pumping Rate (cubic meter)	Ownership	Type of Cultivated Crops
1	Wad Rayya	36	Public	Vegetables & Cereals
2	Al Bassa	10	Public	Vegetables & Cereals
3	Al Hamam	15	Public	Vegetables & Cereals
4	'Ein Khalid	10	Public	Vegetables & Cereals
5	Al Mansaf	8	Public	Vegetables & Cereals

Source: Deir Nidham village Council, 2011

Sanitation:

Deir Nidham lacks a public sewerage network; most of the village residents therefore use cesspits for the disposal of waste water.

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 44.7 cubic meters, or 16,320 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 47 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council for the Management of Solid Waste in the region is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Deir Nidham benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Joint Council collects the solid waste two times a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to a random dumping site in the village, where it is usually burnt or buried (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2010)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir Nidham is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Deir Nidham residents is nearly 0.6 tons, or 211 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Deir Nidham 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 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 distribution. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs simultaneously. Consequently, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies in order to satisfy residents' needs.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The public water system passes through the Israeli settlement of Hamich and settlers sometimes break the line, leading to water shortages for the village.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Deir Nidham 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 because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers.
- 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.
- Wastewater from the Hamich settlement is discharged on the village's agricultural lands, causing serious problems and leaking into springs and ground water.

Solid Waste Management:

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Deir Nidham 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.
- There is no system in the village to separate hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste; consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Jifna landfill for disposal by burning.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Deir Nidham Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Deir Nidham was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 130 dunums (4.7% of the total village area) were assigned as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has 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. 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. Approximately 2,628 dunums (95.3% of the total village area) is classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In Area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands in Area C are agricultural and open spaces (Table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Deir Nidham village according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	130	4.7
Area C	2,628	95.3
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	2,758	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

In 1997 Israeli authorities confiscated 604 dunums of Deir Nidham lands (21.9% of the village's total area) for the construction of the Hamich settlement, which is currently inhabited by around 1000 Israeli settlers.

The Israeli government has also confiscated lands in Deir Nidham to open Israeli bypass roads, specifically bypass road 465. This road was constructed to connect the established Israeli settlements enclosing the village from four directions. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) along these roads, extending to approximately 75 m on the roads' sides and dramatically increasing the amount of land affected.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Deir Nidham Village Council has implemented two development projects in Deir Nidham during the last five years (See Table 12).

Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Deir Nidham during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of a multi-service center	Public Services	2011	Ministry of Local Government
Establishment of a children's park	Public Services	2011	World Vision

Source: Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011

Proposed Projects

Deir Nidham 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 viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Providing the necessary material support for the establishment of development projects.
2. Rehabilitating the springs.
3. Reclaiming, cultivating and protecting lands.

4. Raising public awareness.
5. Providing science laboratories and computer labs for schools.
6. Eliminating harmful wild animals.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Deir Nidham suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village from the village council's perspective (Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011).

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Deir Nidham

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			11.6km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			3.5km
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		*		5 springs
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			16km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			30 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
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		*		
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools		*		
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools			*	
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			200 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			20 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			5 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		20 tons
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		5 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

[^] 1.1km are main roads, 2.5km are sub roads and 8km are agricultural roads

Source: Deir Nidham Village Council, 2011.

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