

Deir as Sudan Village Profile



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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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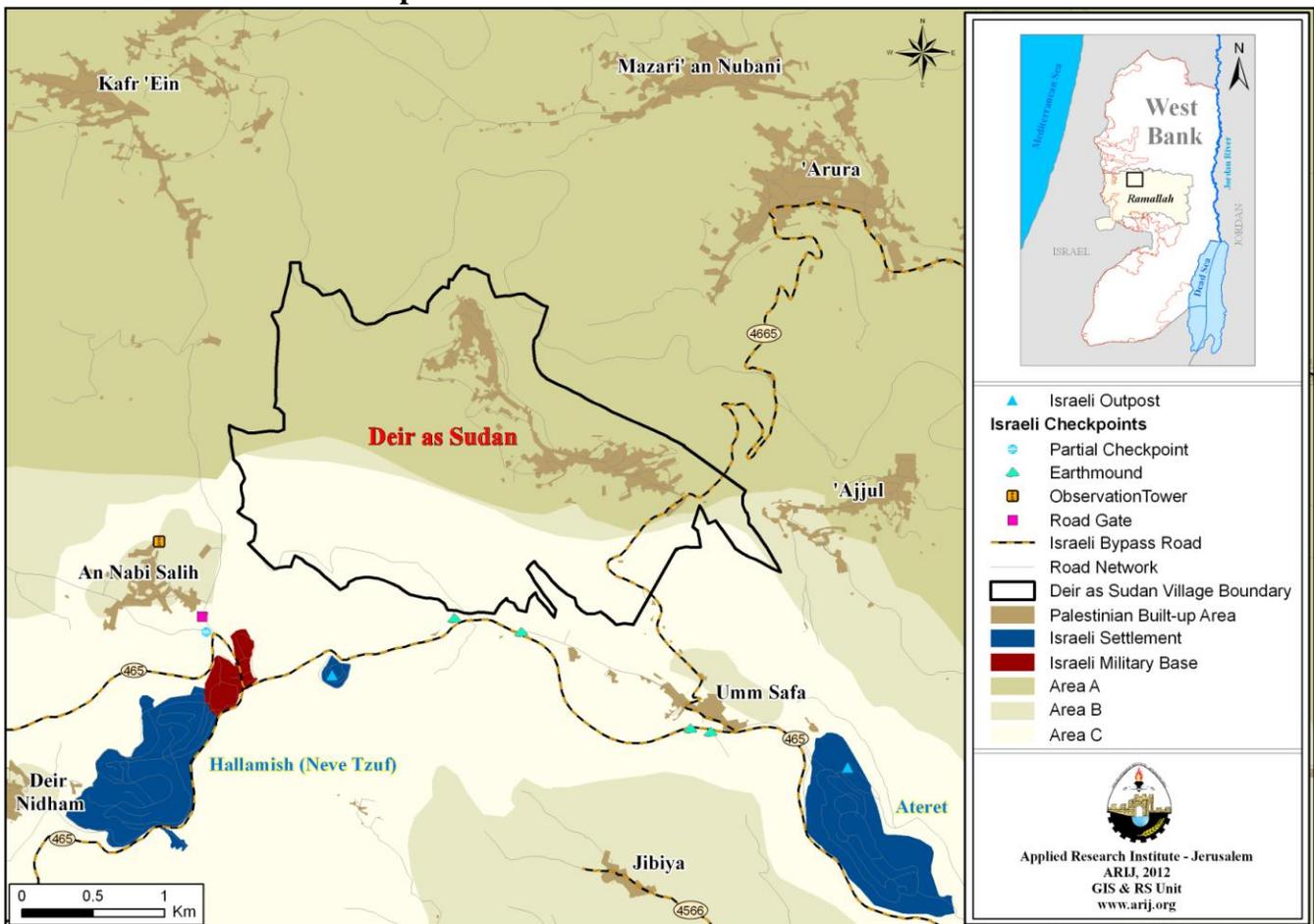
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Deir as Sudan Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir as Sudan is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 14.7km northwest of Ramallah City. Deir as Sudan is bordered by 'Ajjul village to the east, Bani Zeid ash Sharqiya village lands to the north, Kafr 'Ein village lands to the west, and Umm Safa village and An Nabi Salih lands to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Deir as Sudan location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Deir as Sudan is located at an altitude of 498m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 655.1mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1996, Deir as Sudan has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The Village Council owns a permanent headquarters but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

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

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity planning, provision and maintenance.
2. Providing means of transportation.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.

History

During the Canaanite era, Deir Sudan village was known as ‘Deir Sures’. However, in the Roman era a convent was built in the village named Lady Mary Convent (Deir as Sit Maryam); during the Ottoman era, the Muhammad ben Badr tribe (from Al Hijaz) came to the village and converted its name into Deir as Sudan (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011)

The village was established during the Canaanite era, and its residents are descended from the Muhammad ben Badr tribe from Al Hijaz (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Deir as Sudan village).

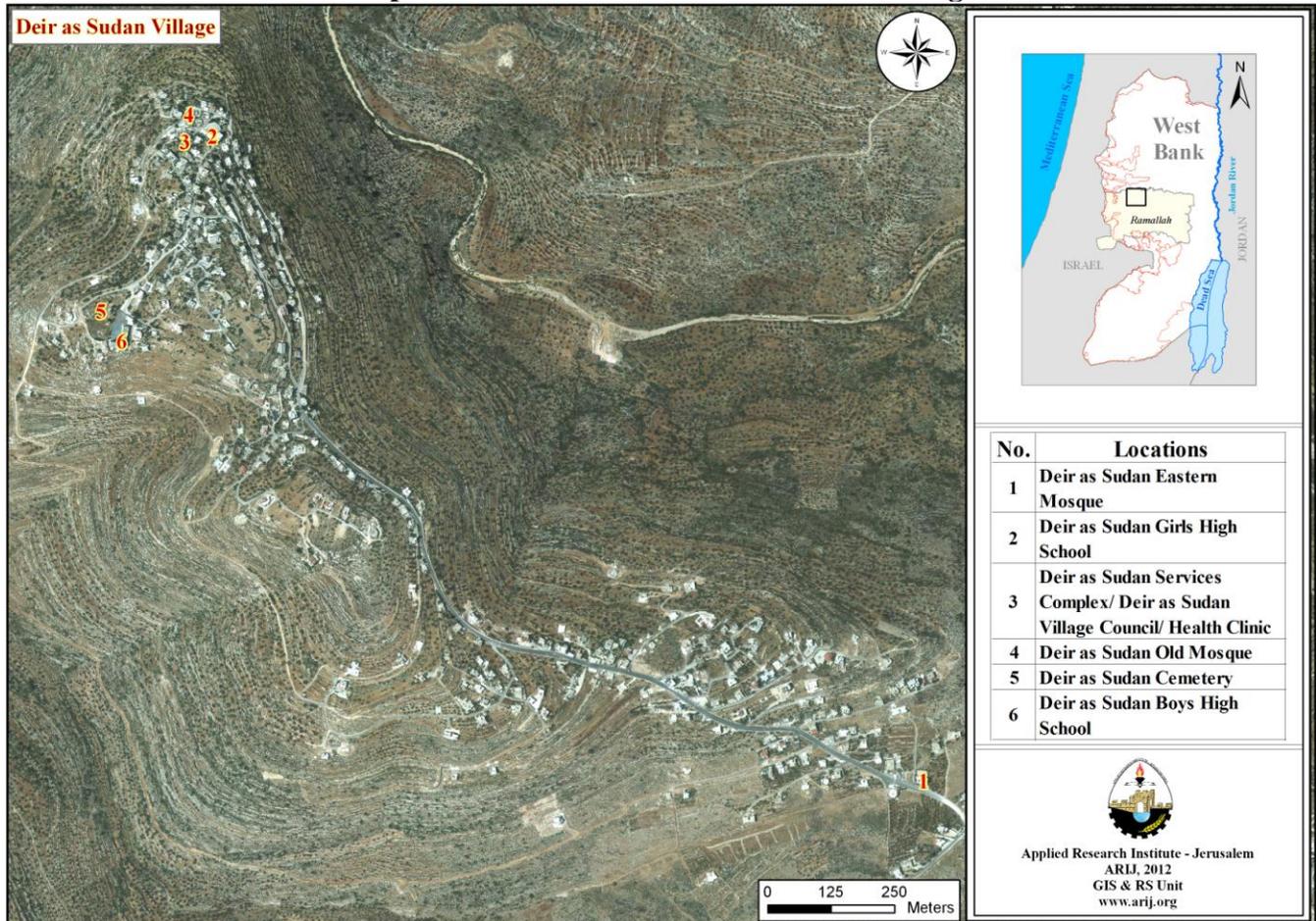
Photos of Deir as Sudan



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village: Deir as Sudan Mosque and the Eastern Mosque. The village has no sites of archaeological interest (See Map 2) (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Map 2: Main locations in Deir as Sudan Village



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir as Sudan in 2007 was 1,871, of whom 947 were male and 924 female. There are 326 households living in 347 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 as Sudan is as follows: 38.2% were less than 15 years of age, 58% were between 15

and 64 years of age, whilst 3.8% fell into the 65 years of age or older category. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 102.5:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51% and 49% of the population respectively.

Families

Deir as Sudan residents are from several families, mainly the Dar Badr, Abu al Hajj, Salman, Ahmad, and Abu Duha families (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that around 60 persons have left the village since Al Aqsa Intfiada in 2000 (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011)

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Deir as Sudan population was about 5.3%, of whom 88.2% were female. Of the literate population, 17% could only read and write, with no formal education 27.8% had elementary education, 28.3% had preparatory education, 14% had secondary education, and 7.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Deir as Sudan by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Deir as Sudan 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	9	92	203	238	108	21	32	-	3	2	-	708
F	67	150	192	164	91	27	22	-	1	-	-	714
T	76	242	395	402	199	48	54	-	4	2	-	1,422

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two governmental schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, but there are no kindergartens (See Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: Schools in Deir as Sudan by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2010/2011)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Deir as Sudan Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Deir as Sudan Boys Secondary School		Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

In the village there are 553 students, 37 teachers, and 24 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, while the average number of students per class is approximately 23.

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

- The lack of playgrounds.
- The lack of scientific and computer laboratories.
- The lack of a transportation vehicle for the elementary-level students

Health Status

There are few health centers available in Deir as Sudan village. The village has a physician's clinic and a motherhood and childhood care center, both of which are included within Deir as Sudan Governmental Health Center. However, in the absence of required health services and in emergencies, residents of Deir as Sudan use Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city, 25km from the village (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

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

1. The lack of qualified specialist medical staff.
2. The lack of a health center which operates daily.
3. The lack of an ambulance.
4. The lack of medical equipment.

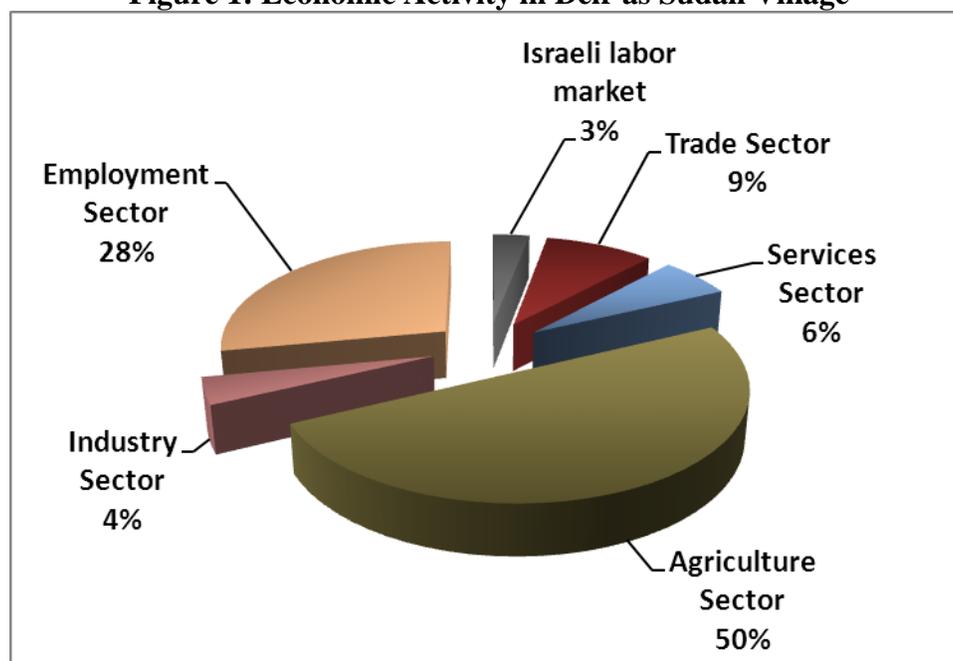
Economic Activities

The economy in Deir as Sudan is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agriculture sector, which absorbs 50% of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

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

- Agriculture Sector (50%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (28%)
- Trade Sector (9%)
- Services (6%)
- Industry (4%)
- Israeli labor market (3%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Deir as Sudan Village



Source: Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011

Deir as Sudan village has 8 grocery stores, one professional workshop, and one store for construction materials (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011). However, due to the Israeli occupation and the associated restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined as many citizens have lost their jobs. The most affected group has been workers in the service sector. The unemployment rate in Deir as Sudan reached around 35% in 2011 (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 35% of the Deir as Sudan labor force was economically active, of whom 87.9% were employed, and 64.5% were not economically active, 55.3% were students, and 29.4% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Deir as Sudan 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	364	33	15	412	230	-	38	11	15	294	2	708
F	73	4	8	85	277	270	54	1	21	623	6	714
T	437	37	23	497	507	270	92	12	36	917	8	1,422

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

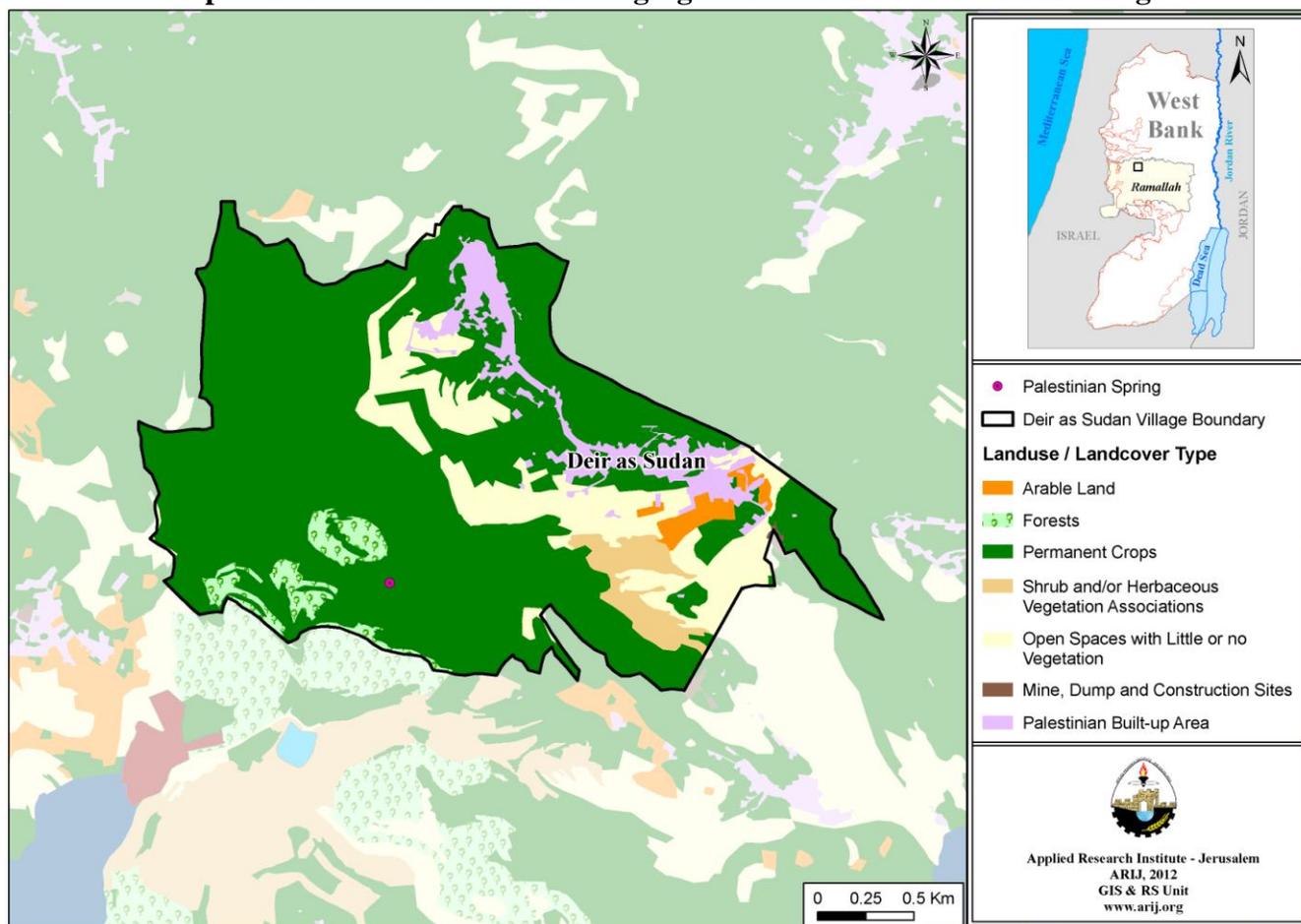
Deir as Sudan Village lies on an area of 5,578 dunums, of which 4,261 dunums are arable land and 350 dunums are dedicated to residential services (see Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Deir as Sudan village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (4,261)				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					
5,578	350	4,019	0	168	74	0	181	783	3	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Deir as Sudan. The most common crop cultivated in the area is tomato.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Deir as Sudan 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.
29	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	34	6

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Deir as Sudan is famous for olive cultivation; there are 1,681 dunums of land planted with olive crops.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Deir as Sudan 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.
1,681	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	80	0	81	0	1,857	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Deir as Sudan, cereals (particularly 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 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Deir as Sudan 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	13	0	38	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	146	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 shows that 2% of the residents in Deir as Sudan rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and broiler chicken (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Deir as Sudan village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	52	127	0	0	0	0	10,000	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are approximately 2 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, suitable for use by tractors and agricultural machinery only (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

The agricultural sector in the village faces several obstacles and problems, including (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011):

- Difficulties in accessing agricultural lands.
- Lack of a skilled labor force.
- Lack of economic feasibility.
- Lack of water sources.
- Lack of capital.
- Lack of pasture and the high costs of feed.
- Lack of productive agricultural projects.

Institutions and Services

Deir as Sudan village has no governmental or local institutions. It has a village council (Deir as Sudan Village Council) which was founded in 1996 with the goal of providing different services to the village in addition to implementing projects provided by the Palestinian National Authority's institutions (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Deir as Sudan has been connected to a public electricity network since 1981. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 60% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily the weak electrical current and that the network does not cover all residential houses (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Deir as Sudan is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 60% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

10 public taxis form the main means of transportation in Deir as Sudan village. However, the residents struggle to travel due to the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints and the unqualified main roads (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011). There are 6.5km of main roads and 3.5km of sub-roads in the village (See Table 9) (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Table 9: Roads in Deir as Sudan village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	1.5	-
2. Paved but in poor condition	5	-
3. Unpaved	-	3.5

Source: Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the village with water through a water network constructed in 2002. This network supplies water to almost 80% of the housing units in the village. The quantity of water supplied to the village reached approximately 38,350 m³ in 2010 (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011), and therefore the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 56 liter/capita/day. However, no resident of Deir as Sudan 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. Such losses reach 26.5%, and therefore the average of water consumption per capita is 41 liter/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is less than the recommended amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

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 (m ³)	Domestic (NIS/m ³)	Industrial (NIS/m ³)	Tourist (NIS/m ³)	Commercial (NIS/m ³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m ³)
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

Deir as Sudan has 130 rainwater harvesting cisterns used by the residents as alternative sources of water to the public network during water cut-offs (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

Deir as Sudan Village lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as their main means of wastewater disposal (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 54 cubic meters or 19,731 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 29 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without 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 the environment and to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Deir as Sudan village does not have a system for the collection and disposal of solid waste. Residents of Deir as Sudan therefore collect and dispose waste individually, through burning waste at random near houses and on roads (Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir as Sudan is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Deir as Sudan residents is nearly 1.3 tons, or 478 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, Deir as Sudan 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 town for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and 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 during water shortage.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Deir as Sudan 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. 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 Deir as Sudan 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. In some cases the villagers resort to burning waste for disposal, leading to air pollution by smoke and harmful gases as a result of burning some hazardous waste such as plastic. This facilitates the spread of medical conditions such as asthma, allergies and respiratory diseases.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Deir as Sudan

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Deir as Sudan was divided into areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 3,193 dunums (57.2% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area “A” where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and Public order, while 362 dunums (6.5% of the village’s total area) were classified as area “B”, where the PNA has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 2,023 dunums (36.3% of the total area), was classified as area “C”, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area “C” Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration (table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Deir as Sudan – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	3,193	57.2
Area B	362	6.5
Area C	2,023	36.3
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	5,578	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Deir as Sudan village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Israeli government confiscated lands in Deir as Sudan to open Israeli bypass roads; the bypass road no. 4665 and the bypass road no. 465. These roads are constructed and open to connect the established Israeli settlements enclosing the village from the southern side with each other and with the neighboring ones. 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.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Deir as Sudan Village Council has implemented several development projects in Deir as Sudan during the past five years (See Table 12).

Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Deir as Sudan During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Expansion and pavement of the main road	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Rehabilitation of Deir as Sudan boys school	Educational	2011	USAID
Construction of agricultural roads	Agricultural	2010	Deir as Sudan Village Council
Construction of retaining walls	Infrastructure	2010	USAID
Expansion of the electricity network	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Source: Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011			

Proposed Projects

Deir as Sudan 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 viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. Preparing an organizational chart for the village to identify lands and protect them from external threats.
2. Supplying street lightings (10 km).
3. Establishing a Public Services complex (800 m²) to include a kindergarten and a meeting room.
4. Establishing a water reservoir with a capacity of at least 1,000 cups and rehabilitating the public water network.
5. Establishing 80 to 100 household agricultural harvesting cisterns.
6. Implementing a deed (Tabou) project for the village lands.
7. Paving internal roads (approximately 5 km).
8. Constructing external roads to link the village with neighboring localities (approximately 7 km).
9. Expanding and rehabilitating the main entrance of the village from the direction of Umm Safa village (4 km).
10. Implementing small development projects to serve farmers and needy families, such as sheep farming, bee-keeping, tailoring, poultry-raising, and handcrafts projects.
11. Constructing agricultural roads and reclaiming 1,000 dunums of threatened lands.
12. Providing the village with an agricultural tractor along with its equipment, a drinking water tank, a pumping water tank and a vehicle for waste collection.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Deir as Sudan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the village council's perspective.

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Deir as Sudan

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			18km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*		2km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			3km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs		*		2 springs
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			1500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			10km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		50 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		*		1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		1 health center
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools		*		elementary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			laboratories and playgrounds
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands		*		300 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns		*		50 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		100 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

*6km are main roads, 4km are sub roads and 8km are agricultural roads

Source: Deir as Sudan Village Council, 2011

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