

‘Ein Yabrud 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>.

Table of Contents

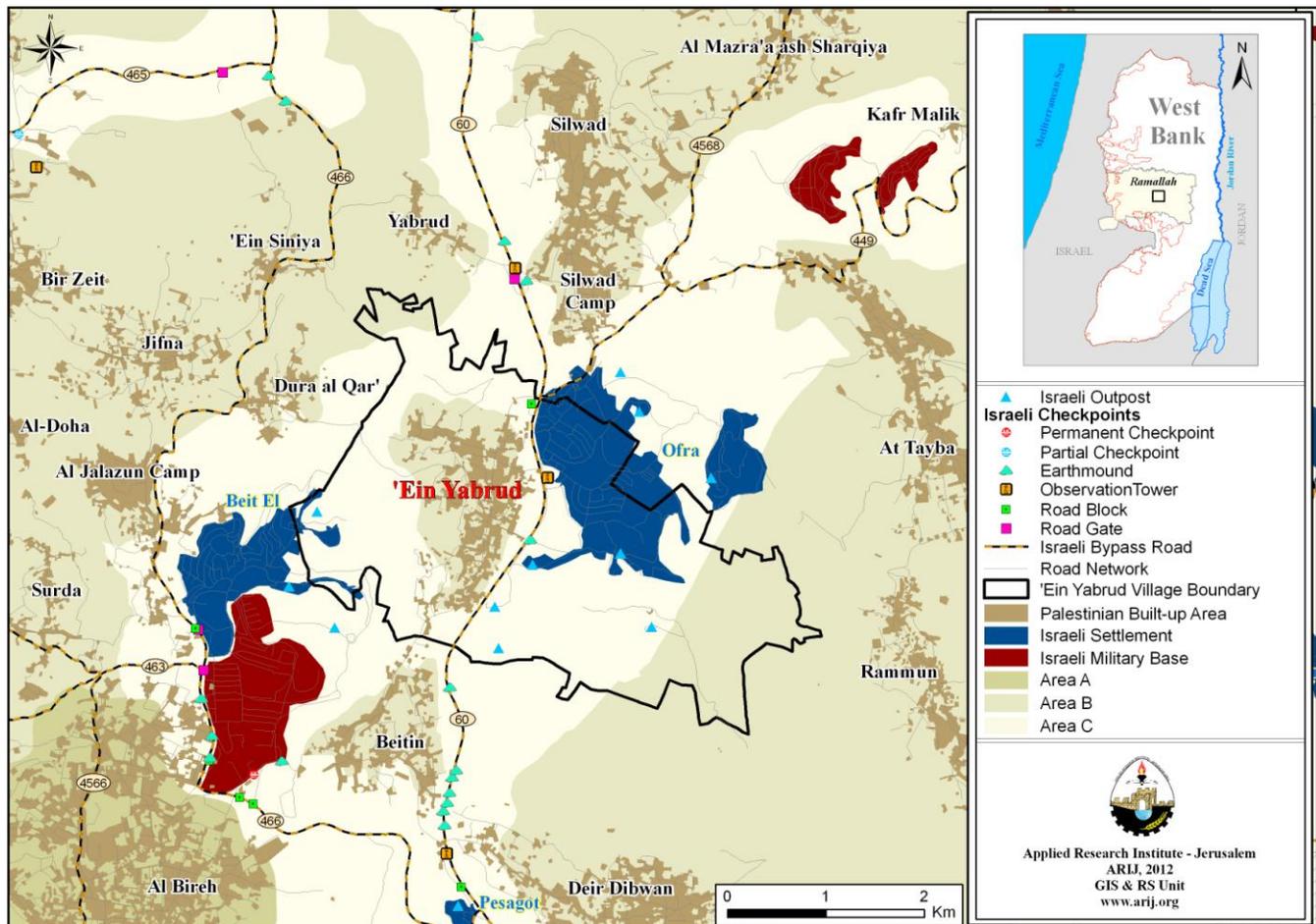
Location and Physical Characteristics	4
History	5
Religious and Archaeological Sites	6
Population	7
Education	8
Health Status	9
Economic Activities	9
Agricultural Sector	11
Institutions and Services	14
Infrastructure and Natural Resources	14
Impact of the Israeli Occupation	18
Development Plans and Projects	21
Implemented Projects	21
Locality Development Priorities and Needs	22
References:	24

'Ein Yabrud Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

'Ein Yabrud is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located (horizontally) 6.8 km west of Ramallah City. 'Ein Yabrud is bordered by the villages of Rammun and Et Taiyiba lands to the east, Yabrud and Silwad lands to the north, Dura al Qar' to the west, and Deir Dibwan, Beitin and Al Bireh lands to the South (ARIJ-GIS, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: 'Ein Yabrud location and borders



Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2012

'Ein Yabrud is located at an altitude of 825 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 511.5 mm. The average annual temperature is 16 ° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60% (ARIJ-GIS, 2012).

Since 1997, 'Ein Yabrud has been governed by a Village Council, which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The Village Council owns a permanent rented headquarters included with the Joint Services Council for East Ramallah Villages, but it does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

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

- Infrastructure services, such as the management of the street lighting network.
- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village
- Organization of the construction and licensing processes.
- Protection of the governmental and archaeological sites in the village.
- Provision of means of transportations.
- Provision and management of kindergartens.
- Maintenance of schools.

History

'Ein Yabrud name means the spring of Yabrud. The name comes in relation to the existence of many water springs in the village, and to the story that tells that the first inhabitant of the community was named Namrud which by time was changed into Yabrud ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

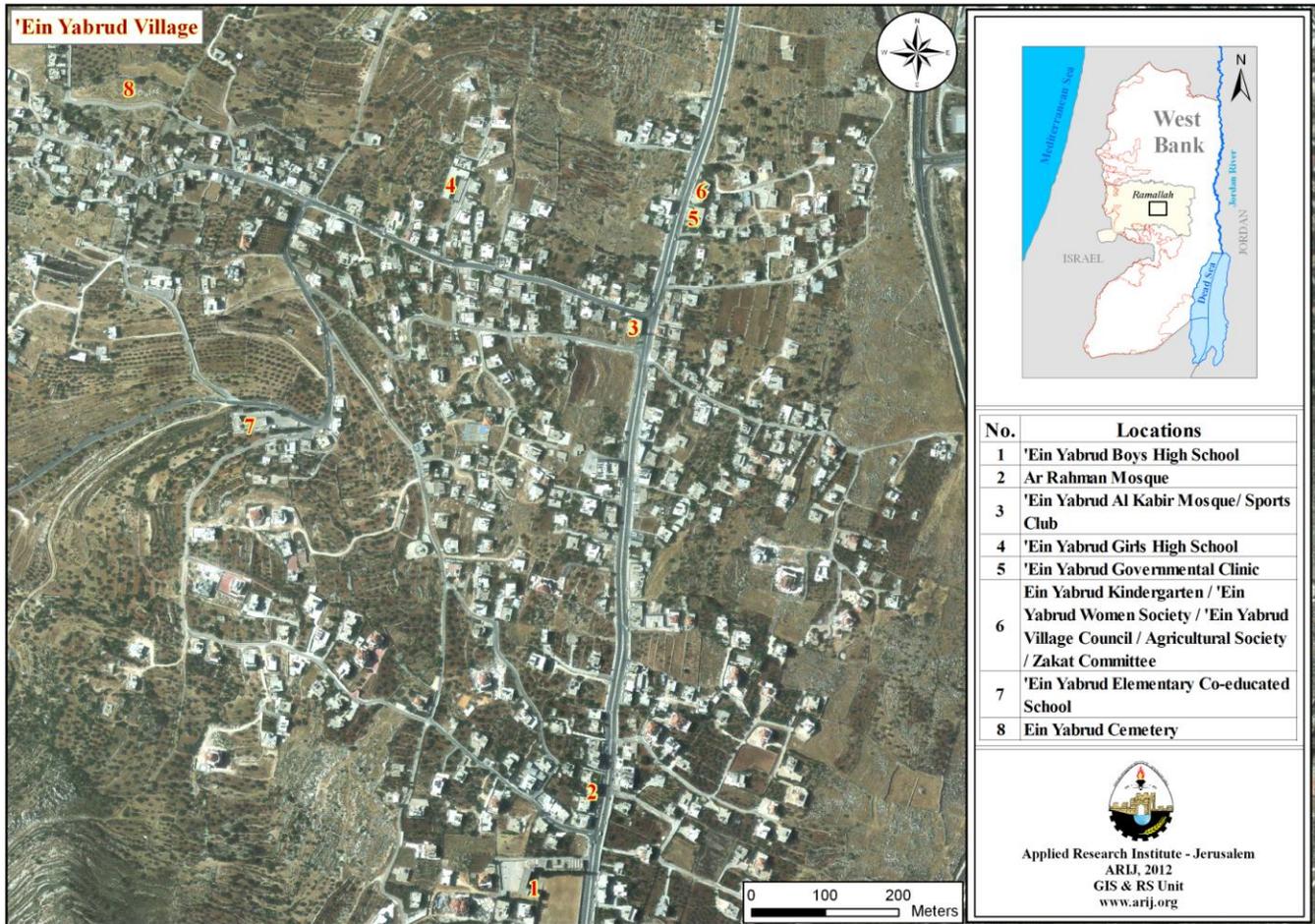
Photos of 'Ein Yabrud



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are three mosques in the village; ‘Ein Yabrud Mosque, Abdul Rahman Bin Ouf Mosque, and Al Omari Mosque. As for the archaeological sites, there are some including a shrine, the old city and Al Omari Mosque (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Map 2: Main locations in 'Ein Yabrud Village



Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of 'Ein Yabrud in 2007 was 2,819; of whom 1,341 were males and 1,478 were females. There were 577 households and 852 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 'Ein Yabrud was as follows: 39.1% were less than 15 years, 52.6% were between 15 - 64 years, 6% were 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village was 90.7:100, meaning that males and females constituted 47.6% and 52.4% of the population, respectively.

Families

‘Ein Yabrud residents are composed of several families, including Al Jabra, Al Jiza, Al Jafma and Ad Dahabrah (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team showed that approximately 500 persons left the village after Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among ‘Ein Yabrud population was about 8.1%; of whom 77.4% were females. Of the literate population, 13.7% could only read and write with no formal education, 26.6% had elementary education, 28.5% had preparatory education, 17.2% had secondary education, and 5.7% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of ‘Ein Yabrud, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: ‘Ein Yabrud population (10 years and above) by sex and educational statement

Sex	Illite-rate	Can read and write	Elem-entary	Prep-aratory	Sec-ondary	Assoc-iate Diploma	Bache-lor	Higher Diploma	Master	PHD	Not stated	Total
M	38	148	275	277	153	18	39	1	6	3	1	959
F	130	136	278	314	205	22	26	1	1	1	4	1,118
T	168	284	553	591	358	40	65	2	7	4	5	2,077

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009.

With regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in ‘Ein Yabrud in the academic year 2010/2011, there were three schools registered run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, also there is one kindergarten run by an Islamic civil society and is responsible for 72 children (MoEHE) (See table 2).

Table 2: Schools’ names and the their supervising authority in Abud village in the scholastic year 2011/2012

Name of school	Supervising authority	Type of school
‘Ein Yabrud Girls Secondary School	Governmental	Females
‘Ein Yabrud Boys Secondary School	Governmental	Males
‘Ein Yabrud Co-educated Elementary School	Governmental	Mixed

Source: MoEHE, 2011

The MoEHE revealed that for the scholastic year 2010/2011 there were 33 classes occupied by 864 male and female students, and 57 teaching staff. Classroom density was 15 students per class, and the average number of students per teacher was 26 students (MoEHE, 2011).

According to 'Ein Yabrud Village council (2011), there are substantial obstacles facing the education sector in the village including ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

- Israeli occupation harassments of the secondary schools' students, represented in the existence of permanent and partial checkpoints.
- Schools are timeworn buildings and have small and limited area of playgrounds.
- It is not possible to open new classes for the students due to the unavailability of classrooms.
- Lack of resources for extracurricular activities.
- The teaching staff is not very eligible.
- General disregard of education which has eased off the educational process.
- Lack of school buses.

Health Status

The village offer health services through a list of health centers, including 'Ein Yabrud Governmental Health Center, a governmental and another private physician clinics and a private pharmacy.

In case of emergencies, patients are transferred to Silwad Health Center in Silwad Town, Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah city or Ramallah & Al Bireh Health Directorate, for treatment, which lie at 10, 25 and 15 km distance, respectively ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village suffers some obstacles and problems, including ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

- Need for more health staff.
- Lack of X-ray clinic and medical laboratories.
- Need of specialized physicians.
- Lack of medical tools and equipment for primary health checkup in the health center, and lack of many types of medicine.
- The Child and Mother Care Center is not independent of the Health Center.
- There is no rehabilitation center for the disabled.
- There is no ambulance
- The general physician works only twice a week in the Health Center.

Economic Activities

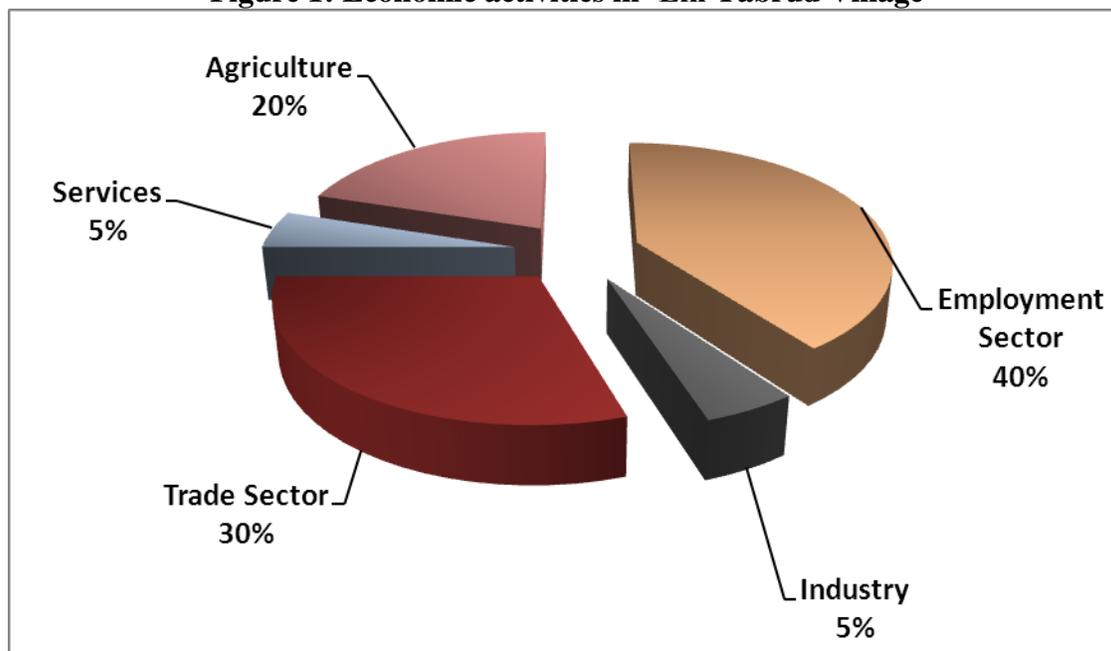
The economy of the village depends on many sectors, however the employment sector is considered to be the most important, constituting 40% of labor force ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011) (figure 1).

Results of the field survey conducted by ARIJ team in 2011 indicated the distribution of labor force by economic activities as follows ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

- Employment sector constituted 40%

- Commerce constituted 30%
- Agricultural sector constituted 20%
- Industry sector constituted 5%
- Service sector constituted 5%

Figure 1: Economic activities in ‘Ein Yabrud Village



Source: ‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011

In term of industrial and commercial establishments in ‘Ein Yabrud Village; there are 12 grocery stores, 3 vegetables and fruits shops, 3 butcheries, a bakery, 12 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith,.. etc.). 12 service stores and an agricultural nursery (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

According to ‘Ein Yabrud Village Council (2011) the unemployment rate in ‘Ein Yabrud has reached around 30%. Most affected social groups in the village, due to Israeli occupation measure, include (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

- Workers in agricultural sector
- Workers in industry sector
- Workers in commerce
- Workers in tourism

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 24.6% of ‘Ein Yabrud labor force was economically active of which 87.8% were employed, and 75.2% were not economically active, of which 49.7% were students, and 34.1% were housekeepers (See table 3).

Table 3: 'Ein Yabrud population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active							Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total	Not stated	
M	410	31	24	465	360	3	78	34	14	489	5	959
F	38	2	5	45	416	529	119	6	2	1,072	1	1,118
T	448	33	29	510	776	532	197	40	16	1,561	6	2,077

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

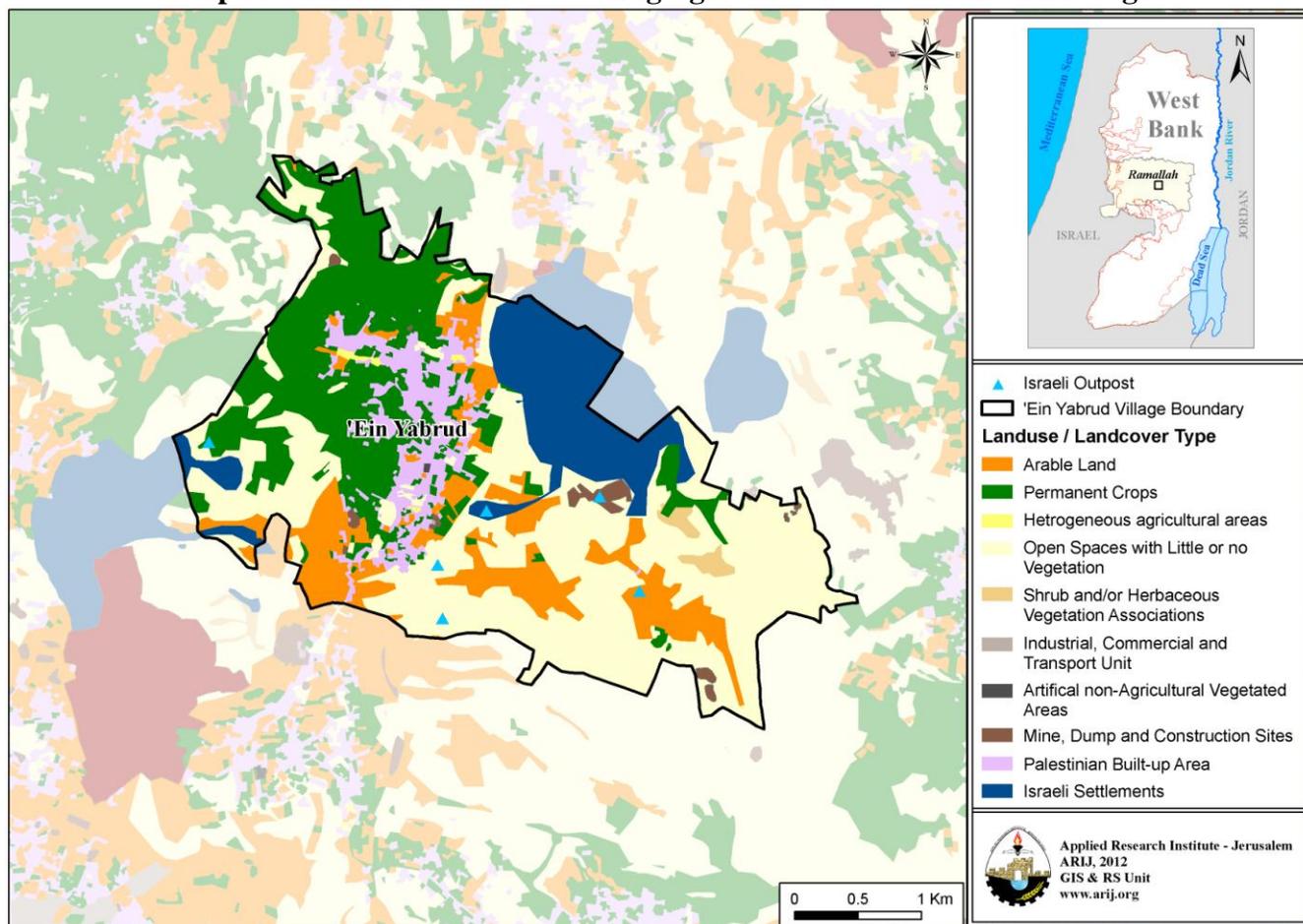
'Ein Yabrud lies on an area of 11,401 dunums, of which 4,388 dunums are considered arable lands, and 837 dunums are dedicated to residential services (see table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in 'Ein Yabrud village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (4,388)				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					
11,401	837	2,759	0	97	1,532	0	0	4,659	125	1,394

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in ‘Ein Yabrud Village



Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in ‘Ein Yabrud. The most common crop cultivated within this area is squash.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in ‘Ein Yabrud (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
36	0	0	0	17	5	8	0	5	1	66	6

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. ‘Ein Yabrud is famous for olives; there are a total of 798 dunums planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in ‘Ein Yabrud (area in dunums)

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.
798	0	0	0	64	0	5	0	30	0	107	0	1,004	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

As for the field crops and forage in ‘Ein Yabrud, cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated covering an area of about 120 dunums (See table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in ‘Ein Yabrud (area in dunums)

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.
120	0	22	0	40	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	3	0	233	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 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 ‘Ein Yabrud rear and keep domestic animals, such as sheep, goats and others (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in ‘Ein Yabrud

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
9	643	232	0	0	0	0	26,000	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are also around 50 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as following (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in ‘Ein Yabrud and their Lengths

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

Source: ‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011

The agricultural sector in the village faces some obstacles, including (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

- Lack of access to agricultural lands.

- Land confiscation; 50% of the village lands are confiscated by the occupation authorities.
- Lack of needed water sources for agriculture.
- Lack of financial support for agriculture and livestock projects.
- Lack of interest in agricultural lands by specialized authorities.
- Israeli settlements surrounding the village.
- Lack of an area in the village for rearing and keeping livestock.

Institutions and Services

There are many institutions and association in ‘Ein Yabrud that works on providing different types of services such as cultural, sports and so on to the village residents (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011). Main institutions are:

- **Ein Yabrud Village Council:** was founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government to take care of different village issues and offer various public services.
- **Islamic Club of ‘Ein Yabrud:** was established in 1990 by the village youth and is currently registered in the Ministry of Youth & Sports and it sponsors cultural, sport and social activities.
- **Ein Yabrud Charity Association:** was founded in 1972 by the village residents and it works on providing funds for children kindergartens and other social services.
- **Ein Yabrud Agricultural Association:** was founded in 1972 by the village residents to provide agricultural services to farmers and construct agricultural roads.
- **Ein Yabrud Zakat Committee:** was founded in 2000 to grant in-kind and financial aids to needy families.
- **Fathers Councils:** founded by the village residents in order to support schools and provide them with in-kind and financial aids.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Ein Yabrud has been connected to a public electricity network since 1976; served by 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 (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011). However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, mainly:

- The weak electricity power supply in many neighborhoods.
- High prices of electricity supply.
- High prices of new electricity network construction.

- Not all secondary roads are illuminated.
- Water cut offs in different times.

Furthermore, 'Ein Yabrud is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 95% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

There are 10 taxis and 5 illegal/unlicensed cars in 'Ein Yabrud village, however, in addition to the lack of vehicles in the village to serve travelers, residents suffer some obstacles, mainly the unqualified roads, and the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints and the Segregation Wall ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011). As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 3.9 km of main roads and a total of 4.2 km of secondary roads (table 10).

Table 10: Length, type and condition of road system in 'Ein Yabrud

No.	Condition of roads	Road length (km)	
		Main	Secondary
1	Good paved roads	2.7	1.2
2	Paved roads but in bad condition	1.2	2
3	Unpaved roads	-	1

Source: 'Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011

Water Resources:

'Ein Yabrud is provided with water by the Jerusalem Water Department, through the public water network established in 1964. Approximately, 95% of the housing units are connected to the water network ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

The quantity of water supplied to the village reaches in 2010 approximately 139,029 m³/ year, and thus the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 135 liter/capita/day. Nevertheless, residents of 'Ein Yabrud do not really consume this amount of water due to the water loss from transfer of water and distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units, and it reaches to 26.5 %, and thus the average of water consumption per capita is 99 liter/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is considered good compared to the recommended amount proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) which is 100 liter/capita/day.

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 11 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 11: 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

In ‘Ein Yabrud there are 350 rainwater harvesting cisterns and an artesian well called Abu Khashaba well which has a daily average pumping of 6 cubic meters/ day. In addition there are 3 water springs which are prohibited access areas from the Israeli Occupation Authorities and due to the low discharge of water. The cisterns and wells are considered an alternative resource of the water network (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

‘Ein Yabrud Village lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits and endocrines as main means for wastewater disposal (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 224 cubic meters, or 82 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 70 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits, are discharged by wastewater 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:

‘Ein Yabrud Village Council is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and in the village. Wastes are collected twice a week by a tractor owned by the Council and two waste collection employees. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 180 NIS/year. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste; only 60% of these fees are collected from the citizens (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in ‘Ein Yabrud benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected

from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 10 containers of 2 m³ volume capacity, spread throughout the locality. The waste is collected by the Village Council and transported through a waste vehicle to the village private random dumping site which is far by 10 km from the village. The common method for solid waste treatment in this dumping site is burying it or setting waste on fire sometimes ('Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in 'Ein Yabrud is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the 'Ein Yabrud residents is nearly 2 tons, or 720 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, in 'Ein Yabrud 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 'Ein Yabrud residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and endocrines 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), 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 ‘Ein Yabrud 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 ‘Ein Yabrud Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, ‘Ein Yabrud was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 3,909 dunums (34.3% of the village’s total area) were classified as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority 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. It is worth mentioning that most of the village’s population resides in area B. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 7,492 dunums (65.7% 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 consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area C are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements (table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of ‘Ein Yabrud Village according to Oslo II Agreement 1995 – Ramallah Governorate

Classification	Area in dunums	Percent from Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	3,909	34.3
Area C	7,492	65.7
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	11,401	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

‘Ein Yabrud village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

‘Ein Yabrud village has received its share of the Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli targets, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, military bases, outposts and Israeli bypass roads on the village territories, in addition to the establishment of the Israeli barriers. Following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of ‘Ein Yabrud village territories:

Regarding colonization, the Israeli Occupation Forces confiscated 1389 dunums in ‘Ein Yabrud to establish parts of the two Israeli settlements: “Ofra” settlement which was built mainly on the village’s territory in the eastern part, and “Beit El” settlement to the west which was built mainly on the territory of Dura al Qar’ village and only part of it on ‘Ein Yabrud village. The two settlements are currently inhabited by 8682 Israeli settlers (table 13).

Table 13: Israeli settlements established on the lands of ‘Ein Yabrud Village

Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Area of lands confiscated from ‘Ein Yabrud	Settlement’s Population 2009
Ofra	1975	1252	3183
Beit El	1977	137	5499
Total		1389	8682
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2011			

It should be noted that on the 29th of December 2009, the Public Prosecution of the Israeli Supreme Court announced that it is considering the possibility of confiscating Palestinian lands in the West Bank to expand existing Israeli settlements. The statement announced by the Israeli public prosecutor was a response to the petition raised by the human rights organization "there is a law", against the construction of a waste facility belonging to Ofra Israeli settlement on private Palestinian land owned by residents of ‘Ein Yabrud neighboring village, noting that the Public Prosecution acknowledged earlier in one of its previous recommendation that the waste facility had been built illegally and without permission from the Israeli authorities. The facility is located on a total area of 37 dunums; about 4 dunums on surface and 33 dunums underground which include pipes and tubing. It should also be noted that the construction of this facility started in 2007, contrary to the whole structural scheme in the region, and the construction costs of the facility were about 7.8 million NIS from the Israeli government budgets.

On the 7th of June 2012, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared the construction of 851 new Israeli settlement units in a number of Israeli settlements in the West Bank; 300 settlements of which will be constructed in Beit El. These units will replace 30 units in 5 buildings that will be demolished in the Israeli outpost Giv'at Ha-Ulpana of the Beit El settlement. The decision to construct new Israeli settlement units came after the Israeli Knesset dropped a project to legalize random outposts established on private Palestinian lands in the West Bank (69 deputies voted against the law, compared to 22 with the law), thus foiling the Israeli settlers attempt to circumvent the Israeli Supreme Court’s decision to demolish five settlement buildings in the Giv'at Ha-Ulpana outpost of the Beit El Israeli settlement in the West Bank, which is home to 30 Jewish families.

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements around 'Ein Yabrud have had a serious and significant impact on the village people and their property. These attacks allow settlers to control more Palestinian land adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from accessing it. Settlers near 'Ein Yabrud have also enclosed land using barbed wire and planting trees to increase their control. Settlers have also burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands nearby the aforementioned settlements.

The Israeli Occupation Forces has also confiscated hundreds of thousands of Palestinian land to construct many Israeli bypass roads which are extended over the West Bank in thousands of kilometers, confiscating agricultural and non-agricultural lands to connect the settlements and to divide the Palestinian land in a way that strengthen security control over them. On 'Ein Yabrud village land and to its east, the Israeli Occupation Forces confiscated more lands to construct the Israeli bypass road no. 60 which stretches for a total length of about 2.8 km within 'Ein Yabrud lands. It is worth mentioning that 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.

Regarding the military barriers, the Israeli Occupation Forces have established several barriers in 'Ein Yabrud village and its surroundings after the outbreak of the second Intifada during the year 2000, of these barriers are a concrete barrier and an iron gate on the northern main entrance of the village which links it with bypass road 60; to prevent Palestinians from using this road. The occupation forces have recently (in 2012) opened this checkpoint after closing it for more than 10 years, which had caused many losses to Palestinians and difficulties in movement, as residents of 'Ein Yabrud village mainly, in addition to some neighboring villages' residents, used to walk long alternative distances to reach bypass road 60 in order to move to north and south of the West Bank; the alternative road from 'Ein Yabrud to bypass road 60 through Bir Zeit town is estimated to be longer than 15 additional km. Also, the occupation forces established an earth mound checkpoint and an observation tower east of the village and on bypass road 60. It should be mentioned that 'Ein Yabrud is connected with east Ramallah villages through a tunnel that passes under bypass road 60 which links the eastern part of the governorate with Ramallah city. Moreover, the occupation forces established a permanent military checkpoint near Beit El settlement bloc west of Beitin village which neighbors 'Ein Yabrud from the south, thus forcing residents of these two villages as well as other neighboring villages to go through Dura al Qar' village and Al Jalazun camp then return to Ramallah city, in order to pass this checkpoint which has been closed in front of Palestinians since many years. Such Israeli barriers aim to restrict the movement of Palestinians in this village in particular as well as neighboring villages, which have a significant impact in the two Palestinian Intifadas, in addition to the occupation allegation of protecting settlers living close to the village.

Also, lands of 'Ein Yabrud village have been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to establish six Israeli outposts; five of which are considered an extension to the south of Ofra Israeli settlement while the sixth is an extension to the east of Beit El settlement. These are the names of outposts: Ofra South, Beit Hagdud, South Ofra, Tal Binyamin Synagogue, Ginot Arye and Hill 857/ Jabal Artis Israeli outposts. These outposts aim at expanding neighboring settlements, mainly Ofra settlement east of 'Ein Yabrud village, and controlling more Palestinian lands.

It is worth mentioning that during the last two decades, Israel built 232 outposts in the West Bank. These outposts are considered the nucleus for the development of new settlements. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans which are located on stolen lands by the settlers and they are a contiguity of a mother settlement that is near. It is worth mentioning that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a “Sharonian” call for Jewish settlers to take control over Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although the successive Israeli governments haven’t legalized this phenomenon, they managed to find a security and logistic cover to justify the act and its existence and continuity. After 2001 the Prime Minister at that time, Ariel Sharon, unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in the number of outposts within Palestinian areas. Also, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) helped the Israeli settlers to move and settle in those outposts, in addition to protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

‘Ein Yabrud village council has implemented several development projects in ‘Ein Yabrid, during the last five years (See Table 14).

Table 14: Implemented development plans and projects in ‘Ein Yabrud during the last five years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Pavement and rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	2006	Donors
Rehabilitation of the water network	Infrastructure	2007	KFW
Pavement and rehabilitation of the main road	Infrastructure	2009	Ministry of Finance & the village residents
Lightening main roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance

Source: ‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011

Proposed Projects

‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks 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 village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the perspectives’ of the participants in the workshop (‘Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011):

1. Rehabilitating and paving internal roads.
2. Allocating an area for rearing livestock.
3. Establishing a public park along with public facilities.
4. Constructing a water reservoir to serve people of the village.
5. Providing agricultural development projects.
6. Providing productive industrial projects.
7. Restoring the old city.
8. Establishing a football stadium.
9. Developing the health center in the village.
10. Developing the kindergarten.
11. Providing a vehicle for the collection of solid waste.
12. Finding a healthy way for the disposal of waste.
13. Providing an ambulance.
14. Providing a bus to transport students.
15. Providing agricultural mechanisms (bulldozer, truck and tractor).
16. Developing computer labs in the schools.
17. Providing an olive oil-press.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

‘Ein Yabrud suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council’s point of view.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Ein Yabrud

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			4.7 km
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			5 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas		*		1 km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of new wells or springs		*		A spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500,000 m ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			5 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			1 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			150 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			1
Health Needs					
1	Building of new clinics or health care centres	*			A clinic
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			A clinic
3	Purchasing of medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of new schools	*			2 secondary schools; 1 for girls & 1 for boys
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			kindergartens & the elementary school
3	Purchasing of new equipment for schools	*			computer and science labs
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			2,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			150 cisterns
3	Construction of barracks for livestock	*			5 barracks
4	Veterinary services	*			
5	Forage and hay for animals	*			500 tons/ year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	there are no green houses
8	Field crops seeds	*			wheat, barley and lentil
9	Plants and agricultural supplies	*			fruit trees, tools and forest trees

* 1.2 km are main roads, 2 km are sub roads and 1.5 are agricultural roads.

Source: 'Ein Yabrud Village Council, 2011

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