

Deir Ballut Town 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 Salfit Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Salfit 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 Salfit 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 Salfit 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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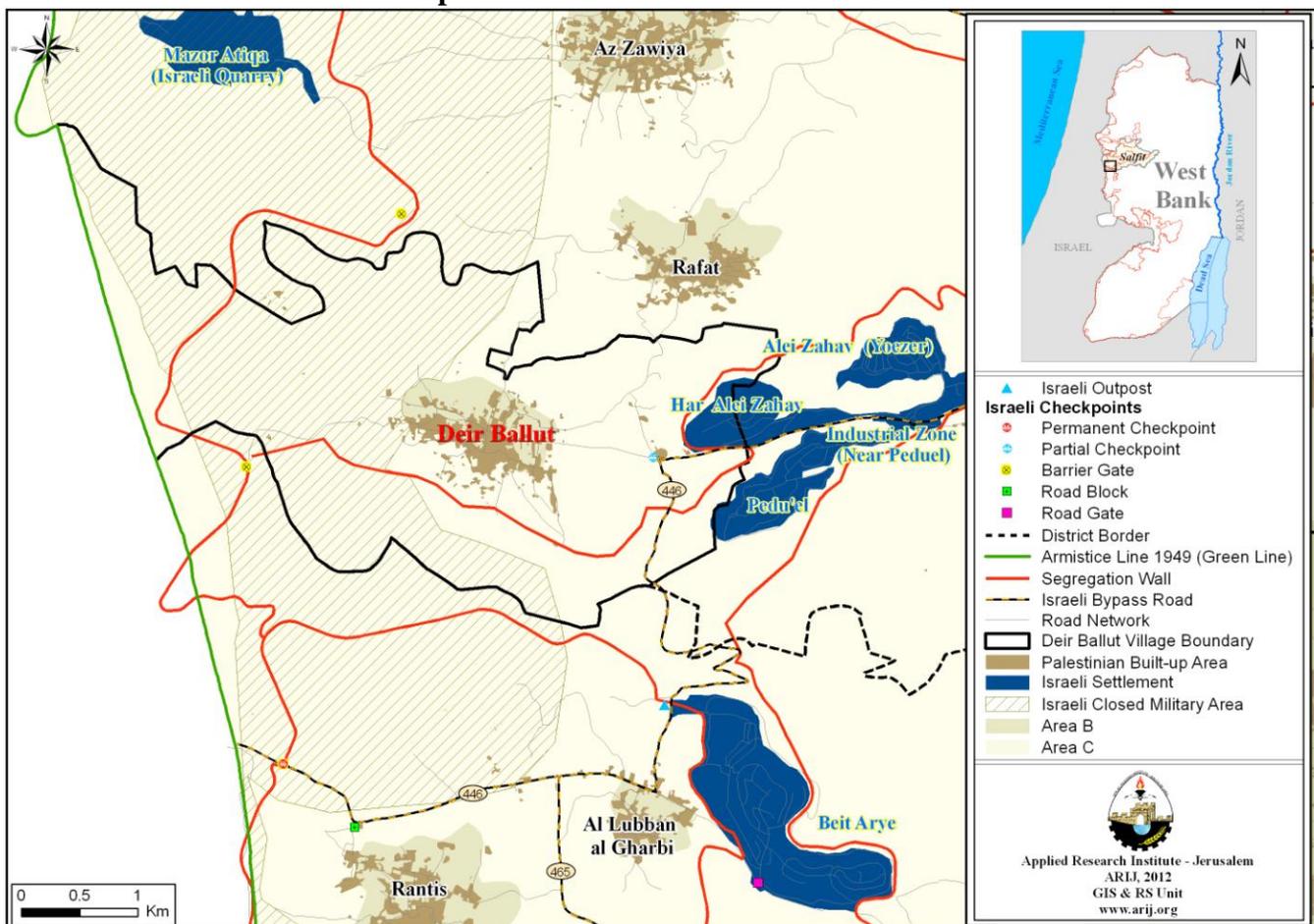
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Deir Ballut Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir Ballut is a Palestinian town in Salfit Governorate located 15 km west of Salfit City. Deir Ballut is bordered by Kafr ad Dik village to its east, Al Lubban al Gharbi in Ramallah Governorate to the south, Kafr Qasem (lands of 1948) to the west, and Rafat village to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Deir Ballut location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Deir Ballut is located at an altitude of 236 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 569.8 mm. The average annual temperature is 19 C° and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 1997, Deir Ballut has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 4 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are 10 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the 'Joint Services Council of West Salfit.' The Council also owns a pickup car and a hammer, but not a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Deir Ballut, including (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Provision of offices for governmental services.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the town.

History

Deir Ballut, where Deir literally means 'convent' and Ballut means oak was named in relation to a Roman era convent. inhabited by a priest called Blutus. Another version of the names states the town is so called due to the many oak trees in the town.

The town was established 350 years ago (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012), while most of its residents descend from Kafr ad Dik Hijazi town (Ad Dabbagh, 1991).

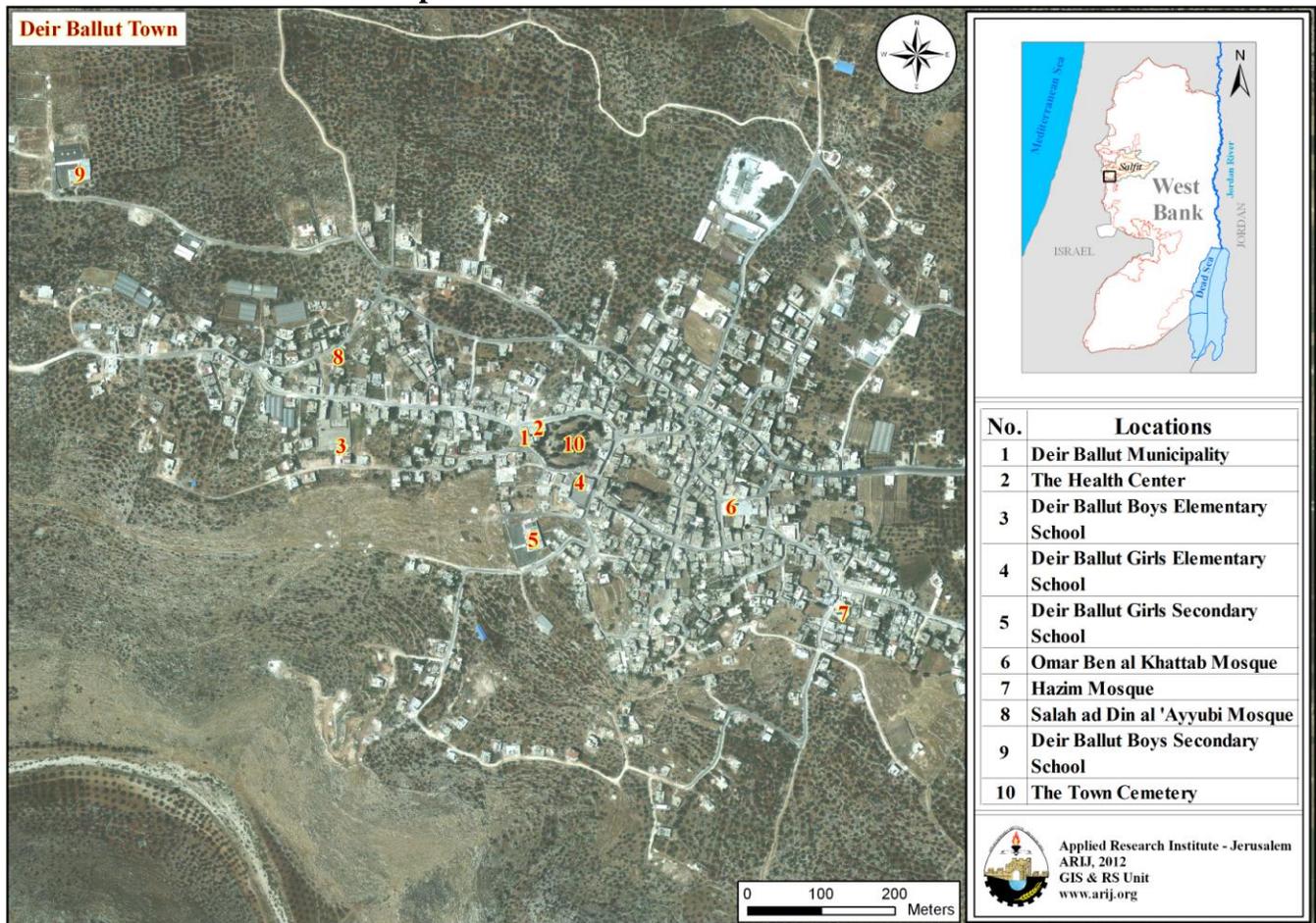
Photo of Deir Ballut



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the town (Salah ad Din al ‘Ayyubi, Omar ben al Khattab and Hazem Mosque). The town has several sites of archaeological interest including: Ash Sheikh Ibrahim Shrine, Simon Convent and the Castle Convent, all of which are located 2km east of the town. Umm al Hamam and Umm al Qabu are located behind the Segregation Wall in the western side of the town, whilst Khirbet Kasfah is located north–west of the town. It is worth noting here that none of these sites are qualified for tourism (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Deir Ballut Town



Population Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir Ballut in 2007 was 3,154, of whom 1,600 were male and 1,554 female. There were additionally 609 households recorded as living in 703 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 Ballut is as follows: 37.1% were less than 15 years of age, 56.9% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 5.7% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 103:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.7% and 49.3% of the population, respectively.

Families

Deir Ballut residents are from several families, including; Abdullah, Mustafa, Mousa, Qasem, Tuffaha, Mis-hil, Qar'oosh, Abu Khair and Hadrus (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Deir Ballut population is approximately 10%, of whom 82% are females. Of the literate population, 12.6% could only read and write, with no formal education, 22.5% had elementary education, 26.1% had preparatory education, 15.1% had secondary education, and 13.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Deir Ballut by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Deir Ballut population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	41	161	255	335	170	44	111	2	13	5	2	1,139
F	190	130	266	269	180	38	98	2	1	0	2	1,176
T	231	291	521	604	350	82	209	4	14	5	4	2,315

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are four public schools in the town, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Deir Ballut by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Deir Ballut Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Deir Ballut Girls Elementary School	Government	Female
Deir Ballut Boys Elementary Higher School	Government	Male
Deir Ballut Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

In the town there are 870 students, 59 teachers, and 36 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 24 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

There is one kindergarten in Deir Ballut town, run by a private organization (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (See table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Deir Ballut town by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Muhannad Model Kindergarten	3	4	Private
Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012			

The educational sector in Deir Ballut town faces some obstacles, represented mainly by the poor infrastructure of Deir Ballut Boys Elementary School which is in need of rehabilitation (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

Health Status

Deir Ballut has a governmental health center (Deir Ballut Health Center), two general physician clinics (one governmental and one private), a private dental clinic, a governmental medical laboratory, a governmental mother and child care center and a private pharmacy. The town also has two ambulances; one owned by the Red Crescent Society and the other privately owned. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Yasir Arafat Governmental Hospital in Salfit city (20 km away), Palestine Medical Complex in Ramallah city (41km away), Al Aqsa Health Center or the Medical Scientific Society in Bididiya town; each of which is 12km away (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

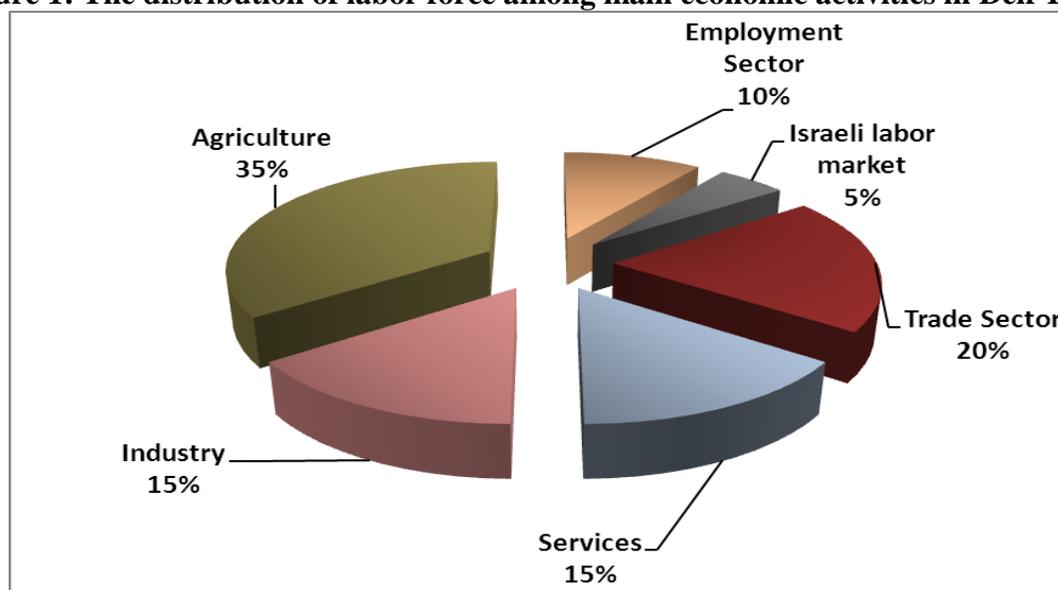
Economic Activities

The economy in Deir Ballut is mainly dependent on the agriculture sector which absorbs approximately 35% of the town's workforce (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Deir Ballut are as follows:

- Agriculture Sector (35%)
- Trade Sector (20%)
- Services Sector (15%)
- Industry (15%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (10%)
- Israeli Labor Market (5%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Deir Ballut



Source: Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012

Deir Ballut has 20 groceries, 3 fruits and vegetables stores, 2 bakeries, 11 butcheries, 11 service stores, 29 different professional workshops, 3 olive oil-presses, a store for agricultural tools and an agricultural nursery (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Deir Ballut reached 30% in 2012 and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012):

- Agricultural workers.
- Industrial workers.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 43.5% of Deir Ballut labor force was economically active, of whom 81.8% were employed, 56.3% were not economically active, 58.6% were students, and 21.5% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Deir Ballut population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	538	92	31	661	366	0	85	12	12	475	3	1,139
F	286	35	25	346	397	280	140	2	9	828	2	1,176
T	824	127	56	1,007	763	280	225	14	21	1,303	5	2,315

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

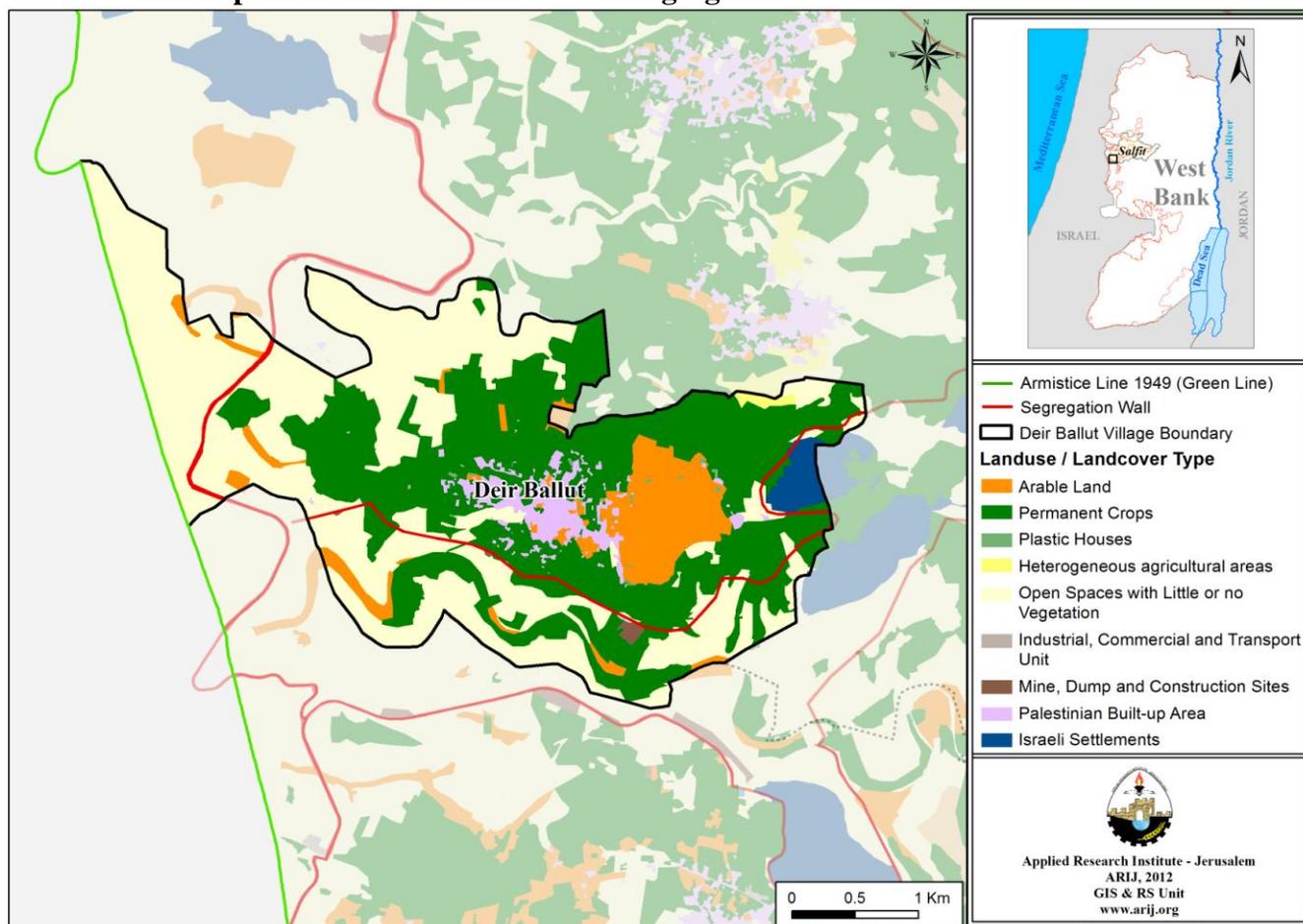
Deir Ballut has a total area of approximately 11,898 dunums of which 5,985 are ‘arable’ land and 422 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Deir Ballut town (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,985)				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					
11,898	422	4,929	21	0	1,035	0	0	5,230	30	231

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Deir Ballut Town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Deir Ballut. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are garlic, snakecucumber, green beans, jew's melon and okra.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Deir Ballut (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.
265	59	0	48	0	24	0	15	0	0	265	146

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Deir Ballut is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 1,760 dunums of town lands planted with olive trees.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Deir Ballut (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.
1,760	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	1,784	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Deir Ballut, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 320 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Deir Ballut (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.
320	0	214	0	165	0	18	0	117	0	0	0	38	0	872	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

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 difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that just 3% of the residents in Deir Ballut rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Deir Ballut

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
5	2,411	0	8,000	115

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There are approximately 27.336 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Deir Ballut Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	2.570
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	7.234
For animals only	0.96
Unsuitable	16.572

Source: Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012

The agricultural sector in the town faces a number of problems, including (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012):

- The poor quality of agricultural inputs and weak technical capacities.
- The lack of sufficient expertise regarding diverse farming methods among farmers.
- The lack of adequate pastures and proper livestock care.
- The presence of large areas of agricultural lands that cannot be accessed by owners.
- The lack of economic feasibility in the agricultural sector.
- The lack of manpower.

Institutions and Services

Deir Ballut town has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012):

- **Deir Ballut Municipal Council:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of the town's issues and providing various services to its population, such as infrastructure services.
- **Deir Ballut Children Club:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Club is interested in children between 10 -15, through implementing educational courses, organizing summer camps, and art and folkloric dance (Palestinian Dabka) teams.
- **Deir Ballut Women Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, it is interested in women and children through the organization of health educational seminars on motherhood and childhood as well as chronic diseases, in addition to the provision of assisting educational courses, food processing and beekeeping.
- **The Rural Girl Cultural Center:** Founded in 2007 by a group of active women from Deir Ballut, and is interested in assisting women through providing them with interest-free loans in order to start small projects. It also organizes health educational seminars in addition to summer camps.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Deir Ballut has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by the Israeli 'Qatariya Electricity Company,' which represents the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately all of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, represented mainly in the lack of financial capacities to expand the electricity network to include new neighborhoods (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

Deir Ballut is also connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 90% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

Transportation Services:

There are 10 taxis and one public bus in addition to 3 illegal/unlicensed cars in Deir Ballut. However, residents suffer from the lack of transportation vehicles to serve all residents as well as the lack of a direct transportation line from the town to the main cities' centers (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012). There are 3.52 km of main roads and 8.811 km of secondary roads in Deir Ballut (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Deir Ballut town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	2	8.021
2. Paved & in poor condition	1.52	0.79
3. Unpaved	-	-

Source: Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012

Water Resources:

Deir Ballut is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1986. Approximately 99% of the housing units are connected to the water network (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Deir Ballut town in 2010 was approximately 115,752 cubic meters/year which makes the estimated rate of water supply per capita about 91 liters/day (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012). However, no Deir Ballut citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 22% (PWA, 2010). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, taking into account water losses, the rate of water consumption per capita in Deir Ballut is 71 liters per day (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012). The average water consumption of Deir Ballut residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 3.5 NIS (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

The town additionally has an underground well that is under Israeli authority control. In addition, there is a public water reservoir with a capacity of 200 cubic meters in addition to 400 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

Sanitation:

Deir Ballut lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 198 cubic meters, or 72,229 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 57 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council of West Salfit is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 10 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. Approximately 99% of the fees are collected from the citizens (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012)

Most of the population in Deir Ballut benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 20 containers (of 1 m³ capacity) distributed within the town neighborhoods. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's dumping site, 2 km from the town, where it is subsequently burnt. This represents an unsanitary and environmentally unfriendly method of waste disposal (Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir Ballut is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated quantity of solid waste produced per day from the Deir Ballut residents is nearly 3.6 tons, or 1,328 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Deir Ballut 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 during summer in numerous neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
 1. Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution amongst populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. In addition, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies in order to meet citizens' water needs.
 2. High rate of water losses, due to the aged condition of the water network which is in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in the town's neighborhoods means that Deir Ballut residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. 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:

- Zahrat al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate (approximately 32 km in distance from the center of Salfit Governorate), is considered the central sanitary landfill to serve Salfit Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Salfit Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather dispose of waste in random dumps scattered throughout the area. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste to the landfill. As a result, wastes are being disposed randomly causing health problems, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects, and mice, as well as bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which emits when wastes are burned. All of these have harmful effects on human health as well the environment.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Deir Ballut and the other neighboring communities in the Governorate is due mainly to obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill. This is 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, which produces bad odors and a distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Deir Ballut

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Deir Ballut was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 621 dunums (5.2% of the town’s total 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 refugee camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the town’s population resides in area B which constitutes a small percentage of the town’s total area. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 11,277 dunums (94.8% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (table 12). 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 area C are agricultural areas, open spaces, Israeli settlements and lands isolated behind the Wall.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Deir Ballut – Salfit Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	621	5.2
Area C	11,277	94.8
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	11,898	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Practices in Deir Ballut Town

Deir Ballut town has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli objectives, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on town territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan represented by the Segregation Wall. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations to have negatively affected Deir Ballut town territories:

During their occupation of the Palestinian territories, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated 171 dunums in Deir Ballut to establish “Har Alei Zahav” and “Pedu’el” Israeli settlement east of the town, which are planned to be isolated west of the Segregation Wall within the Western Segregation Zone (between the Green Armistice Line of 1949 and the Segregation Wall route). The two settlements were established in 1983 and 1984 respectively, and are both inhabited by more than 1000 Israeli settlers.

Following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities established an Israeli military checkpoint on the town’s entrance. This checkpoint represents a main site of the many violations against Palestinian citizens, including; harassments, conflicts, injuries

and inspection, arrest, delay and obstruction of freedom of movement between Palestinian towns and villages.

Moreover, the Israeli Government has confiscated thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands to open several bypass roads stretching thousands of kilometers from the north to south of the West Bank. This has been carried out in order to link Israeli settlements, dismember Palestinian lands and enhance Israeli security control over them. Israel has also confiscated additional land on the eastern side of Deir Ballut for the construction of Israeli bypass road no. 446, which extends for 2km on the town's land. The real threat of these bypass roads however lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Deir Ballut Town

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Deir Ballut residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website (April 30 2007), shows that the existing as well as the planned wall on Deir Ballut town's land in the eastern, western and southern sides extends for 7.8km. Upon its implementation, the wall will confiscate 4,234 dunums, equivalent to 35.6% of the town's total area, in addition to isolating further lands for Israeli settlement activities. The majority of isolated lands or lands planned to be isolated by the Wall includes agricultural areas, open spaces, Israeli settlements established on the town's lands and others (See Table 13).

Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Deir Ballut Town – Salfit Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Open Spaces	2,875
2	Agricultural Areas	1,159
3	Israeli Settlements	171
4	Wall Zone	30
Total		4,235
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

The Wall scheme, published by the Israeli Ministry of Defense in 2007, has also shown that the urban area in Deir Ballut town (in addition to Palestinian urban areas in the villages of Rafat and Az Zawiya) will become isolated from neighboring Palestinian villages as they will be encircled by the wall from all sides. There is a wall west of the town and a planned wall to be built to the east, north and south of the town. Upon completing the wall's construction in the region, Deir Ballut in addition to the villages of Rafat and Az Zawiya will become isolated within the "Canton" from all sides and will be linked with the villages of Salfit in addition to the neighboring village of Az Zawiya as well as Mas-ha, Sarta and Biddya villages. This will occur through a small tunnel that passes under Israeli bypass road 5, known as "Samaria Crossing". In addition, this canton is linked with the villages of Ramallah in the south through Deir Ballut military checkpoint. This plan aims to dismember Palestinian land, restrict the movement of the Palestinian population and confiscate and isolate more agricultural and non-agricultural lands for Israeli settlement purposes. Furthermore, upon the implementation of the wall scheme south of Deir Ballut, Palestinian farmers in the town will be deprived by Israeli occupation authorities from accessing their land isolated west of the wall (within the Western Segregation Zone). These lands will not be able

to be accessed without special permits issued by the Israeli civil administration office (ICA) and through a special gate to be established on the Wall route in the area.

One should also note that Salfit Governorate villages are known for their fertile soil, their beautiful nature and the abundance of water and large trees, especially olive trees. This makes the region an important target for Israeli settlement activities, in addition to the being the second Governorate after Jerusalem on the list of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction.

Israeli Military Orders Issued in Deir Ballut Town

The Israeli authorities issued a series of military orders to confiscate land or notices to stop construction or evacuation in Deir Ballut town. The following are some of these orders:

- Israeli Military Order No. (24/04/T): Issued on the 4th March 2004, confiscating a total area of 317 dunums of Deir Ballut, Az Zawiya, Mas-ha and Rafat village lands in order to construct the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (82/06/T): Issued on the 20th November 2006, confiscating a total area of 538.7 dunums of Deir Ballut and Kafr ad Dik villages' lands in order to construct the Israeli Segregation Wall.

Israeli Demolition Policy in Deir Ballut Town

On 11th September 2010, the Department of Construction and Organization of the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) distributed eight military notifications to halt work and construction in a number of Palestinian buildings in Deir Ballut town, west of Salfit city, under the pretext of unlicensed construction. The military orders were given for each of the citizens Abdul Ghafer Jabara Husni Mustafa, Abdul Wahhab Mohammad Abdullah, Edris Jabara Abdullah, Khalid Ahmad Abu Khair, Najih Daoud Hussein Abdullah, Abdullah Mahmoud Abu Khair, Jaber Ahmad Mahmoud Abdullah, and Abdul Wahab Husni Issa Mousa. The Israeli military orders received by residents of Deir Ballut town state that the buildings constructed in the town transgress Jordanian law No. 79 (1966) to organize cities, villages and buildings, which was later amended (after the 1967 war) by the Israeli occupation authorities, on the basis of Israeli military order no. 418. This was amended for settler's interests in the occupied Palestinian territories. The issued Israeli military orders give residents of Deir Ballut town until the 7th October 2010 to object to the orders and start the licensing procedures. It is worth noting that according to the military order, initiating a license at the Israeli Civil Administration does not guarantee granting licenses for Palestinian citizens.

Furthermore, on 27th June 2007, the Israeli Civil Administration targeted buildings and properties in Deir Ballut town, as handed citizens' seven notices for demolition and stopping construction under the pretext of non-licensed building, due to its location in areas "C." An analysis of the issued notifications shows that the houses to be demolished are located 200-300 km from the Segregation Wall route in the town. The following are the names of property owners threatened with demolition in the town of Deir Ballut: Suleiman Mohammad Ismail Abdullah (home area of 140 square meters), Sulaiman Abdul Hamad Abdullah (home area of 50 square meters), Mohammad Ibrahim Abdul Razeq (home area of 100 square meters), Zahriya Abdul Razeq (home area of 140 square meters), Sa'ed Deeb Salim Khair (home

area of 140 square meters), Haitham Ali Abdul Rahman (home area of 120 square meters) and Hikmat Hussein Ali Abdullah (home area of 140 square meters). [To read the full report, click here.](#)

On 4th June 2008, the Israeli Civil Administration handed notifications to 3 agricultural and residential buildings in the town to stop construction work under the pretext of the location of these buildings in area “C”. The following are the names of homeowners warned to stop construction work in Deir Ballut: Ragheb Sa’id Abdul Fattah (additions to an old house), Khadija Yusif Abdullah (fence around his farm) and Abdullah Odeh Abdullah (plastic water tank).

Moreover, on 15th June 2009, the Israeli occupation authorities again handed over to residents of Deir Ballut additional orders to stop work and construction of at least a dozen of Palestinian homes in the town under the pretext of unauthorized building due to their location on area C lands. The following is a list of property owners in Deir Ballut town who received notices: Abdullah Mahmoud Mohammad Salem Abu Khair, Hatem Abdullah Mahmoud Abu Khair (a house under construction), Mufid Mahfouz Salem Abu Khair (a house under construction), ‘Abd Odah Abdullah (furnished and habitable (300 square meters)), ‘Amina Dheeb Salem Khair (house under construction (80 square meters)), Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad Dar Mousa (furnished and habitable (100 square meters)), Sulaiman Abdul Hamid Abdullah (house under construction (180 square meters)), Saleh Hussein Saleh (house inhabited by 4 family members (300 square meters)), Khalil Mahmoud Mohammad Abdullah (house under construction (100 square meters)), Edris Jabara Abdullah (house under construction (250 square meters)), Naji Daoud Abdullah (house under construction (150 square meters)) and Zaid Ali Abdul Halim Abdullah (a house under construction).

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Deir Ballut Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Deir Ballut during the past five years (See Table 14).

Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Deir Ballut during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing 3 classrooms in the boys school	Educational	2007-2008	Deir Ballut Municipality
Constructing retaining walls	Infrastructure	2007-2008	French Association
Paving the main yard in the boys school	Educational	2008	Deir Ballut Municipality
Finishing 3 classrooms in the boys school	Educational	2008	National Bank
Supplying medical equipment and computer devices to the health center	Health	2008	National Bank
Installing prepaid electricity meters	Public Services	2008-2009	Deir Ballut Municipality
Paving secondary roads	Infrastructure	2008-2009	Arab Bank
Constructing 3km agricultural roads	Infrastructure	2008-2009	Ministry of Agriculture
Supplying and installing an electricity transformer	Infrastructure	2008-2009	Ministry of Finance
Paving secondary roads	Infrastructure	2008-2009	Ministry of Finance

Source: Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012

Proposed Projects

Deir Ballut Municipal Council, in cooperation with the town's civil society organizations and town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the workshop participants:

1. Renewing the inland water network (approx. 7 km).
2. Constructing a health unit and providing specialist medical staff and equipping it with a medical analysis laboratory, radiology department and an ambulance.
3. Expanding the public water network and the electricity network (approx. 5km) to be connected to new areas in the town's outskirts.
4. Constructing and rehabilitating new agricultural roads.
5. Paving secondary roads (approx. 4 km).
6. Constructing 200 agricultural wells to serve lands far from water sources.
7. Completing the municipal stadium.
8. Establishing a public garden and a park.
9. Constructing a cultural center and a public library.
10. Providing the town with a fire response car = and a waste collection vehicle, in addition to 60 waste collection containers.
11. Establishing a sewerage network.
12. Constructing an additional floor in the boys secondary school.
13. Providing an observation network equipped with cameras at the town entrance.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Deir Ballut suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the Municipal Council's perspective.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Deir Ballut

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and paving roads	*			20 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			2 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			7 km
4	Constructing new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells and/ or= springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			20 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection		*		20 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools			*	
2	Rehabilitating old schools	*			Deir Ballut Boys Elementary School
3	Purchasing new equipment for schools		*		all schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitating agricultural lands	*			2000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			10 cisterns
3	Constructing livestock barracks			*	
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals			*	
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		5 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 3 km main roads, 7 km secondary roads and 10 km are agricultural roads

Source: Deir Ballut Municipality, 2012

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