

# Khirbet Yarza village profile



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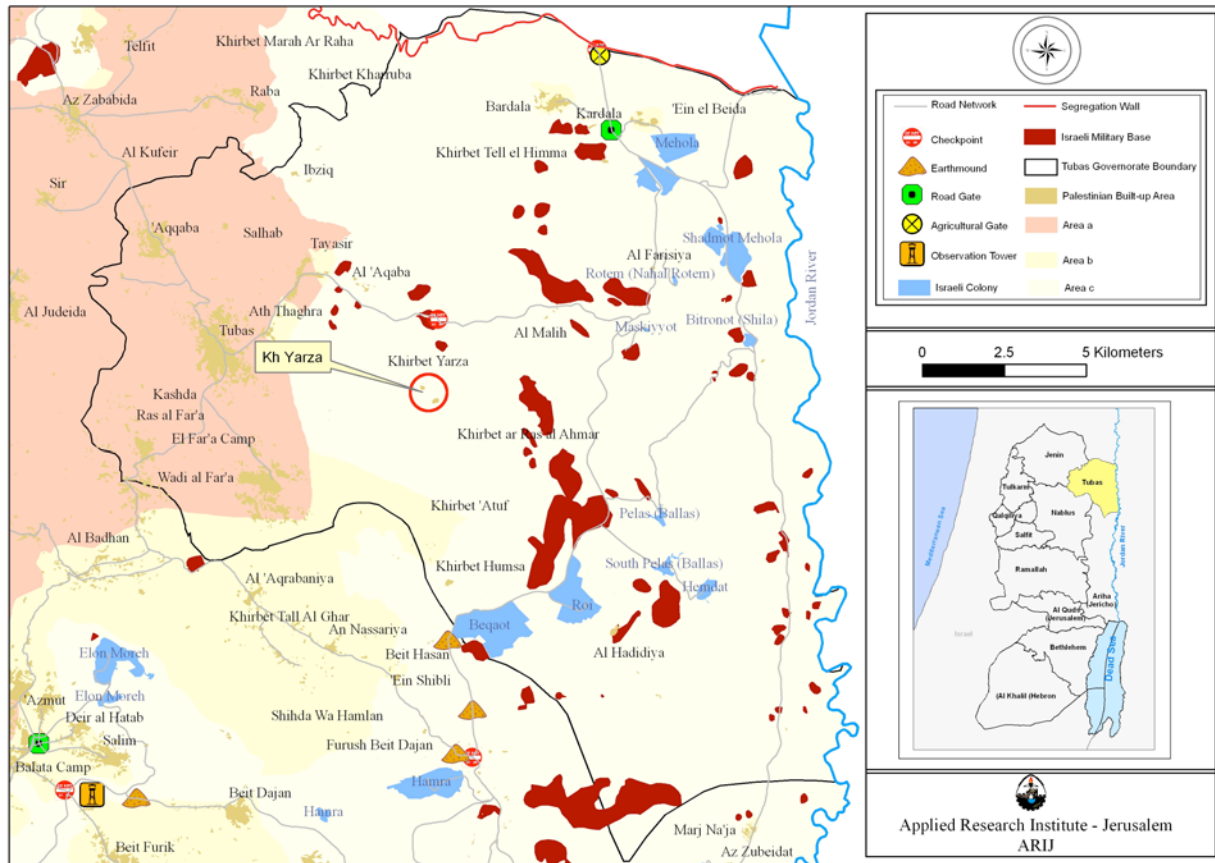
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## Location and Physical characteristics

Kh Yarza is a Palestinian village, which is located 6 km to the east of Tubas city, in the northeastern part of West Bank. Kh Yarza village is bordered by Al Malih to the east, Al 'Aqaba to the north, Tubas city to the west and Al Bqea'ea area to the south.

**Map 1: Kh Yarza location and borders.**



The total area of Kh Yarza village is 20,000 dunums, 300 dunums are classified as 'built up' area; whilst 1500 dunums are agricultural.

Kh Yarza village is located in a level area of land and is surrounded by mountains at a moderate elevation of 257m above sea level. It has a moderate climate; the mean annual rainfall in Kh Yarza village is 322 mm, the average annual temperature is 21-22 °C and the average annual humidity is 55% (ARIJ GIS).

Kh Yarza village has been governed by a Project committee since 1997, which today consists of 3 elected members who were elected during the 2005 local authority elections. The Project committee operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development;
2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructure maintenance water, electricity, solid waste collection, and the distribution of social services.

## History

The history of Kh Yarza locality dates back to 500 years ago during the Turkish period, when some people selected the area due to abundance of water wells and availability of caves which they used as houses. Some of these old dwellings remain today.

The origin of Kh Yarza residents is from Tubas city. They chose to live in the area due to the water and grazing and because they owned the land.

## Demography and Population

In 1997, the total population of Kh Yarza village was 23 people, of which 14 were males and 9 were females. There were 5 households resident in 8 housing units (1997 census).

### Age groups and gender

The population of Kh Yarza village is classified by age groups. The data of the 1997 census reveals that 26.1 % are less than 15 years old, 70.0 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 3.9 % are 65 years old and above (See table 1)

Sex	Age				Percentage
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +	Total	
<b>Male</b>	5	8	1	14	61.0
<b>Female</b>	1	8	-	9	39.0
<b>Total</b>	6	16	1	23	100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

The sex ratio in the village was 115 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 61.0 % of the population and females constitute 39.0 %.

### Families:

All the population of Kh Yarza village belongs to one main family: Dargameahi 100 %

## Religious and Archeological Sites

There is one place considered as an archeological site in the village: the Alshek Muhamed Algadury mosque.

## The Economy

The dominant economic activity in the Kh Yarza village is agriculture; all the residents (100 %) are economically reliant on agriculture. They keep livestock as well as crop and vegetable cultivation. A few people work in the Israeli labor market, which has decreased significantly due to increasing Israeli closures, with fewer workers being given permits to work inside Israel.

### Labor Force Construction

In 1997, the percentage of participants in the labor force in Kh Yarza was 82.6% of the total population of the village; womens' participation was assessed to be 34.8% (8 women in total). The labor force in Kh Yarza is 19 people in total, of which 52.6% are 'economically active' people and 47.4% are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people 100 % are employed people.

The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housewives, who constitute 11.1% and 55.6 % respectively. Table 2 shows the labor force in Kh Yarza village.

**Table 2: Kh Yarza Population (10 years and Over) by Sex and Employment Status**

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Empl- oyed	Currently Un- Employed	Un- Employed Never Worked	Total	Stud- ents	House -Wife	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
<i>M</i>	9	-	-	9	1	-	1	-	-	2	11
<i>F</i>	1	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	2	7	8
<b>T</b>	<b>10</b>	-	-	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, results

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005, all the residents work in the agricultural sector (100%).

The survey also indicated that the social groups that are most affected by Israeli measures in Kh Yarza village during the second Intifada are: 1) former migrant workers in the Israeli labor market, 2) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 3) small farmers, 4) housewife's and children and 5) small traders.

The average household income in Kh Yarza village has been heavily affected by the Israeli procedures since 2000. In 2000, the average household income was 2000 NIS. Today however it has declined sharply to 1000 NIS. The result is that the average household income has decreased by 50 % in only four years.

## Education

In the 1997 census of the education status in Kh Yarza, results indicated that about 31.6 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (50.0 %) comprising the same percentage of illiterates as men (50.0 %). Of the literate population, 31.6 % of residents could read and write, 21.1 % completed elementary education, and 15.7 % completed preparatory education Table 4 shows the education status in Kh Yarza by sex and education attainment in 1997.

**Table 3: Kh Yarza Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment**

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PHD	Total
M	3	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
F	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
<b>T</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>19</b>

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

Like other rural localities in Tubas governorate Kh Yarza village is suffering from many problems in the education sector as there are no schools in this village.

## Health Status

The village is deprived of any health institutions or clinics; the residents go to nearby localities to get health services.

In addition to the shortage of health institutions the residents face many obstacles to accessing health services in nearby localities due to the Israeli closures or check points and lack of transportation.

## Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

There are no schools or health clinics; there are no any services institution in the village. There is no building for the Project committee; nor any society or club for women or young people.

- **Telecommunication services:** Kh Yarza village is not connected to the telecommunication network.
- **Water services:** Kh Yarza village is not connected to the water network
- **Electricity services:** Kh Yarza village is not connected with the electricity network.
- **Transportation services:** Kh Yarza residents use tractors and animals for their transportation to nearby villages and then use those villages' transportation.

## Agriculture Sector

The dominant economic activity in Kh Yarza village is agricultural activities. As we mentioned above 100 % of the residents of Karza are engaged in the agricultural sector and depend for their livelihood on plant production and livestock. The total area of Kh Yarza village is 1500 dunums; the cultivated area has reached 1500 dunums. (Ministry of Agriculture 2004)

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH, Kh Yarza village produces 100 tons of nut stone per year.

100 % of the residents of Kh Yarza village also keep livestock. Data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that there are 125 heads of cattle, 800 goats and 400 sheep.

## Impact of Occupation Practices

Kh Yarza is located adjacent to Kopra military base to the north. The military base uses the surrounding area as a training area for Israeli forces. Due to this, they prevent the residents from accessing their land and fields to cultivate or harvest crops. Movement is allowed on only two days per week: Friday and Saturday. Also the village is closed from other directions by checkpoints and barriers.

About 4 families are directly affected by Israeli restrictions. These procedures have a dire impact upon the essential rights of the residents, such as the right to food security and access to health and water requirements. Kh Yarza village is therefore directly affected by the closures.

## Plans and Development Projects

Kh Yarza village is a rural area and was neglected from basic infrastructure and development projects; recently the Project committee has implemented a project to rehabilitate and expand the main road in the village.

The Project committee in Kh Yarza has set up a plan for development of the village, which includes various new projects. The developmental projects, which have been planned, are listed in table 4.

**Table 4: Development plans and projects in Kh Yarza village**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Construction of roads	Infrastructure	76,660 USD
Build health clinic	Health	44,450 USD

## References

1. ARIJ, 2005. Socio-economic field survey- Tubas Governorate, co-operation with Kishda project committee.
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3. Ministry of Agriculture, Tubas Office.