

Ras al Far'a village profile



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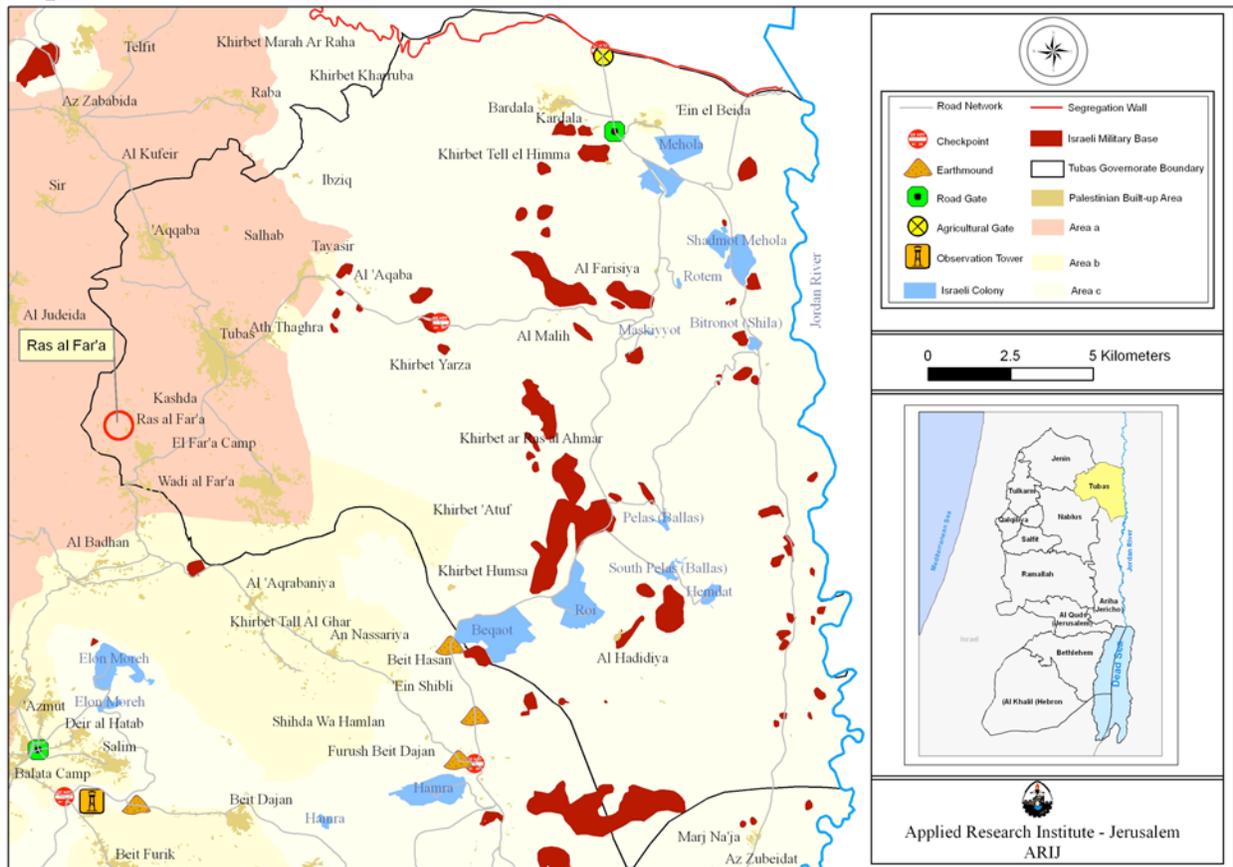
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Ras Al Far'a village profile

Location and Physical characteristics

RAS AL FAR'A is a Palestinian village in Tubas governorate which is located 4 Km southwest of Tubas city, in the northeastern part of the West Bank. Ras al Far'a village is bordered by Tubas city to the east, Sir and A'qqaba villages to the north, Yasid and Siris villages (Jenin Governorate) to the west and Wadi Al Far'a to the south.

Map 1: Ras Al Far'a location and borders



The total area of Ras al Far'a village is 4,500 dunums, which represents approximately 0.8 % of the Tubas Governorates land area. 50 dunums are classified as 'built up' area, whilst 3,500 dunums are agricultural land and 1,400 dunums are classified as forests and open space area.

Ras Al Far'a village is located in a level area of land and is surrounded by mountains at a moderate elevation of 255m above sea level. In addition, it has a moderate climate, with a mean annual rainfall in the village of about 389 mm, the average annual temperature is 19-20 °C and the average annual humidity is 59% (ARIJ GIS).

In 2001, the village was governed by a village council which was appointed by the Ministry of Local Authority, currently the village council comprises of three members who were elected during the 2005 local authorities elections. The village council has one paid employee and its operations and responsibilities include:

1. Social development services
2. Infrastructural maintenance, electricity, rehabilitation and road paving.

History

Ras Al Far'a village is located in "Al Far'a area" which is a highly historic and archeologically significant area which includes three localities: Ras Al Far'a, Wadi al Fara'a villages and Al Fara'a comp. Ras Al Far'a's name (lit; top of the thing) is derived from its location on the top of spring in the area.

Ras Al Far'a has a long history, some narratives refer to the existence of an ancient kingdom in the area, a long time before the area was settled by people from Tubas city (the Abu Khazaran family) due to the abundance of water and grazing potential.

Photography of Ras Al Far'a village



Demography and Population

In 1997, the total population of Ras Al Far'a village was 512 people, of which 277 were males and 235 were females. There were 76 households resident in 85 housing units (1997 census).

The population of Ras Al Far'a village constitutes about 1.5 % of the total population of the Tubas Governorate which is considered the government urban population.

Age groups and gender

The data of the 1997 census of population for Ras Al Far'a has been classified by age groups and sex. The data showed that 42.8 % are less than 15 years, 53.9 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 3.3 % are 65 year and above (See table 1)

| Sex | Age | | | | Percentage |
|---------------|-------|--------|------|-------|------------|
| | 0 -14 | 15 -64 | 65 + | Total | |
| Male | 128 | 143 | 6 | 277 | 54.1 % |
| Female | 91 | 133 | 11 | 235 | 45.9 % |
| Total | 219 | 276 | 17 | 512 | 100 |

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

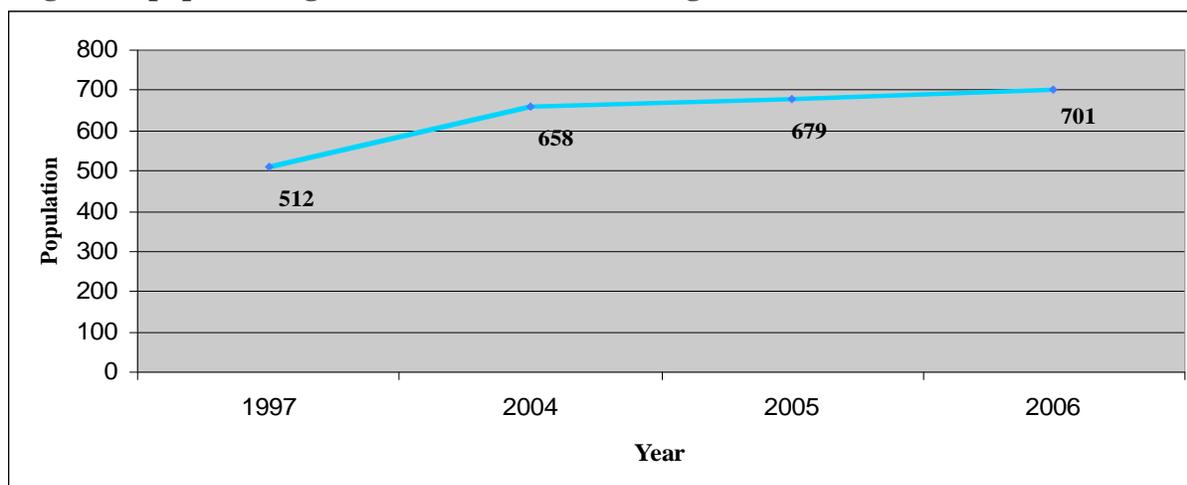
The sex ratio in the village was 117 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 54.1% of the population and females constitute 45.9 %.

The estimated population of Ras Al Far'a village by mid 2005 was 679 and by mid 2006 this will have increased to 701. The data in table 2 indicates that the population of Ras Al Far'a grew by 32.6 % between 1997 and mid 2005 and in 2006 will increase by 3.2 % (an increase of 22 people).

| | 1997 census | Mid-year population in | | |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|------|------|
| | | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Ras Al Far'a | 512 | 658 | 679 | 701 |

Source: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/populati/pop10.aspx>

Figure 1: population growth in Ras Al Far'a village



Families:

All the residents of Ras al Far'a belong to one big family; The Daraghmah family which includes a number of sub-clans: Abu Khazaran 75 %, Zaed 2 %, Maslamany 15 % and Abd Al Razeq 8 %.

Religious and Archeological Sites

Although the Ras al Far'a village is located in old archeological area, there are no special archeological sites which have been uncovered. There are also no religious places in the village.

The Economy

The dominant economic activity in the Ras Al Far'a is agriculture; it has a fertile agricultural area reaching 2,500 dunums. Approximately 85 % of the residents are engaged in agricultural activities. Agriculture production forms the main source of income for the residents. The second main source of income of the residents is the service sector. The Israeli labor market decreased sharply due to Israeli closures and restrictions. In Ras Al Far'a village, there are four shops and groceries and some car repairing businesses.

Labor Force Construction

In 1997, the percentage of participants in the labor force in Ras Al Far'a was 69.5 % of the total population of the village; the participation of women was assessed to be 31.7 % (162 women in total). The labor force in Ras Al Far'a comprises of 356 people in total, of which 41 % are 'economically active' people and 59 % are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people 96 % are employed people and 4 % are unemployed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housewives, who constitute 32.9 % and 39.5 % respectively. Table 3 shows the labor force in Ras Al Far'a village.

Table 3: Ras Al Far'a 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 | Others | Total | |
| M | 135 | 6 | - | 141 | 41 | - | 7 | 3 | 2 | 53 | 194 |
| F | 5 | - | - | 5 | 28 | 83 | 2 | - | 44 | 157 | 162 |
| T | 140 | 6 | - | 146 | 69 | 83 | 9 | 3 | 46 | 210 | 356 |

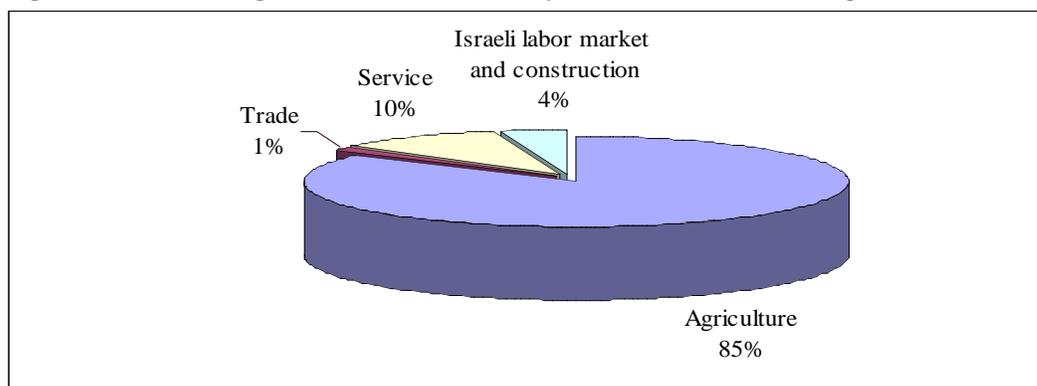
Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005, the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy in Ras al Far'a is listed below by percentage:

- The agricultural sector 85 %,

- The trade sector 1 %,
- The service sector 10 %,
- Israeli labor market 1 %.
- The construction sector 3 %.

Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Ras Al Far'a village



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

The average household income in Ras Al Far'a village has been heavily affected by the Israeli procedures since 2000. Prior to the Israeli closures and restrictions imposed upon Palestinian territory the average household income in Ras Al Far'a was 2000 NIS. Currently however it has declined sharply to 400 NIS. The result is that the average household income has decreased by 80 % in only four years.

Education

In the 1997 census, the education status in Ras Al Far'a indicated that about 15.2 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (74.1%) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (25.9 %). Of the literate population, 14.9 % of residents could read and write, 24.4 % completed elementary education, 32.9 % completed preparatory education and 9.0 % completed their secondary and higher education. Table 4 shows the education status in Ras Al Far'a by sex and education attainment in 1997.

Table 4: Ras Al Far'a Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & Write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | M | P | Total |
|----------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------|------------|
| M | 14 | 30 | 54 | 69 | 19 | 3 | 5 | - | - | - | 194 |
| F | 40 | 23 | 33 | 48 | 13 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 162 |
| T | 54 | 53 | 87 | 117 | 32 | 6 | 7 | - | - | - | 356 |

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

As other rural localities in Tubas governorate Ras Al Far'a village have no education institutions, there are no schools, no kindergartens and also there are no buildings to utilize for education. The students from the village are forced to go to nearby localities (Tubas, Al Fara camp) to access education institutions with the difficulties of transportation and Israeli procedures.

Health Status

Ras Al Far'a village also has no government health centers or clinics, the residents in the village are forced to travel Tubas city or to other villages to get health services. Beside the lack of the health clinics in the village, there are also no private physicians, there is no ambulance or pharmacy to provide health services and drugs in the emergency cases.

Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

Ras Al Far'a village lacks all institutions be they religious, educational, social and cultural, there are no buildings for village council; nor any society or club for women or young.

- **Telecommunication services:** Ras Al Far'a village is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 30 % of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water services:** Ras Al Far'a village has been connected to the water network since 2000. The network was constructed by the residents and lacks a decent engineering basis, as it only supplies water one hour per day. Almost 90 % of the households are connected to water supplied by Palestinian Water Authority. In addition to water network the residents rely on water cisterns which amount to five cisterns in the village.
- **Electricity services:** Not long ago the village was using the local generators for provide electricity for a limited time. In 2001, the village was connected to the electricity network supplied by Israeli Electric Cooperation. 100 % of households in the village are connected with the electricity network.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste management in the village; solid waste can be seen on the road sides, backyards and in the open spaces. Mostly the households waste dispose of solid waste by burning in open spaces and back yards.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Like other Tubas Governorate localities, Ras Al Far'a village has no sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits and then disposal in nearby valleys. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the residents and to the groundwater.
- **Transportation services:** The total road network in Ras Al Far'a is nearly 14.5 km, 2.5 km are paved roads and in a good condition, and 12 km are not paved at all. Ras Al Far'a village has a lack of transportation means, there are no buses or taxis and the only means of transportation available in the village is private vehicles.

Agriculture Sector

The dominant economic activity in Ras Al Far'a village is in agricultural activities. As mentioned above 85 % of the residents of Ras Al Far'a are engaged in the agricultural sector and depend, for their livelihood, on cultivation and livestock. The total arable land of Ras Al Far'a village is 2,500 dunums, nearly 99 % of the arable land is cultivated. The main cultivated crops in the village are olive trees, nut stone and different kinds of vegetables.

Agriculture fields in Ras Al Far'a village



Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH, Ras Al Far'a village produces 12.6 tons of olive oil, 73 tons of nut stone and 20,000 tons of vegetables per annum.

20% of the residents of Ras Al Far'a village also keep livestock. The results of the survey indicate that there are 7 heads of cattle, 800 goats, and 45,000 poultry in 2 poultry farms.

Impact of Occupation Practices

Ras Al Far'a village is spared of regular direct contact with Israeli settlements and military bases, as the survey data indicates. which collected from village council, The Israeli forces, according to the political situation, constructe flying check points on the round of the village. The village is indirectly affected by Israeli procedures and restrictions on movement in the Tubas Governorate in general.

Plans and Development Projects

Ras Al Far'a village, as rural area, has been neglected for basic infrastructure and development projects. Since the village is dependent on the agricultural sector the village council has currently implemented a project to provide assistance to farmers to cultivate medicinal plants, funded by US Aid. Also the main

plan set up by village council in the village has included implementing a project to cultivate other 265 dunums of medicinal plants with a budget a mounted 1,600,000 US\$ also funded by US Aid and the products will be exported out

Preparing and work for medical plants project



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