

Kh ar Ras al Ahmar Profile

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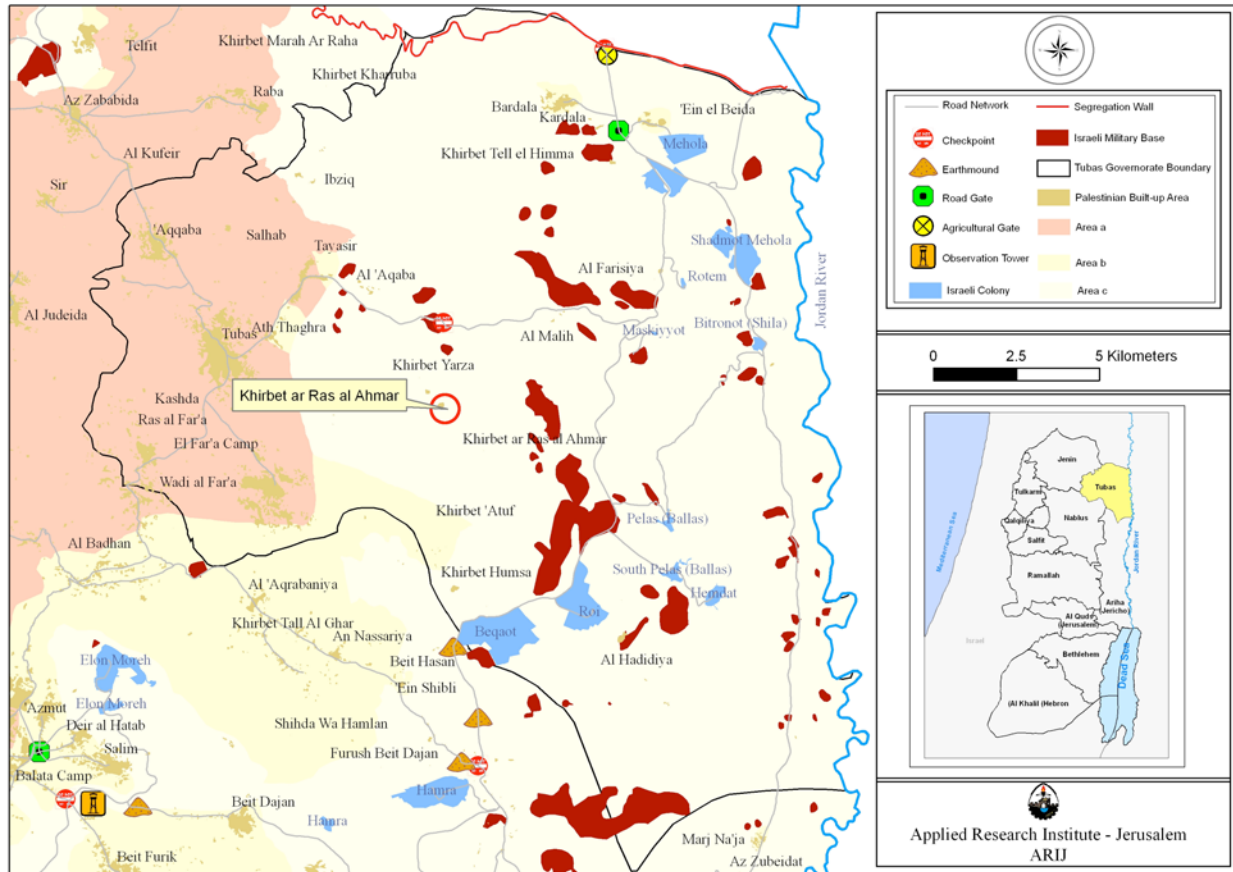
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Kh ar Ras Al Ahmar profile

Location and Physical characteristics

KH AR RAS AL AHMAR is a Palestinian village, which is located 9 km to the southeast of Tubas city, in the northeastern part of West Bank. Khar Ras al Ahmar is bordered by Al Hadidiya to the east, Khirbet Yarza to the north, Tammun to the west and Khirbet 'Atuf to the south.

Map 1: Kh ar Ras al Ahmar location and borders.



The area of Kh ar Ras al Ahmer is distributed on 20,000 dunums, it is comprised of a built up area and an agriculture and grazing area.

Kh ar Ras al Ahmar is located in a level area of land and is surrounded by mountains at a moderate elevation of 247 m above sea level. It has a moderate climate: the mean annual rainfall is 302 mm, the average annual temperature is 21-22 °C and the average annual humidity is 54 % (ARIJ GIS).

The village has no village council or project committee. In 2004 one member from Kh ar Ras al Ahmer joined the Atuf project committee which coordinates projects and provides assistance to the villages.

History

Ahmer in Arabic means red, and the name Ras al Ahmer is derived from its red soil. In 1960 residents from Tammun and Atuf came to the area; grazing animals and cultivating the land which provides abundant grazing areas.

Before the second Intifada the residents of Ras al Ahmer were increased to 70 households although since then, due to Israeli occupation procedures and restrictions, the population of the village has decreased and many of them have left the area.

Demography and Population

In 1997, the total population of Kh ar Ras al Ahmar was 62 people, of which 34 were males and 28 were females. There were 16 households residing in tenets (1997 census).

Age groups and gender

The data of the 1997 census reveals the classification of the population of Kh ar Ras al Ahmar by age groups and sex. The data shows that 29.0 % are less than 15 years old, 64.5 % are in the age group 15- 64 years and 6.5 % are 65 years old and above (See table 1)

Sex	Age				Percentage
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +	Total	
Male	12	19	3	34	54.8
Female	6	21	1	28	45.2
Total	18	40	4	62	100

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

Families:

All the populations of Kh ar Ras al Ahmar belong to two main families: Bani O'dea 75 % and Bshra'eat 25 %.

Religious and Archeological Sites

There are no religious or archeological places in the village. Israeli authorities sometimes claim that the area is archeologically important and call it Alshek Saleh Mountain.

The Economy

The dominant economic activity in the Kh ar Ras al Ahmer village is agriculture; approximately 98 % of the residents are economically reliant on the keeping of livestock as well as crop and vegetable cultivation. The second main income source for the residents is 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 ar Ras al Ahmer was 74.2 % of the total population of the village; women's participation was assessed to be 35.5 % (22 women in total). The labor force in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar consists of 46 people in total, of which 45.6 % are economically active people and 54.4% are non-economically active people. Of the economically active people 81.0 % are employed people, 19.0 % are unemployed people.

The largest group of non-economically active people is housewives, who constitute 71.4 %. Table 2 shows the labor force in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village in 1997.

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>	16	3	1	20	1	-	1	1	1	4	24
<i>F</i>	1	-	-	1	1	15	-	-	5	21	22
T	17	3	1	21	2	15	1	1	6	25	46

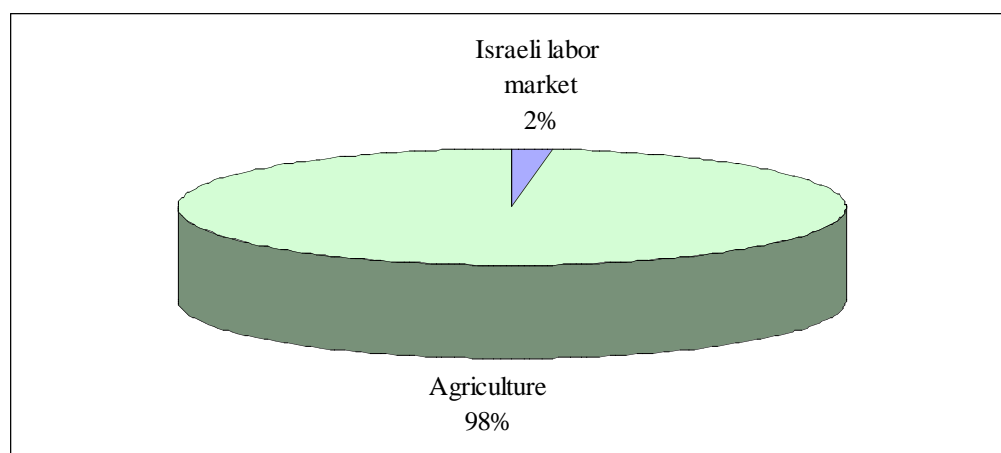
Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, results

Since the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000, most of the Palestinian migrant labor force could not reach their places of work in Israel and the settlements. As a result, the workers have lost their primary source of income and many have returned to work on their lands.

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005, the proportion of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agricultural sector 98 %,
- Israeli labor market 2%.

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village



The survey also indicate that the social groups most affected by Israeli measures in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar during the second Intifada are: 1) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 2) former migrant workers in the Israeli labor market, 3) housewives and children, 4) small farmers and 5) small traders.

The average household income in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village has been severely affected by the Israeli procedures since the beginning of the Intifada. In 2000, the average household income was 2000 NIS. Today however it has declined sharply to 500 NIS. The result is that the average household income has decreased by 75 % in only four years.

Education

In the 1997 census, the education status in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar indicated that about 45.7 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (62.0 %) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (38.0 %) were. Of the literate population, 22.0 % of residents could read and write, 22.0 % completed elementary education, 4.3 % completed preparatory education and 4.3 % completed their secondary education, and one person has a Bachelor degree. Table 3 shows the education status in KH ar Ras al Ahmar by sex and education attainment in 1997.

Table 3: Kh ar Ras al Ahmar Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & Write	Elemen- tary	Prepara- tory	Secon- -dary	Associate Diploma	Bach- -elor	Higher Diploma	Master	P H D	Total
M	8	5	6	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	24
F	13	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
T	21	10	10	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	46

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

At the end of the 2004/2005 scholastic year, the data collected by the survey indicated that there were no educational institutions in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar. There is no school or even kindergarten; the students get their education in Tammun village which is 6 km away. The lack of

transportation and the distance of the schools from the village is the main obstacle to students in the village.

Health Status

Kh ar Ras Al Ahmar is suffering from shortages of health institutions; the data collected through the survey indicates that there are no health clinics in the village. There is one maternity clinic, yet there is no pharmacy to provide medicine to the residents. In addition to the shortage of health institutions the residents face many obstacles to access health services in nearby localities due to the Israeli closures or check points and lack of transportation.

Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

Kh ar Ras al Ahmar does not have any institutions, there are no societies or companies or clubs. The residents rely on the institutions in Tubas for the needs of agriculture or women.

- **Telecommunication services:** Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village is not connected to the telecommunications network.
- **Water services:** Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village has no water network; the residents depend mainly on one spring in the village for domestic consumption and for animals. As well as the spring, the residents bring water from near by localities where they face difficulties from Israeli restrictions on movements and increases in the cost of transportation.
- **Electricity services:** Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village is not connected to the electricity network.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste management system in the village, the residents randomly dispose of solid wastes anywhere.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Like other Tubas Governorate localities, Kh ar Ras al Ahmar village has no sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits.
- **Transportation services:** The roads network in Kh ar Ras Al Ahmae is not suitable for transportation. The 4km of roads in the village are not paved completely and need expansion for transportation.
Also Kh ar Ras al Ahmar has a lack of transportation means, passengers use vehicles and buses to travel to Tubas city from Tammun village.

Agriculture Sector

The residents of Kh ar Ras al Ahmar keep livestock, the data of the field survey conducted in the village indicates that all the households in the village are breeding local animals, and there are 200 goats and 8000 sheep which are the main source of income for the residents.

Impact of Occupation Practices

Kh ar Ras al Ahmar is surrounded by Israeli settlements (Ro'I and Beqa'ot) from the east and two military bases from the north and east. 15 tents have been demolished which belong to the village farmers and Israeli forces also construct flying checkpoints periodically at the east side of the village.

Plans and Development Projects

The project committee in Kh ar Ras al Ahmar is preparing to set up a plan for the development of the village, which includes various new projects. The main development project planed is to construct and pave 4 km of roads with a budget of NIS 180,000.

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