

Deir Razih Village Profile



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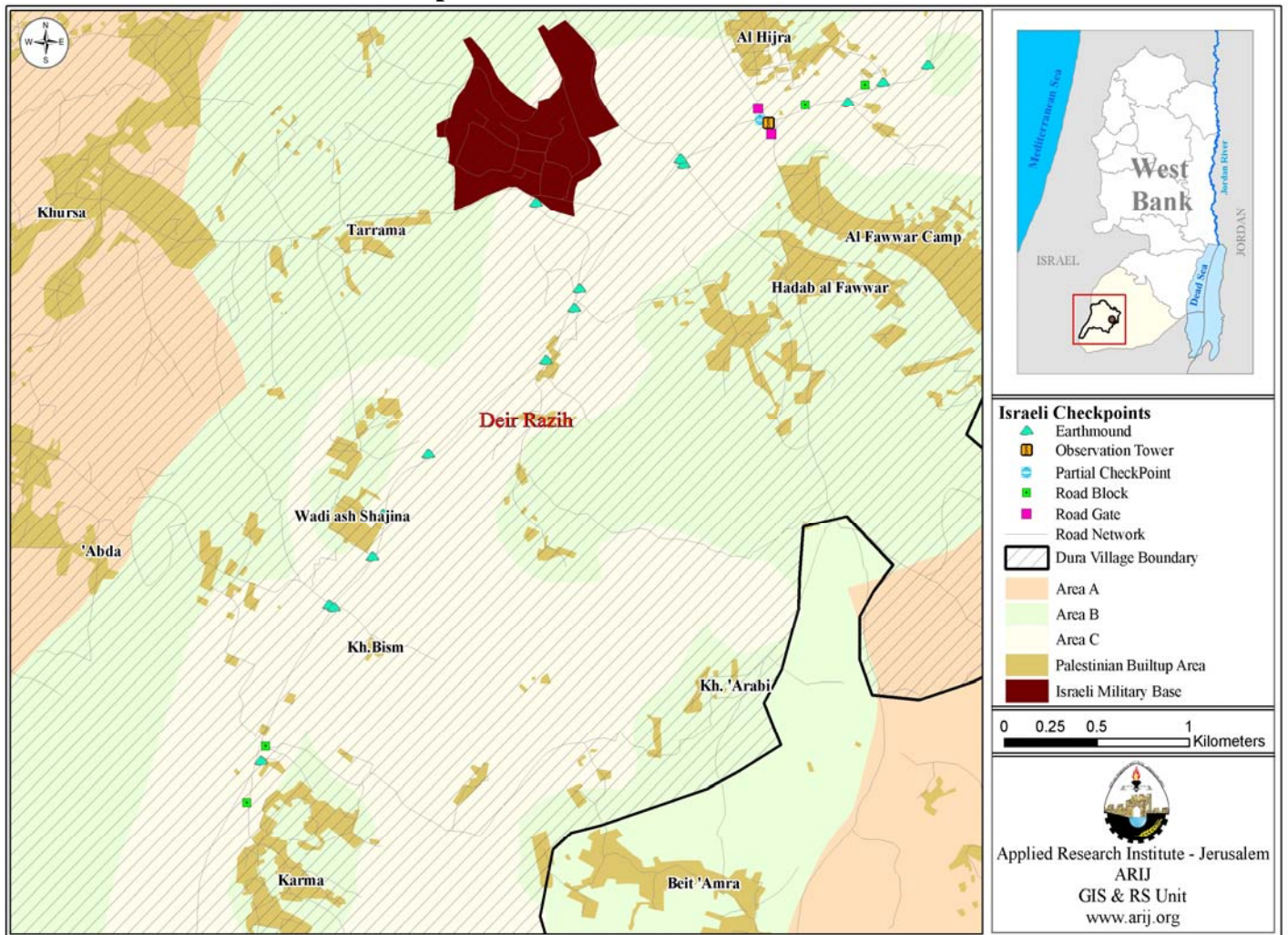
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Deir Razih Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir Razih is a Palestinian village in Dura area which is located eight kilometers southwest of Hebron City in the southern part of the West Bank. The village is bordered by Yatta to the east, Hadab al Fawwar to the north, Karma and Beit 'Amra villages to the south and Khursa, Tarrama and 'Abda villages to the west.

Map1: Deir Razih location and borders



The total area of the village is estimated to be 4,600 dunums, of which 220 dunums are Palestinian built-up area, 2,033 dunums are agricultural land, 415 dunums are forest and 60 dunums are open spaces with little or no vegetation. There are about 1,000 dunums of the village's land that have been confiscated by the Israeli Forces.

Deir Razih village extends over a mountainous area west of Hebron mountainous, with an elevation of 779 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

The village is considered to be a rural area. It is governed by a project committee, which was established in 2004. The committee consists of three members. The services provided by the committee are:

1. Infrastructure services: providing the village with electricity and collecting solid waste and paved and maintained roads.
2. Social and human services: providing the people with food, seeds and any other social services.
3. Other services: such as the rehabilitation and construction of institutions, mosques and schools.
4. It is the link between the residents of the village and the private institutions.

History

The village officials state that the village of Deir Razih dates back to First Canaanite era. The name of the village derives from a monastery that once belonged to a Sheikh whose name was Razih and who lived in the area. There are two stories about the origin of the village residents; the first suggests that the original residents were Saudi Arabian, who were shepherders who lived in Beit Jebril. These residents came to the village and fought the origin residents capturing it for themselves. The second story claims that the original people were from the Bani Hilal tribe.

Photos of Deir Razih village



Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 1997, the total population of the village was 236 inhabitants, of whom 111 inhabitants were males and 125 were females. There are 34 households in the village living in 34 housing units.

Age Group and Gender

Population, Housing and Establishment Census – 1997, Final Results shows the distribution of population by age group and sex in the village as shown in table 1. The results indicate that the 15-46 age groups is the main in the village' society, where it constitutes 50.8% of the total population, while the 0-14 age groups constitutes 44.1% of the total population and the 65 years or above constitutes only 5.1% of the total population.

Sex	Age Group			Total	Percent (%)
	0-14	15-64	65+		
Male	44	63	4	111	47
Female	60	57	8	125	53
Total	104	120	12	236	100

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

The sex ratio in the village is 88.8 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constitute 47% of the total population while the females constitute 53%.

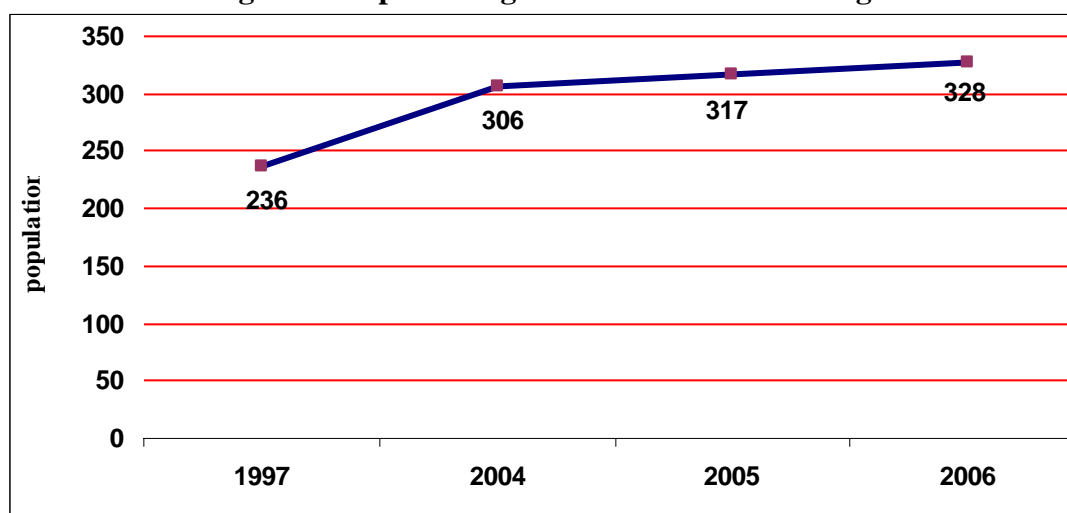
Population Growth

According to PCBS, the projected population of Deir Razih indicated that the population of the village increased by 39% in 2006 from year 1997 to reach 328 inhabitants (See table 2).

Locality name	Census 1997	Mid year population		
		2004	2005	2006
Deir Razih	236	306	317	328
% increase from 1997	-	29.7%	34.3%	39.0%

Source: http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_pcbs/populati/popu_list.aspx

Figure 1: Population growth in Deir Razih village



Families

The residents of Deir Razih village come from the following families: Amro, (90%), Abu ‘Arqoub (5%). Other small families include: Al ‘Azazma (Bedouin), Abu Qatan (From Akko) and Hdab (Adawayma), which consist 5% of the total residents.

Migration

According to the village officials, there were 35 emigrants from Deir Razih village due to the political and economic situation.

Economy

The residents of Deir Razih village mainly depend on public and private employment and also services sector. About 40% of the residents are dependent on government and private jobs. 25% of the residents in the working age range (above 10 years of age) are dependent on the service sector. 20% of the residents are depending on agriculture sector, and there are about 10% working inside Israel and 5% depending on trade and commercial activities (see figure 2). There is one small shop serving the residents of the village otherwise they access Dura and other villages.

Based on a survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in the Hebron Governorate localities, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) previous workers in Israeli labor market, 2) Small-holder farmers, 3) Families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 4) Housewives and children, 5) Small-holder traders.

Labor Force

According to PCBS Census in 1997, the final results indicated that approximately 29.4% of the population in Deir Razih was economically active, while 70.6% were non-economically active. Out of the economically active people in the village, 76.6% were employed persons of whom 88.9% were males. Out of the non-economically active people, 52.2% were students, 35.4% were housewives and 12.4% were unable to work, not working (not currently looking for work) (see table 3).

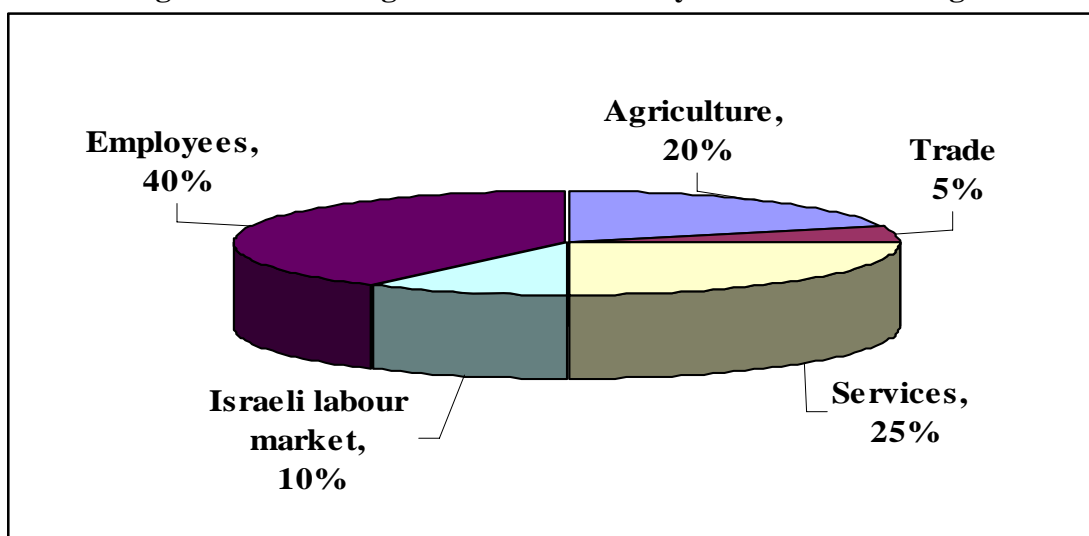
Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House wives	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for Work	Others	Total	
M	32	7	4	43	26	0	4	0	2	32	75
F	4	0	0	4	33	40	7	0	1	81	85
T	36	7	4	47	59	40	11	0	3	113	160

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing

According to village officials’ estimates, the economic base of the village consists of the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (20%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (2%)
- Services sector (25%)
- Government or Other Employees (40%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (40%)

Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Deir Razih village.



Education

According to PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, approximately 10.6% of the population (aged 10 years and above) were illiterate, where the percentage of illiterate is higher among females (88.2%) compared to males (11.3%). Of the literate population, 11.3% of residents could read and write, and 28.1%, 31.3% and 11.3% of the population completed their elementary, preparatory and secondary education respectively. 7.5% have an associate diploma or above, see table 4.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	2	3	23	29	11	3	3	0	1	0	75
F	15	15	22	21	7	4	1	0	0	0	85
T	17	18	45	50	18	7	4	0	1	0	160

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

The field survey showed that there is only one school serving the village “Deir Razih Elementary Co-education School”. This school is supervised by the ‘Ministry of Higher Education’ (MOHE), and it only provides elementary education. According to MOHE database, there are 98 students, 7 classes and 9 teachers in the school. There is one kindergarten in the village, but it is currently closed due to refurbishments.

The students in the village are forced to travel to neighboring schools to complete their preparatory and secondary education. The students have to travel about 8 km to reach Dura city.

The educational sector in the village is suffering from obstacles, which are:

- The high cost of transportation.
- Lack of schools mainly for preparatory and secondary education.
- Overcrowding in classes.
- The school buildings are old and need maintenance.
- Lack of science or computer laboratories.

The village officials of Deir Razih mentioned that the school in the village is threatened to be damaged by the Israeli Forces because it is located very close to a nearby bypass road.

Health Status

In Deir Razih village, there is a Maternity and Pediatric center, this center provides health services once a week and is supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH).

The village' officials state that the residents in the village are suffering from a severe lack of health centers. As mentioned previously- the residents are forced to travel about 8 km to reach Dura and Yatta hospitals and health centers.

The village lacks health centers, medical equipments, doctors, ambulances, and pharmacies. This is the main problem that is currently threatening the village's health situation. Similarly, the constant Israeli activities continue to strain the health system in the village.

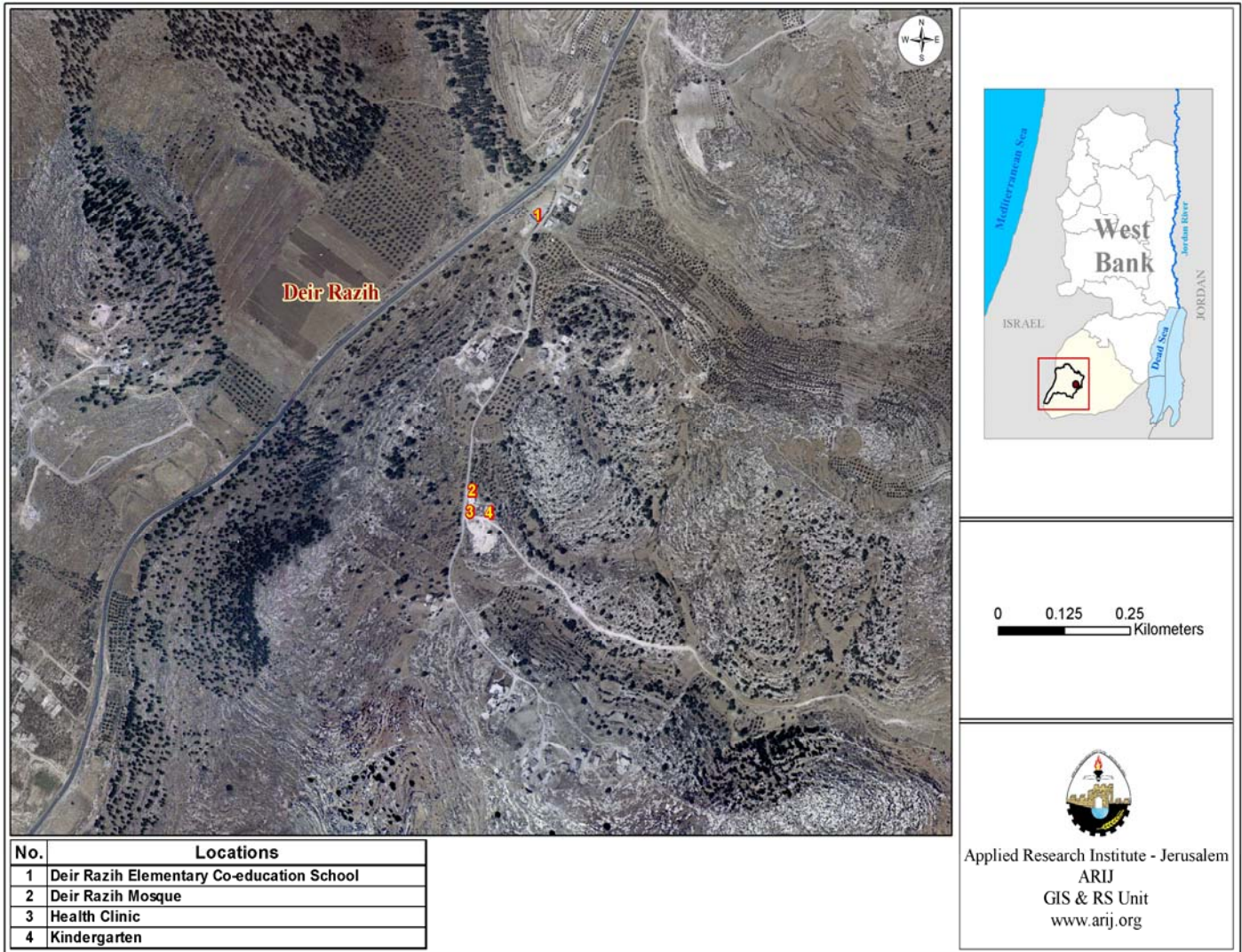
Religious and Archaeological Sites

In Deir Razih village, there is only one mosque called the "Deir Razih Mosque". In terms of archaeological sites, there are many examples of ancient Arab "Khireb", including: Khirbet Al Jouf (Destroyed by the Israeli Forces), Khirbet Deir Razih, Khirbet Bism, Khirbet Wadi Abu Zanakh, Khirbet Khamlet Al Nawamees, and Deir Al Shakh Razih.

Institutions and Services

Deir Razih village is a small village. Its residents get most of their services from Dura city and other neighboring villages. The main institution in the village is the project committee, founded in 2004 which manages most of the residents' services.

Map 2: Main locations in Deir Razih village



Infrastructure Services

Telecommunication Services: Deir Razih village is connected to a telecommunication network, and about 70% of the housing units in Deir Razih village are currently connected.

Water Services: Deir Razih village is not connected to any water network. The alternative resources of water used in the village are the cistern and water tankers. In Deir Razih, there are two springs: Ein Al Debla, which is inaccessible to residents because of current Israeli procedures. The second spring is “Ein Abu Zanakh which is in severe need of rehabilitation.

Additional, there is a reservoir with a capacity of 300 m³. However, the he village officials cite several obstacles that face the water conditions these include: lack of any water network, shortage of water, lack of wells, and constant Israeli activities.

Electricity Services: Deir Razih village has been connected to an electricity network since 1990, the electricity is provided by the Al Qutria Company (an Israeli Company). According to village officials, 100% of the housing units are connected to the network.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: Deir Razih village is not connected to any sewage disposal network, and the waste water is disposed of in cesspits and open channels.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There is no solid waste services system in the village, and each household must dispose its own garbage by burning it in open area.

Transportation Facilities: Deir Razih village lacks any kind of official transportation services. The residents mostly use their private cars or access near villages to travel outside the area. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are the presence of military road blocks and earth mounds, and the lack of vehicles and automotive services.

In terms of road qualities, 700 meters of main roads are paved and in good condition, 900 meters of internal roads are paved but in bad condition and 5,000 meters of internal roads are unpaved. There are about 20,000 meters of agricultural roads, which are only suitable for agricultural purposes.

Agricultural Sector

The total area of Dear Razih village is 4,600 dunums, of which 2,033 dunums are arable lands. Out of the total arable lands, there is about 1,030 dunums cultivated with vegetables, fruit trees and filed crops.

Locality	Total Area	Arable Land		Build up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
		Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
Beit Mirsim	4,600	1,030	1,003	220	415	60

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Deir Razih. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated accounting for an area of about 75 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are tomato, squash and snake-cucumber.

Locality	Fruity Vegetables		Green Legumes		Other Vegetables		Total	
	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
Deir Razih	75	0	1	0	5	0	81	0

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

There are 3 types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Deir Razih which spread over a total area of about 3 dunums (two dunums rain fed and one dunum irrigated). These plants are thyme, mint and sage.

The olive trees are the main crop cultivated in Deir Razih village with a total area equal 292 dunums. Nuts are also planted in the village with a total area of 69 dunums, (most of this area is planted with almond trees). There are other fruit trees planted in the area that total 109 dunums. These trees are mostly grape vines and fig.

Locality	Olives		Citrus		Stone-Fruits		Pome Fruits		Nuts		Other Fruit		Total	
	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr
Deir Razih	292	0	0	2	21	0	8	0	69	0	109	0	409	2

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

Table 8 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Deir Razih. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most commonly cultivated crops in the area, accounting for about 323 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops such as bitter vetch and common vetch is also common in the village of Deir Razih. There are about 16 dunums of dry legumes cultivated in the area, mainly lentil and chick-peas.

Locality	Cereals		Bulbs		Dry Legumes		Forage Crops		Stimulating Crops		Total	
	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr	RF	Irr
Deir Razih	323	0	2	0	16	0	103	0	1	0	445	0

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of the village are also dependent upon rearing livestock (accounting for 20% of the total village population). The number of cows in the village is 16; there are 800 sheep and 280 goats.

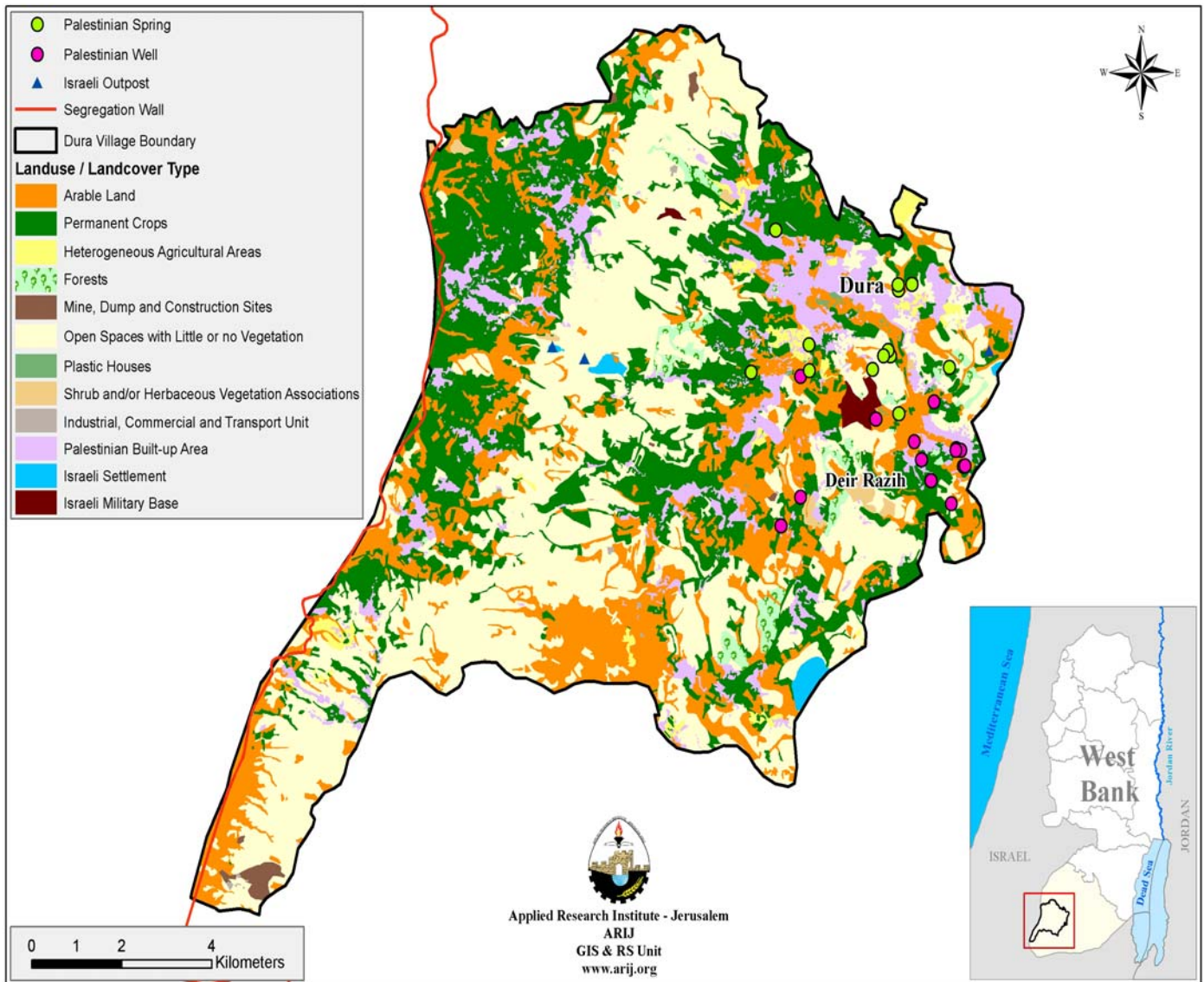
Locality	Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Broilers	Bee Hives
Deir Razih	16	800	280	12	39,500	59

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The main sources of water for irrigation in the village are rain fed and springs. The total length of the agricultural roads in the village of Deir Razih reaches 20 km, which is currently unpaved and only suitable for tractors, other agricultural machines and animals.

The agriculture sector in the village suffers from a lack of agricultural services and lack of veterinary services. The Israeli Forces have cut and destroyed about 20 olive trees in Deir Razih village.

Map 3: Land use/ land cover and the Segregation Wall in Deir Razih village



Impact of the Israeli Occupation

To the south of Deir Razih, there is an Israeli settlements called “Otan’el”, the total area of the settlement is about 2,000 dunums; from the west there is also a bypass road called “Road 60”. The village is also subjected to a one permanent checkpoint, flying checkpoints and one earth mound.

The Israeli Forces have destroyed two houses in Deir Razih village since the beginning of the Second Intifada. They have also declared about 350 dunums to be confiscated, though this has yet to be implemented.

Development Plans and Projects

Village officials cite that since the Second Intifada, the village has only implemented one project for the residents. This project was called “Work against Food program”, which was funded by the Catholic Relief.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Deir Razih project committee, the village has suffering from a shortage of many infrastructure and services needs. Table 10 below shows the development priorities in the village.

Table 10: Development priorities and needs for Deir Razih village						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1.	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				15 km
2.	Construction of New Water Networks	*				10 km
3.	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4.	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5.	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
6.	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network		*			
Health Needs						
1.	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre			*		
2.	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*				
3.	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools	*				
Educational Needs						
1.	Building of New Schools	*				Secondary
2.	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				Preparatory
3.	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agriculture Needs						
1.	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2.	Building Cisterns	*				30
3.	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				10
4.	Veterinary Services	*				
5.	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6.	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7.	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8.	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		