

# Al Manshiya Village Profile



**Prepared by**



**The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem**

**Funded by**



**Spanish Cooperation**



**Azahar Program**

**2010**

## ***Acknowledgments***

*ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.*

*ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.*

*ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.*

## Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Bethlehem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Bethlehem 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 Azahar Needs Assessment," the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The "Village Profiles and Azahar 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 Bethlehem Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

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 Bethlehem 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://proxy.arij.org/vprofile>.

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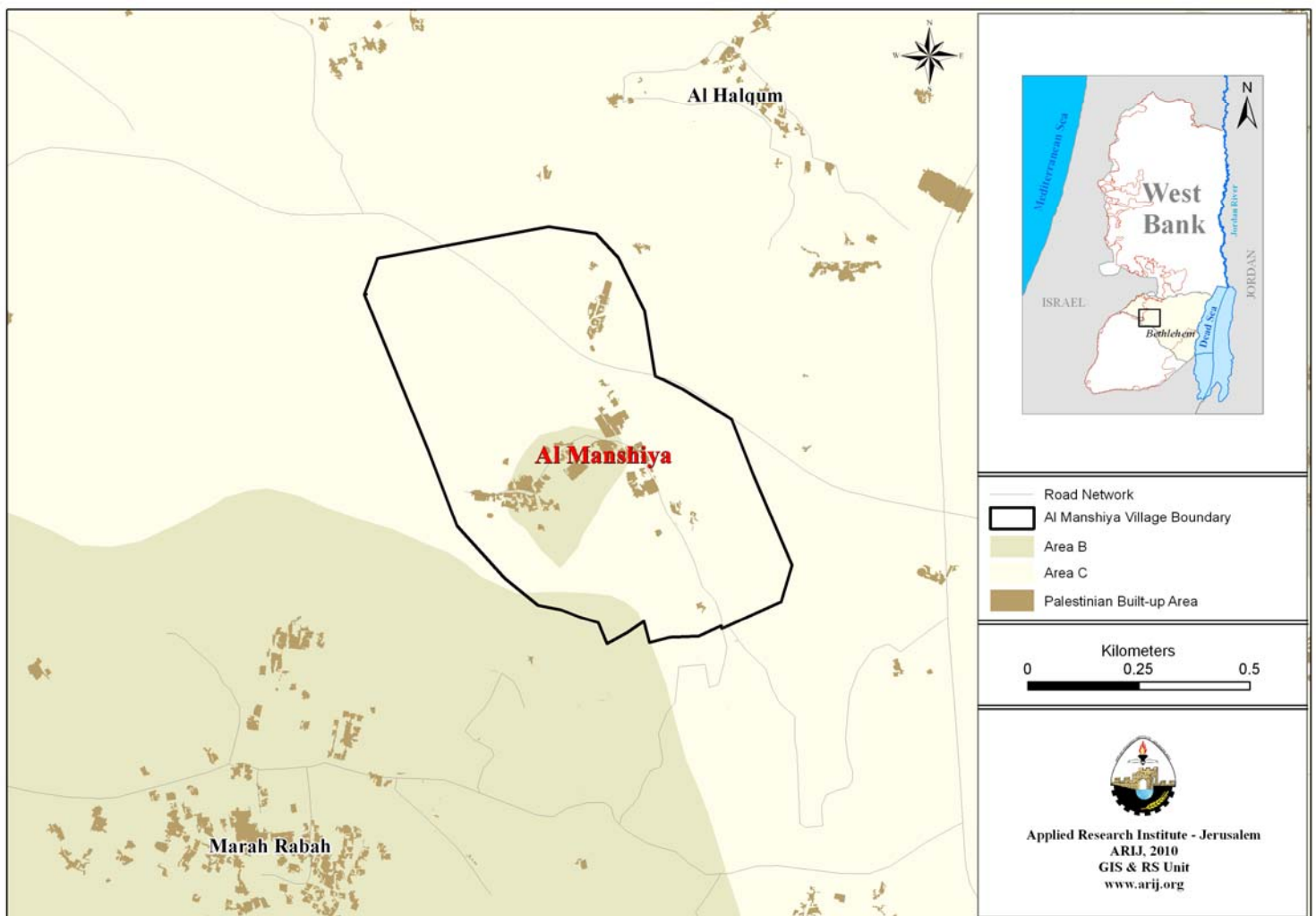
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# Al Manshiya Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Manshiya is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 7.2km (horizontal distance) south of Bethlehem City. Al Manshiya is bordered by Tuqu' town to the east, Al Ma'sara village to the north, Marah Ma'alla and Umm Salamuna villages to the west, and Marah Rabah village to the south (See map 1).

**Map 1: Al Manshiya location and borders**



Al Manshiya is located at an altitude of 776m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 489mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 61 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1997, Al Manshiya has been governed by a projects committee which is currently administrated by five members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There is only one employee working in the council. The project committee does not own a permanent headquarters.

It is the responsibility of the project committee to provide a number of services to the residents of Al Manshiya, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Protection of government properties.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the Village.

## **History**

The village was called Al Manshiya by its Mukhtar, in 1950, who was the first person to build on that area, and who represented Al 'Ebiyat tribe in that region. Thus, Al Manshiya village dates back to 1950, and its residents originate from Al 'Ebiyat, from At Ta'amra, and from At Takatka tribes of Beit Fajjar town.

**Photo of Al Manshiya**

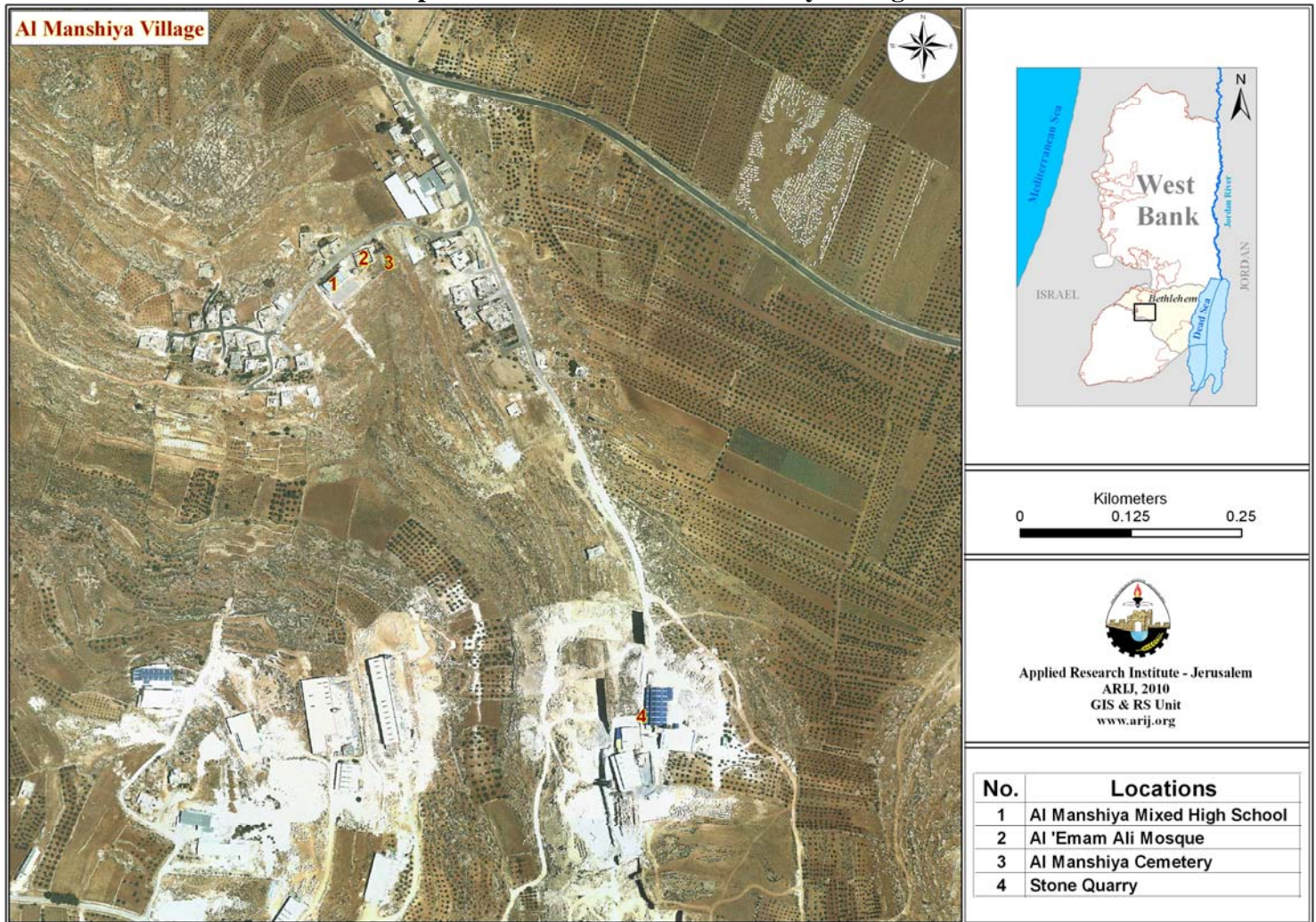


## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in Al Manshiya: Al Imam Ali Ben Abi Taleb Mosque.

There are no archaeological sites in the village (See map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Al Manshiya village**



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Manshiya in 2007 was 433; of whom 212 are males and 221 are females. There are 57 households in 57 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 Al Manshiya is as follows: 53.5 percent are less than 15 years, 45.6 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 1 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 95.8:100, meaning that males constitute 48.9 percent of the population, and females constitute 51.1 percent of the population.

### Families

The inhabitants of Al Manshiya village are composed of several families, mainly: Abu Daiyeh, At Takatka, Al Hajahja, and Al Jardat.

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Al Manshiya population is about 6.8 percent, of whom 72.2 percent are females. Of the literate population, 17.1 percent can read and write, 36.5 percent had elementary education, 30.5 percent had preparatory education, 13.8 percent had secondary education, and 2.1 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Al Manshiya, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	5	23	49	35	13	2	1	-	1	-	<b>129</b>
F	13	19	41	40	21	1	1	-	-	-	<b>136</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>265</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results



In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Al Manshiya in the academic year 2008/2009, there is one public school in the village: Al Manshiya Mixed Elementary school, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Al Manshiya. See Table 2.

In the village there are 161 students; 14 teachers, and 10 classes. It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, while the average number of students per class is approximately 17. Due to the lack of secondary educational institutions in the village, students head to the neighboring schools, such as Az Zawahra Mixed High school in Al Ma'sara village, about 5km away from the village, in order to complete their secondary education.

## **Health Status**

There are no health facilities of any kind available in Al Manshiya village and there is no ambulance.

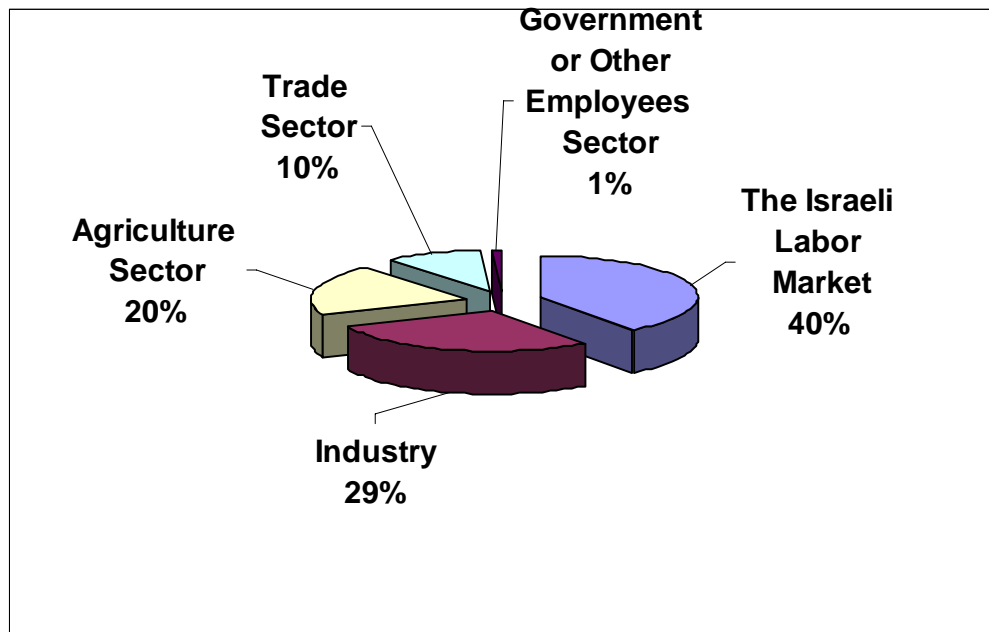
In emergency cases, residents of Al Manshiya use the hospitals and health centers in Bethlehem and Tuqu' cities, such as: Bethlehem Health Center, which is about 10km from the village, and Tuqu' Health Center, which is about 3km from the village.

## **Economic Activities**

The economy in Al Manshiya is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli Labor Market, which absorbs 40 percent of the village workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Al Manshiya are the following:

- Israeli Labor Market (40%)
- Industry (29%)
- Agriculture Sector (20%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (1%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Al Manshiya Village**

There are some economic and industrial activities in Al Manshiya, mainly stone and marble industry, in addition to one workshop, one butcher, and 2 grocery stores.

As a result of the Israeli occupation and restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have become unemployed, thus forcing many to work in the service sector and agricultural activities, as a last resort for obtaining a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Al Manshiya has reached about 50 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Workers in the agriculture sector.
2. Workers in the stone and marble industry.

### **Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 27.2 percent of Al Manshiya population was economically active, of whom 64 percent were employed, 72.8 percent were not economically active, 59.1 percent were students, and 34.7 percent were housekeepers (See table 2).

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	45	21	5	71	50	-	5	-	3	58	129
F	1	-	-	1	64	67	4	-	-	135	136
<b>T</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>265</b>

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

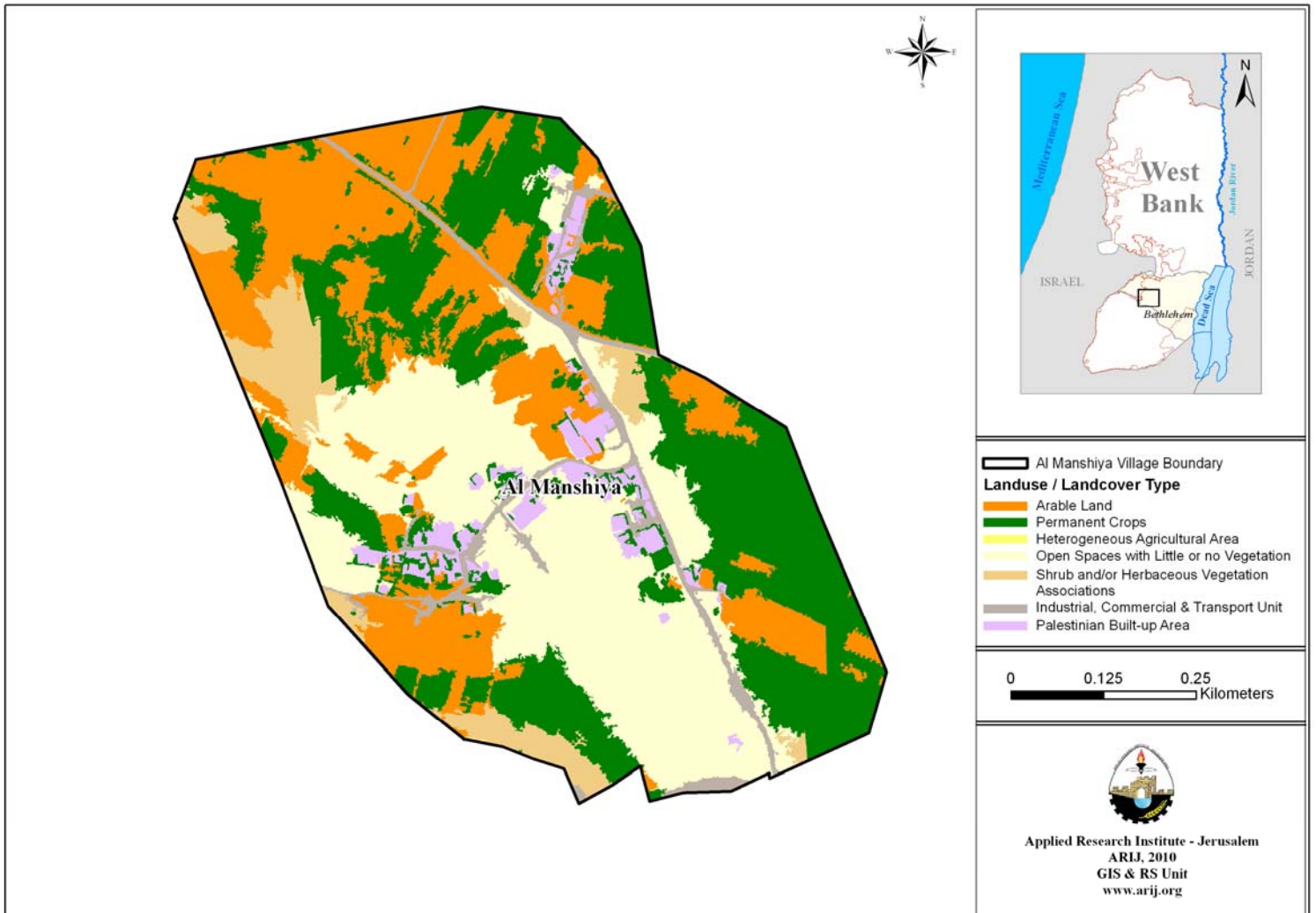
## Agricultural Sector

Al Manshiya lies on a total area of about 558 dunums of which 514 dunums are considered arable land, and 21 dunums are residential land (See table 3 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (514)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
558	21	142	178	0	0	194	23	0

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Al Manshiya Village



Agricultural production in Al Manshiya depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on domestic harvesting cisterns.

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al Manshiya. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

**Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Al Manshiya village (dunum)**

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
1	5	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	34

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Al Manshiya are keeping bees only; there are 10 beehives in the village (See Table 5).

There is about one kilometer of agricultural road in the village suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery.

## **Institutions and Services**

Al Manshiya has no local institutions or associations to provide different services to the population; Al Manshiya project committee is the only official body that takes care of all the issues in the village and provides all kind of services to its population. (Al Manshiya project committee, 2010)

## **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

### **Electricity and Telecommunication Services:**

Al Manshiya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 96.4 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, and 1.8 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, while the remaining units (1.8%) have no source of electricity (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Al Manshiya is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 14.5 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines.

### **Transportation Services:**

Private cars are the main means of transportation in Al Manshiya. As for the road network in the village; most of the main and secondary roads in the village are paved (Al Manshiya Projects Committee, 2010).

**Water Resources:**

Al Manshiya is provided with water by West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1970, and about 100 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network (PCBS, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Al Manshiya in 2008 was about 12,000 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 133 liters/day (PWA, 2008).

Here it should be noted that no Al Manshiya citizen in fact consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 39 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (PWA, 2008), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Al Manshiya is 81 liters per day. This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, Al Manshiya has 25 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Al Manshiya projects committee, 2010).

**Sanitation:**

Al Manshiya lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as means for wastewater disposal. According to PCBS's Population and Housing Census in 2007 and PWA data, all of Al Manshiya's housing units (100%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal.

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 28 cubic meters, or 10,220 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 65 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

**Solid Waste Management:**

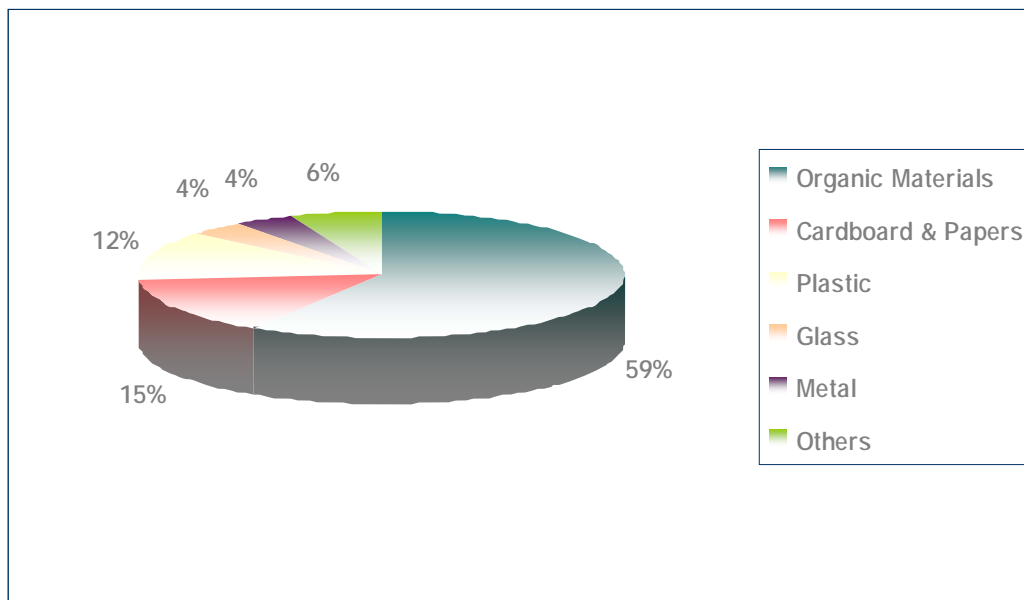
Joint Services Council for the Southern Countryside is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Al Manshiya, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 12.5 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste.

Most of the population in Al Manshiya benefit from the solid waste services, where waste

is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The joint services council collects the solid waste from the village neighborhoods two days a week and transports it to Dar Salah dumping site, 25km from Al Manshiya. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. It should be mentioned here that household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same landfill, with the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection. The largest volume of solid waste is household waste which makes up around 45-50 percent of total capacity of solid waste.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Al Manshiya is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Al Manshiya residents is nearly 303kg, or 111 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard, and then by plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced**



## Environmental Conditions

Like other villages in the governorate, Al Manshiya experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

**Wastewater Management:**

The absence of a public sewage network, thus the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, especially in winter, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental and health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as wastewater mixes with water, making it contaminated for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the resident's health.

**Solid Waste Management:**

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Al Manshiya and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, such as the difficulty to obtain licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C, under the Israeli control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. Thus, the lack of a sanitary landfill is a hazard risk for the health, and a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it also produces bad odors and distorts the landscape. It should be noted here that a sanitary landfill is currently under construction in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates

There is an absence of a system in the village and the governorate in general that separates hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Dar Salah landfill for disposal by burning.

**Other problems:**

- The limited role of the projects committee, like other committees, councils and municipalities, in providing only certain services, without considering other various aspects for development.



## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

On September 13, 1993 the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel signed the Declaration of Principles, which provided for a transitional period of 5 years. On May 4, 1994 Oslo I Agreement (Gaza and Jericho) was signed, where areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were transferred to the Palestinian national sovereignty. In September 28, 1995 Oslo II Agreement was signed and new areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were also transferred to the Palestinian national sovereignty, including Bethlehem governorate, which was divided into several areas, as follows:

- **Area A:** where the Palestinian sovereignty is absolute.
- **Area B:** where administrative issues are under the Palestinian National Authority's responsibility and security matters are under Israeli control.
- **Area C:** where security and administrative sovereignty is under Israeli control.
- **Nature Reserves.**

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, 70 dunums of Al Manshiya lands (12.5 of the total area of the village) were classified as area B. As for the remaining part of Al Manshiya lands, 488 dunums (85.7% of the total area of the village) were classified as Area C (Table 5).

<b>Land Classification</b>	<b>Area (dunums)</b>	<b>% of the Total Area of the Village</b>
<b>Area A</b>	0	0
<b>Area B</b>	70	12.5
<b>Area C</b>	488	87.5
<b>Nature Reserves</b>	0	0
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

Moreover, Al Manshiya has lost part of its territory for the construction of the Israeli bypass road no. 3698 which extends for 0.6km on its territory. Also, since the beginning of 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have uprooted about 1000 olive trees from Al Manshiya lands (Al Manshiya Projects Committee, 2010).

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Al Manshiya projects committee, in cooperation and coordination with some governmental and non-governmental organizations, had developed some existing projects in Al Manshiya, such as the school, the mosque, some roads, and the water network.

### Proposed Projects

Al Manshiya projects committee looks forward to meet the needs of the citizens in various social, economical and environmental aspects through the implementation of vital projects, summarized as follows (Al Manshiya projects committee, 2010):

- Establishment of a sewage network
- Renovation and expansion of the public water network in the village
- Construction of public water reservoirs.
- Construction of a health center.
- Construction of solid waste landfill.
- Construction of a motherhood and childhood center.
- Establishment of a new electricity network
- Establishment of a health clinic
- Supporting the agricultural sector and the establishment of cooperative societies.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al Manshiya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 6 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village projects committee's point of view (Al Manshiya Projects Committee, 2010).

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*		10km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*		2km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		3km
4	Construction of New Water Networks		*		
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			500m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools			*	
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			100 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			25 wells
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			20 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*			
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

\*5km is a main road, 2km internal road and 3km agricultural road.

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