

Al Jab'a Village



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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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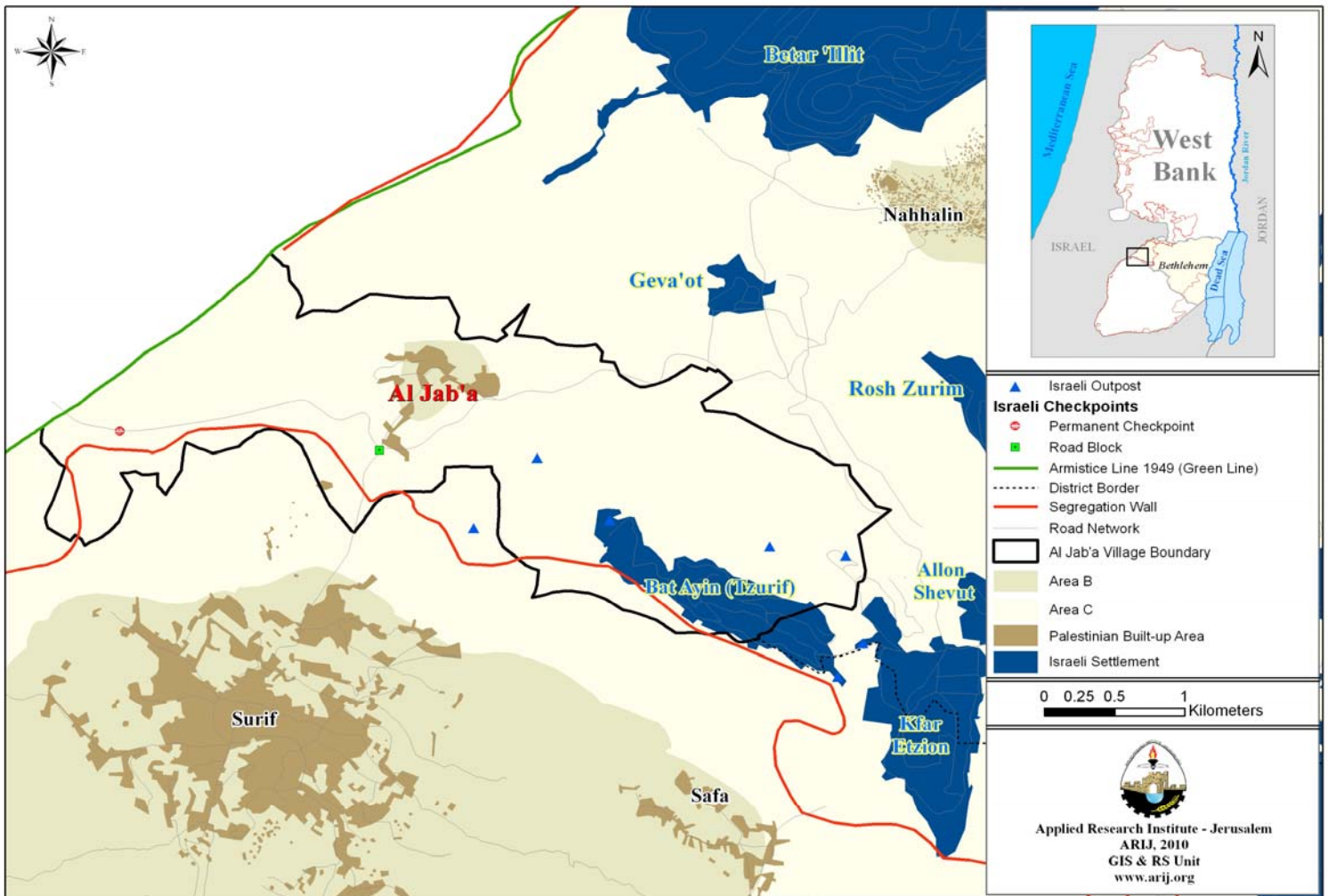
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Al Jab'a Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Jab'a is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 12.4km (horizontal distance) south-west of Bethlehem City. Al Jab'a is bordered by Etzion settlement to the east, Nahhalin village to the north, the 1949 Armistice Line (the Green Line) to the west, and Surif town to the south (Hebron Governorate) (See map 1).

Map 1: Al Jab'a location and borders



Al Jab'a is located at an altitude of 647m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 563mm. The average annual temperature is 17°C, and the average annual humidity is about 60.5 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1998, Al Jab'a has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by five members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There is also one employee working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide the listed services to the residents of Al Jab'a, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies in the village.

History

Jab'a is an Aramaic word which means hill or knoll. Al Jab'a village had this name in the era of the Canaanites, and in the Roman era it was called Jibata.

Al Jab'a village dates back to more than 1800 years ago. The origin of the residents of Al Jab'a village goes back to 1948, to the villages of Rafat and Sajartah.

Photos of Al Jab'a The old village and the urban expansion around it

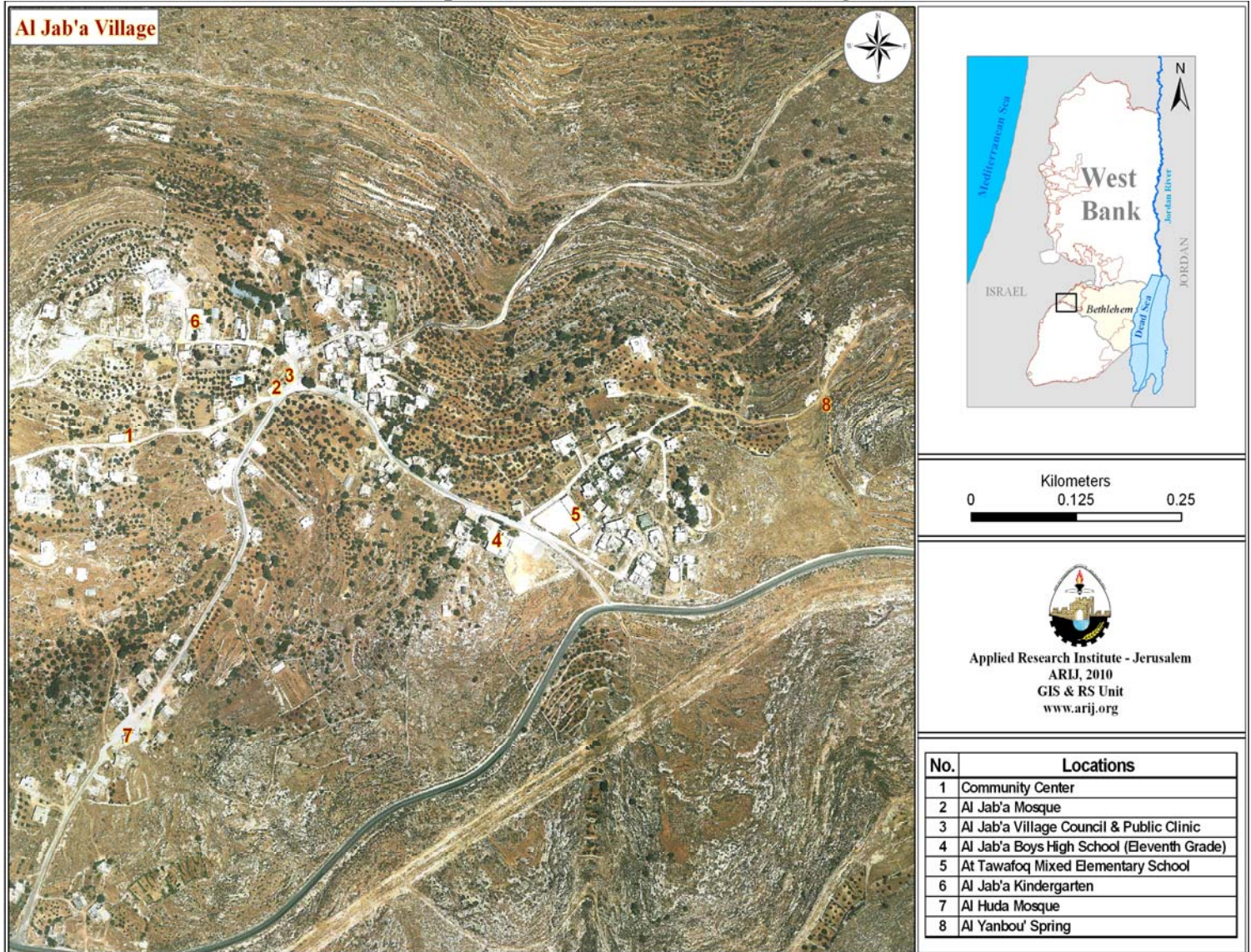


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are two mosques in Al Jab'a: Al Jab'a Mosque and Al Huda Mosque.

As for the archaeological sites in the village, there is the old city which is not taking any advantage of tourism (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Al Jab'a village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Jab'a in 2007 was 896; 480 of whom are males and 416 are females. There are 140 households living in 153 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 Jab'a is as follows: 43.5 percent are less than 15 years, 51.5 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 3.1 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 115.5:100, meaning that males constitute 53.6 percent of the population, and females constitute 46.4 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Al Jab'a are composed from several families, mainly: Masha'la and At Tus.

Immigration

The field survey showed that about sixteen families, composed of 47 members, have left the village since 2001.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Al Jab'a population is about 5.4 percent, of whom 73 percent are females. Of the literate population, 11.4 percent can read and write, 23.6 percent had elementary education, 33.6 percent had preparatory education, 20.5 percent had secondary education, and 10.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Al Jab'a, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	9	34	63	97	79	15	20	1	6	-	324
F	24	32	74	98	40	11	10	-	-	-	289
T	33	66	137	195	119	26	30	1	6	-	613

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

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Al Jab'a in the academic year 2008/2009, there are two public mixed schools in the village, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, and no private schools. See Table 2.

In the village there are 256 students, 21 teachers, and 15 classes (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 13, while the average number of students per class is approximately 18.

Table 2: The Schools in Al Jab'a by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority		
School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al Jab'a Mixed School	Governmental	Mixed
At Tawafoq Mixed Elementary School		
Source: Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009		

Furthermore, there is one privately run kindergarten in Al Jab'a which has 32 children. Table 3 shows the names of kindergartens in Al Jab'a village and their supervising authority.

Table 3: Kindergartens in Al Jab'a village by name and supervising authority		
Kindergarten Name	Number of Children	Supervising Authority
Al Jab'a Kindergarten	32	private
Source: Al Jab'a Village Council, 2009		

Health Status

Al Jab'a has no permanent health facilities. There is only one governmental health clinic, which works only one day a week, and the Health Work Committees which work in the same clinic in another day in the week. There are no other health facilities in Al Jab'a village.

In emergency cases, residents of Al Jab'a use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Al Hussein Hospital, which is about 12km from the village, and the private health clinic in Nahhalin, which is about 5km from the village.

The Major health problem in Al Jab'a is the absence of a permanent health center continuously working on a daily basis.

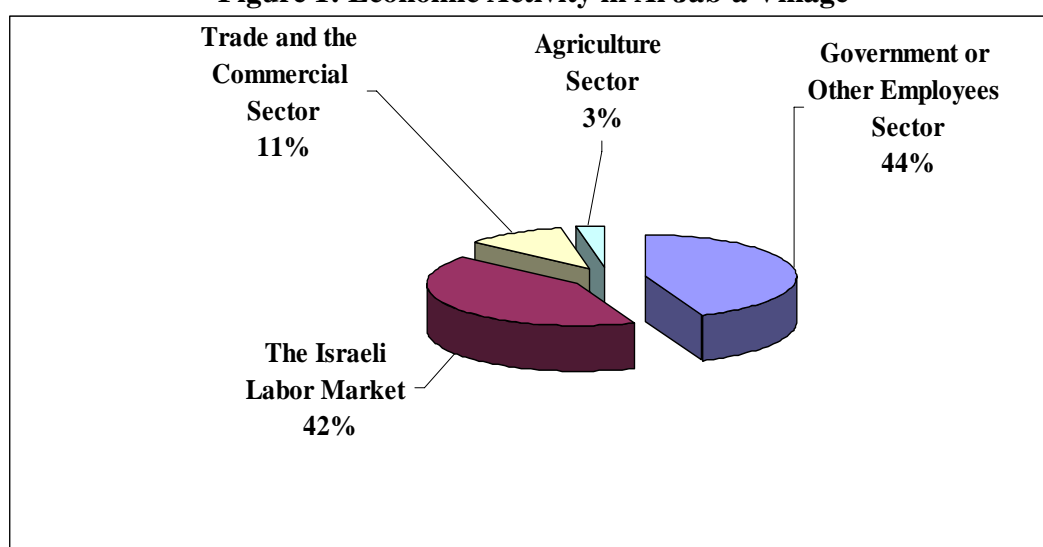
Economic Activities

The economy in Al Jab'a is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the government and private employees sector, which absorbs 44 percent of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Al Jab'a shows the following:

- Government or Private Employees Sector (44%)
- Israeli Labor Market (42%)
- Trade Sector (11%)
- Agriculture Sector (3%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Al Jab'a Village



Al Jab'a village has no economic or industrial activities; there are only 3 grocery stores and no other economic or industrial activities.

The unemployment rate in the village of Al Jab'a has reached 28 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are as follows:

- 1 – Workers in the agricultural sector.
- 2 – Workers in the education sector
- 3 – Workers in the health sector.
- 4 – Workers in the trade sector.
- 5 – Workers in the services sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 25.9 percent of Al Jab'a population was economically active, of whom 95 percent were employed, 74.1 percent were not economically active, 66.3 percent were students, and 27.3 percent were housekeepers (See table 4).

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	132	3	5	140	167	2	9	3	3	184	324
F	19	-	-	19	134	122	13	1	-	270	289
T	151	3	5	159	301	124	22	4	3	454	613

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

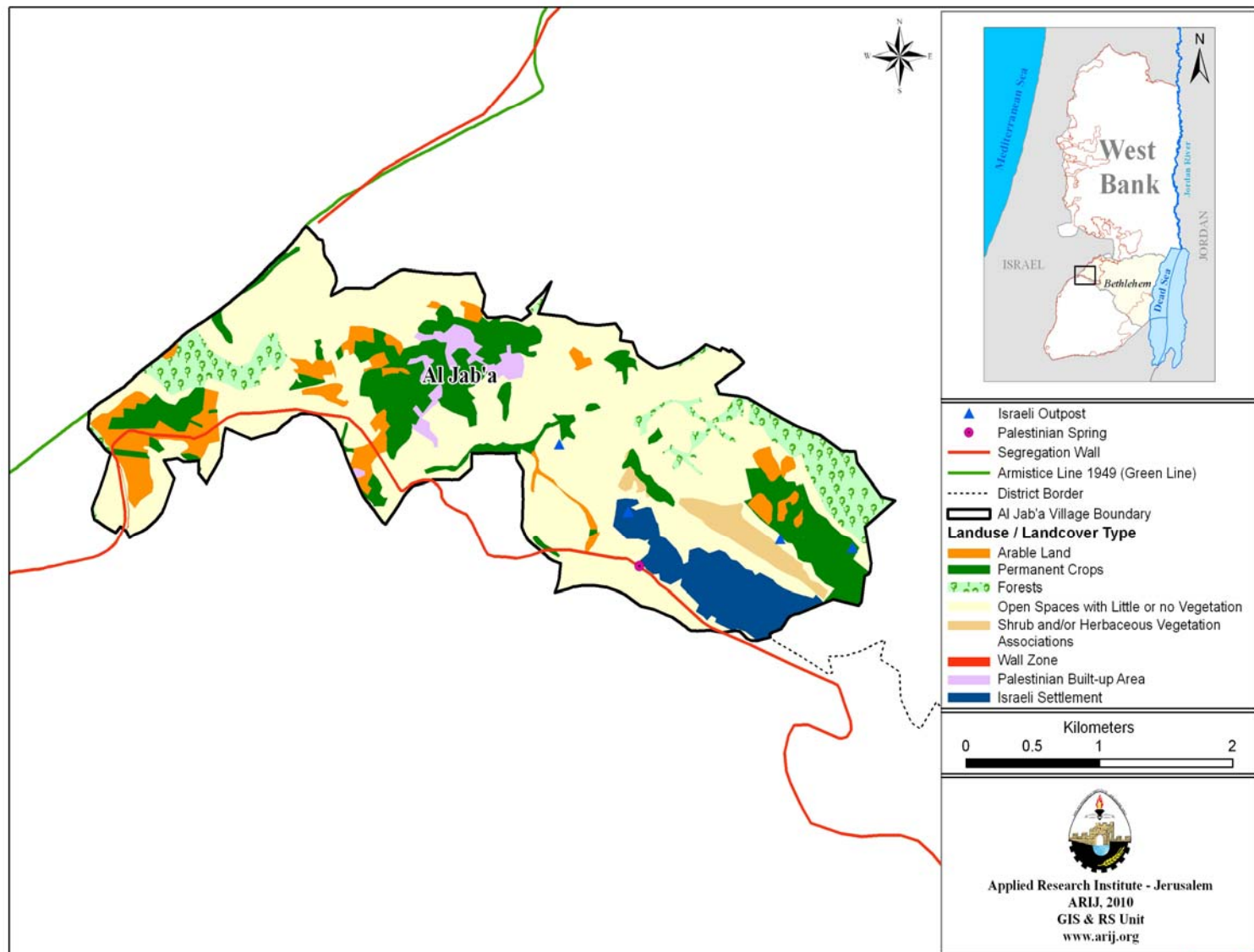
Agricultural Sector

Al Jab'a lies on a total area of about 7,969 dunums of which 7,318 dunums are considered arable land, and 152 dunums are residential land (See table 5 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (7,318)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
7,969	152	581	1,275	0	687	4,775	0	499

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Al Jab'a Village



Agricultural production in Al Jab'a depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on the rainwater harvesting cisterns.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al Jab'a. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Al Jab'a 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.
28	15	0	9	1	4	0	1	0	8	29	37

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There is also one dunum of land on which there are greenhouses planted with cucumber. And another dunum area planted with one type of aromatic medical plant; thyme, fed by the public water network.

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area.

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
500	0	0	0	15	0	3	0	0	0	24	0	542	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Al Jab'a, cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 145 dunums, while forage crops, such as bitter vetch and common vetch are the next most cultivated crops (See table 8).

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
145	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	180	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Al Jab'a are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler chickens and bees (See Table 9).

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	70	100	0	0	15	0	0	400	20

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 3.5 kilometers of agricultural road in the village suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery.

Institutions and Services

Al Jab'a village has a Village Council, founded in 1998 by the Palestinian National Authority. Al Jab'a has no sport or cultural associations, committees, centers or clubs.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Al Jab'a has been connected to a public electricity network since 1999; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 95.6 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, 0.7 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, and 0.7 percent have no source of electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (3%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Al Jab'a is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 39.4 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Transportation Services:

Private cars are the main means of transportation in Al Jab'a, in addition to public buses. As for the road network in the village there are a total of 1.2km of paved and in good condition roads, except for a section of 200 meters which is in bad condition (Al Jab'a village council, 2009).

Water Resources:

Al Jab'a is provided with water by the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) - Bethlehem, through the public water network established in 1991; and about 96.3 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, 0.7 percent are dependent on other resources for water, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (3%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Al Jab'a in 2008 was about 17,100 cubic meters/year therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 55 liters/day (PWA, 2008).

Here it should be noted that none of Al Jab'a's citizens in fact consume 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 Jab'a is 33.5 liters per day. This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization; 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, located in Al Jab'a are 20 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Al Jab'a village council, 2009).

Sanitation:

Al Jab'a lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a mean for wastewater disposal. According to the results of Community Survey conducted by the

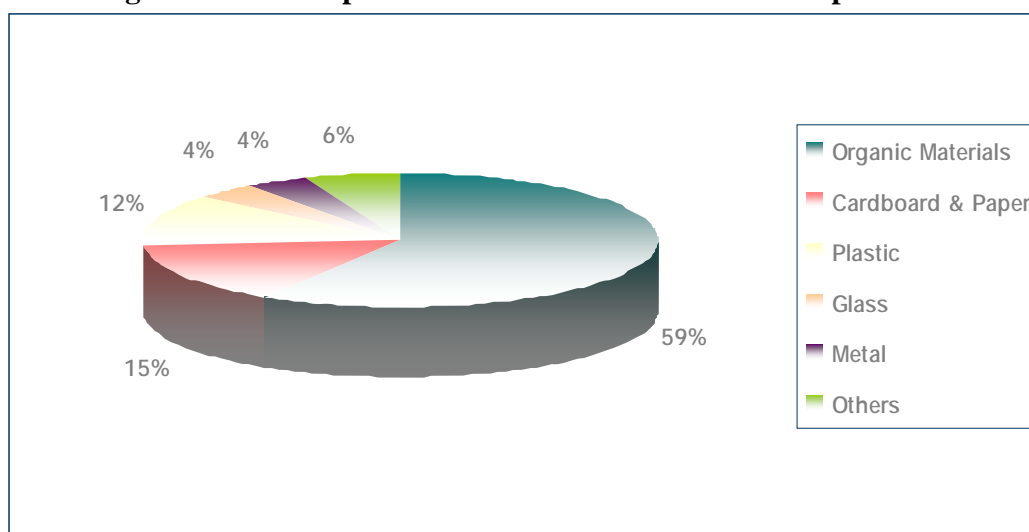
PCBS in 2007 and the data provided from PWA, the majority of Al Jab'a housing units (96.3%) use the cesspits as a major mean for wastewater disposal, and 0.7 percent of the housing units have no means for wastewater disposal, while it is unknown for the remaining units (3%).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 25 cubic meters, or 9,100 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 27 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:

Al Jab'a village lacks the service of solid waste management. However, the daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Al Jab'a is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Al Jab'a residents is nearly 0.6 tons, or 220 tons per year. The major volume of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper, cardboard, and then 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 Jab'a experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved; these problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis:

Water is cut off for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; which makes PWA dependent largely on water purchase from the Israeli company Mecerot to supply the Palestinian cities and villages, representing an obstacle in the organization of water pumping and distribution among populations. PWA distributes water to various areas at an interval-basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient for everyone at the same time.
- (2) High rate of water losses because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

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 wells (rainwater harvesting wells) 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 solid waste management service for Al Jab'a village constitutes a hazard risk to the environmental, health, and other aspects in the village. Moreover, the accumulation of waste in several different places in the village causes the contamination of soil and water resources through the leachate produced from the solid waste, as well as odors and distortion of the landscape. In some cases, the villagers resort to the burning of waste for disposal thus, contaminating the air with smoke and harmful gases. The result of burning some hazardous wastes like plastics causes the spread of some diseases like asthma, allergies and respiratory diseases.

Other problems:

- The project committee's limited role, like other councils and municipalities, in providing only certain services, without considering other various aspects for development.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Al Jab'a is bordered from its four sides by the Israeli segregation wall and the illegal Israeli settlements; Betar 'Illit, from the north, Geva'ot and Rosh Zurim settlements from the east, and the Green Line (1949 Armistice Line) borders it from the west.

Al Jab'a village lies on a total area of 7969 dunums. According to Oslo Agreement, 96.5 percent of the total area of the village was classified as area C, open-agricultural land, and the remaining part of the village (3.5 percent of the total area) was classified as area B, which represents the Palestinian urban areas in the village (Table 10).

Land Classification	Area (dunum)	% of the Total Area
Area A	0	0
Area B	276	3.5
Area C	7693	96.5
Total Area	7969	100

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2008

The Segregation Wall

Al Jab'a village, like other Palestinian villages and cities, lost a part of its territory, nearly 5527 dunums (69% of the total area of the village) for the construction of the Segregation Wall. The Israeli racist discrimination plan made Al Jab'a and the rest of the villages west of Bethlehem city (Nahhalin, Wadi Fukin, Al Walaja, Khallet 'Afana, Khallet Al Balluta, and Beit Sakariya) isolated from the eastern active region in Bethlehem governorate and put it inside the Israeli settlements district known as Gush Etzion, which Israel intends to control and include in Jerusalem city limits, on the wall chart that is currently being implemented. Israel will also include other settlement communities around the city of Jerusalem (Ma'ale Adummim and Giv'at Ze'ev settlements) into its borders to achieve the vision of the future project 'Greater Jerusalem Scheme', thus depriving the Palestinian citizens from accessing many services that exist only in city centers like police and fire stations, ambulances, hospitals, health centers, and universities, etc. The countryside in Bethlehem Governorate will also lose the bigger part of its agricultural land, which is considered the main source of income for many residents, as the Segregation Wall separated it from its owners. According to the updated Segregation Wall plan published on the web page of the Israeli Ministry of Defense on April 30, 2007; the Segregation Wall will extend for 4.87km on Al Jab'a lands; thus isolating 7154 dunums (90%) of the village agricultural lands, forests and open spaces.

Previous Israeli Military Orders and Confiscations in Al Jab'a:

- On 25/11/2002, the Israeli occupation forces confiscated 17 dunums of agricultural land in Al Jab'a village owned by Muhammad Musa Abu Lawha.

- In April, 2003, Israeli bulldozers swept about 98 dunums of agricultural land and uprooted 1220 of the olive, figs and almond trees that belong to each of Khalid Naji Fa'la, Muhammad Musa Abu Lawha, Nabil Ibrahim Hamdan, Mohammad Hasan At-Tusi, Ibrahim Ahmad Abu Sabha , Naji Abu Subhiya, Ahmad Ali Hamdan, and Ibrahim Abd Al Hameed At Tusi. The Israeli occupation forces have also issued orders which prevented the landowners from accessing their lands with the argument that they are confiscated lands.
- In September, 2003, Israeli bulldozers swept 50 dunums of agricultural land planted with olive trees, grapes and almonds in Al Jab'a village owned by Abu Lawha, Hamdan and Abu Subhiya families.
- On 17/10/2004, Al Jab'a and Surif villages received military order number 74/04/T to confiscate 270 dunums of agricultural land in the villages, for military purposes.
- On 13/7/2005, Al Jab'a residents received order number 132/05/T which confiscates 71 dunum of the village land to build the Segregation Wall.
- On 22/8/2005, Al Jab'a residents received new military order number 158/05/T which aimed to confiscate an area of 110 dunums of Al Jab'a and Sureef in a place where residents planned to construct Al Jab'a commercial crossing.
- On 30/5/2006, the Israeli occupation forces issued a new military order number (06-33-T) to seize the area located in Al Khor region, west of Al Jab'a village. The targeted area is about 30 dunums (340 meters length and between 48 to 100 meters width). It is worth mentioning that the land is planted with olive trees and various crops and is owned by: Khalid Naji fa'la, Ibrahim At Tus, Hamdan's Family, Atia At Tus heirs, and Mahmoud Abu Lawha heirs.
- On 21/1/2008, the Israeli occupation forces delivered four Israeli military orders issued by the so-called "Israeli civil administration of the Israeli occupation army – head of the Government Property" notifying Al Jab'a residents to vacate their lands of 47.2 dunums, and to remove all plants and equipment within the occupied territories as Israel had classified it as 'state land'.

Moreover, since 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have uprooted about 1500 olive trees, 500 grape trees, and 200 stone-fruity trees. The village is also subjected to a permanent military checkpoint, and two earth mounds at the village entrances (Al Jab'a Village Council, 2009).

Israeli Bypass Roads in Al Jab'a

The two Israeli bypass roads no. 354 and no. 367 cut through Al Jab'a village territories and extend by 5.6km on it.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects:

In 2002, Al Jab'a village council prepared a development plan of development projects in Al Jab'a. The council has implemented many development projects as shown in Table 11.

Name of the Project	Year	Type	Donor
Construction of Boys School	2009	Educational	German Consulate
Construction of 3 Classrooms in the Girls School	2008	Educational	United Nations Development Program
Restoration of the Kindergartens Buildings	2007	Educational	Palestinian Heritage Center
Building a Fence for the Girls School	2006	Educational	International Red Cross
Construction of a Community Center	2007	Cultural	World Vision Organization

Source: Al Jab'a Village Council, 2009

Proposed Projects

Al Jab'a village council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Providing an ambulance car and a specialized medical center.
2. Providing public transportation.
3. Establishment of a wastewater treatment plant.
4. Providing solid waste management service, a collection vehicle, and containers.
5. Reclamation of agricultural lands and construction of agricultural water wells.
6. Supporting livestock and agricultural projects.
7. Supporting women through providing agricultural projects.
8. Providing streetlights in the village.
9. Paving the girls' school yard and the construction of new classes.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al Jab'a suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, from the village council's point of view (Al Jab'a Village Council, 2009):

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			4.3km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*		1km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			1km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*		3,000m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			4km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			1km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			30 container
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
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			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary & secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment For Schools	*			elementary & secondary schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns		*		6 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*		4 barracks
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		8 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*300m is a main road, 2km internal road and 2km agricultural road.

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