

# Hindaza 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>.

## Table of Content

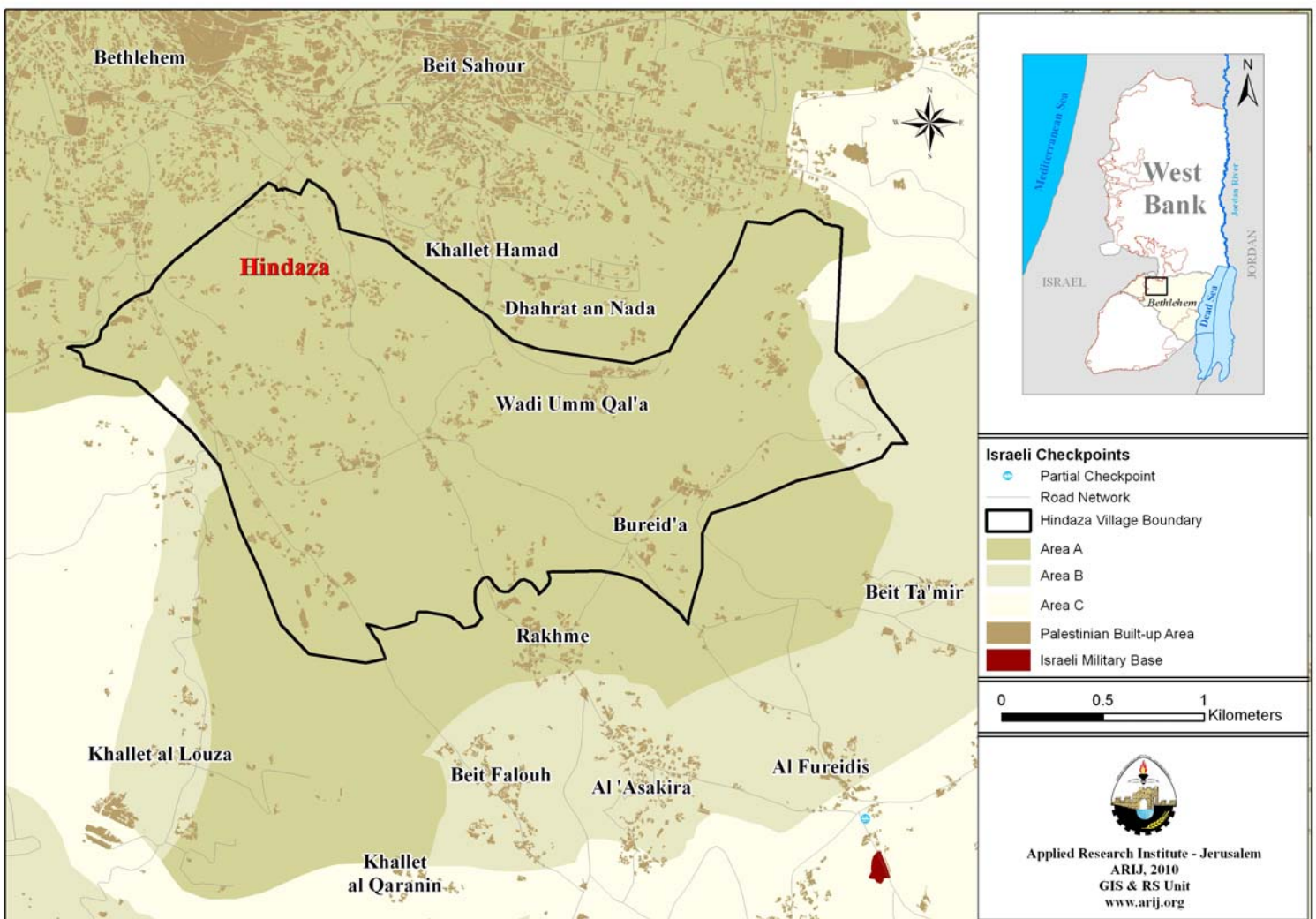
|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> _____     | 4  |
| <i>History</i> _____                                   | 5  |
| <i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> _____        | 6  |
| <i>Population</i> _____                                | 7  |
| <i>Education</i> _____                                 | 7  |
| <i>Health Status</i> _____                             | 8  |
| <i>Economic Activities</i> _____                       | 8  |
| <i>Agricultural Sector</i> _____                       | 10 |
| <i>Institutions and Services</i> _____                 | 12 |
| <i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> _____      | 13 |
| <i>Environmental Conditions</i> _____                  | 15 |
| <i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i> _____          | 16 |
| <i>Development Plans and Projects</i> _____            | 17 |
| <i>Proposed Projects</i> _____                         | 17 |
| <i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> _____ | 18 |
| <i>References:</i> _____                               | 19 |

# Hindaza Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Hindaza is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 1km (horizontal distance) south of Bethlehem City. Hindaza is bordered by Jannatah town and Beit Ta'mir village to the east, Beit Sahour city to the north, Bethlehem city to the west, and Khamlet al Louza village to the south (See map 1).

**Map 1: Hindaza location and borders**



Hindaza is located at an altitude of 726m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 498mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60.4 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1996, Hindaza has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by nine members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also three employees working in the council. The village council rents a permanent headquarters and has a vehicle to collect solid waste.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Hindaza, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Protection of religious and archaeological sites.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.
4. Organization of licensing and construction processes.

## History

Hindaza village got its name due to the presence of ancient castles with unique engineering buildings, and to the beauty of the area and its height through which there is a great view to most of Bethlehem areas, hence, the word “hindaza” was diverted from the noun “handasa” which means engineering.

Hindaza residents are indigenous. Hindaza village includes other localities, namely: Bred’a, Khallet Hamad, Wadi Umm Kal’a, and Thahret an Nada.

**Photo of Hindaza**

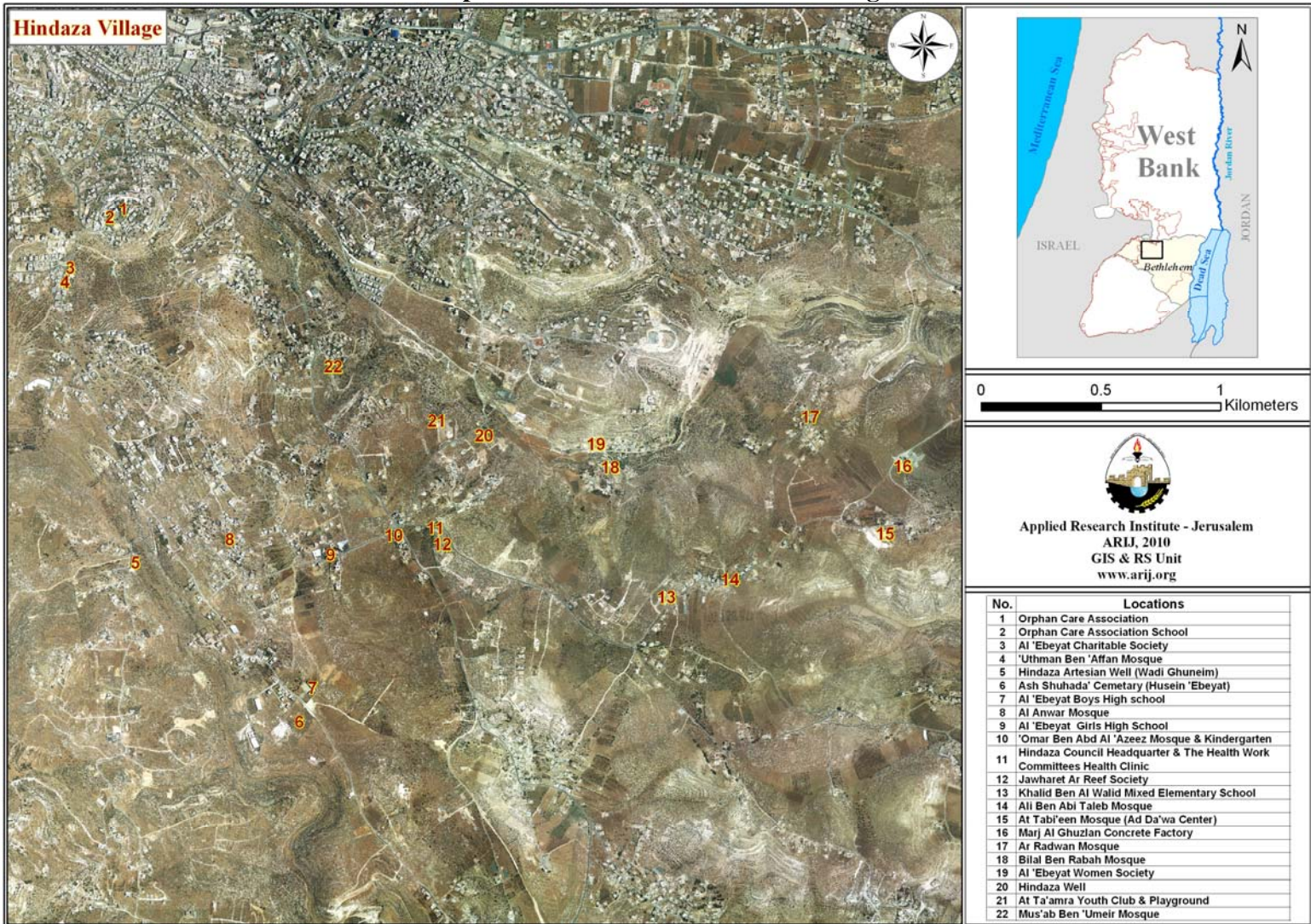


## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are six mosques in Hindaza: Omar Ben Abd El 'Azeez Mosque, 'Uthman Ben 'Affan Mosque, At Tab'e'en Mosque, Al Anwar Mosque, Mus'ab Ben 'Umeir Mosque, and Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque.

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

**Map 2: Main locations in Hindaza village**



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Hindaza in 2007 was 4,799; of whom 2,416 are males and 2,383 are females. There are 794 households living in 899 housing units.

### Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Hindaza is as follows: 43.5% are less than 15 years, 53.5% are between 15 - 64 years, and 2.1% are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 101.4:100, meaning that males constitute 50.3% of the population, and females constitute 49.7% of the population.

### Families

The inhabitants of Hindaza village are composed of several families, mainly: Jubran, Subih, Hamdan, Al Karna, Al Khateeb, Jrasa, Hazboon, 'Ubiyat, Murra, and Andwein.

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Hindaza population is about 7.6 percent, of whom 68.7 percent are females. Of the literate population, 16.8 percent can read and write, 29.7 percent had elementary education, 31.3 percent had preparatory education, 14.7 percent had secondary education, and 7.4 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Hindaza, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

| Sex      | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary  | Associate Diploma | Bachelor   | Higher Diploma | Master    | PhD      | Total       |
|----------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| M        | 76         | 249              | 457        | 501         | 231        | 38                | 69         | 3              | 11        | 4        | <b>1640</b> |
| F        | 167        | 251              | 425        | 431         | 207        | 35                | 58         | —              | 1         | —        | <b>1577</b> |
| <b>T</b> | <b>243</b> | <b>500</b>       | <b>882</b> | <b>932</b>  | <b>438</b> | <b>73</b>         | <b>127</b> | <b>3</b>       | <b>12</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>3217</b> |

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

In regards to the basic and secondary educational institutions and schools in Hindaza in the academic year 2008/2009, there are three public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Hindaza (See Table 2).



In the village there are 997 students, 46 teachers, and 34 classes. It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 22, while the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009).

| School Name  | Supervising Authority | Sex   |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| Al 'Ubeiyat Boys High School                               | Government            | Male  |
| Banat Al 'Ubeiyat Mixed High School                        | Government            | Mixed |
| Khalid Ben Al Walid Elementary School                      |                       |       |
| <b>Source:</b> Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009 |                       |       |

Furthermore, there is one kindergarten in Hindaza; Al Arkam Islamic Kindergarten, which is privately run and has a total number of 115 children (Hindaza village council, 2010).

## Health Status

There are no health facilities of any kind available in Hindaza village. In emergency cases, residents of Hindaza use Bethlehem and the neighboring villages' hospitals and health centers, such as: Beit Jala Governmental Hospital (Al Hussein), which is about 4km from the village, and Bethlehem Governmental Health center, about 2km from the village.

## Economic Activities

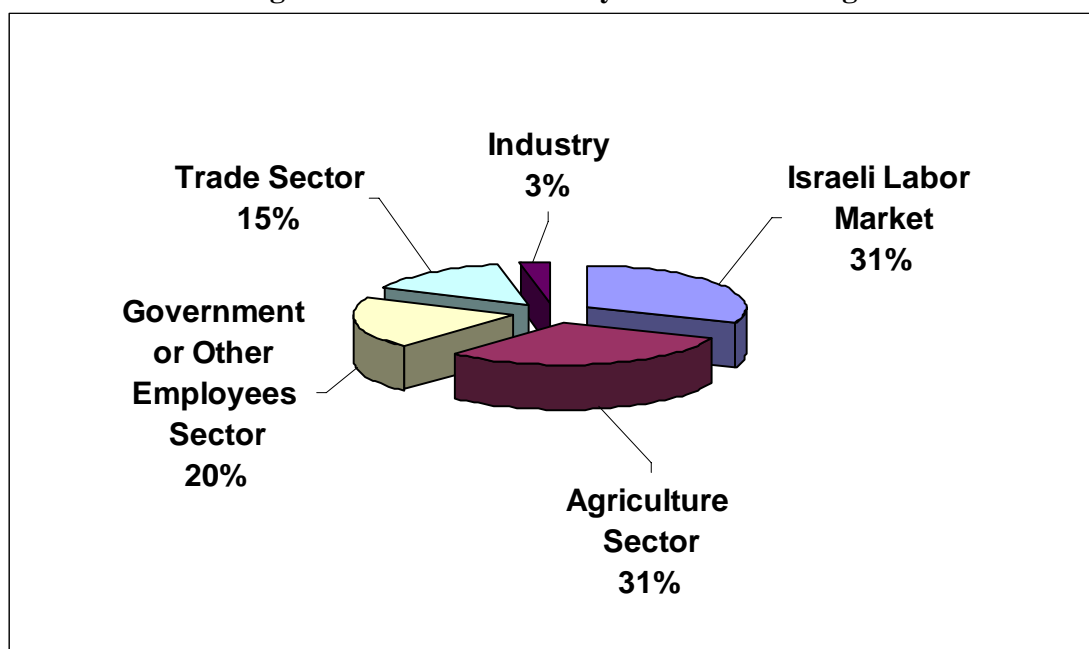
The economy in Hindaza is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the agriculture sector and the Israeli labor market; each of which absorbs 31 percent of the village workforce (See Figure1).

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

- Israeli Labor Market (31%)
- Agriculture Sector (31%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (20%)

- Trade Sector (15%)
- Industry (3%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Hindaza Village**



There are only a few businesses and industrial parks in Hindaza, mainly: 3 chicken butcheries, 7 different workshops, 2 different service stores, and one grocery.

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 them to work in the service sector and agricultural activities, as a last resort for obtaining a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Hindaza has reached about 35 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the agricultural sector.

### **Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.8 percent of the Hindaza population was economically active, of whom 81.5 percent were employed, 68.9 percent of whom were not economically active, 55.6 percent were students, and 36.9 percent were housekeepers (See table 3).

| 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   | 739                 | 108                  | 64                        | <b>911</b> | 614                     | 3             | 67             | 2                                  | 37    | <b>723</b>   | <b>1,640</b> |
| F   | 69                  | 4                    | 8                         | <b>81</b>  | 619                     | 814           | 57             | -                                  | 4     | <b>1,494</b> | <b>1,577</b> |
| T   | 808                 | 112                  | 72                        | <b>992</b> | 1,233                   | 817           | 124            | 2                                  | 41    | <b>2,217</b> | <b>3,217</b> |

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

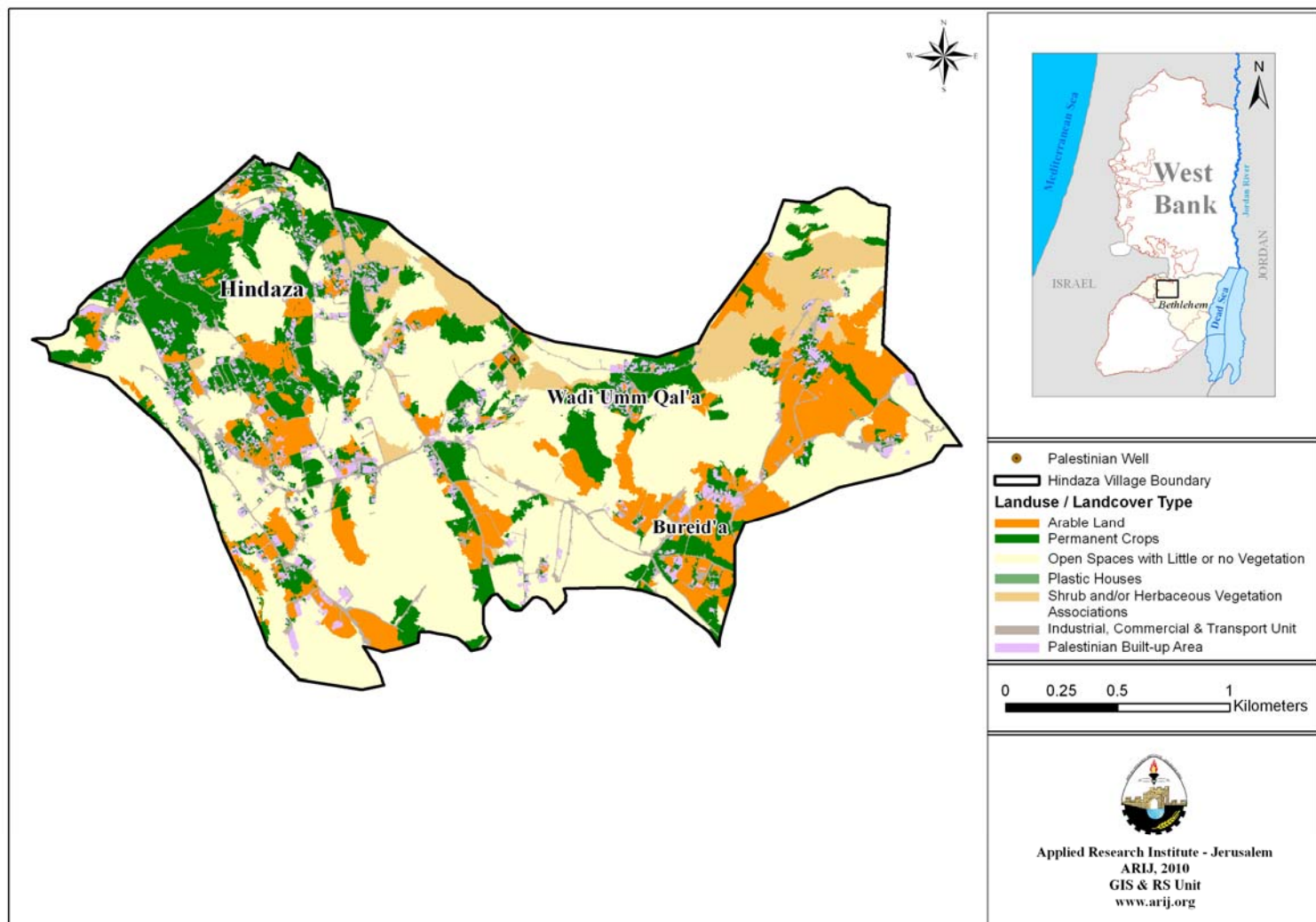
## Agricultural Sector

Hindaza lies on a total area of about 5,121 dunums of which 4,585 dunums are considered arable land, and 236 dunums are residential land (See table 4 and map 3).

| Total Area | Built up Area | Arable Land [4,585] |                 |             |         |                            | Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit | Area of Settlements and Military Bases |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------------------|---|--|
|            |               | Seasonal Crops      | Permanent Crops | Greenhouses | Forests | Open Spaces and Rangelands |   |  |
| 5,121      | 236           | 780                 | 971             | 2           | 0       | 2,832                      | 300   | 0                                      |

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

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



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

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Hindaza. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

| 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

Table 6 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. |
| 50     | 0    | 0      | 0    | 10           | 0    | 0           | 0    | 15   | 0    | 0            | 0    | 75         | 0    |

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

As for the field crops and forage in Hindaza, cereals, in particular, wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 300 dunums, while dry legumes, such as chickpeas and lentils are the second most cultivated crops (See table 7).

| 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 |
| 300     | 0   | 0     | 0   | 27          | 0   | 0         | 0   | 25           | 0   | 0                 | 0   | 0           | 0   | 352        | 0   |

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Hindaza are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as cows, sheep, goats, broiler chicken, and bees (See Table 8).

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 2     | 2,281 | 1,315 | 0      | 2      | 10      | 5     | 10,300   | 0      | 40        |

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

There are about 10 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village suitable for tractors and agriculture machinery.

## Institutions and Services

Hindaza has a number of local institutions and associations that provide social services to the society, including: (Hindaza Village Council, 2010)

- **Al 'Ubeiyat Women Society:** Founded in 2000. The society provides cultural services to the residents.
- **At Ta'amrah Youth Club:** A sport and cultural club for youth.
- **Al 'Ubeiyat Society:** A cultural charitable society.
- **Bred'a Society:** A cultural charitable society.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Hindaza 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 99.7 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, 1.6 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (1.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Hindaza is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone line (Hindaza village council, 2010).

### Transportation Services:

Private cars are the main means of transportation in Hindaza. As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 23km of main paved roads; of which 5km are in need of rehabilitation, and a total of 15km of secondary roads; of which 8km are in bad condition and in need of rehabilitation. As for the unpaved roads; there are a total of 2km of unpaved main roads and 16km of unpaved secondary roads (Hindaza village council, 2010).

### Water Resources:

Hindaza is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1983, and about 99.7 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.3%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Hindaza in 2009 was about 180 thousands cubic meters/year therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 104 liters/day (Hindaza village council, 2010).

Here it should be noted that most Hindaza citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 40 percent. The losses usually occur at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Hindaza village council, 2010), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Hindaza is 62 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.

### Sanitation:

Hindaza is connected to a public sewage network however the network does not serve all of the housing units in the village. According to PCBS's Population and Housing Census in 2007 and PWA data, 26.1 percent of Hindaza housing units are connected to the swage

network, whereas the majority of Hindaza housing units (73.2%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal. The means for wastewater disposal is unknown for the rest of the housing units (0.7%).

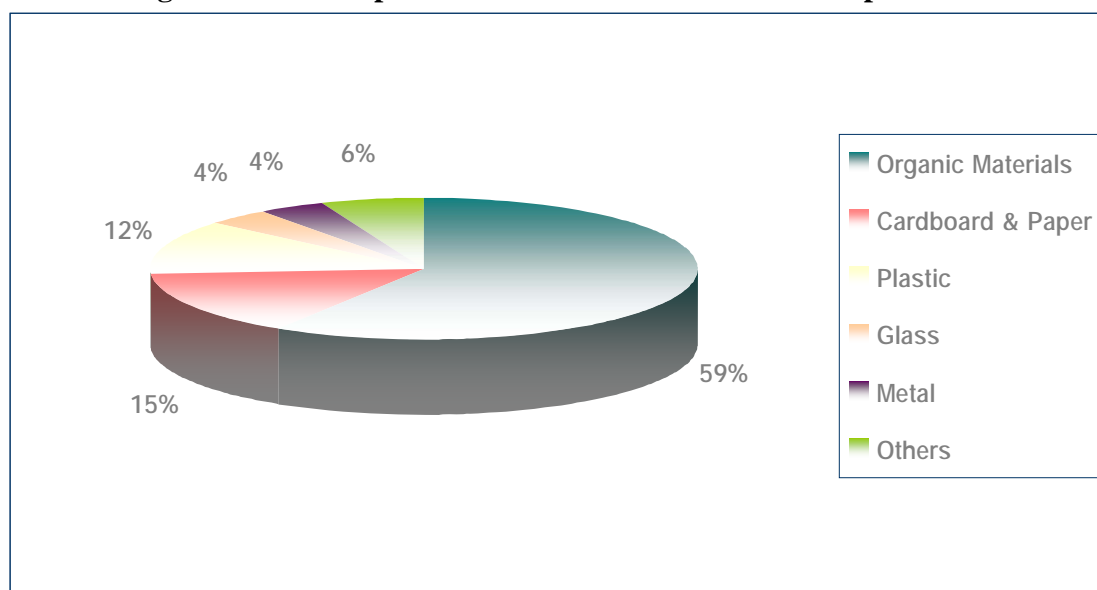
Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 238 cubic meters, or 87 thousands cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 50 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:**

Hindaza Village Council is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Hindaza. 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 15 NIS/month.

Most of the population in Hindaza benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 36 containers, spread through the neighborhoods, with a capacity of 1 cubic meter each. The village council collects the solid waste from the containers two days a week and transports it to Abu Dees (Al 'Ezeriya) dumping site, 30km from Hindaza. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is 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 Hindaza is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Hindaza residents is nearly 3.36 tons or 1226 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper, cardboard, and lastly 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, Hindaza 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; accordingly, people are largely dependent on purchased water.
- (2) High rate of water losses which reaches about 40 percent.

### Wastewater Management:

The absence of a public sewage network and 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 damages, 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 the wastewater mixes with water and contaminates it



and thus makes it inappropriate 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 residents' health.

### **Solid Waste Management:**

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Hindaza 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 full 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, a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it also produces bad odors and distortion of 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.

## **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

According to the Oslo Interim Agreement, 4879 dunums of Hindaza lands (95.3% of the total area of the village) were classified as area A, in which public order and security matters fall under the Palestinian National Authority's responsibility, 182 dunums (3.6% of the total area of the village) were classified as area B, and, 60 dunums (1.1% of the total area of the village) were classified as area C (Table 9).

| <b>Land Classification</b> | <b>Area (dunums)</b> | <b>% of the Total Area</b> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Area A</b>              | 4879                 | 95.3                       |
| <b>Area B</b>              | 182                  | 3.6                        |
| <b>Area C</b>              | 60                   | 1.1                        |
| <b>Total Area</b>          | <b>5121</b>          | <b>100</b>                 |

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Hindaza village council has implemented only one development project in Hindaza, between 2007 and 2009, which was the pavement of internal roads in the village in 2007. This was funded by the Palestinian Ministry of Finance (Hindaza village council, 2010).

### Proposed Projects

Hindaza 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. Establishment of a new water network and renovation of the old network.
2. Establishment of a new electricity network, strengthening the network, and providing street lights.
3. Providing supporting projects for farmers, such as: home gardens projects, establishing greenhouses, and providing fodder for livestock.
4. Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns.
5. Establishment of a sewage network.
6. Pavement of roads.
7. Providing sewing and embroidery workshops for women.
8. Construction of a public park.
9. Establishment of a dairy factory.
10. Construction of new schools and the addition of new classrooms to old schools.
11. Construction of health clinics and providing an ambulance.
12. Providing a structural scheme for the village.
13. Construction of a headquarters for the institutions and associations in the village.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Hindaza suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 10 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's point of view (Hindaza Village Council, 2010):

| No.                          | Sector  | Strongly Needed | Needed | Not a Priority | Notes                          |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Infrastructural Needs</b> |   |                 |        |                |                                |
| 1                            | Opening and Pavement of Roads                           | *               |        |                | 21km*                          |
| 2                            | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks                    | *               |        |                | 10km                           |
| 3                            | Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas | *               |        |                | 20m                            |
| 4                            | Construction of New Water Networks                      |                 | *      |                | 5m                             |
| 5                            | Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs    |                 |        | *              |                                |
| 6                            | Construction of Water Reservoirs                        | *               |        |                | 1,500m <sup>3</sup>            |
| 7                            | Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network               | *               |        |                | 15km                           |
| 8                            | Construction of a New Electricity Network               | *               |        |                | 5km                            |
| 9                            | Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection         | *               |        |                | 200 containers                 |
| 10                           | Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste           | *               |        |                | 1                              |
| 11                           | Providing a Sanitary Landfill                           |                 |        | *              |                                |
| <b>Health Needs</b>          |   |                 |        |                |                                |
| 1                            | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres          |                 | *      |                | 2 clinics                      |
| 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                                 | *               |        |                | elementary                     |
| 2                            | Rehabilitation of Old Schools                           | *               |        |                | elementary & secondary         |
| 3                            | Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools                 | *               |        |                | elementary & secondary schools |
| <b>Agriculture Needs</b>     |   |                 |        |                |                                |
| 1                            | Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands                    | *               |        |                | 1,500 dunums                   |
| 2                            | Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns                  | *               |        |                | 50 cistern                     |
| 3                            | Construction of Barracks for Livestock                  | *               |        |                | 30 barracks                    |
| 4                            | Veterinary Services                                     | *               |        |                |                                |
| 5                            | Seeds and Hay for Animals                               | *               |        |                |                                |
| 6                            | Construction of New Greenhouses                         | *               |        |                | 160 greenhouses                |
| 7                            | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses                           |                 | *      |                | 10 greenhouses                 |
| 8                            | Field Crops Seeds                                       | *               |        |                |                                |
| 9                            | Plants and Agricultural Supplies                        | *               |        |                |                                |

\*5km is a main road, 9km internal road and 7km agricultural road.

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