

# Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Village Profile



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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 Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron 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'; a 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 Hebron 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 Hebron 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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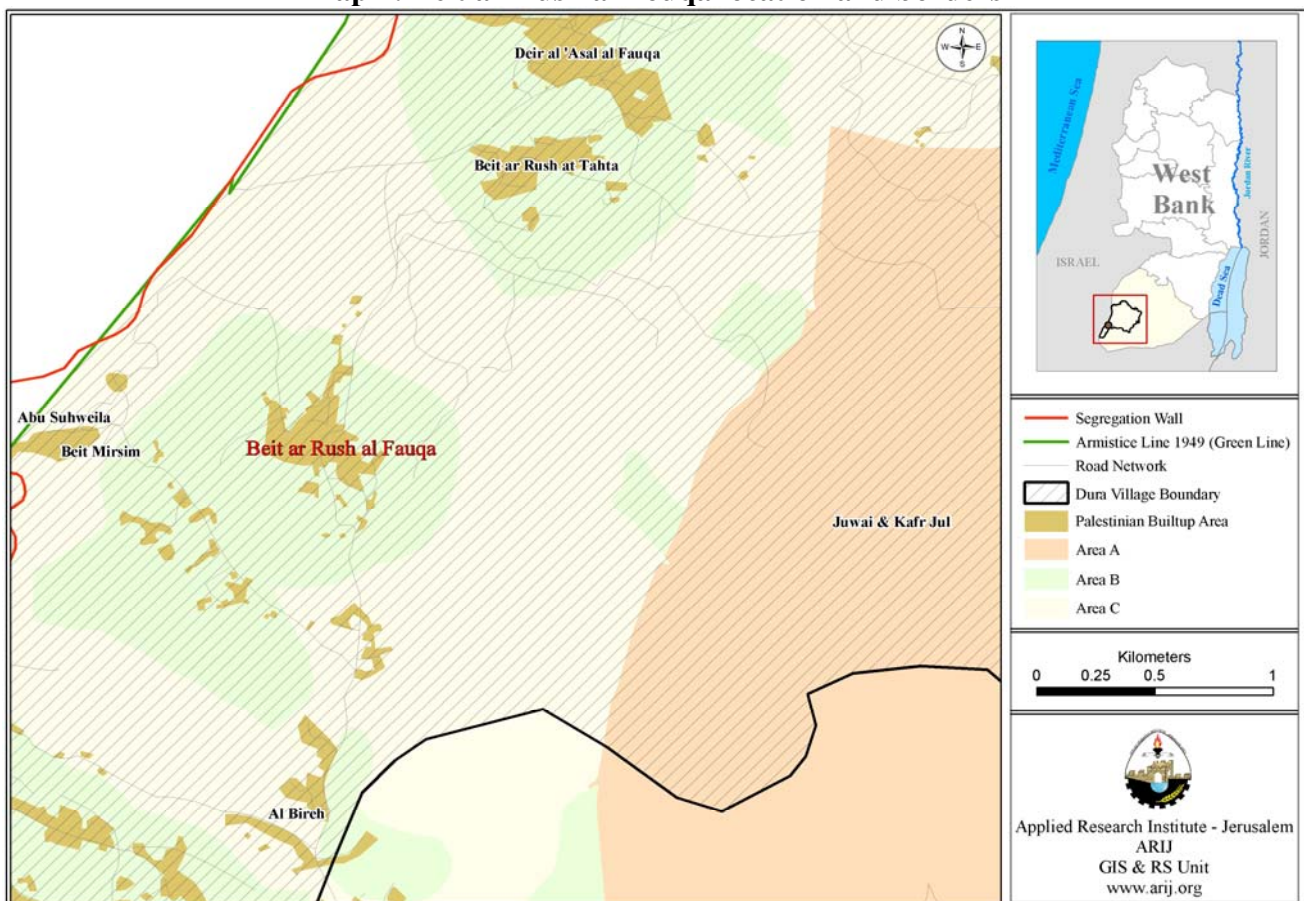
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## *Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Village Profile*

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit ar Rush al Fouqa is a village in the Dura area which is located 18 kilometers southwest of the city of Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by the Dura mountains to the east, Beit Mirsim to the west, Al Burj to south and by the Segregation Wall to the north (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Beit ar Rush al Fouqa location and borders**



The total area of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village is approximately 3,500 dunums, of which 154 dunums are Palestinian built-up area, 2,030 dunums are agricultural lands, 8 dunums are forests and 860 dunums is open space.

The village of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa is located at an elevation of 531 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the village is 436 mm, the average annual temperature is 16°C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village is considered to be a rural area. The village has been governed by a village council (located in its own council building) since 1996. Currently the council consists of seven members. Its main duties are to provide infrastructure services to the residents of the village, including amenities such as water, electricity, waste management, reconstruction and rehabilitation of schools. The village has a master plan with a total area equals 2500 dunums.

## **History**

Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village borders the Armistice Line and is also adjacent to the Segregation Wall. The original residents of the village were Palestinian refugees who were migrated from other villages as result of 1948 war. Beit ar Rush means "chief home" in Hebrew.

### **Photos of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa**

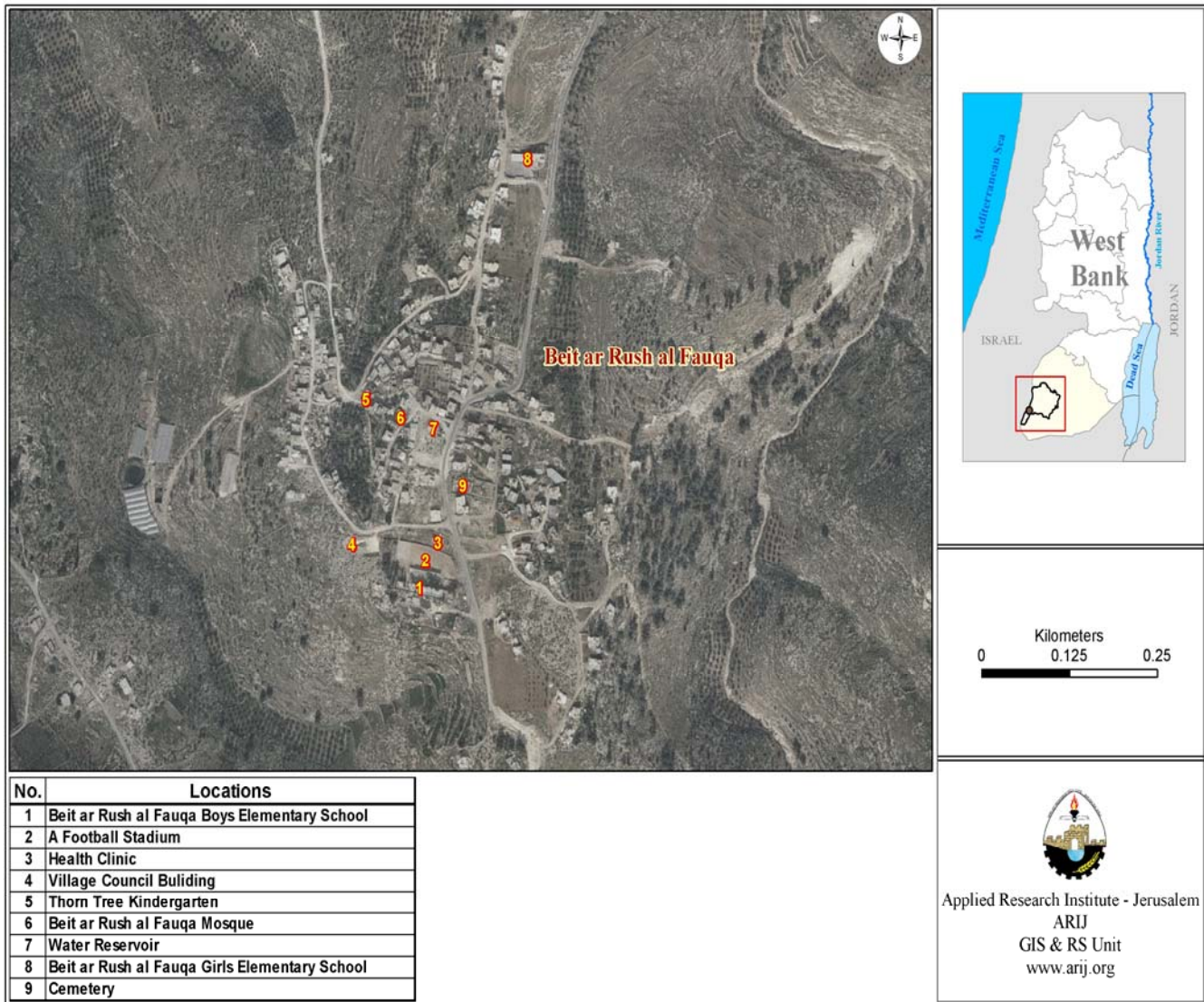


## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There is one mosque serving the village; it is called ‘Beit ar Rush al Fouqa’ mosque.

Beit ar Rush al Fouqa has become a tourist attraction due to a 300 years old "Christ's Thorn Tree" (*Ziziphus spina-christi*) that can be found in the area. It is native to the Mediterranean region and very well-known for its medicinal qualities.

Map 2: Main locations in Beit ar Rush al Fauqa village



## Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population Beit ar Rush al Fauqa was 979 inhabitants, of whom 519 were males and 460 were females. There were 151 household residents in 158 housing units in the village and the average household size was 6.5 people.

### Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 census shows the Beit ar Rush al Fauqa population demographic as follows; 44.1% of the total population is less than 15 years, 52.5% is between the ages of 15-64y and 2.5% of the residents are 65 years and above. The sex ratio in Beit ar Rush al Fauqa is 113 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constitute 53% of the total population while females constitute 47% of the total population.

## Families

There are main seven families in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village; they are Cashour, Salman , Rashed , Amro , Abu Sherar, Feqayat and Nashwiyah.

## Education

According to PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, about 33 persons (5%) are illiterate of which 33.3% are males and 66.7% are females. Of the literate population, 12.4% of the population can read and write, 7.9% completed secondary education, and 4.7% received completed their bachelor degree (See table 1.

Sex	Illiterate	read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	Total
M	11	42	94	133	45	11	16	1	1	354
F	22	40	74	107	45	4	15	-	-	307
<b>T</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>661</b>

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

There are two governmental schools in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa; Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Elementary Boys School, and Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Elementary Girls School. Both schools provide elementary education.

As there are no secondary schools in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa, the students have to complete their second educational stage in Al Majd village (which is about 8 km away from the village), or to Dura city (which is 20 km away from the village).

According to date produced by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 330 students, 165 male students and 165 female students. They were distributed into 16 classes; with around 20 teachers currently employed, 9 male teachers and 11 female teachers.

Similarly, the data revealed that there is also a governmental coeducational kindergarten in the Village, called 'Dar el Iman Kindergarten'. It provides pre-school education services to 26 children in the village.

However, the educational sector in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa suffers from some severe problems. One such example would be the insufficient number of classes for formal education in the village. Furthermore, the school playgrounds are in poor condition and need extensive structural repairs.

## Health Status

There is one clinic and a small governmental medical center in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa. However, the village suffers from poor health services as there are no medical laboratories, no ambulances,



and no pharmacies. The closest other health facilities are found in either Dura (which is 20km away), or Adh Dhahiriya (which is about 10km away). Other problems that face the health sector in the village include:

- No emergency health care facility for emergency cases, sudden illness, or severe trauma.
- There is no full-time village doctor to provide medical advice and treatment for the village's patients.
- Patients find difficulties in obtaining their prescribed medicine as there are no pharmaceutical drugs in the village's medical center.

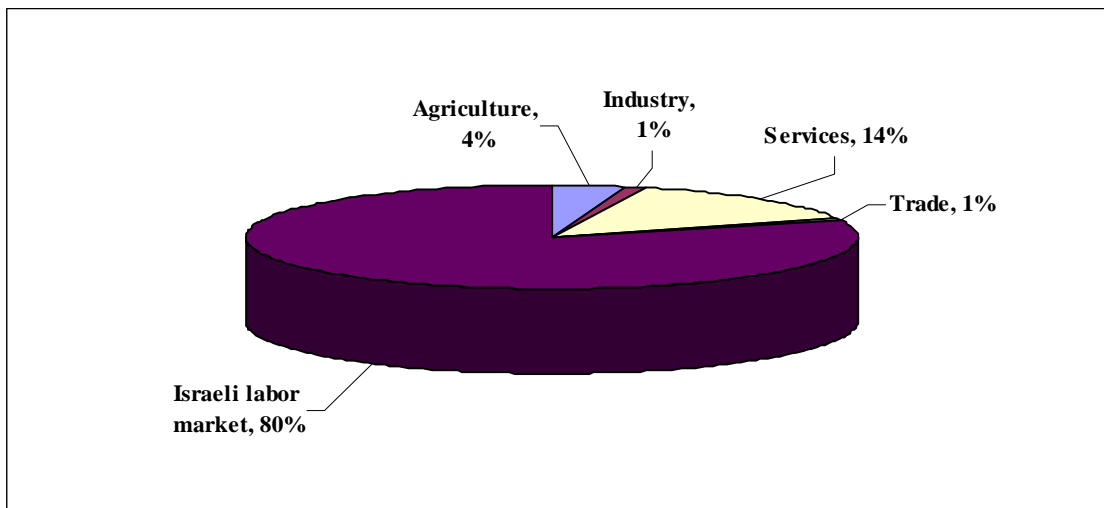
### **Economic Activities**

Since the Israeli occupation the residents of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa have favored working in the Israeli labor market due to the high wages and the village's location on the Green Line, near to Israel. Nearly 80% of the labor force in the village works in the Israeli labor market. The civil service industry is the second service area for employment for the people in the village. 14% of the labor force depends on service activities. There also six trading establishments within Beit ar Rush al Fouqa that caters for the basic necessities of the village. There is also a significant proportion of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa resident that depend in the public and private sectors.

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

- Agricultural Sector (4%)
- Industrial Sector (1%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (1%)
- Government or Other Employees (14%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (80%)

**Figure 1: Percentage of Economic Activities in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Village**



Based on a survey conducted in November 2006 by ARIJ for 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) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 3) small-scale farmers, 4) small-scale traders and 5) housekeeping and children.

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, there were 661 people within the working age (10 years and above). Out of the 661 people within the working age, 191 were economically active, of whom 87% were employed. There were 470 economically non-active individuals in the village, of which 54.5% were students, 35.1% were housekeeping and 10.4% were unable to work, not working, or currently not looking for work (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	124	41	15	180	139	-	30	1	4	174	<b>354</b>
F	11	-	-	11	117	165	14	-	-	296	<b>307</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>661</b>

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

### Agricultural Sector

Beit Al-Rush al Fouqa village lies on a total area of, 3,500 dunums. 2,030 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 1,185 dunums are cultivated. In addition, there are around 500 dunums that are to be reclaimed. Lack of available investment capital for agricultural development, coupled with a lack of water resources have interfered with the unsuitability of arable farming in the village. There are about 5 dunums of greenhouses, all of which are used for growing cucumber.

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
3500	1185	845	154	8	860

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village**

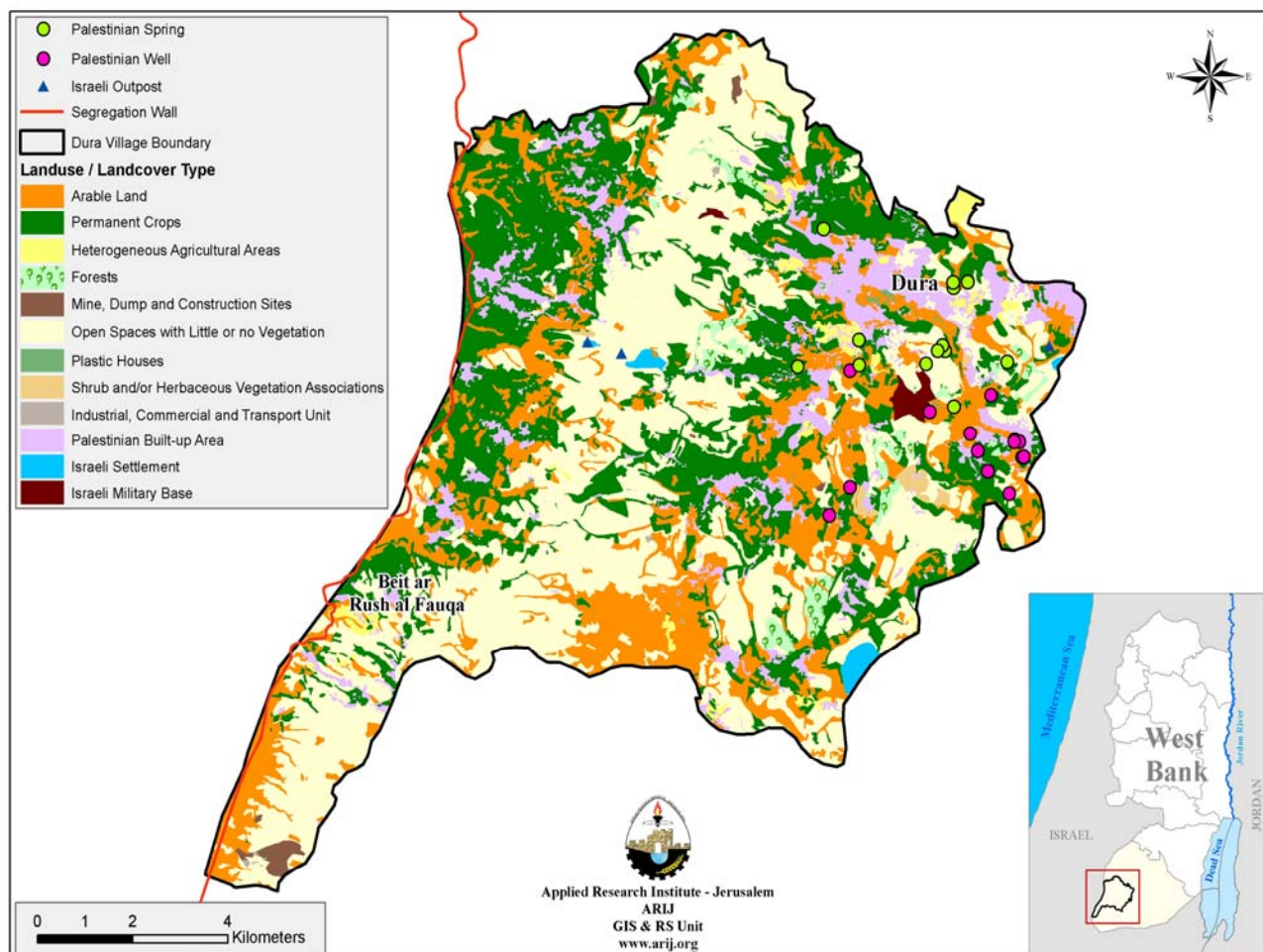


Table 4 shows the rain-fed and irrigated open cultivation of vegetables in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa. The fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with a total area of about 25 dunums. Sage is also grown in the village of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa, comprising of over 1 dunums of area.

Fruity vegetables		Green legumes		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
25	0	2	0	0	0	27	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

There is a total area of 483 dunums of Olive Tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly almond trees and grape vines (Table 5).

Olives		Stone-fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
483	0	15	0	65	0	55	0	618	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most commonly cultivated crops with an area of about 95 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops such as common vetch and bitter vetch are also common in the village (Table 6).

**Table 6: Total area of field crops cultivated in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Village (dunum)**

<i>Cereals</i>		<i>Bulbs</i>		<i>Dry legumes</i>		<i>Seeds</i>		<i>Forage crops</i>		<i>Other crops</i>		<i>Total area</i>	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
419	0	7	0	27	0	1	0	80	0	0	0	534	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

Data collected from Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Village Council indicates that the village residents depend on rearing livestock and dairy production. The data also indicates that around 25% of households rear animals. In total there are about 8 cows, 252 goats, 832 sheep, 25 donkeys and one horse. There are also 10 poultry farms with approximately 34,700 birds.

There are about 3 km of agricultural roads in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa that is suitable for tractors and agricultural hardware. The agricultural sector in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa Village however does suffer from problems including a lack of water resources, pastures, and capital.

## Institutions and Services

The main institute in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village is its village council. Originally, the village committee consisted of merely 7 members and was formed to serve the village. However, in 1996 the committee was transformed into a 'Village Council', and since then the council has been officially working for the village community.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

**Telecommunication Services:** Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village has been connected to a telecommunications network, and about 80% of the housing units are connected to the network.

**Water Services:** All the village housing units have been connected to a water network since 1986, which is provided by the Palestinian Water Authority. Water tankers and cisterns are two additional water resources for the village. However the village does still suffer for extremely low water services. The total annual quantity of water available to the residents is insufficient for the residents' daily activities. Similarly, the network is old and need repair, and there is a severe need for a water reservoir to meet the residents' water demand.

**Electricity Networks:** The Israeli Electric Company "Al-Qutriya" is the major provider for energy in the village. Since 1993 all housing units have been connected to the electric network. However, the village still suffers from an outdated and unreliable electricity network, a weak current, and a generator that needs repairing.

**Sewage Disposal Facilities:** The sewage disposal system in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village is almost nonexistent. There is no sewage disposable network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

**Solid Waste Collection Services:** Around 500 kg of solid waste is generated daily in Beit ar Rush al Fouqa; it is collected by a solid waste management system. The waste is collected by trucks, which are owned by the Joint Services Council in the area. The waste collected is then transported to a regional dumping site owned by Hebron municipality, approximately 40 km away.

**Transportation Facilities:** The village does have a public transportation network; it consists of 2 buses and 15 taxis belong to a central taxi service. Transportation however is made difficult due to the lack of suitable roads. While Beit ar Rush al Fouqa boasts well-maintained, paved main road, there is still around 1 km in a state of poor repair, and 7.5 km of road are completely unpaved. This includes 2.5 km of main road, 2 km of internal road and 3 km of agricultural road.

### **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

In 2005, around 20 dunums of Beit ar Rush al Fouqa lands have been confiscated to construct a 1 km Wall, composed of wires, to the southwest side of the village.

The village also suffers from the Israeli's earth mounds that surround the village; these severely restrict its residents' movement.

### **Development Plans and Projects**

The village has produced a development plan, which in 2004 funded by the Palestinian Ministry of Finance to construct the Joint Services Council.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village council the village is still suffering from shortages in many infrastructures and service requirements. Table 7 below summarizes development priorities in the village.

<b>Table 7: Development priorities and needs for Beit ar Rush al Fouqa village</b>						
<b>No.</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Strongly Needed</b>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Moderately Needed</b>	<b>Not Needed</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
<b>1</b>	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				6000 m
<b>2</b>	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
<b>3</b>	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			2 km
<b>4</b>	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			500 mm
<b>5</b>	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
<b>6</b>	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network				*	
<b>Health Needs</b>						
<b>1</b>	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
<b>2</b>	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*			
<b>3</b>	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools			*		
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
<b>1</b>	Building of New Schools	*				Elementary
<b>2</b>	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			
<b>3</b>	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools		*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
<b>1</b>	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				500 dunum
<b>2</b>	Building Cisterns	*				50
<b>3</b>	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			60
<b>4</b>	Veterinary Services		*			
<b>5</b>	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
<b>6</b>	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			20 of Greenhouses
<b>7</b>	Field Crops Seeds		*			
<b>8</b>	Plants and Agricultural Supplies					

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