

Fuqeiqis 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

Table of Contents

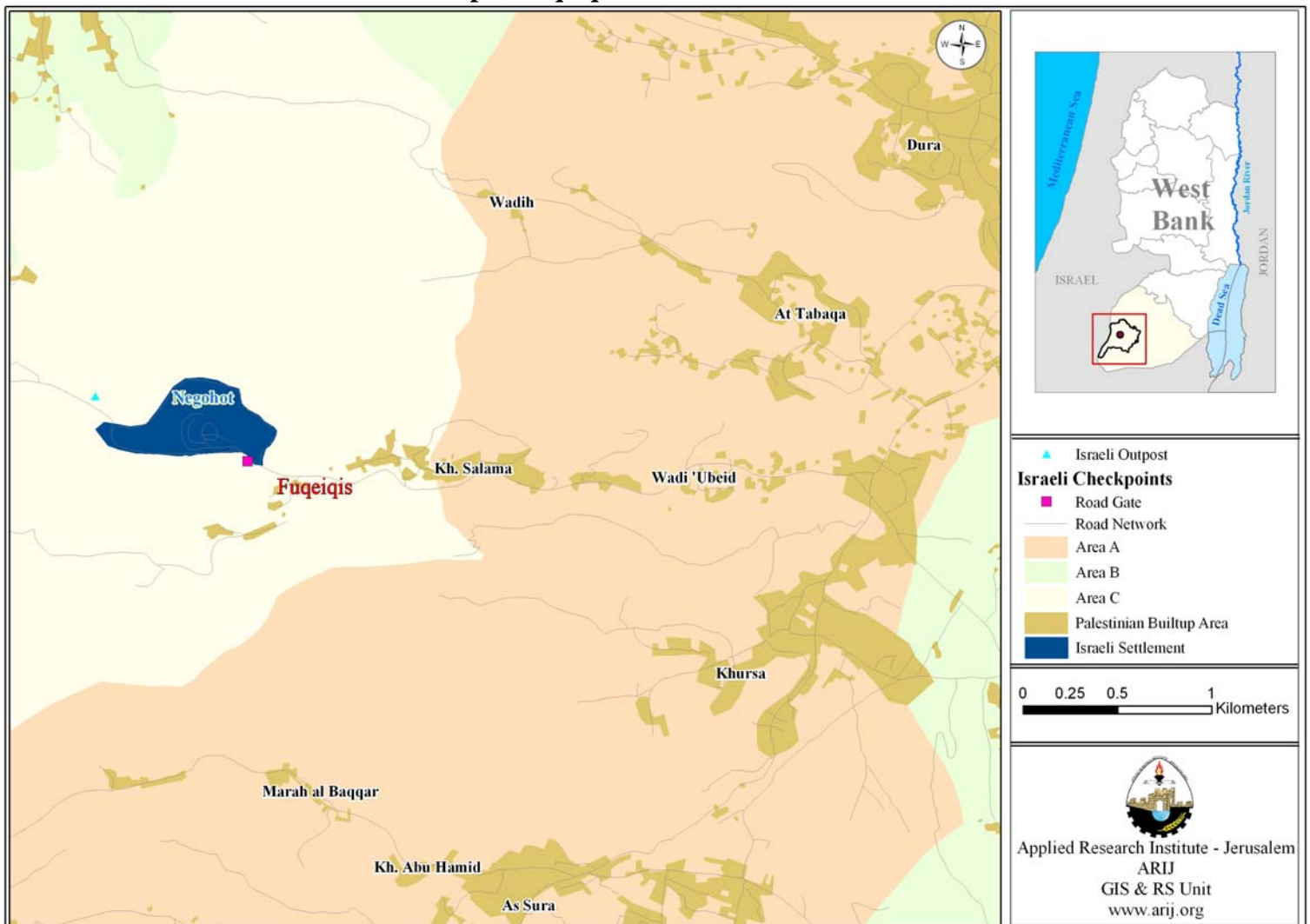
| | |
|--|-----------|
| <i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> | <u>4</u> |
| <i>History</i> | <u>5</u> |
| <i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> | <u>5</u> |
| <i>Population</i> | <u>6</u> |
| <i>Education</i> | <u>7</u> |
| <i>Health Status</i> | <u>8</u> |
| <i>Economic Activities</i> | <u>8</u> |
| <i>Agricultural Sector</i> | <u>9</u> |
| <i>Institutions and Services</i> | <u>11</u> |
| <i>Natural Resources and Infrastructure Services</i> | <u>12</u> |
| <i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i> | <u>12</u> |
| <i>Development Plans and Projects</i> | <u>13</u> |
| <i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> | <u>13</u> |
| <i>References</i> | <u>14</u> |

Fuqeiqis Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Fuqeiqis is a Palestinian village in the Dura area located 20km southwest of the city of Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Khirbet Salama to the east, Deir Samit to the north, As Sura to the south and Beit 'Awwa to the west.

Map1: Fuqeiqis location and borders



Fuqeiqis village lies on top of a mountain where it overlooks on the Palestinian Coast; it is 726 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Fuqeiqis village is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ database, 2006).

Fuqeiqis village is considered to be predominantly a rural area. The village is governed by a project committee, which was established in 2000, and consists of four members. The services provided by the committee include; infrastructure services (such as water, electricity and roads maintenance), educational services (establishing and rehabilitating of schools), and social and human services.

History

The history of Fuqeiqis village dates back to the Roman era. One narrative suggests that the village was as a park to the Beit ‘Awwa King and his Palace was located on the land. However, when the Israeli Forces occupied Palestine, the village became isolated and the archaeological artifacts were destroyed. After the Palestinian Catastrophe (Nakba) of 1948 many people began to migrate to the village and settle there.

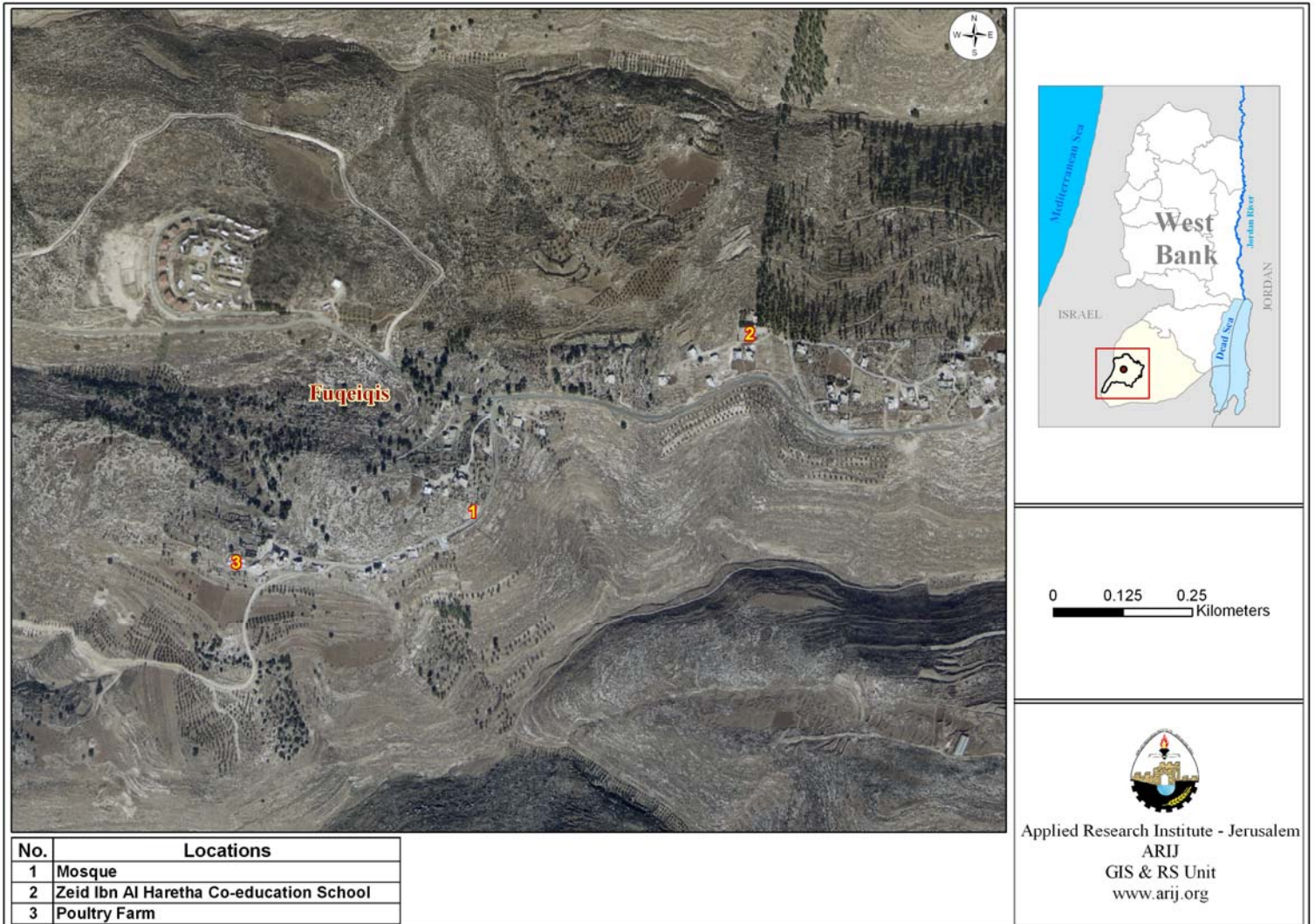
Photos of Fuqeiqis village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is only one mosque in the village “Fuqeiqis Mosque”, it is currently under-construction. The village lacks any other archaeological or historical site.

Map 2: Main locations in Fuqeiqis village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of Fuqeiqis village was 271 inhabitants, 133 were males and 138 were females. There are 42 households in the village living in 44 housing units.

Age Group and Gender

The Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007) showed the distribution of population by age group and sex in Fuqeiqis villages. The results indicate that the 15-64 age groups are the biggest in the Fuqeiqis society, where it constitutes 53.2% of the total population. The 0-14 age group constitutes 41.1% of the total population and the 65 years or above constitutes the remaining 5.7% of the total population. The sex ratio in Fuqeiqis village is 96.3 males per 100

females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constitute 49.1% of the total population while the females constitute 50.9%.

Families

All the residents of Fuqeiqs belong to two families:

- Al Awawda Family,
- Abu Sharar Family.

Migration

According to village officials, there were 20 emigrants from the village due to the political and economic situation.

Education

According to PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), about 23 persons (10 years and above) were illiterate with percentage of 12.3%. The percentage of illiterate among females is higher than males with 43.5% for males and 56.5% for females. Of the literate population, 7% of residents could read and write, 20.9%, 33.7% and 12.8% of the population completed their elementary, preparatory and secondary education respectively. 13.4% have an associate diploma, or a bachelor's degree, (see table 1).

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Total |
|----------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|--------|-----|------------|
| M | 10 | 6 | 21 | 30 | 9 | 6 | 4 | | | | 86 |
| F | 13 | 7 | 18 | 33 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 1 | | | 101 |
| T | 23 | 13 | 39 | 63 | 24 | 13 | 11 | 1 | | | 187 |

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

The field survey data indicated that there is one elementary school serving the village the “Zaid Ben al Hareth Elementary Co-education School”. The school is supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE).

According to the Ministry of Higher Education statistics for 2006/2007, there are 204 students, 10 classes and 16 teachers.

The students in Fuqeiqs village are forced to travel six km to reach Dura city to complete their secondary education. The educational sector in the village continues to suffer as closures of roads are prevalent due to the settlement near the village.

Health Status

Fuqeiqis village severely lacks health services; there are no clinics or health centers, no ambulances or pharmacies. There is only a single maternity and pediatric center supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH). The village officials state that Fuqeiqis residents are suffering from a lack of health center and are forced to travel 20 km or 6 km to access Hebron or Dura hospitals and health centers. They also suffer from a lack of doctors and ambulances.

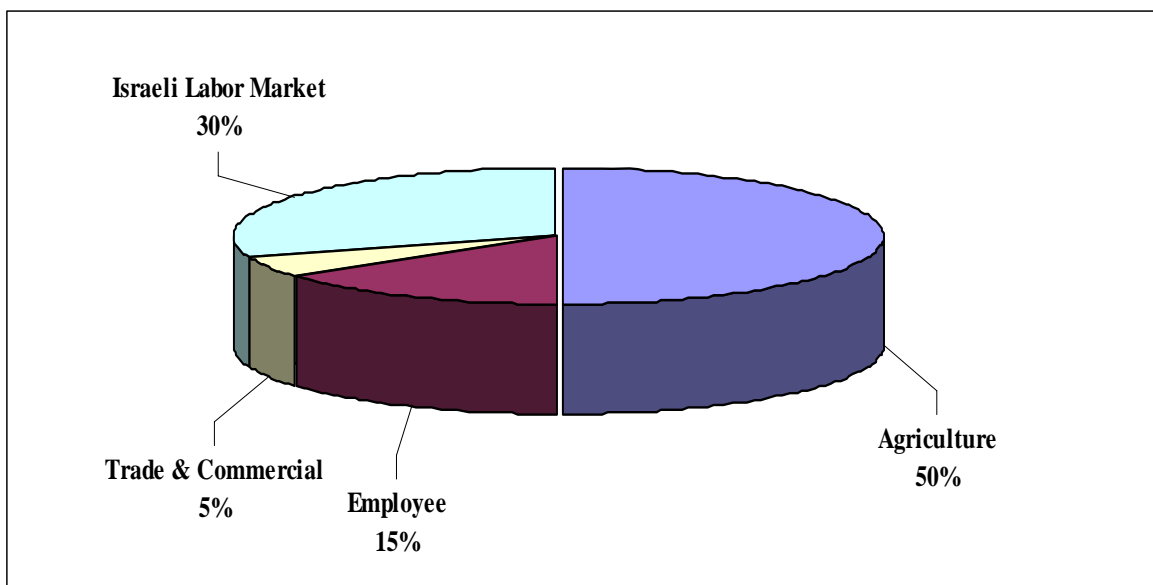
Economic Activities

Fuqeiqis is an agriculture village, where most of the residents are working in either planting crops or rearing livestock. As mentioned before, 23% of the total area (820 dunums) is agriculture area, and about 50% of the populations (in the working age) are engaged with agricultural activities. In addition to the agriculture sector, the residents also depend on the Israeli labor market, where 30% of the residents (in the working age) work inside Israel. In terms of trading institutions, Fuqeiqis village lacks any major institutions, there is just one small grocery and the residents are forced to travel 6 kilometers to buy their main groceries from Dura.

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

- Agricultural Sector (50%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (30%)
- Government or Other Employees (15%)
- Trade and Commercial Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Fuqeiqis village



According to the field work survey, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) workers in Israeli labor market, 2) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 3) small-scale farmers. (ARIJ database, 2006)

Labor Force

According to PCBS Census (2007), 31.6% of the populations of Fuqeiqis were economically active people, while 68.4% were non-economically active persons. Out of the 59 economically active persons, 78% were employed. The total number of non-economically active persons is 128, of whom 49.2% were students, 35.9% were housekeeping and 11.7% were unable to work for a multitude of reasons. (See table 2).

| Sex | Economically Active | | | | Not Economically Active | | | | | | Total |
|-----|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|
| | Employed | Unemployed | Unemployed (Never work) | Total | Student | House keeping | Unable to work | Not working & Not looking for Work | Others | Total | |
| M | 33 | 9 | 3 | 45 | 29 | - | 11 | - | 1 | 41 | 86 |
| F | 13 | 1 | - | 14 | 34 | 46 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 87 | 101 |
| T | 46 | 10 | 3 | 59 | 63 | 46 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 128 | 187 |

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

Agricultural Sector

Fuqeiqis village lies on a total area of 3,500 dunums. Most of the residents of the village depend on agriculture activities on their livelihood. 820 dunums are arable land, however only 500 dunums are currently cultivated. Most of land in the village is either open space or rangeland.

| Total Area | Arable Land | | Build up Area | Forests Area | Open Spaces and Rangelands |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | Cultivated Area | Uncultivated Area | | | |
| 3,500 | 500 | 320 | 160 | 55 | 1250 |

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

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

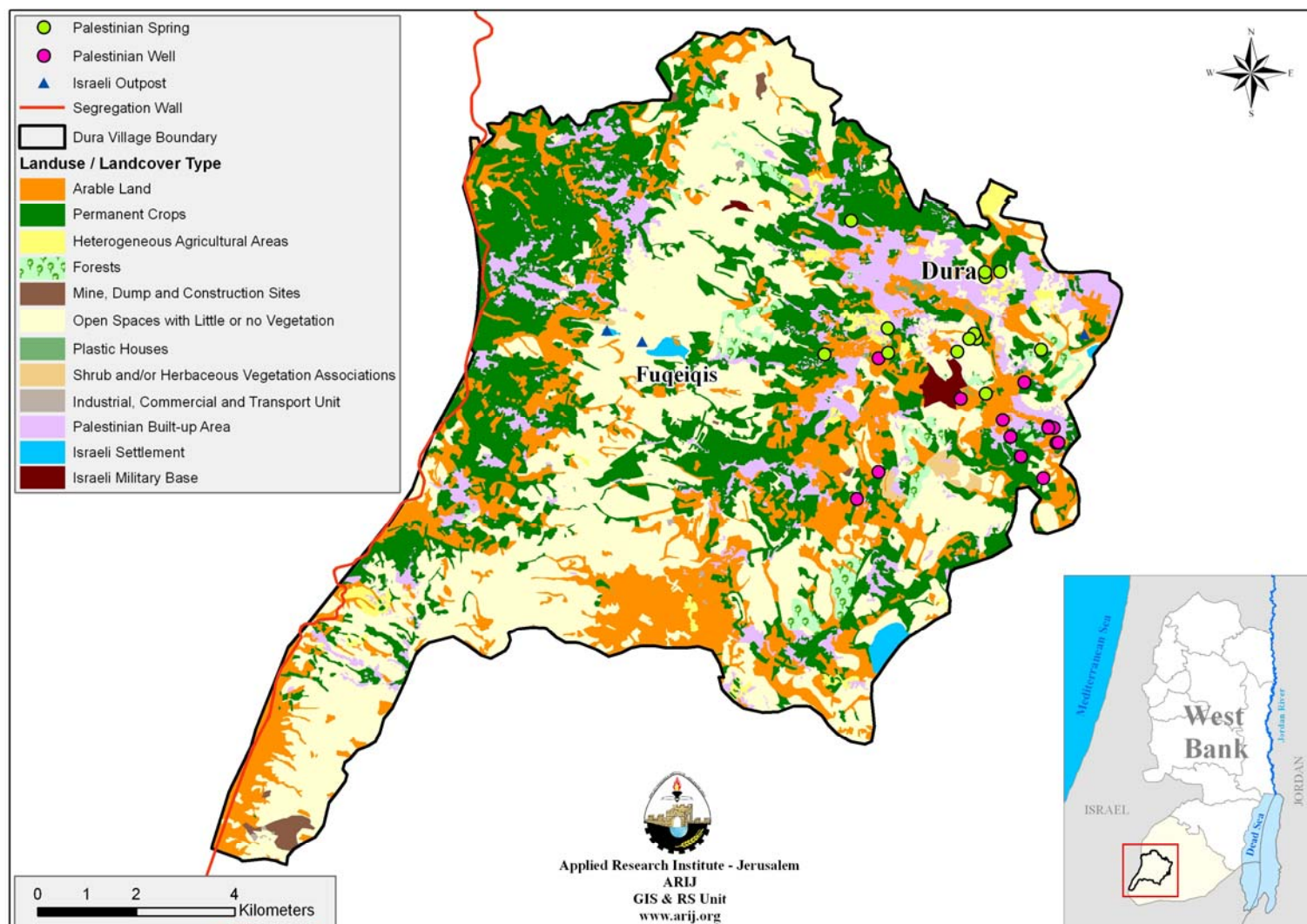


Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Fuqeiqis. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 32 dunums. The most commonly cultivated vegetables within the area are; squash, tomato and snake-cucumber, in addition to other vegetable such as cauliflower (totaling 16 dunums in area).

Table 4: Rain Fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Fuqeiqis 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. |
| 32 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 38 | 9 |

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

There are 3 types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Fuqeiqis which total an area of about 5 dunums, 5 dunums in Fuqeiqis. These plants are thyme, mint and sage.

In the village of Fuqeiqis, there is a total area of 213 dunums olive tree plantations, Other trees planted in the area include almond trees, fig trees and grape vines (See table 5).

| Olives | | Citrus | | Stone-Fruits | | Pome Fruits | | Nuts | | Other Fruit | | Total area | |
|--------|------|--------|------|--------------|------|-------------|------|------|------|-------------|------|------------|------|
| RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. |
| 213 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 96 | 0 | 373 | 1 |

RF: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 6 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Fuqeiqis. Cereals (in particular wheat and barley) are the most commonly cultivated crops with an area of about 45 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops such as sern and vetch is prevalent in the village of Fuqeiqis.

| Cereals | | Bulbs | | Dry Legumes | | Seeds | | Forage Crops | | Stimulating Crops | | Total Field Crops | |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|-------------|-----|-------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| RF | Irr | RF | Irr | RF | Irr | RF | Irr | RF | Irr | RF | Irr | RF | Irr |
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 74 | 0 |

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

The residents of the villages rear and keep livestock, and benefit from meat and dairy production. The main livestock in the village are sheep and goats with 280 and 250 respectively. In addition, there are 2700 birds and 7 bee hives.

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-----------|
| 2 | 280 | 250 | 14 | 1 | 2700 | 7 |

* Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The main source of water for irrigation in the village is the rainwater collection cisterns. The total length of the agricultural roads in the village is 4 km. These are unpaved and only suitable for tractors and other agricultural machines.

The agriculture sector in the village suffers severely from the Israeli activities, and the lack of capital and water. The Israeli Forces cut and destroyed about 500 olive trees, 200 almond trees and another 100 forest trees.

Institutions and Services

The main institution in the village is the project committee, founded in 2000.

Natural Resources and Infrastructure Services

Telecommunication Services: Fuqeiqis village is connected to telecommunication network, and about 80% of the housing units are currently connected to the network.

Water Services: Fuqeiqis village is not connected to any water network. The alternative resources of water in the village are mainly the rainwater collection cisterns. The village officials cite several obstacles that face the village water resources, including water shortage and pollution of water (because it collected from lands).

Electricity Services: Since 1994, Fuqeiqis village has been connected to an electricity network provided by the Dura municipality. According to village officials, 100% of the housing units are currently connected to the network. However, the major problem with the electricity network is the weak currents as a result of the distance from the electricity generator.

Sanitation: The village is not connected to any sewage disposal network, and the waste water is disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There are no solid waste management services in the village, and each household must dispose its own garbage, this is mainly done by burning. The village officials cite that the surrounding Israeli settlements wastewater causes a bad odor and the spread of diseases. About 161 tons of solid waste is generated in Fuqeiqis village annually. (*ARIJ database 2006*).

Transportation Services: Fuqeiqis village has an informal transportation network composed of three private cars. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are; the presence of military road blocks and earth mounds, the lack of well maintained main roads, and the lack of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road qualities, 1,000 meters of main roads are paved but in bad condition, 500 meters of main roads are unpaved roads, and about 4,000 meters are agricultural roads and only suitable for animals are farming equipment.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

To the north of Fuqeiqis village, there is an Israeli settlement named “Nijohet”. The total area of the settlement is approximately 200 dunums and is connected with bypass road. The village is also subjected to one permanent checkpoint, flying checkpoints, and one metal gate hindering movement. The Israeli Forces have destroyed two houses in the village since the beginning of the Second Intifada. In 2004 Israeli Authority has constructed the segregation Wall in the North West area of the village.

The settlement and the checkpoints have had a severe negative effect on the village; the Israeli wastewater flows openly through the center of the community which causes bad odors and diseases.

Development Plans and Projects

Village officials cite that since 2004, the committee has not implemented any projects in the village.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Fuqeiqs project committee, the village has suffered from a shortage of many infrastructure and services needs. Table 8 below shows the development priorities in the village.

| Table 8: Development priorities and needs for Fuqeiqs village | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|--------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Moderately Needed | Not Needed | Notes |
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | | |
| 1. | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | | 4 km |
| 2. | Construction of New Water Networks | | | * | | 6 km |
| 3. | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | | | | * | |
| 4. | Construction of Water Reservoirs | | | * | | |
| 5. | Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas | | | | * | |
| 6. | Construction of Sewage Disposal Network | * | | | | |
| Health Needs | | | | | | |
| 1. | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre | * | | | | |
| 2. | Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres | | | | * | |
| 3. | Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools | | | | * | |
| Educational Needs | | | | | | |
| 1. | Building of New Schools | | | * | | secondary |
| 2. | Rehabilitation of Old Schools | | | * | | elementary |
| 3. | Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools | * | | | | |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | | |
| 1. | Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands | * | | | | 300 dunums |
| 2. | Building Cisterns | | | * | | |
| 3. | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | | | | * | |
| 4. | Veterinary Services | | | * | | |
| 5. | Seeds and Hay for Animals | | | * | | |
| 6. | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | | | * | |
| 7. | Field Crops Seeds | | | * | | |
| 8. | Plants and Agricultural Supplies | | | * | | |

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