

Jala 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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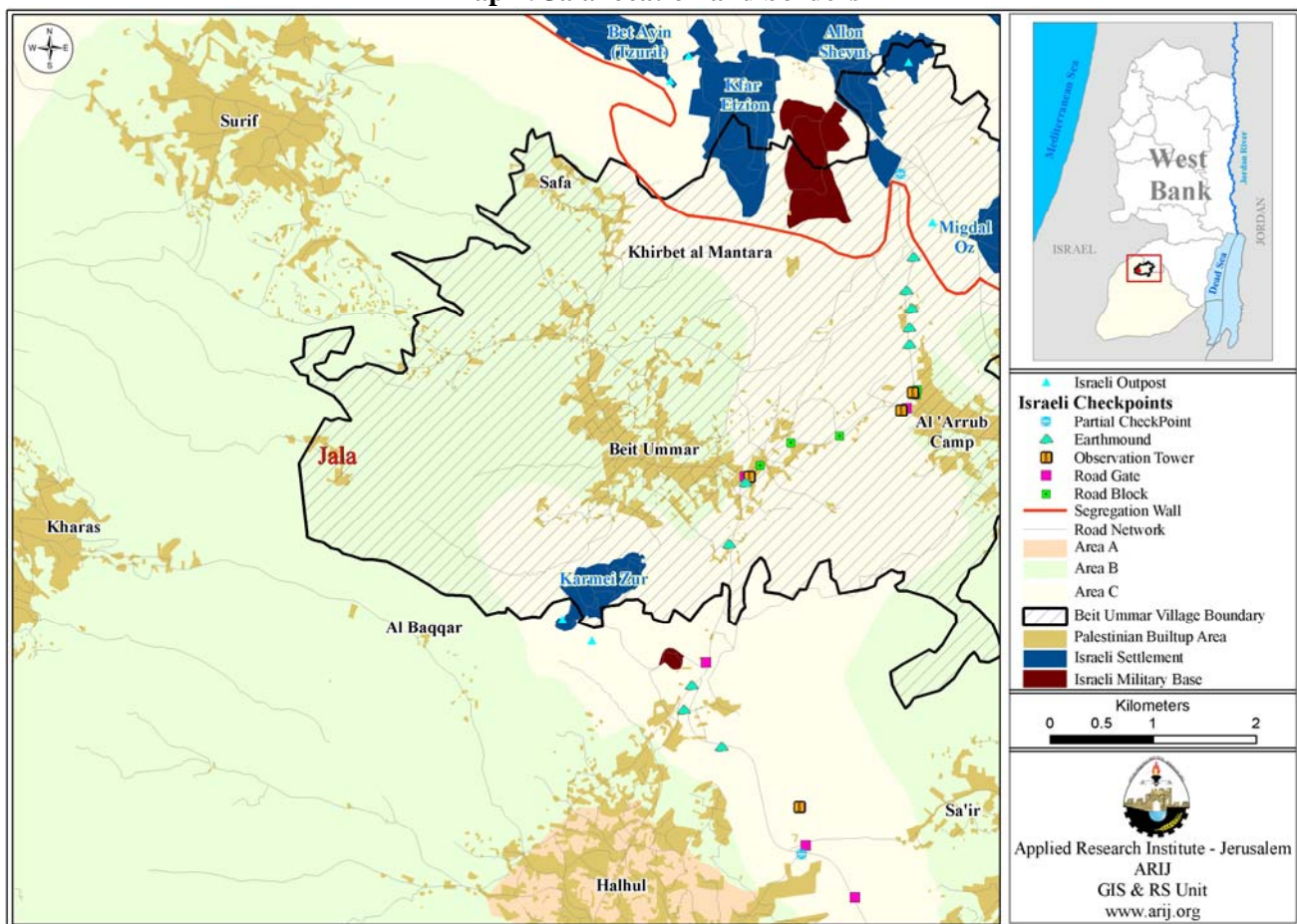
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Jala Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Jala is a village in Hebron Governorate located 10 km north of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. Jala is bordered by Beit Ummar to the east, Surif to the north, Kharas to the west, and Halhul to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Jala location and borders



The village is located on a mountain to the north of Halhul Mountains, at an elevation of 793 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 565 mm, with an average annual temperature of 16° C, and average annual humidity of 60 % (ARIJ GIS).

Jala is defined as rural as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas. A Palestinian Authority appointed Village Council of three members has governed the village since 1995.

The Village Council administrates and manages the village matters, although it has no building of its own, the functions and the activities of the Council are defined in an office in the School of Jala. Primary functions include the provision of utility services such as water, electricity and paved roads, as well as building and improving educational institutions.

History

Jala village is a relatively new locality established in 1949 after the 1948 war when Palestinian refugees were forced out of their original land and homes in Beer Sheva'. The village name is derived from "Beer Jala", the original name of the place.

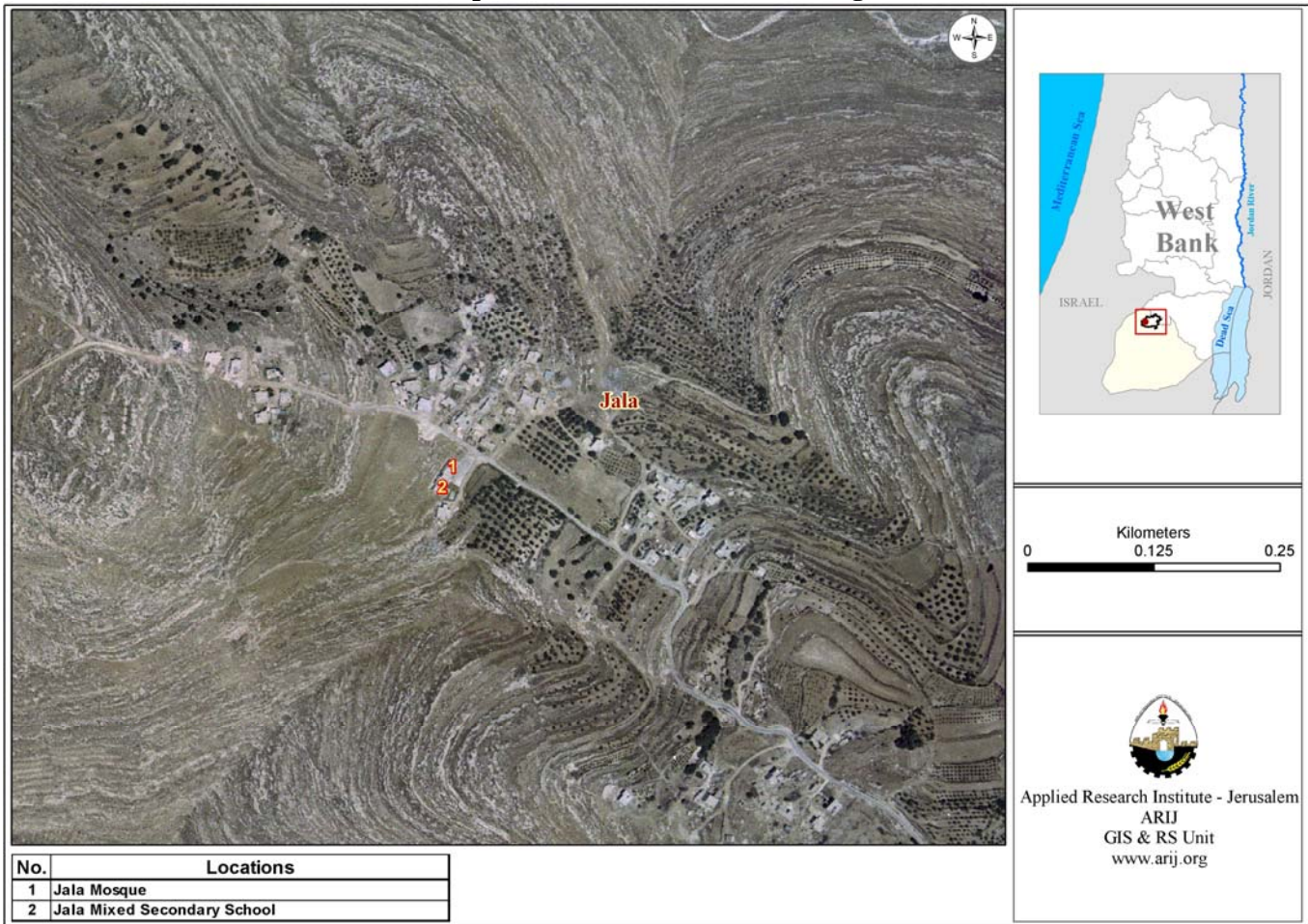
Photos of Jala Village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is only one mosque in the village, "Jala Mosque", and one holy and historical site, "El Set Najla" shrine. (See map 2)

Map 2: Main locations in Jala village



Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Jala in 2007 was approximately 249 people, of which 111 were males and 138 were females. There were 40 households residing in 47 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census data showed the distribution of the population of Jala village by age group and sex. The Census data showed that 41.2% of the population is less than 15 years old, 53.5% is between 15 and 64 years old and 5.3% are 65 years and older. The sex ratio in the village was 81 males for every 100 females, with males constituting 45% of the population and females constituting 55 %

Families

All the residents of Jala come from one main family, Al 'Amareen family.

Education

According to the PCBS Census of 2007, approximately 15.5% of Jala residents were illiterate, with women comprising 81.5% of the total illiterate population in the village. Of the literate population, 17.8% of the residents could read and write although they had not received formal education, 28.7% had completed elementary education, 28.7% had completed preparatory education, 4.6% had completed secondary education, and 0.6% had associate diploma degree. Table 1 shows the education status in Jala by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	5	14	20	26	4	4	1	-	-	-	74
F	22	17	30	24	4	3	-	-	-	-	100
T	27	31	50	50	8	7	1	-	-	-	174

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

ARIJ field survey indicates that elementary education is the only level of education available in the village through one governmental school, “Jala Elementary Co-education School”. According to the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there was 35 students (12 males and 23 females) and four teachers (three males and one female) in three coeducational classes.

As there are no preparatory and secondary schools in Jala village, most students complete their school education to Beit Ummar schools, located about 5.5 km from Jala.

The education system in the village suffers from the lack of funding needed to develop the school in the village.

Health Status

Medical services are in short supply in Jala, which lacks health institutions, ambulances and even pharmacies. These factors, combined with the distance of medical facilities in neighbouring villages’ makes medical treatment inconvenient and difficult. However, a Health Work Committee visits the village once every week to provide medical care and health services to residents. In emergency cases, patients must travel 5.5 km to reach Beit Ummar for medical treatment.

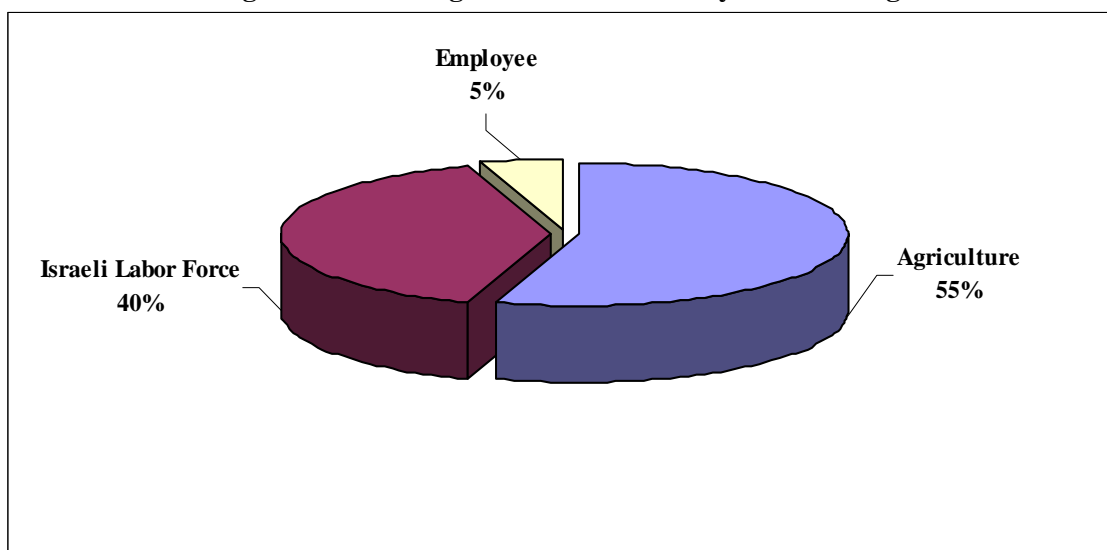
Economic Activities

Jala village is famous for its olive and almond trees, with 55% of the total population in the working age range (10 years and above) engaged in agricultural activities as their main source of income. A significant percentage of the population rely on the Israeli labour market as a source of income as well.

The data collected from the Village Council shows the distribution of the population working in various sectors of economy in the village, as listed below:

- The agricultural sector (55%),
- Israeli labour market (40%), and
- Employees in governmental or private institutions (5%).

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Jala village



The village lacks any economic institutions. However, there is one grocery store for retailing foodstuffs and various household supplies to the residents.

Based on the ARIJ survey, the unemployment rate in Jala village stands at 15%. The survey data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were:

- 1) Workers previously employed in the Israeli market
- 2) Families maintaining 6 or more individuals
- 3) Small-holder farmers
- 4) Housekeepers and children
- 5) Small-holder traders

Labor Force

According to the PCPS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 71.6% of the total population of Jala were of working age (10 years and above); 54 people (31%) were economically active (in the labour force), and 120 people (69%) were economically inactive (outside the labor force). The economically active 83.3% males and 59.3% of them were involved in work and activities. Of the economically inactive, 38.3% were students, 42.5% were housekeepers and 19.2% were unable to work or not working and not looking for work (See Table 2).

Table 2: Jala population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

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	25	5	15	45	20	-	7	2	-	29	74
F	7	-	2	9	26	51	12	1	1	91	100
T	32	5	17	54	46	51	19	3	1	120	174

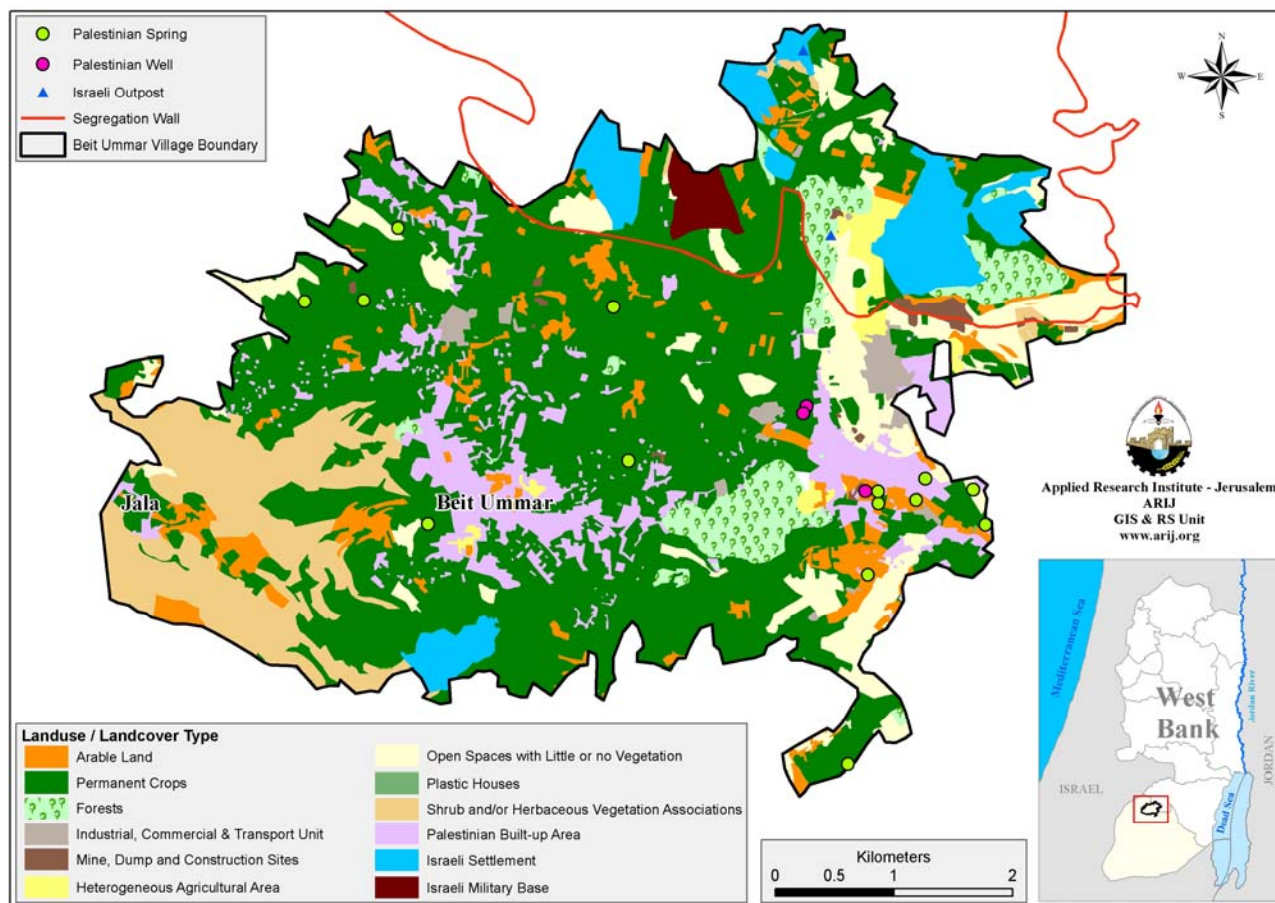
Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, results

Agricultural Sector

As mentioned above, Jala is an agricultural village with 66.7% of the total village area considered agricultural lands, and more than half the residents are engaged in agricultural activities.

Data collected from Jala Village Council indicates that residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production as a livelihood, and there are 500 head of sheep kept by villagers. The high price of livestock feed directly impacts the villagers.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Jala village



Institutions and Services

The main institution in the village is the Jala Village Council, established in 1995, which maintains local oversight of social welfare and public services in the village.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Jala village is not yet connected to a telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** All housing units in Jala have been connected to a water network since 2005 through the Israeli Water Company (MEKOROT). A water spring and several cisterns are additional water resources in the village.
- **Electricity Services:** Jala village is not connected to an electricity network.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage disposable network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** There is no solid waste management system in the village. Each household disposes its generated solid waste individually.
- **Transportation Facilities:** There is no formal transportation system in Jala village. When transportation is unavailable, residents use Beit Ummar taxis, which to provide services on fixed routes.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Though the village of Jala is reasonably free from the encroachment of settlements, it nevertheless suffers from many of the effects of the Israeli occupation that plague other municipalities throughout the West Bank. Unpredictable flying checkpoints make access to hospitals and health centers, as well as the transportation of the sick, farmers and students difficult.

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

In 2004, the Rafid Institution funded a Village Council project to build the Jala School. In addition, a study was undertaken to connect the village with an electricity network.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Jala Village Council, the village suffers from a lack of infrastructural development and social service needs. Table 3 shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			500 m main roads
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
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			*		
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands			*		
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			*		

Reference:

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing and Establishment Census- Final Results*. Ramallah, Palestine. 1997 -2007.
- Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ). *GIS Database*. 2006-2009.
- Ministry of Higher Education. *Educational Status Database*. 2006-2007.