

Jurish Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment"; the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions in the Nablus Governorate.

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 the Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with a focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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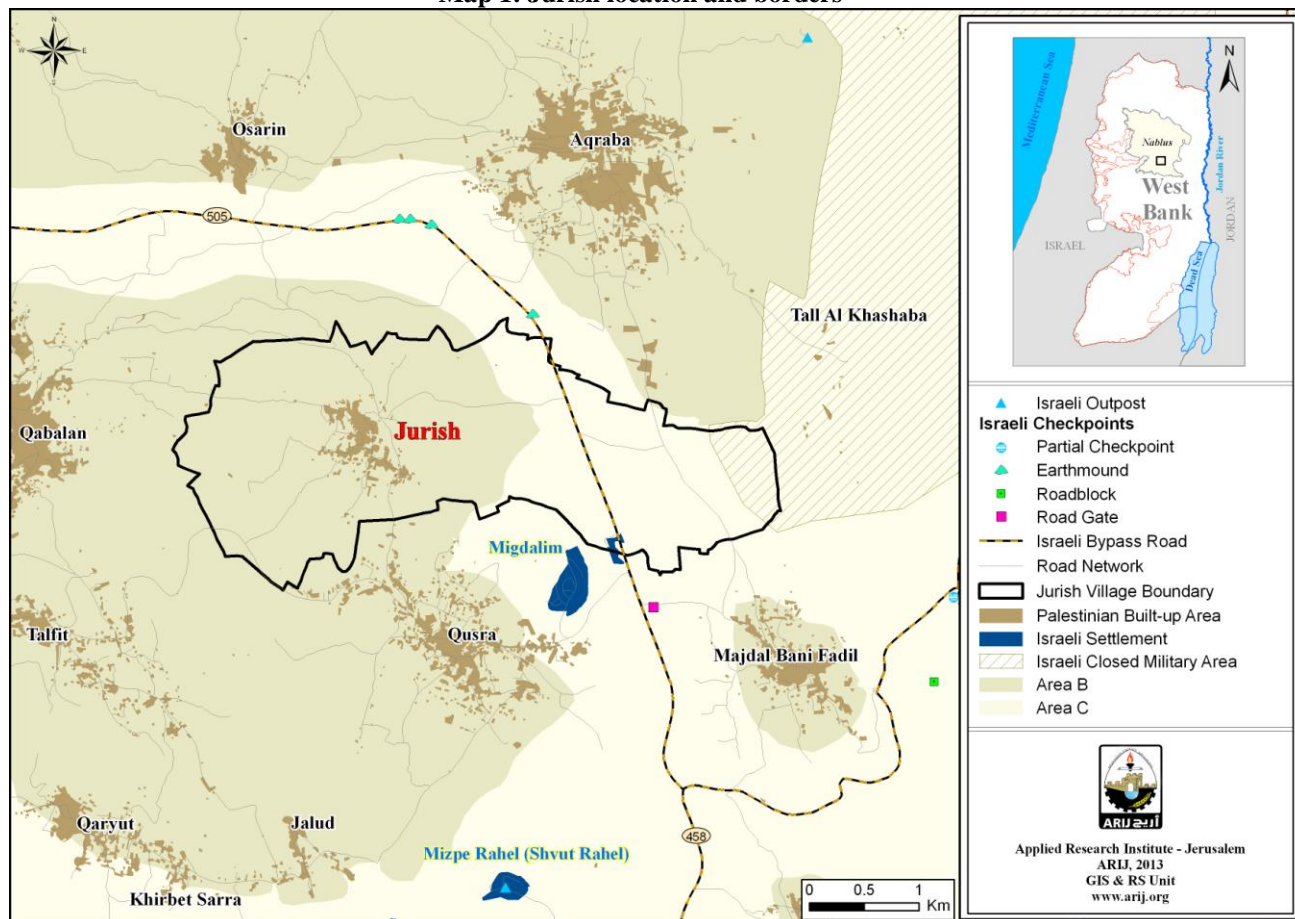
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Jurish Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Jurish is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 14.24 km southeast of Nablus City. It is bordered by Tal al Khashaba to the east, Qabalan and Aqraba to the north, Qabalan and Talfit to the west, and Qusra and Majdal Bani Fadil to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (see map 1).

Map 1: Jurish location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Jurish is located at an altitude of 801m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 448mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 58% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Jurish village consists of approximately 8,208 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which was stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of local government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the demographic variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent

the space and the borders of private property in the district. It is also not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1996, Jurish has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 4 employees working for the council. The council owns a permanent headquarters which is included within the Southeast Joint Services Council. The Council does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Jurish, including

- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity networks.
- Road rehabilitation, construction, paving and social services.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.

(Jurish Village Council, 2013)

History

The name of the village, Jurish, derives from two words “Aljarush” or “Aljarusha” which means “the hand of the Palestinian grinding tool”, and comes from the plural noun “Jauarish” (Al-Dabagh,1991).

The village was established more than 300 years ago and its residents originally came from the neighboring villages of Beita, Aqraba, Beit Dajan, Beit Furik, Talfit and Jalud. (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

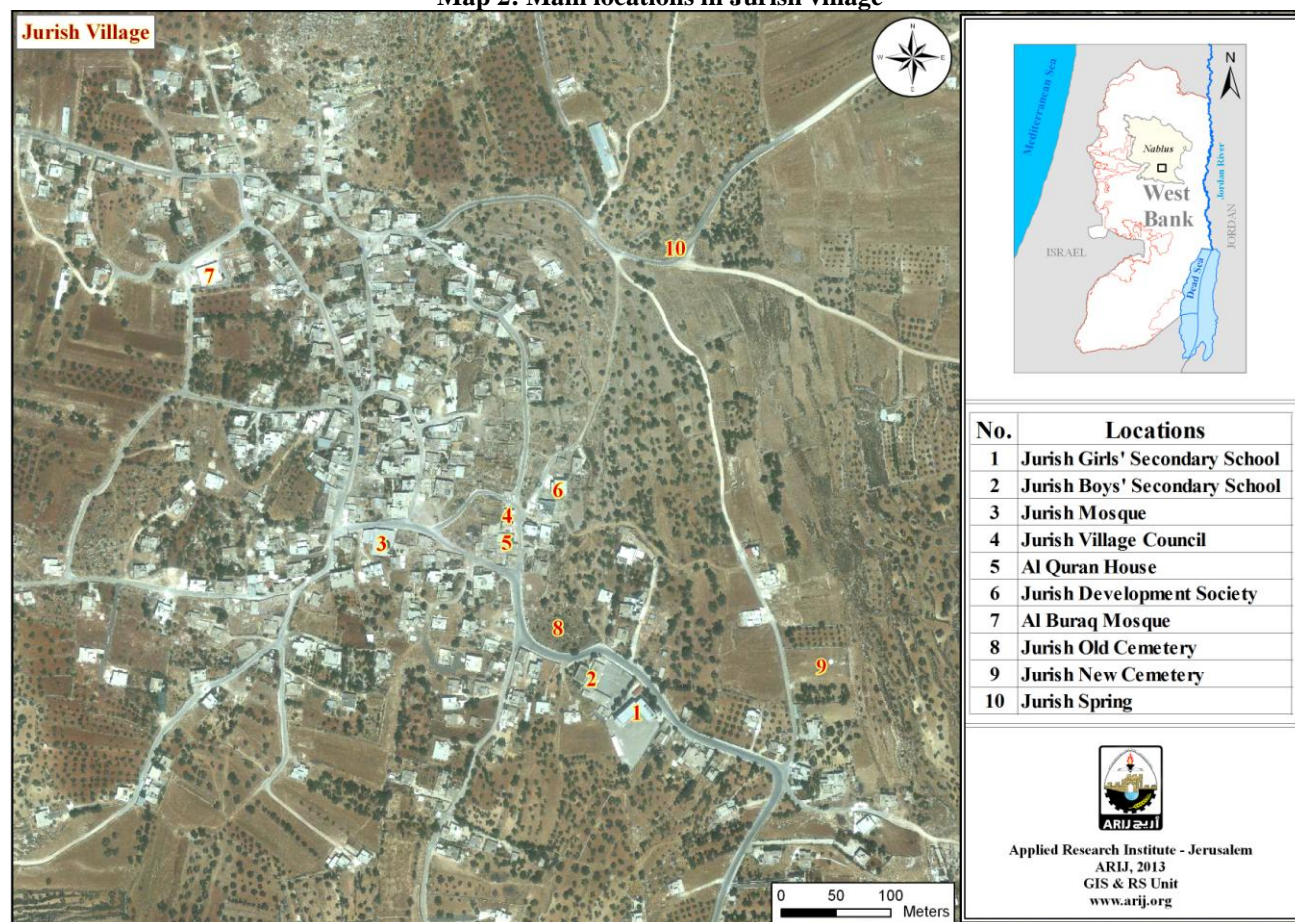
Photo of Jurish



Religious and archaeological sites

There are two mosques in the village: Jurish Great mosque and Al-Buraq mosque. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including Tholkafel Khirba (ruins), the Shrine of Al sheikh Hatem Al-Asam, and buildings in the old city. However none of these sites are suitable for tourism as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiques (Jurish Village Council, 2013) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Jurish village



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Jurish in 2007 was 1,380, of whom 700 were male and 680 female. There were 222 households registered as living in 267 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Jurish was as follows: 46.3% were less than 15 years of age, 50.1% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.6% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 102.9:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.7% and 49.3% of the population respectively.

Families

Jurish residents are from several families, including the Awwad, Mansour, Khalid and Ahmad families (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, the illiteracy rate among the population of Jurish is approximately 6.4%, of whom 80.3% are females. Of the total population, 15% could only read and write with no formal education, 27% had elementary education, 31.1% had preparatory education, 14.8% had secondary education, and 5.4% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Jurish by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Jurish population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	12	68	133	156	83	8	23	2	2	0	2	489
F	49	76	126	143	59	4	13	0	0	0	1	471
T	61	144	259	299	142	12	36	2	2	0	3	960

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are two public schools in the village, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Jurish by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Jurish Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Jurish mixed Secondary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

There are 450 students, 37 teachers, and 23 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 20 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There is only one kindergarten in Jurish village which is run by a private organization (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Jurish village by name and supervising authority

Name of kindergarten	No. of classes	No. of teachers	Supervising authority
Jurish Charity Kindergarten	2	2	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

If there is not an educational subject choice, such as science, available in the school, students at Jurish enroll at Qusra Secondary School which is located 2 km away from Jurish. (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Jurish village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The low standard of education provided by Jurish Boys' Secondary School
- The lack of experienced teaching staff.

(Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Health status

Jurish has no health facilities of any kind. In emergencies patients are transferred to Qusra medical clinic in Qusra village (2 km away), Huwwara Health Center in Huwwara town (10 km away), Rafidia Governmental Hospital, and the National governmental hospital in Nablus city (27 km away) (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

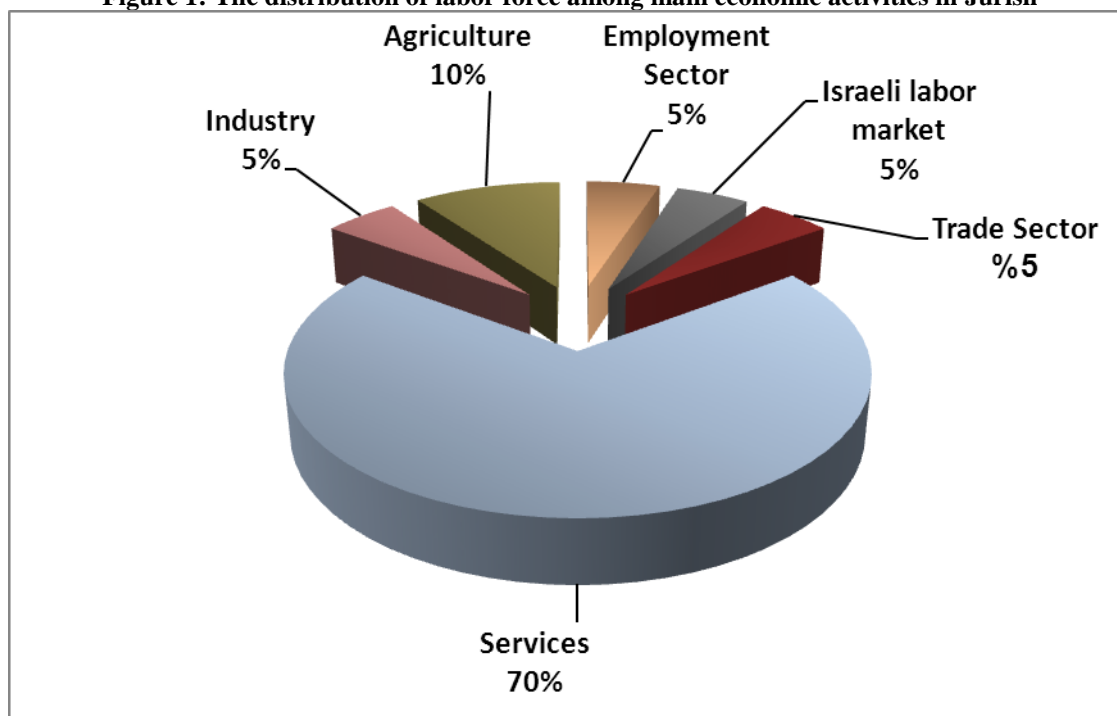
- The lack of a medical clinic or governmental health center for emergency cases
- The lack of an ambulance
- The difficulty in transportation for diabetes and high blood pressure patients to Huwwara Medical Center (Jurish Village Council, 2013)

Economic activities

The economy in Jurish is dependent mainly on the service sector, which absorbs 70% of the village's workforce (Jurish Village Council, 2013) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Jurish are as follows:

- Services sector (70%)
- Agricultural sector (10%)
- Government or other employees sector (5%)
- Trade sector (5%)
- Israeli labor market (5%)
- Industry (5%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Jurish

Source: Jurish Village Council, 2013

Jurish has 5 grocery stores, 1 fruit and vegetable store, 1 services store (Salons, Photography, leasing... etc.) (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Jurish reached 50%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the agriculture sector.

(Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, 29.7 of Jurish's labor force was economically active, of whom 85.9% were employed, 70.1% were not economically active, 56.2% were students, and 35.5% were housekeepers (see table 4).

Table 4: Jurish population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Not economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	232	26	8	266	192	0	22	4	3	221	2	489
F	13	1	5	19	186	239	27	0	0	452	0	471
T	245	27	13	285	378	239	49	4	3	673	2	960

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

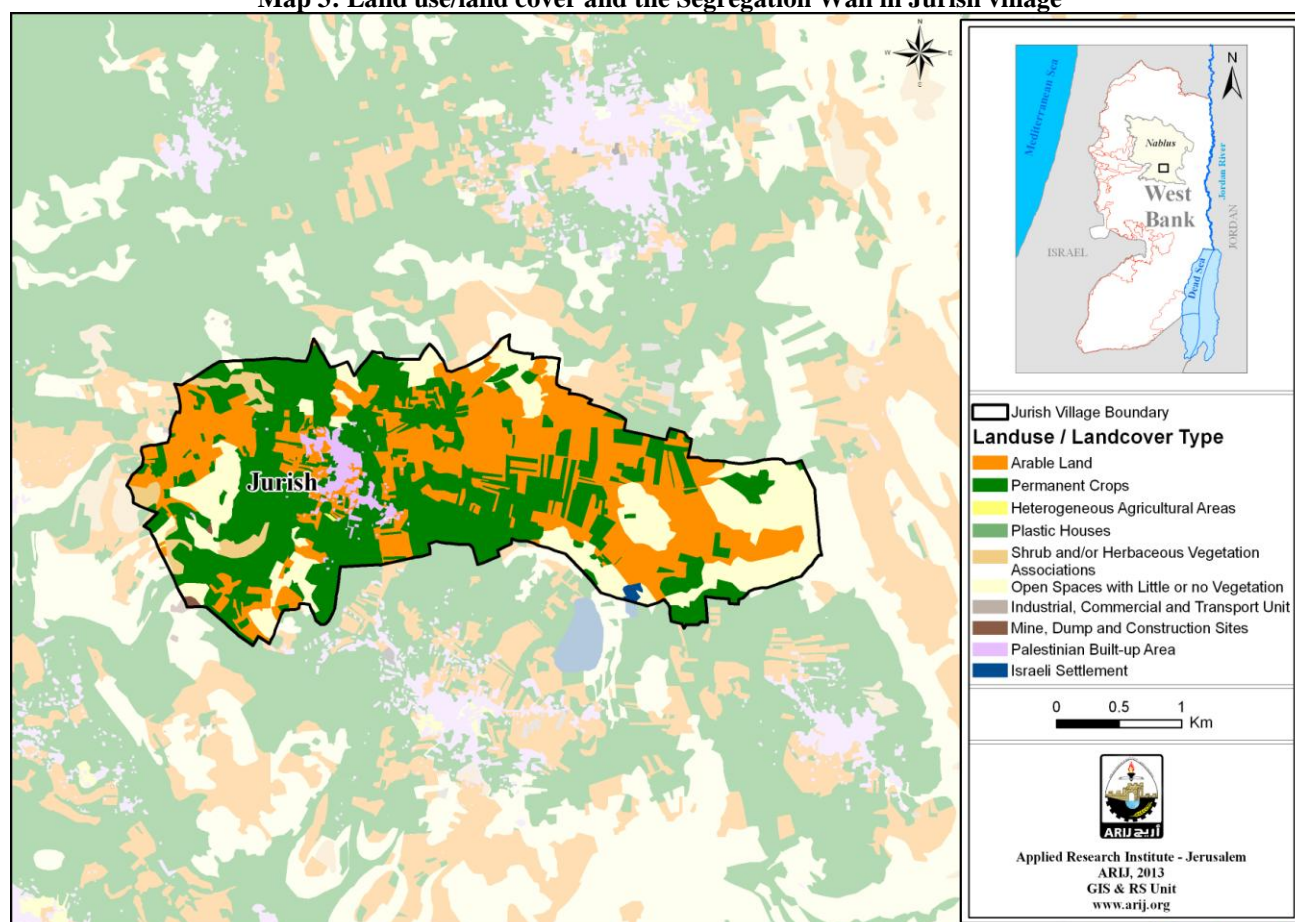
Jurish has a total area of approximately 8,208 dunums of which 6,401 are arable land and 197 dunums are registered as residential (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Jurish village (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (6,401)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
8.208	167	3.410	1	185	2.805	0	0	1.581	12	17

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

As for the different types of vegetables, both rain fed and irrigated are grown in Jurish village. Where is the green beans more species growing in the village, which cultivated 2 dunums rain fed (Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010).

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Jurish is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 1250 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Jurish (area in dunums)

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.
1,250	0	0	0	19	0	11	0	79	0	77	0	1,436	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Jurish cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 700 dunums (see table 7).

Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in Jurish (area in dunums)

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.
700	0	3	0	80	0	4	0	160	0	0	0	12	0	959	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in the size of the agricultural areas is explained by the difference between each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas and they did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 5% of the residents in Jurish rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Jurish

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Beehives
19	325	55	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	20

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There is approximately 6km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural roads in Jurish village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	3
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	-
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	3

Source: Jurish Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- The lack of water resources for agricultural production.
- The need to construct agricultural roads for some agricultural lands which in turn need reclamation.
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment.

- The immigration of citizens to work abroad.
- The small capacity for the marketing of agricultural products, particularly olive oil.
- The lack of financial and technical support from funding organizations.

(Jurish Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and services

Jurish village has no governmental institutions. The village has a number of local organizations which provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Jurish Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, as well as infrastructure services.
- **Jurish Society for Development:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior. The society aims to support women through the implementation of small projects such as sewing, embroidery and food processing.

(Jurish Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Jurish has been connected to a public electricity network served by the Israeli Qatari Electricity Company since 2003. This network is the main source of electricity for the village and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity. The electrical power supplied to the village is weak due to a lack of transfer stations, in addition they lack an electrical current of 60 Ampere (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Jurish is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 30% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Transportation services:

There are 2 public buses and 3 taxis in Jurish (Jurish Village Council, 2013). There are 7.1 km of main roads and 6 km of secondary roads in Jurish (Jurish Village Council, 2013) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Jurish village

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	4	-
2. Paved and in poor condition	2	4
3. Unpaved	1.1	2

Source: Jurish Village Council, 2013

Water resources:

Jurish has not been provided with a public water network therefore residents buy water and fill private water tanks, which incurs a high cost amounting to 10 NIS per one cubic meter (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

In addition, the village has 300 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

Jurish lacks a public sewerage network and most of the residents use cesspits as the main means of wastewater disposal (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

The approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day in the village cannot be estimated. This is because there is no estimated daily per capita water consumption due to the lack of a public water network. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly into open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. 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 in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid waste management:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste in Nablus is responsible for the collection and disposal of the solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 10 NIS per household is charged to the residents and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. 100% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Jurish benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 200 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste two times weekly and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zahret al Finjan dumping site in the Jenin Governorate, 47km from the village, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (Jurish Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Jurish is 0.7 kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Jurish residents is nearly 1.1 tons or 397 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Jurish experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water crisis

The lack of a public water network results in residents having to purchase water at high costs.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Jurish residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to the residents' health.

Solid waste management

Jurish village does not suffer any problems concerning the management of solid waste because the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environmentally friendly landfill serving the village, as well as most of the other localities in the Nablus Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Jurish village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Jurish village was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 5,070 dunums (62% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 3,138 dunums (38% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Jurish's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land. (See Table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Jurish village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	5,070	62
Area C	3,138	38
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	8,208	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Jurish village

Israel has confiscated 17 dunums from Jurish village for the establishment of "Migdalim settlement". It is also partially built on the lands of the neighboring village Qusra. The Israeli authorities aim to expand this settlement from the northern side on Jurish lands. This settlement was founded in 1984, and contains approximately 153 Israeli settlers. According to the information from Qusra Village Council, the occupation authorities established a site to the east of settlement, located near to the bypass road on the village lands of Jurish and Qusra. This site includes a gas station, a leather factory, and a wood-crafts workshop. It serves as an extension (expansion) for the settlement from the north and east sides.

Israeli checkpoints in Jurish village

After the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, the Israeli authorities established several military checkpoints, particularly near the bypass road No.505. They set up a number of earth mound barriers in order to close the agricultural roads that links between the village and the above mentioned bypass road.

Residents of Jurish village, as well as the neighboring villages, have been negatively impacted by “Za'tara” permanent checkpoint, particularly through the extensive search procedures imposed on residents by the Israeli military. This checkpoint cuts through the West Bank.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of residents. Checkpoints continue to hinder freedom of movement and sever the links between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, as well as the connection between the villages and their agricultural lands. This has resulted in heavy economic losses for residents of the village as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed.

Israeli bypass Roads around Jurish village

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli security control on these roads. Israel has confiscated lands from the east side of Jurish village in order to construct Israeli bypass road No. 505. The length of this road extends approximately 2km onto the village territory of Jurish.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in what is known as the (buffer zone). The buffer zone is imposed by the Israeli army and usually occupies 75 meters on both sides of the road.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Jurish Village Council has implemented several development projects in Jurish during the past five years (see table 12).

Table 12: Implemented development plans and projects in Jurish during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing public water network	Infrastructure	2013	KFW

Source: Jurish Village Council, 2013

Proposed projects

The Jurish village council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the workshop participants:

1. Paving the village's main entrance (approx. 1350 m), as 850m of it is located in Area "C"
2. Paving secondary roads
3. Building a new secondary school
4. Renovating the public electricity network and adding two generators of 400 KvA
5. Establishing a sport club
6. Refurbishing and furnishing the village council building
7. Creating agricultural projects serving the village lands, namely:
 - Construct agricultural roads
 - Allocate livestock animals and fodder
 - Market olive oil
 - Allocate fertilizers, drugs, and seeds

Locality development priorities and needs

Jurish suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 13: Development priorities and needs in Jurish

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			10km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			5 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			10 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			Equipment for the old medical center
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools	*			A secondary school for boys including a sports playing ground
2	Rehabilitation of old schools		*		Maintenance of school facilities and adding new classrooms
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			100 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns			*	
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			10 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			50 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 3km main roads, 3km secondary roads, and 4km agricultural roads

Source: Jurish Village Council, 2013

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