

Majdal Bani Fadil 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, and aim to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present development plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" 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 needed programs and activities 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 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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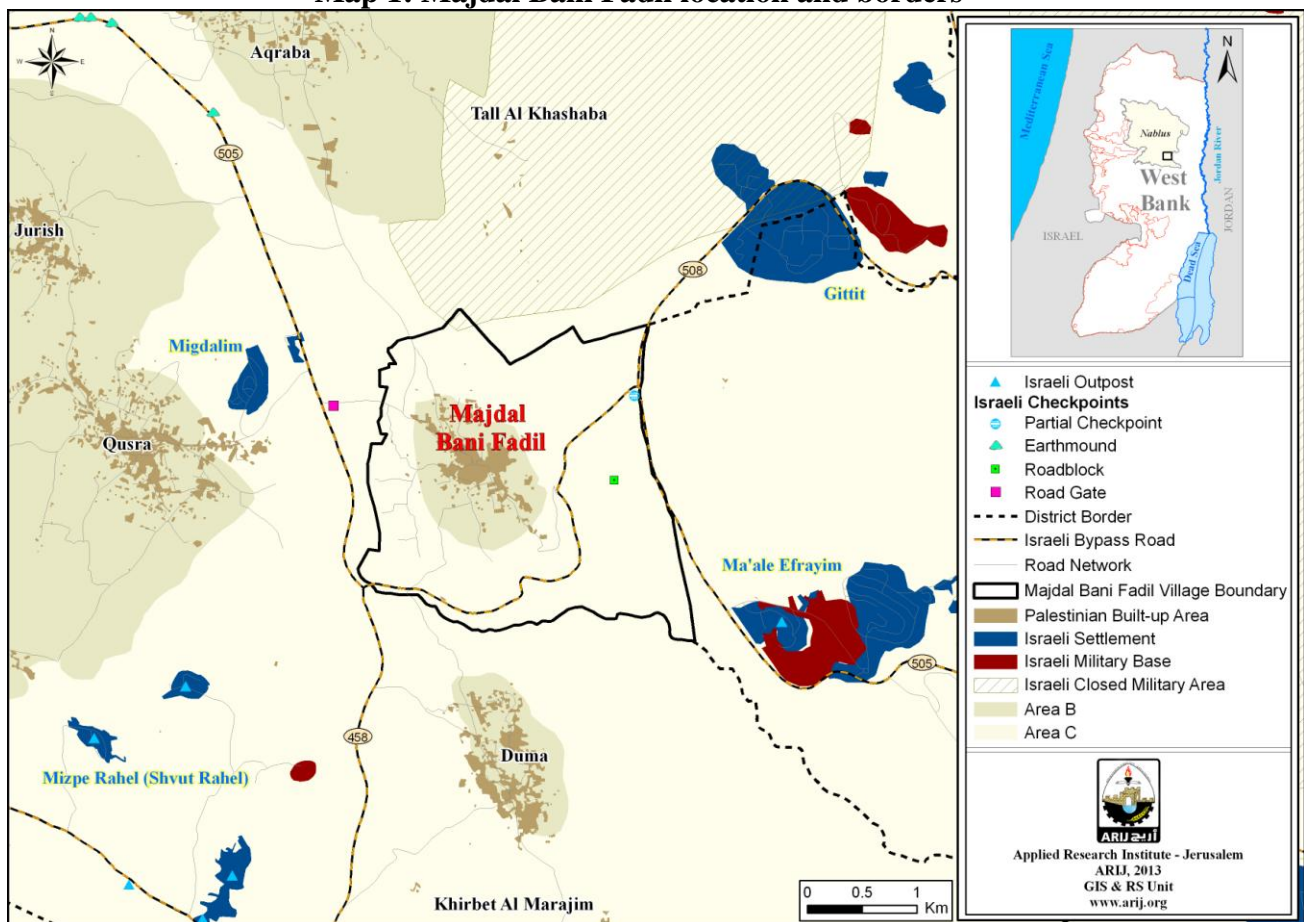
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Majdal Bani Fadil Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Majdal Bani Fadil is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 18km south east of Nablus City. It is bordered by Al Jiftlik to the east, Duma to the south, Tall al Khashaba and Jurish to the north, and Qusra to west (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Majdal Bani Fadil location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Majdal Bani Fadil is located at an altitude of 650m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 398.12mm. The average annual temperature is 20°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 56% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Majdal Bani Fadil village consists of approximately 6,651 dunums.

The borders of this locality are set according to the new local councils' borders which were defined by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government. The new borders of the Palestinian localities were set by the Palestinian National Authority, represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in the year 2011. These governmental institutions reset the borders of the localities for the purpose of the Palestinian elections that took place in 2011. Accordingly, ARIJ adopted these new

borders in this report since it finds that the newly adopted borders, to a certain extent, better suit the demographic, environmental and agricultural variables and facts on the ground. Also, ARIJ uses these defined borders only for the sake of this research and study. It is worth noting that these borders do not represent the areas and borders of the private properties at the locality level and are not included in the PNA files of the private land holdings.

Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council was established in 1997 and is currently made up of 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 5 employees working for the council, which owns its permanent headquarters. It is located within the Joint Services Council of Southeast--Nablus. The Council does not have a vehicle to collect waste (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Majdal Bani Fadil, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of electricity networks
- Solid waste collection and providing social services
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village

History

The village of Majdal Bani Fadil is named for the tribal name of Bani Fadil, a tribe who lived in the village of As Sawiya until a fight led them to leave and move to what became Majdal Bani Fadil. The establishment of the village dates back more than 500 years. (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013)(see photo 1).

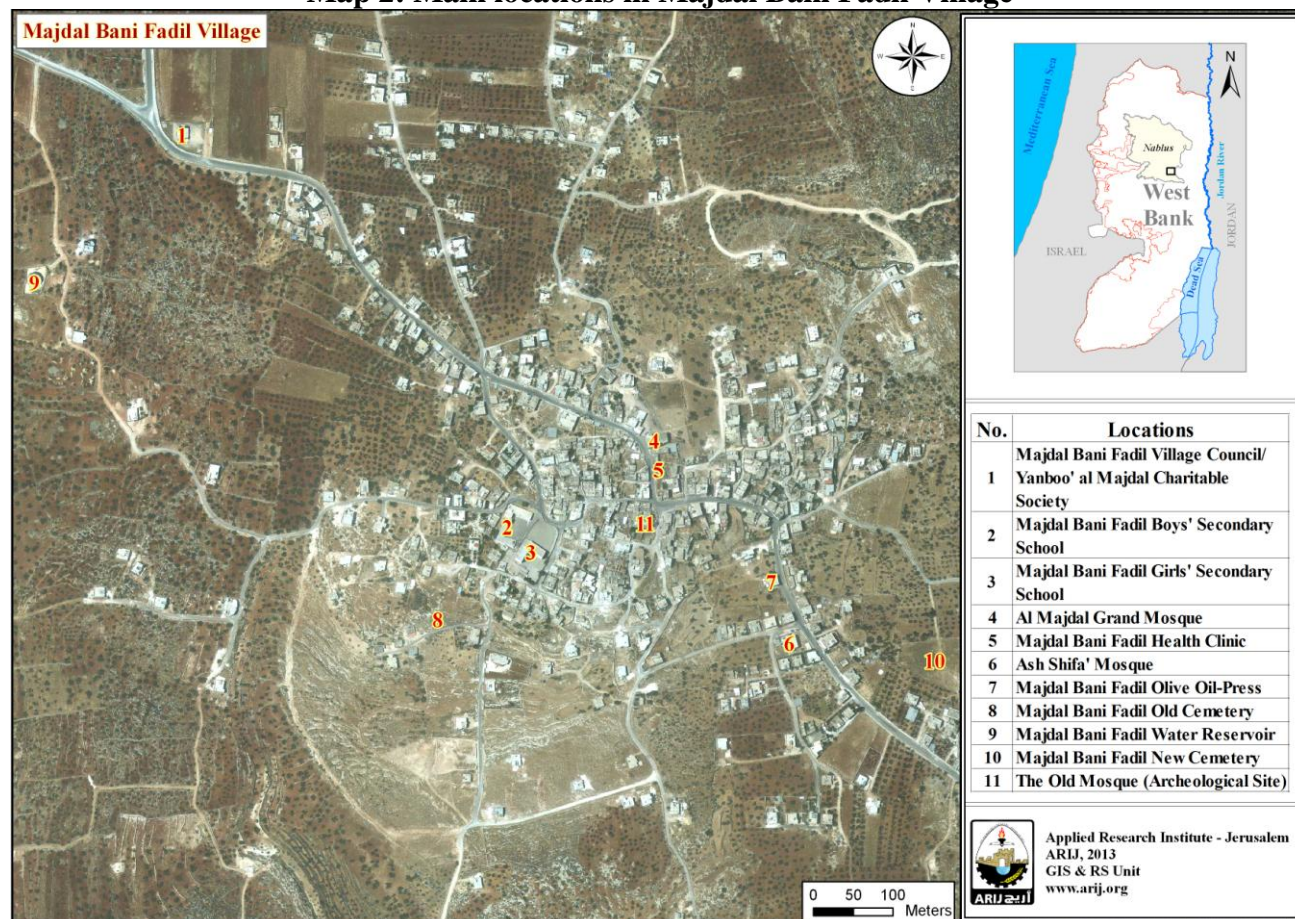
Photo of Majdal Bani Fadil



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village of Majdal Bani Fadil: the Grand Mosque and Al Shefa' Mosque. There are also some archeological sites in the village including the shrine and the old mosque. It is worth mentioning that all the areas are not eligible as tourism sites (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Majdal Bani Fadil Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Majdal Bani Fadil in 2007 was 2,346, of whom 1,214 were male and 1,132 female. There were 404 households registered as living in 457 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Majdal Bani Fadil as follows: 47.6% were less than 15 years of age, 49.2% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.1% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the

sex ratio of males to females in the village was 107.2:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.7% and 48.3% of the population, respectively.

Families

The residents of Majdal Bani Fadil come from several families:

- Zein al Din Family, which includes: Rabah, Daboos, Al Sal'oos, Khadeer, Al Faqha, and Al Sadood families
 - 'Othman Family, which includes: Al Khateeb, 'Odeh, Khalil, Al 'Emar, and Johar families
- (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council 2013)

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Majdal Bani Fadil population is approximately 7.1%, of whom 78.3% are females. Of the literate population, 15.7% could only read and write, with no formal education, 30.3% had elementary education, 28% had preparatory education, 14.2% had secondary education, and 4.8% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Majdal Bani Fadil by sex and educational achievement in 2007.

Table 1: Majdal Bani Fadil population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Unknown | Total |
|-----|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|----------------|--------|-----|---------|-------|
| M | 24 | 117 | 226 | 280 | 122 | 20 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 819 |
| F | 87 | 128 | 248 | 158 | 100 | 12 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 746 |
| T | 111 | 245 | 474 | 438 | 222 | 32 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,565 |

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (see Table 2).

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

| School Name | Supervising Authority | Sex |
|--|-----------------------|---------|
| Majdal Bani Fadil Boys Secondary School | Government | Males |
| Majdal Bani Fadil Girls Secondary School | Government | Females |

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 787 students, 45 teachers, and 29 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 27 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There is one kindergarten in Majdal Bani Fadil village which is run by a private organization (See Table 3).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Majdal Bani Fadil village by name and supervising authority

| Name of Kindergarten | No. of Classes | No. of Teachers | Supervising Authority |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Al Eman Children Kindergarten | 4 | 5 | Private |
| Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012 | | | |

Due to the absence of a particular educational track, for example the secondary level scientific track, some students attend Aqraba schools, 6km away (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Majdal Bani Fadil village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of sufficient classrooms
- The lack of an ideal kindergarten
- The lack of equipment and playgrounds in the schools

Health Status

Majdal Bani Fadil has some health facilities, including a Governmental Health Clinic, a governmental mother and child center, a private dental clinic and a private pharmacy. In the absence of necessary health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Aqraba Zakat clinic (6 km away), or to Rafidiya or the National Hospital in Nablus city (25 km away) (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

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

- The shortage of health clinic space and the lack of a medical laboratory
- The lack of financial support for finishing the new health clinic building
- The lack of an ambulance service

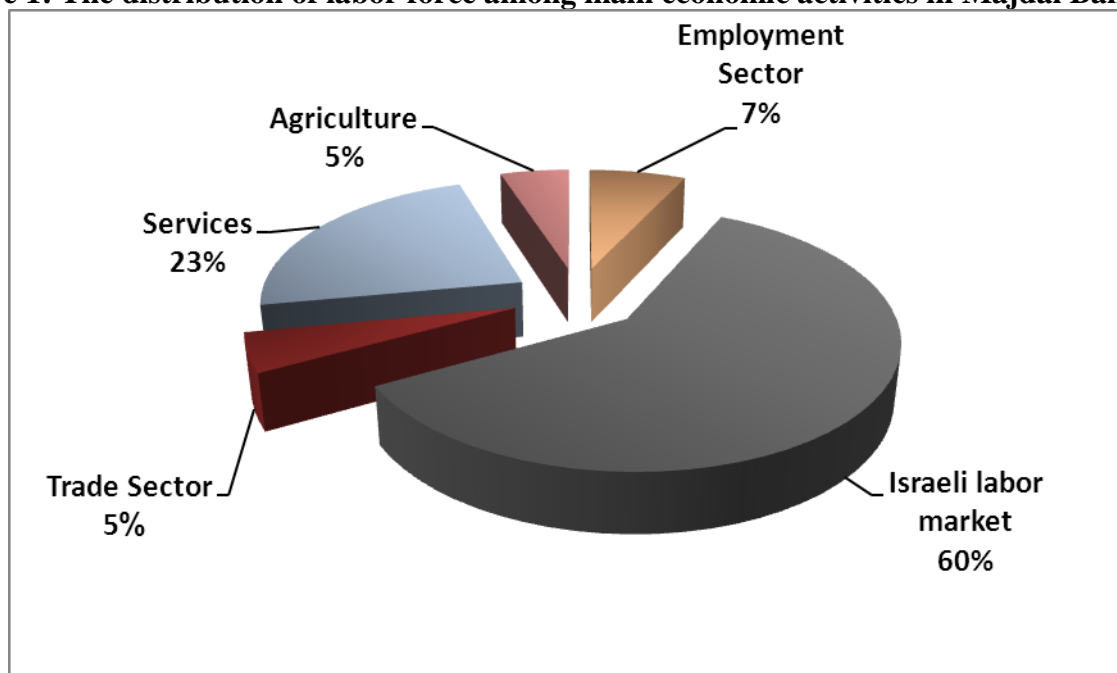
(Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013)

Economic Activities

The economy in Majdal Bani Fadil is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 60% of the village's workforce (Majdal Bani Fadil 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 Majdal Bani Fadil are as follows:

- Israeli labor market (60%)
- Services sector (23%)
- Government or other public employees sector (7%)
- Agricultural sector (5%)
- Trade sector (5%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Majdal Bani Fadil

Source: Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013

Majdal Bani Fadil has 15 markets, 2 stores for fruits and vegetables, 8 service providers, 8 different professional workshops, 1 stone cutter and an olive oil press (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Majdal Bani Fadil reached 20% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions were as follows:

- Workers in the agricultural sector
 - Workers in the Israeli labor market
- (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013)

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 32.7% of Majdal Bani Fadil's labor force was economically active, of whom 89% were employed. 67.2% were not economically active, of whom 50.2% were students, and 40.6% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

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

| Sex | Economically active | | | | Non-economically active | | | | | | Not stated | Total |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|------------|-------|
| | Employed | Currently Unemployed | Unemployed (never worked) | Total | Student | House-keeping | Unable to work | Not working & not looking for work | Others | Total | | |
| M | 424 | 40 | 13 | 477 | 278 | 0 | 45 | 2 | 15 | 340 | 2 | 819 |
| F | 31 | 1 | 2 | 34 | 250 | 427 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 712 | 0 | 746 |
| T | 455 | 41 | 15 | 511 | 528 | 427 | 78 | 3 | 16 | 1,052 | 2 | 1,565 |

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

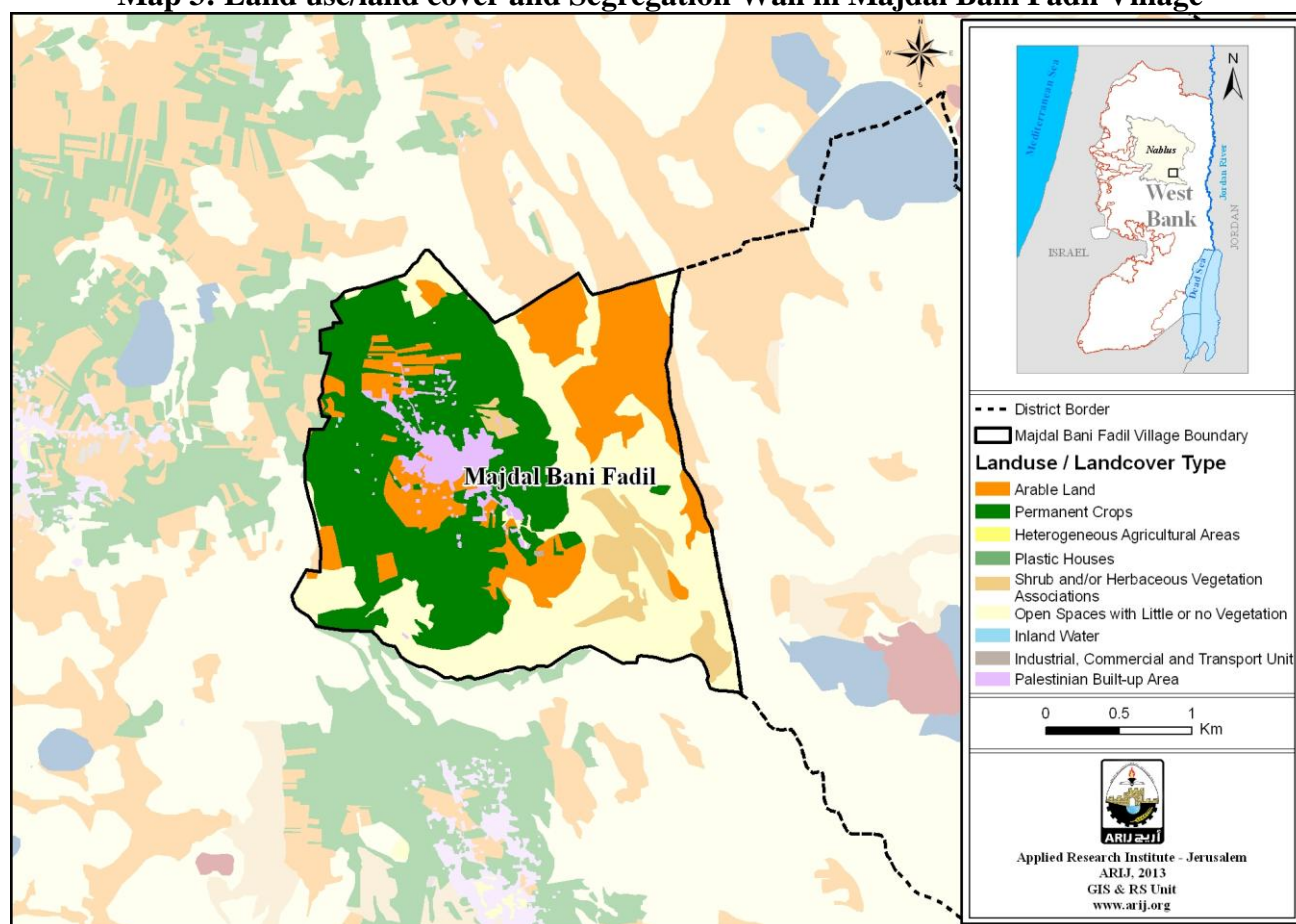
Majdal Bani Fadil has a total area of approximately 6,651 dunums of which 4,257 are 'arable' land and 283 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Majdal Bani Fadil village (area in dunum)

| Total Area | Built up Area | Agricultural area (4,257) | | | | 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 | | | | | |
| 6,651 | 283 | 2,449 | 0 | 387 | 1,421 | 1 | 0 | 2,108 | 2 | 0 |

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Majdal Bani Fadil Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Majdal Bani Fadil is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 1,744 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Majdal Bani Fadil (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. |
| 1,744 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 147 | 0 | 53 | 0 | 1,947 | 0 |

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Majdal Bani Fadil, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 300 dunums (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in Majdal Bani Fadil (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. |
| 300 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 416 | 0 |

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference in size of agricultural areas between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit is explained by the difference in 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 did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicates the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore, accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 3% of the residents in Majdal Bani Fadil rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep and others (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Majdal Bani Fadil

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broiler Chickens | Layer Chickens | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 90 | 590 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60,000 | 0 | 0 |

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 14 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, categorized as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Majdal Bani Fadil Village and their Lengths

| Suitability of Agricultural Roads | Length (km) |
|--|-------------|
| For vehicles | 6 |
| For tractors and agricultural machinery only | 3 |
| For animals only | 5 |
| Unsuitable | - |

Source: Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013

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

- The lack of financial support by donor institutions

- The lack of water resources and agricultural wells
(Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and Services

Majdal Bani Fadil village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

-Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council: Founded in 1997, it was later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of bringing attention to the issues of the village, and providing all social services to the population in addition to providing infrastructure services.

-Al Yanboo' Feminist Association: Founded in 2012 by the Ministry of the Interior, it is concerned with implementing projects that serve women like beekeeping, food processing, embroidery work, and educational sessions. (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Majdal Bani Fadil has been connected to a public electricity network since 1997. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the North Electricity Company, and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

Majdal Bani Fadil is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 20% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

There are 3 taxis and 2 buses in Majdal Bani Fadil village. There are 15km of main roads and 18km of secondary roads in Majdal Bani Fadil (See Table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Majdal Bani Fadil Village

| Status of Internal Roads | Road Length (km) | |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Main | Secondary |
| 1. Paved & in good condition | 2 | 10 |
| 2. Paved & in poor condition | 6 | 3 |
| 3. Unpaved | 7 | 5 |

Source: Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013

Water Resources:

Majdal Bani Fadil is not serviced with a public water network and therefore the citizens in the village buy water through private water tankers at high prices, reaching up to 10 NIS per cubic meter of

water (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013). The village has 200 domestic wells to collect rainwater in addition to a water tank with a capacity of 1500 cubic meters (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

Majdal Bani Fadil lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks as the main means for wastewater disposal (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013). Since no estimates are available for daily consumption of water per capita in the village because the village is not served by the water supply service or the public water network, we cannot estimate the amount of wastewater generated daily in the village. 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. Here it is 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:

Aqraba Municipality is responsible for the collection and disposal of 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/ month per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. The fee collection rate is 100% (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013)

Most of the population in Majdal Bani Fadil benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Village Council collects the solid waste twice weekly and transports it using a waste collection vehicle to a random dumping site in Aqraba town, 11km from the village, where it is subsequently burned and buried in an unhealthy way (Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Majdal Bani Fadil is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Majdal Bani Fadil residents is nearly 1.9 tons, or 676 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

There is a lack of a water supply service in the village because of the lack of a public water network which therefore requires the citizens to buy water at high prices.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewerage network in the village means that Majdal Bani Fadil residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. These methods lead to 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 which allows 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 residents' health.

Solid Waste Management

The lack of a sanitary landfill and a central service for the village, like other villages and towns of the Nablus governorate requires them to dump their waste in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environmentally-friendly landfill serving the village in addition to most of the localities in the Nablus Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Majdal Bani Fadil village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Majdal Bani Fadil was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 1,206 dunums (18% 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 5,445 dunums (82% 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 Majdal Bani Fadil's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land or has been taken for Israeli settlements. (See Table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Majdal Bani Fadil village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

| Area | Area in dunums | Percentage of Total village area % |
|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Area A | 0 | 0 |
| Area B | 1,206 | 18 |
| Area C | 5,445 | 82 |
| Nature Reserve | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 6,651 | 100 |

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Majdal Bani Fadil village

Despite the fact that there are no current settlements and camps established on Majdal Bani Fadil village lands, the village still suffers from Israeli occupation practices and human rights violations; settlements, camps and Israeli military checkpoints exist not far from the village. "Migdalim" settlement is situated to the west of the village. It is also partially built on the lands of the neighboring village Qusrin. The Israeli settlement "Ma'ale Efrayim" is situated to the south-east of

the village. This settlement is built on the lands of the neighboring village of Al Jiftlik on its east side. "Gittit" settlement is situated to the north east of the village. It is built on the lands of the neighboring villages of 'Aqraba and Al Jiftlik. These settlements are often a source of human rights violations against Palestinians, their land and property.

"Gittit" and "Ma'ale Efrayim" settlement blocs include two Israeli military bases. Such military bases are situated deep inside Palestinian territory in order to boost Israeli military presence and maintain tight control over the Palestinian population. They are also a source of human rights violations against Palestinians.

Israeli checkpoints in Majdal Bani Fadil village

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Israeli occupation forces have set up several checkpoints on Majdal Bani Fadil village land, namely the east and west sides of the village in the area contiguous with the surrounding bypass roads. Concrete blocks, earth mounds and iron gates have been placed in order to close agricultural roads which link the village and Israeli bypass road No. 505.

Israeli occupation forces closed the main western entrance of the village with an iron gate on the bypass road. This gate remained closed for many years. The iron gate has since been removed as a result of calm conditions in the area. This road was used as an entrance to the neighboring village of 'Aqraba, due to the closure of 'Aqraba's main entrance.

Israeli forces established another checkpoint on the road which links between Majdal Bani Fadil village and 'Aqraba on the north side in order to stop and search Palestinians.

"Ma'ale Efrayim" checkpoint is established in the east side of the village, at the junction leading to the settlements of "Ma'ale Efrayim" and "Gittit". This checkpoint was one of the main roadblocks between Nablus and the Jordan Valley for several years, and has had a negative impact on the Palestinian agricultural sector, especially between 2001 and 2010.

Majdal Bani Fadil village and the southern villages of Nablus city have been negatively affected by "Za'tara" permanent checkpoint, particularly through the extensive search procedures imposed on residents by the Israeli military. These procedures have been reduced in recent years. 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 on Majdal Bani Fadil 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. Israel has confiscated land from the east, south, and west of Majdal Bani Fadil village in order to construct Israeli bypass road No. 505. This road extends approximately 5km onto Majdal Bani Fadil land.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the amount of the confiscated lands which will be taken for the purpose of 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.

Israeli military orders issued in the village of Majdal Bani Fadil

Israeli occupation authorities, through the Higher Planning and Regulation Council, issued 17 military orders in May 2010 in order to confiscate land and stop construction work in Majdal Bani Fadil. These orders are under the pretext of prohibition of building without a license in Area C, as per the Oslo agreements. According to the Land Research Center, these notifications order 117 Palestinian residents of the village to leave their lands and houses. These military orders carry the following numbers: 145973; 145974; 145975; 145976; 145977; 146500; 146501; 146502; 146503; 146504; 146518; 146519; 146520; 146521; 146522; 146523; 146524.

Israeli authorities refuse the majority of construction permit applications by Palestinians in such areas. For further details on the aforementioned military orders, please see the case study on the Land Research Center web site.¹

Settler attacks on Majdal Bani Fadil village

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on Majdal Bani Fadil land has had a profoundly negative impact on village residents and their property. Palestinian land owners are unable to access their lands, as they have been fenced off with barbed wire. Settlers have planted trees in these areas to reinforce their control over the area. The settlers have damaged and burned a number of Palestinian owned trees and plants. Settlers have also attacked the land owners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their land.

Israel has confiscated some lands from Majdal Bani Fadil and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements in the area for the purpose of the establishment of Israeli settlements, but also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Since the establishment of the surrounding settlements, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked homes, daubed racist graffiti on walls, and damaged other private property.

¹ http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=2585

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council has implemented several development projects in Majdal Bani Fadil during the past five years (See Table 12).

Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Majdal Bani Fadil during the Last Five Years

| Name of the Project | Type | Year | Donor |
|---|----------------|------|---|
| Paving the entrance of the village | Infrastructure | 2010 | Ministry of Public Works |
| Establish retaining walls and sidewalks | Infrastructure | 2010 | CHF |
| Establishing new classrooms in the schools | Education | 2010 | GTZ |
| Constructing water tanks | Water | 2011 | UNDP |
| distribution of beehives | Agriculture | 2011 | Beta Agricultural Cooperation Association |
| Small agricultural projects under the rubric of “the reclamation and rehabilitation of lands” | Agriculture | 2011 | Union of Agricultural Work Committees |
| Establishment of a water network (in progress) | Water | 2013 | KFW |

Source: Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

Majdal Bani Fadil 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 participants in the workshop:

- 1 - The need to build a boys school in the village
- 2 - The need to finish building a health clinic with an area of 300 square meters
- 3 - The need to build a sewerage network of 9 to 10 kilometers
- 4 - The need to build a youth center and a headquarters for women
- 5 - The need for increased productivity and development of projects to help needy families, such as project of sheep, bees, poultry, home gardeners and others
- 6 - The need for productive projects in the women sector such as sewing, embroidery, software, processing food products, and others
- 7 - The need to pave the main and branch roads for a length of 5 kilometers
- 8 - The need to build agricultural roads for a length of 9 km, approximately
- 9 - The need to create a kindergarten
- 10 - The need to care and rehabilitated a center for disabled people in the village; there are more than 20 cases.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

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

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Majdal Bani Fadil

| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Not a Priority | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and paving of roads | * | | | 10 km [^] |
| 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 | * | | | 15 km |
| 8 | Construction of a new electricity network | | | * | |
| 9 | Providing containers for solid waste collection | * | | | 30 containers |
| 10 | Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste | * | | | One vehicle |
| 11 | Providing a sanitary landfill | * | | | |
| Health Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building new clinics or health care centres | | | * | |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres | * | | | Continue building and maintenance |
| 3 | Purchasing medical equipment and tools | * | | | |
| Educational Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building new schools | * | | | Elementary co-educated school |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of old schools | | | * | |
| 3 | Purchasing new school equipment | * | | | All schools |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of agricultural lands | * | | | 100 dunums |
| 2 | Building rainwater harvesting cisterns | * | | | 30 cisterns |
| 3 | Construction of livestock barracks | * | | | 20 barracks |
| 4 | Provision of veterinary services | * | | | |
| 5 | Provision of seeds and hay for animals | * | | | 400 tons per year |
| 6 | Construction of new greenhouses | | * | | 15 greenhouses |
| 7 | Rehabilitation of greenhouses | | | * | |
| 8 | Provision of field crops seeds | * | | | |
| 9 | Provision of plants and agricultural supplies | * | | | |
| Other Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of the playground of Majdal Bani Fadil Sports club | | | | |

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

Source: Majdal Bani Fadil Village Council, 2013

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