

Jit 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 Qalqiliya Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Qalqiliya Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in improving 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 needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Qalqiliya 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 Qalqiliya 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 the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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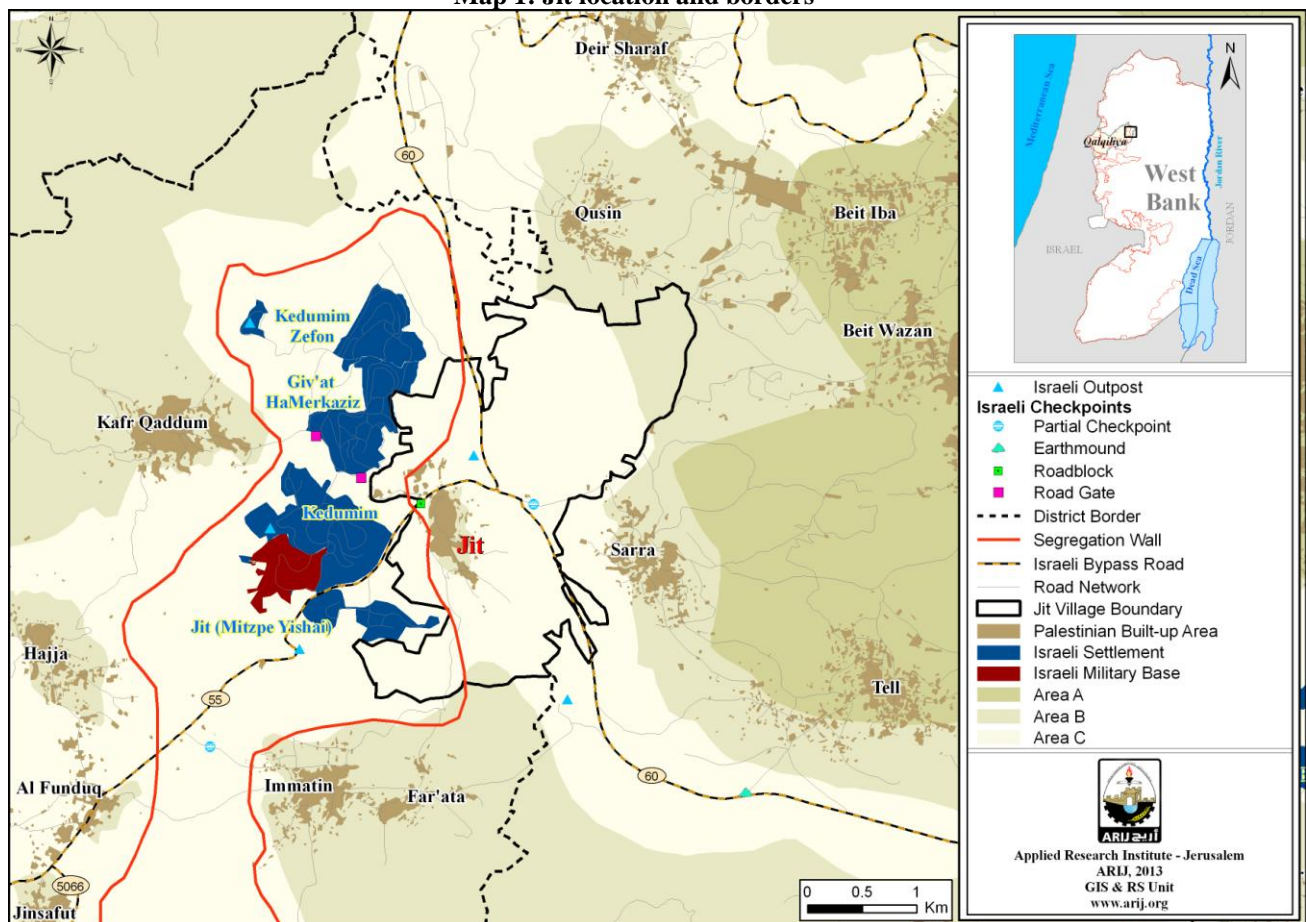
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Jit Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Jit is a Palestinian village in Qalqiliya Governorate, located 19.74km north-east of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Sarra and Beit Iba (in Nablus Governorate) to the east, Far'ata and Immatin to the south, Kafr Qaddum village to the west, and Qusin village (in Nablus Governorate) to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Jit location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Jit is located at an altitude of 501m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 593.1 mm. The average annual temperature is 16°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

The classification of the residential areas borders has been adopted in this profile based on the administrative division of Palestinian communities, according to the Palestinian National Authority(PNA). This administrative division system has been developed by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics(PCBS), and the Central Election Commission (CEC).

Since 1994, Jit has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 3 employees working in the council, whose permanent headquarters is included within the First Joint Services Council. The Council possesses water maintenance devices, but does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Jit Village Council, 2012).

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

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection.
- Public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Organization of licensing processes.

(Jit Village Council, 2012)

History

The village's name originates from the Latin word 'Jeet', which means the town of oil, as the village was known for its oil. Within Jit there are more than 7 ancient oil-presses, the remains of which are still visible today.

The village was established more than 1000 years ago with its residents descending from the Arabian Peninsula (Jit Village Council, 2012).

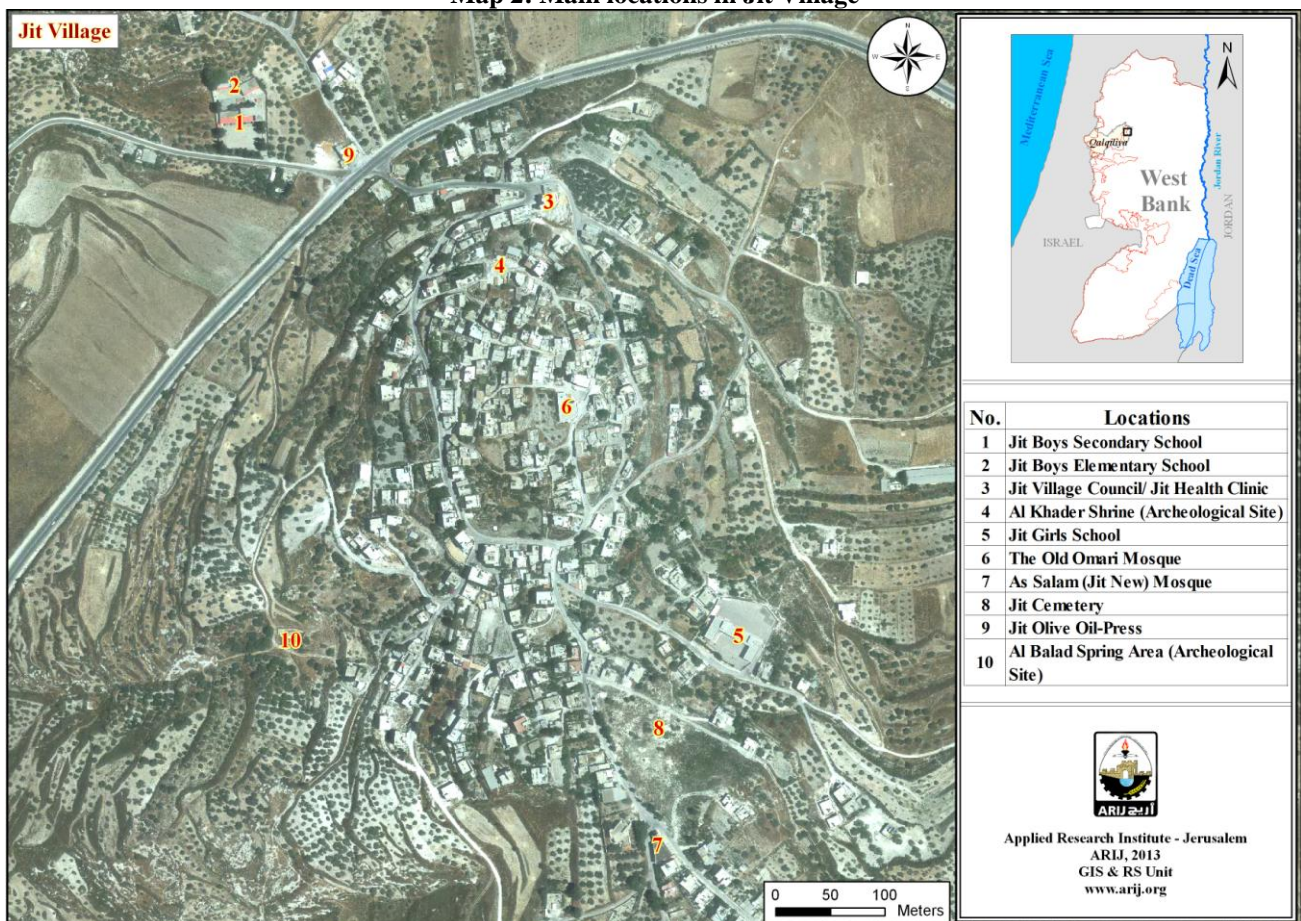
Photo of Jit



Religious and archaeological sites

There are two mosques in the village (the Old and the New Mosques). The village has several sites of archaeological interest including Al Khader Shrine, As Sa'di Shrine, noteworthy old graves, Khirbet Umm al Fahim and Khirbet Ras at Tin (ruins), and the Old Mosque. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to be deemed tourism sites, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Jit Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Jit Village



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Jit in 2007 was 2,133, of whom 1,080 were male and 1,053 female. There were 375 households registered as living in 409 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Jit was as follows: 42.9% were less than 15 years of age, 53.2% were

between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 102.6:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.6% and 49.4% of the population, respectively.

Families

Jit residents are from several families, including Yameen, ‘Arman, Abu Bakr and As Sakhin (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 10 people from different families have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among Jit’s population is approximately 6.3%, of whom 86% are females. Of the total population, 11.9% could only read and write with no formal education, 22.2% had elementary education, 29.1% had preparatory education, 18.6% had secondary education, and 11.9% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Jit by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Jit 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	13	87	164	210	162	26	76	0	8	1	0	747
F	80	87	162	217	111	25	37	0	1	0	1	721
T	93	174	326	427	273	51	113	0	9	1	1	1,468

Source: PCBS, 2009

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

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

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Jit Co-educational Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Jit Girls’ Secondary School	Government	Female
Jit Girls’ Elementary School	Government	Female
Jit Boys’ Secondary School	Government	Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 676 students, 45 teachers, and 27 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 25 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There is one kindergarten in Jit village (Al Majd Kindergarten) which is run by a private organization. The kindergarten includes 2 classes supervised by 4 teachers (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

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

- The boys' school's need for rehabilitation and renovation.
- The small sized classrooms which were built randomly with no prior planning.
- The students of the co-educational secondary school are forced to cross the main road of a settlement which has no sidewalks or traffic lights.

(Jit Village Council, 2012)

Health status

Jit has two health clinics (one governmental and one private), a governmental medical lab, a governmental mother and child care center and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital in Qalqiliya city (16km away) or to Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus city (10km away) (Jit Village Council, 2012).

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

- The lack of a resident physician working on daily basis in the health center.
- The lack of an ambulance service.

The existence of partial and permanent checkpoints on roads as well as the harassment imposed by settlers on citizens heading to the health clinics.(Jit Village Council, 2012)

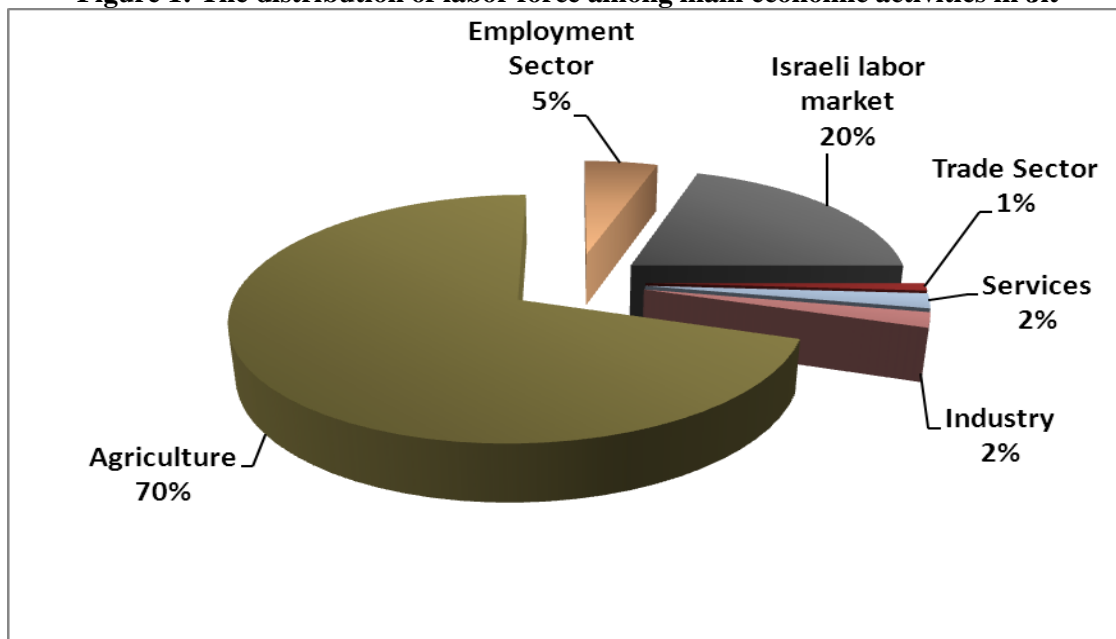
Economic activities

The economy in Jit is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 70% of the village's workforce (Jit Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Jit are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (70%)
- Israeli labor market (20%)
- Government or other employees sector (5%)
- Services sector (2%)
- Industry (2%)
- Trade sector (1%)

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



Source: Jit Village Council, 2012

Jit has 10 groceries, 2 fruit and vegetable stores, 5 service stores and 4 different professional workshops (Jit Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Jit reached 20% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the employees sector.
- Industrial workers.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in the services sector.

(Jit Village Council, 2012)

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 33.7% of Jit’s labor force was economically active, of whom 91.5% were employed, 66.1% were not economically active, 54.2% were students, and 37.2% were housekeepers (see table 4).

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

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Un-employed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	387	27	8	422	279	2	33	6	4	324	1	747
F	66	3	4	73	247	359	37	2	2	647	1	721
T	453	30	12	495	526	361	70	8	6	971	2	1,468

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

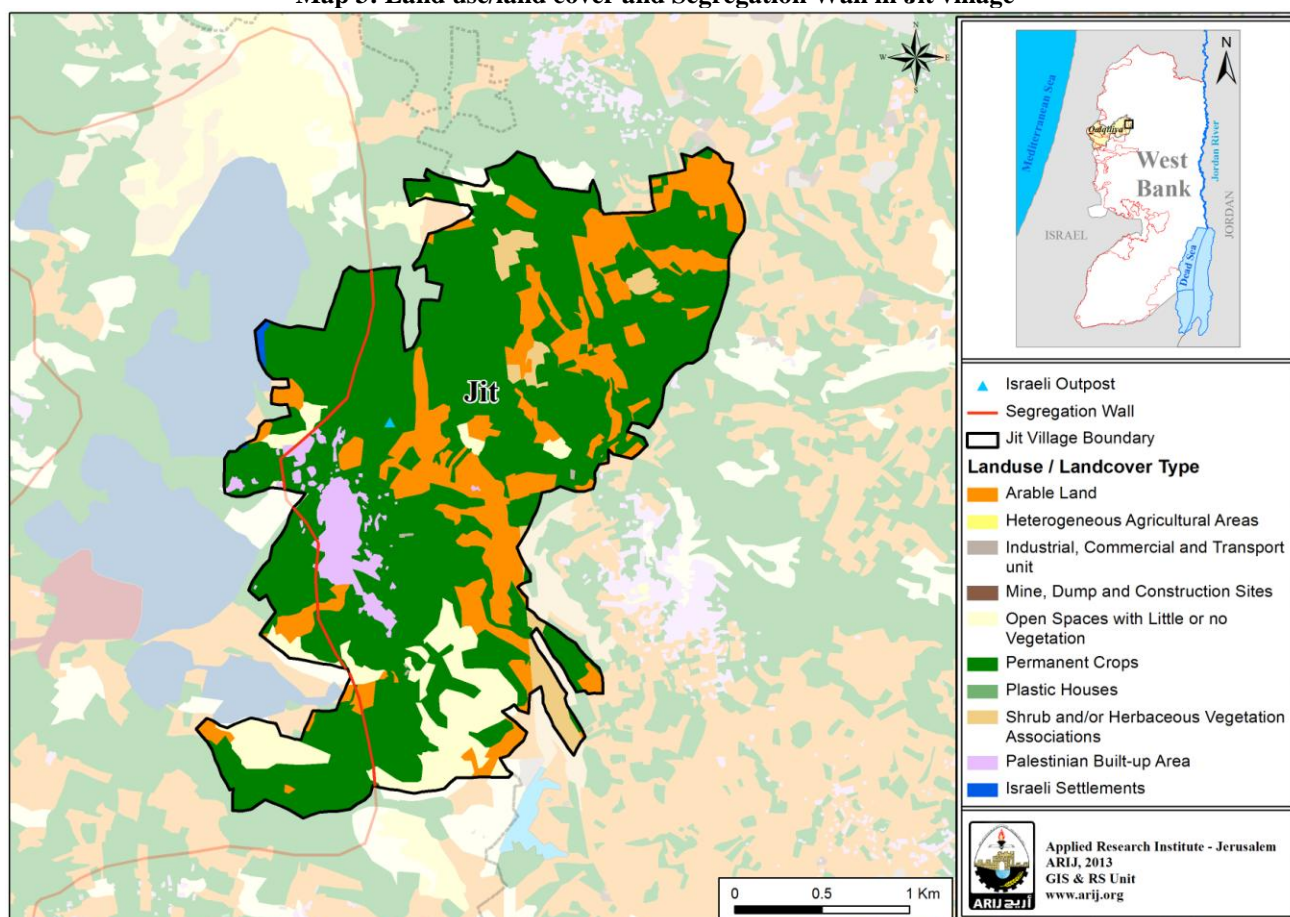
Jit has a total area of approximately 6,354 dunums of which 5,563 are arable land and 222 dunums are registered as residential land (see table 5 and map 3).

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

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (5,563)				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					
6,354	222	4,203	0	167	1,193	0	0	552	17	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Jit. The most commonly cultivated crops in this area are okra and snake cucumber.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Jit (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
37	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	67	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Jit is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2,000 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Jit (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.
2,000	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	20	0	22	0	2,042	1

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Jit, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 70 dunums (see table 8).

Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in Jit (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.
70	0	0	0	2	0	5	0	18	0	0	0	12	0	107	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in size of agricultural areas 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 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 therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 2% of the residents in Jit rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Jit

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
24	97	108	0	0	0	0	7,000	0	161

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 25km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Jit Village Council, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural roads in Jit village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	2
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	3

Source: Jit Village Council, 2012

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

- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of water resources for agricultural production.
- The poor infrastructure of agricultural roads.
- The lack of agricultural societies to support and protect farmers.
- The lack of agricultural awareness and guidance for farmers.
- The attacks by wild pigs released by settlers on crops, leading to the loss of many agricultural lands this year, as well as endangering some crops.

(Jit Village Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

Jit village has no governmental institutions and only one local association that provides services to society, which is Jit Village Council. The council was founded in 1994 and was later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Jit has been connected to a public electricity network since 1986. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 99% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the weak electric current and the need to increase the power voltage (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Jit is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 5% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

There are 15 taxis and 6 agricultural tractors in Jit (Jit Village Council, 2012). However, residents suffer from the lack of vehicles in the village to serve them in addition to the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads.

There are 6.5km of main roads and 8km of secondary roads in Jit (Jit Village Council, 2012) (see table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Jit village

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	2	4
2. Paved and in poor condition	1	2
3. Unpaved	3.5	2

Source: Jit Village Council, 2012

Water resources:

Jit is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1987. Approximately 99% of the housing units are connected to the network (Jit Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Jit village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 36,000 m³ per year (Jit Village Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 40 liters per day. However, no Jit citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 2% (Jit Village Council, 2012). These losses happen at the main source, along major transport lines, within the distribution network and at the household level. Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Jit is more accurately around 39 liters per day (Jit Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Jit residents is very low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4.5 NIS (Jit Village Council, 2012).

The village also has 60 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns in addition to two water springs which are currently unused due to their need for restoration and renovation (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

Jit lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as the main means of wastewater disposal (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 77m³, or 28,224m³ annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 31 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. It is also 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 as well as to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid waste management:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste 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 of 12 NIS per household is charged to residents and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. 99% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Jit Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Jit benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 10 containers (of 750 liter capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site located 0.5km from the village, where it is subsequently burnt or sometimes buried (Jit Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Jit is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by the residents of Jit is nearly 1.7 tons, or 632 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

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

Water crisis

Water is cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long periods of time due to the Israeli control over Palestinian water resources. This causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution amongst the population. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis, because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. The West Bank Water Department also purchases water from Israeli companies in order to meet the citizens' water needs.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Jit 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 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. 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

Zahrat al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate (approximately 27.5km from the center of Qalqiliya Governorate), is considered the central sanitary landfill which is supposed to serve Qalqiliya Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Qalqiliya Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout the Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. As a result, waste is being disposed of randomly in these makeshift landfills, causing severe health risks and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which are emitted when the contents are burned. All of these have harmful effects on human as well as environmental health.

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Jit and the other neighboring communities in the Governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities. As the region is within area C, planning consent in the form of licenses to establish such services as landfills must be issued, but these permits are extremely difficult to obtain and in most cases simply not granted. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leakage produced from the solid waste, which produces bad odors and a distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Jit Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Jit was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 916 dunums (14% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth noting that most of the village’s population resides in area B. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 5,437 dunums (86% of the total area), is 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 without prior consent or authorization from the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements built on the village territory (see table 12).

Table 12: The geopolitical divisions of Jit village according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement of 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	917	14
Area C	5,437	86
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	6,354	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Israeli Occupation practices in Jit village

Jit has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements and the Segregation Wall. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have had a negative impact on Jit territories:

Israel has confiscated 13 dunums in Jit for the establishment of two settlements, Giv'at HaMerkaziz and Mitzpe Yishai, which form part of the settlement bloc of Kedumim (itself part of the Ariel bloc). Israel plans to annex these settlements within its borders according to the segregation plan announced in 2005. This includes the annexation of the settlement of Ma'ale Adummim east of Jerusalem City, the Ariel bloc north of Salfit city, the Giv'at Ze'ev bloc north west of Jerusalem City, Gosh Etzion south west of Bethlehem city, the Mod'in Illit bloc west of Ramallah city, and the Kiryat Arba settlement bloc in Hebron city. These settlements are considered to be an essential part of the Israeli state because they “... contribute to security, to political standing, to the economy and to the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel” as stated by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American president George Bush on 11th April 2005.

It is worth mentioning that part of these settlements have been built on the territory of Jit village, while the rest was built on the lands of the territory of the neighboring Palestinian villages of the western side (see table 13).

Table 13: Israeli settlements established on Jit's land

Name of settlement	Year of establishment	Area of confiscated land from Jit village (dunums)	Total area of the settlement (dunums)	No. of settlers living in the settlement
Giv'at HaMerkaziz	-	12.5	522	-
Jit (Mitzpe Yishai) (Quarry)	-	0.5	251	-
Total		13	773	

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Authorities have also confiscated thousands of agricultural and non-agricultural dunums to open several bypass roads that stretch hundreds of kilometers from the north to south of the West Bank in order to link Israeli settlements, fragment Palestinian lands and enhance security control. As for Jit village, the Israeli Authorities confiscated part of its lands to construct bypass roads no.55 and no.60 which extend 3.7km on to the village's land. However, the buffer zones created by the Israeli Occupation Forces extending 75m on both sides of the bypass roads, are in fact more problematic and threatening than the roads themselves.

The Segregation Wall plan in Jit village

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Jit village. According to the latest amendments to the route of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30th April 2007, the Wall extends 3.1km on to Jit lands to the west of the village. The Wall will isolate 1,150 dunums (18.1% of the village's total area) to be part of the Western Segregation zone in the West Bank. The confiscated lands include open spaces, agricultural lands, and residential Palestinian areas (see table 14).

Table 14: Classification of land confiscated by the construction of the Segregation Wall in Jit Village – Qalqiliya Governorate

No.	Land classification	Area in dunums
1	Israeli settlements	13
2	Open spaces	164
3	Agricultural lands	959
4	Palestinian urban areas	14
5	Total	1,150

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Military checkpoints in Jit village

For many years, Palestinians have suffered from the existence of Israeli checkpoints distributed across the West Bank. In the past decade, the number of Israeli checkpoints has increased from a few to 600, restricting the movement of Palestinians between cities and their access to their agricultural lands, especially those lands adjacent to the Segregation Wall. During the past few years, Israel has also redefined the transportation network in the West Bank by establishing special networks exclusively for the Israeli settlers connected to the Israeli roads, and disconnecting the Palestinian

villages and towns. As a result, the Palestinian transportation network has become semi-isolated, creating many difficulties for the Palestinians and forcing them to travel longer distances in order to avoid the military checkpoints and closed areas. In Jit village, a flyer checkpoint has been established by the Israeli Occupation Forces on bypass road no.55, isolating the village from the Kedumim settlement which lies to the west and hindering Palestinian mobility. The Israeli Occupation Forces have also isolated the village from the surrounding areas to the east and north by establishing another military checkpoint on the Jit-Sarra crossroad. Regular clashes between Israeli settlers and villagers occur at this checkpoint, often making it difficult for Palestinians to pass through.

Israeli attacks against the lands and properties of Jit village

Israeli attacks have had a significant impact on Palestinians living in the village and their properties. On 2nd May 2009, settlers from the Israeli outpost Gil'ad Zoher attacked Palestinian farmers working on their lands in an area called Bayader el Adas, to the north east of Jit village and 500m from the residential area. Under the protection of the Israeli army, the settlers attacked the Palestinians by throwing stones at them, leading to multiple casualties. The Israeli Occupation forces also shot live ammunition in the air to disperse and scare the farmers. During this attack, the settlers also destroyed a tractor owned by the citizen Ahmed Abu Baker and all of the food that was with the farmers, as well as some traditional agricultural tools and equipment. The settlers also used incendiary materials during the attack.

On 22nd December 2010, the sub-committee for supervising construction in the Israeli Civil Administration raided the village with the Israeli Occupation Forces and took photos of the houses and workshops on the main road close to the Kedumim settlement. Later, the sub-committee sent notices to four citizens in the village ordering them to stop their construction work because they were building in area C without a special license. The sub-committee gave them a period up to 27th January 2011 to appeal the order in the court of Beit El. The facilities belonged to Khalil Khader Sedda, Ahmed Abdulla Sedda, Ayes Hussein Sakhen, and Sami Ahmed Arman.

On 4th July 2011, the sub-committee for supervising construction in the Israeli Civil Administration once again raided the north-eastern area of the village with the Israeli Occupation Forces and gave notices to three citizens ordering them to stop construction work on their houses and agricultural facilities because they were building in area C according to the Oslo II Agreement of 1995. The facilities belonged to Nidal Khalid Alsudda (a sheep farm), Abdulsalam Jamal Arman (a house under construction), and Jum'a Hussein Khalid Al Sakhin (a one storey house under construction).

On 30th May 2013 a group of settlers from the Gil'ad Zoher outpost attacked the village and burnt 11 dunums of agricultural land in an area called Al Kafayef. The land belonged to Zakariya Muhammad Alsudda (9 olive trees and 3 dunums of wheat fields), and to Nizar Ahmed Arman (13 olive trees and 6 dunums of wheat fields). The attack coincided with the wheat harvest season, which provides an important income for many families in the village.

The settlers' attacks against Palestinian farmers, their lands and properties are still ongoing in an attempt to intimidate them and force them to abandon their lands in order to facilitate the process of Israeli seizure of the Palestinian lands.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Jit Village Council has implemented several development projects in Jit during the past five years (see table 15).

Table 15: Implemented development plans and projects in Jit during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Rehabilitating the electricity network	Infrastructure	2012	Jit Village Council & Energy Authority
Rehabilitating a major part of the water network	Infrastructure	2012	Ministry of Finance

Source: Jit Village Council, 2012

Proposed projects

Jit 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. Establishing a sewerage network (10km).
2. Constructing a services complex to include facilities for the scouts, the women's society, a kindergarten, a sports club and a meeting hall.
3. Expanding the structural plan from the south-east side of the village by 2km.
4. Constructing and rehabilitating agricultural roads (5km).
5. Developing the public electricity network within the village.
6. Creating small development projects such as sheep, beehives, poultry, sewing workshops and others.
7. Rehabilitating the spring area and establishing a public park on the surrounding land.
8. Foresting and rehabilitating more than 500 dunums of land near settlements which can only be accessed through security coordination.

Locality development priorities and needs

Jit suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 16: Development priorities and needs in Jit

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			1km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas		*		3km
4	Construction of new water networks		*		2km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs		*		2 springs
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			400km ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			3km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			100 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1
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	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			An elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			All schools
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands		*		300 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns		*		100 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			10 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		100 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		*		
Other needs					
1	Constructing a sports club	*			
2	Establishing cooperative agricultural societies	*			

[^] 3km main roads, 7km secondary roads and 8km agricultural roads

Source: Jit Village Council, 2012

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