

# Al Mughayyir 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 Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Ramallah Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and 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 Ramallah 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 Ramallah Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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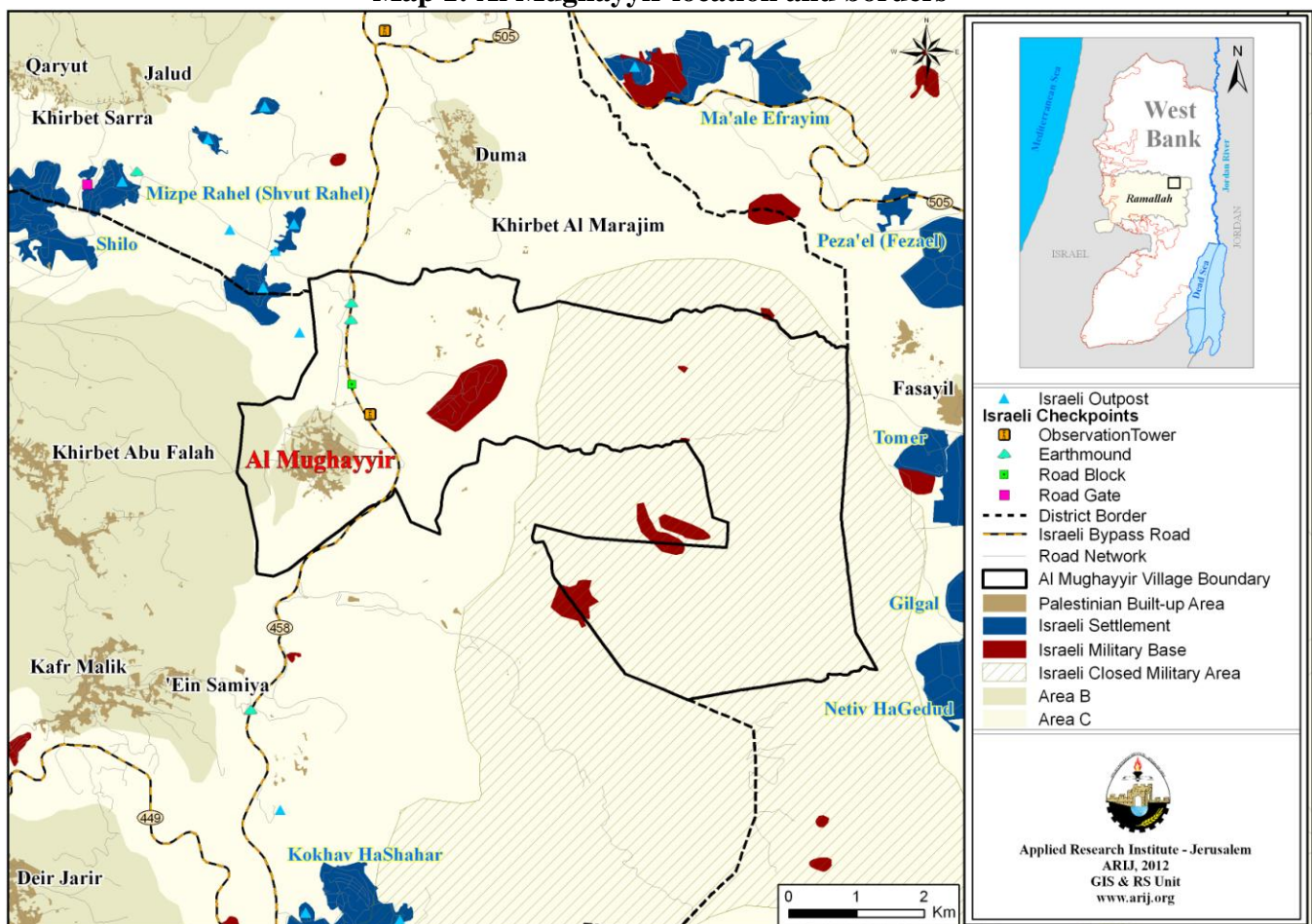
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# Al Mughayyir Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Mughayyir is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 18.6km north-east of Ramallah City. Al Mughayyir is bordered by Fasayil village (in Jericho Governorate) to the east, Turmus'ayya and Khirbet Abu Falah villages to the west, Duma village and Jalud lands in Nablus Governorate to the north, and Kafr Malik and Al 'Auja (in Jericho Governorate) village lands to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1)

**Map 1: Al Mughayyir location and borders**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Al Mughayyir is located at an altitude of 649m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 408mm. The average annual temperature is 19 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 56% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).



Since 2005, Al Mughayyir has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The Village Council, which is included within the Joint Services Council for Kafr Malik, Khirbet Abu Falah, Al Mazra'a ash Sharqiya and Al Mughayyir, owns a permanent headquarters but no equipment (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

## History

Al Mughayyir (literally meaning 'the changer') was named due to the continuous changes in its climate and the nature of its geographical location, as the village is located on a mountainous area overlooking the middle Jordan Valley (Al Aghwar). Its weather in summer time is affected by high temperatures in the valley, while the low winter temperatures are caused by its location on a high mountain area (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

The village was established thousands of years ago. Some of its residents are descended from the native inhabitants of the village, and some come from neighboring villages (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011). (See photo below for Al Mughayyir village).

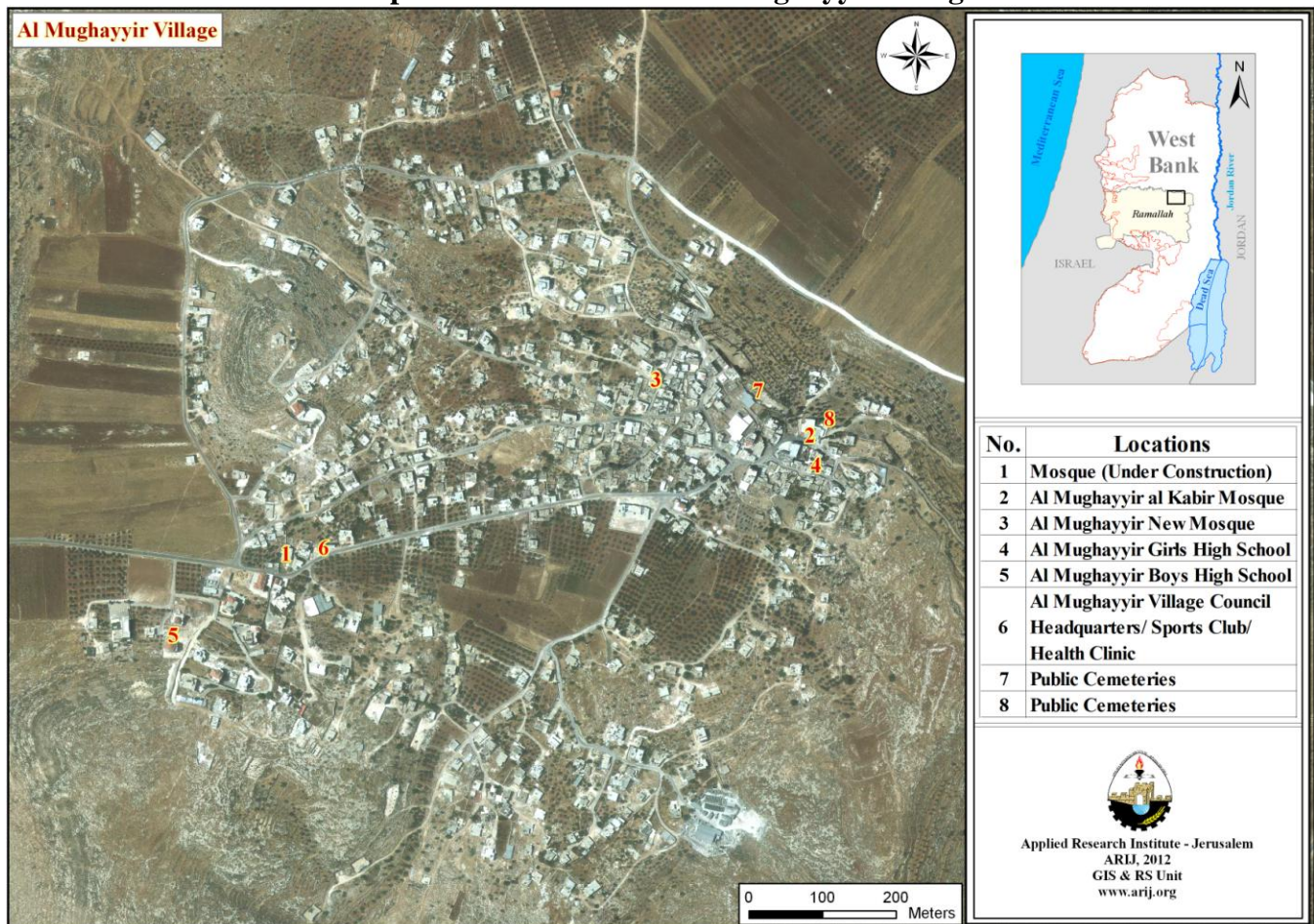
### Photos of Al Mughayyir



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the village: Al Mughayyir al Kabeer Mosque, Al Mughayyir al Jadeed Mosque, and Al Mughayyir Western Mosque. The village has no sites of archaeological interest (See Map 2) (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

**Map 2: Main locations in Al Mughayyir Village**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Mughayyir in 2007 was 2,226, of whom 1,147 were male and 1,079 were female. There were 376 households living in 414 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 Al Mughayyir was as follows: 43.6% were less than 15 years of age, 53.1% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.1% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 106.3:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.5% and 48.5% of the population respectively.

## Families

Al Mughayyir residents are from several families, mainly the An Na'san, Dar abu 'Alya, Al Hajj Muhammad, Abu Na'im, and Abu 'Assaf families (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Al Mughayyir population was approximately 6.4%, of whom 78.8% were females. Of the literate population, 17.5% could only read and write with no formal education, 32.6% had elementary education, 27.6% had preparatory education, 12.5% had secondary education, and 3.5% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Al Mughayyir by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Al Mughayyir population (10 years of age 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	21	135	258	236	103	12	22	-	1	1	-	789
F	78	136	247	191	90	10	8	-	-	-	-	760
T	99	271	505	427	193	22	30	-	1	1	-	1,549

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), but there are no kindergartens (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

**Table 2: Schools in Al Mughayyir by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al Mughayyir Boys Secondary School	Government	Male
Al Mughayyir Girls Secondary School		Female
<b>Source:</b> Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011		

In the village there are 710 students, 42 teachers, and 26 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, while the average number of students per class is approximately 27.



In case specific educational levels are not available in the village, students of Al Mughayyir attend schools in Sinjil town, 13 km from the village (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

The educational sector in Al Mughayyir village faces some obstacles, primarily (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):

- The overcrowded schools and the small size of school buildings.
- The inability to create new classes due to the lack of classrooms.
- The inability to construct new schools due to the village's location within Area C.

## Health Status

There is one health center available in Al Mughayyir village; it is run by the Medical Relief (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, including (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):

- The lack of a radiology center, a medical laboratory and a pharmacy.
- The lack of specialized physicians in the health center.
- The lack of a resident physician in the health center.
- The lack of an ambulance.

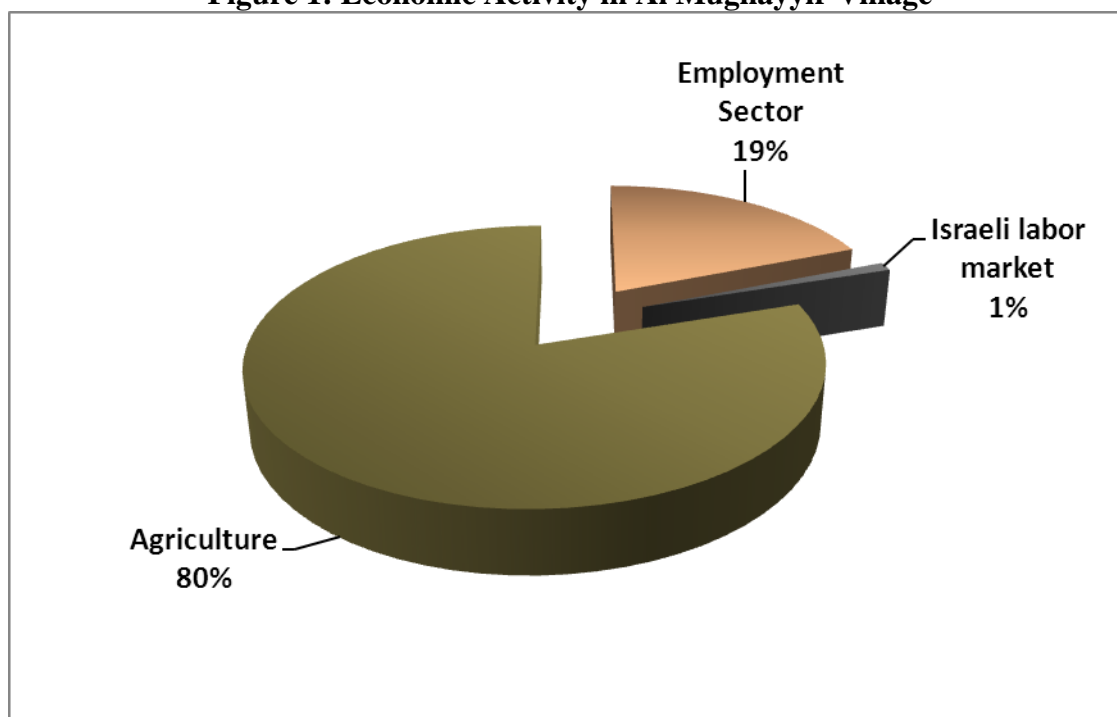
## Economic Activities

The economy in Al Mughayyir is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agricultural sector, which absorbs 80% of the village workforce (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011) (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Al Mughayyir are as follows (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):

- Agricultural sector (80%)
- Government or private employees sector (19%)
- Israeli labor market (1%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Al Mughayyir Village**



Source: Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011

Al Mughayyir village has a brick and tile factory, an olive oil-press, 10 grocery stores, one vegetable and fruit store, 2 different professional workshops, and 3 different service stores (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Al Mughayyir reached approximately 30% in 2011, and it was found that the economic group most affected in the village as a result of the Israeli restrictions and procedures is workers in the agricultural sector (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 33.8% of the Al Mughayyir labor force was economically active, of whom 95.6% were employed, and 66.2% were not economically active, 45.3% were students, and 30.8% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Al Mughayyir population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status-2007**

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	465	10	2	<b>477</b>	229	-	47	4	32	<b>312</b>	-	<b>789</b>
F	36	10	1	<b>47</b>	235	316	50	-	112	<b>713</b>	-	<b>760</b>
T	501	20	3	<b>524</b>	464	316	97	4	144	<b>1,025</b>	-	<b>1,549</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

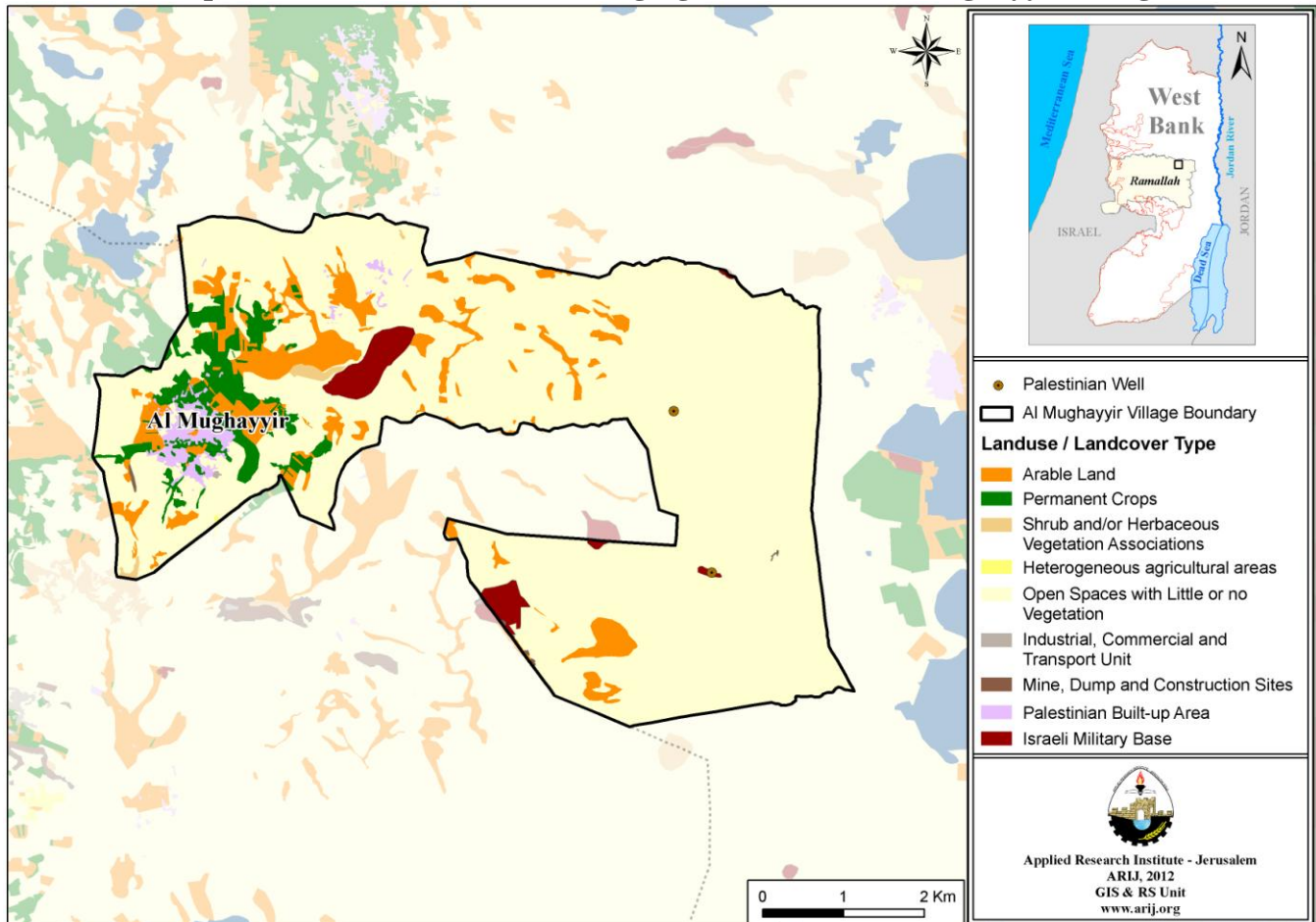
Al Mughayyir lies on an area of 33,055 dunums, of which 4,501 dunums are arable land and 521 dunums are dedicated to residential services (see Table 4 and Map 3).

**Table 4: Land use and land cover in Al Mughayyir village in 2010 (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (4,501)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlement, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
33,055	521	1,448	0	113	2,940	0	0	27,278	36	719

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Al Mughayyir Village**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al Mughayyir. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is tomatoes.

**Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Al Mughayyir village (dunum)**

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
26	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	39	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Al Mughayyir is famous for olive cultivation; there are 771 dunums of land planted with olive crops in the village.

**Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Al Mughayyir village (dunum)**

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.
771	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	115	0	1,036	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Al Mughayyir, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 2,500 dunums (See Table 7).

**Table 7: Total area of field crops in Al Mughayyir village (dunum)**

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
2,500	0	29	0	79	0	5	0	150	0	0	0	4	0	2,767	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2011 shows that 30% of the residents in Al Mughayyir rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and chickens (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Al Mughayyir village**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
13	2,922	1,030	0	0	0	0	88,200	0	132

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are approximately 18 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):



**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Al Mughayyir Village and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	-
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	5
For animals only	5
Unsuitable	8

Source: Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011

The agriculture sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, including (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):

- The confiscation of agricultural lands.
- The lack of water sources necessary for agricultural.
- The lack of capital.
- The economic infeasibility.

## Institutions and Services

Al Mughayyir village lacks local institutions and associations to provide services for the community; however, there are a post office and two local institutions in the village, which are (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):

- **Al Mughayyir Village Council:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Al Mughayyir Sports Club:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, aiming to provide youth in the village with sports, cultural and social activities.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Al Mughayyir has been connected to a public electricity network since 2000. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents face some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011):

- The need to expand the electricity network.
- The lack of street lighting.

Al Mughayyir is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 40% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

### Transportation Services:

There are 5 public taxis forming the main means of transportation in Al Mughayyir village. In addition to the lack of vehicles in the village, travelers suffer due to the Segregation Wall (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011). There are 5km of main roads and 6km of secondary roads in the village (See Table 10) (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

**Table 10: Roads in Al Mughayyir village**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	5	2
2. Paved but in poor condition	-	1
3. Unpaved	-	3

Source: Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011

### Water Resources:

Al Mughayyir is provided with water by the Jerusalem Water Authority through the public water network established in 2000. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to the water network (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

The quantity of water supplied to Al Mughayyir in 2010 was about 53,464 cubic meters. The estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 66 liters/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). However, no Al Mughayyir citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 26.5%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level; therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Al Mughayyir is 48 liters per day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 11 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

**Table 11: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012**

Consumption Category (m <sup>3</sup> )	Domestic (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Industrial (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Tourist (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Commercial (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Public Institutions (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )
0 – 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

90% of the households in the village have rainwater harvesting cisterns (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

### **Sanitation:**

Al Mughayyir lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits as their main means of wastewater disposal (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 86 cubic meters or 31,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 34 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without concern for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

### **Solid Waste Management:**

Al Mughayyir Village Council works in partnership with a private body to manage 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 20 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good management of solid waste; only 60% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Al Mughayyir benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The solid waste is collected twice a week and transported using a waste vehicle to the village dumping site, located 1.5km from the village center, where it is burnt (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Al Mughayyir is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Al Mughayyir residents is nearly 1.6 tons, or 569 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

## **Environmental Conditions**

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, Al Mughayyir 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 Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time during summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:
  - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among populations. The Jerusalem Water Authority distributes

water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs simultaneously.

- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- Lack of a public water reservoir in the village to be used by residents during water shortages.

### **Wastewater Management**

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Al Mughayyir residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in 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 and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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 central sanitary landfill to serve in Al Mughayyir and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. 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 leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

## **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

### **Geopolitical status in Al Mughayyir**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 Al Mughayyir village was divided into politically classified areas "B" and "C". Approximately 1,934 dunums (5.9% of the village's total area) is classified as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters and Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of all inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. The majority of the village's population resides in area B which forms a small part compared to the village's total area. The rest of the village's area, constituting 31,121 dunums (94.1% of the total area) is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (table 12). In area C, Palestinian



building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area C are agricultural areas and open spaces, in addition to Israeli military camps.

**Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Al Mughayyir– Ramallah Governorate**

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,934	5.9
Area C	31,121	94.1
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,055</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Source:ARIJ-GIS, 2011*

One should note that it is worth mentioning 27,190 dunums of land in Al Mughayyir village (82.3% of the village total area) are located within the eastern region of the West Bank, which is known today as the 'Eastern Segregation Zone'. Following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in 1967, Security Council Resolution 242 was made, which provides for the 'Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force. 'Israel began amendments to the borders that existed before the 1967 war, through using Resolution 242 to call for 'secure and recognized borders' which secured future settlement plans in the region. The deputy Israeli Prime Minister at the time, Yigal Allon, proposed to the Israeli cabinet, immediately after the 1967 war, that Israel create new borders based mainly on control of the eastern slopes of the West Bank and towards the bottom of the Jordan Valley, as well as the Western Sahara of the West Bank adjacent to the Dead Sea. This was achieved through building a series of Israeli settlements of approximately 20 kilometers width from the West Bank, as a first step towards formally annexing it to the State of Israel. The series of Israeli settlements that were built upon Yigal Allon's plan covers most of the Palestinian areas in the Jordan Valley, lands surrounding East Jerusalem, the Gush Etzion bloc south of Bethlehem, and the southern area of Hebron city. In June 2002, Israeli authorities began implementing a unilateral isolation policy between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories through the creation of an isolation area in the western part of the West Bank, stretching from its north to south. The policy involves taking over agricultural fertile lands from these areas and buffering Palestinian communities into small sections, thus undermining regional integration between Palestinian villages and towns, controlling the region's natural resources and connecting the majority of Israeli settlements in this area. With the support of the Israeli army, Israel has additionally created an eastern isolation zone along the West Bank's Jordan Valley area, with Israeli forces tightly controlling all roads leading to the eastern region of the West Bank. This has resultantly greatly increased the suffering of Palestinian residents in the area, through restricting both human movement and the movement of agricultural products. These actions confirm former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's 2004 statement, in response to a question asked about the wall in the Jordan Valley area; "I do not see a wall in the eastern region unless need arises. Here and there, we will conceal access to the eastern region through military barriers."

## **Al Mughayyir Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices**

Al Mughayyir village has been subjected to Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli interests, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts and military checkpoints on village territories as well as the construction of Israeli bypass roads to connect settlements. What follows is a breakdown of the various Israeli confiscations imposed on Al Mughayyir village territories:

The Israeli Occupation Authorities confiscated 719 dunums of land in Al Mughayyir village for the establishment of a number of Israeli military bases to the east of the village. Despite the existence of military bases on the village lands, there are no settlements on it, however, 1500m north of the village exists 'Mizpe Rahel' settlement in addition to a number of outposts. This settlement is located on lands of Turmus'ayya, a neighboring village. Mizpe Rahel Israeli settlement was established in 1992 on a total area of about 557 dunums of land and is currently inhabited by 530 Israeli settlers.

### **Israeli Settlers Attacks on the Palestinian Village of Al Mughayyir**

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements on lands of Al Mughayyir neighboring villages (such as in Turmus'ayya town) have had a serious and significant impact on the village people and their property. These attacks allow settlers to control additional Palestinian land adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from accessing it. Settlers near Al Mughayyir have also enclosed land using barbed wire and planting trees to increase their control over the region. Settlers have additionally burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands nearby the aforementioned settlements. For example, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, a group of Israeli settlers from Adei Ad outpost located north of the Palestinian village of Al Mughayyir, uprooted 140 olive trees northwest of the village. The location of uprooted olive trees is considered a permanent area of conflict between settlers and villagers.

On June 17<sup>th</sup> 2011, settlers of Adei Ad outpost set fire to one of the wheat fields located northwest of Al Mughayyir village within the "As Sider" basin of the village. Here citizens are not able to access the area due to the rugged terrain in the region, which is 2 km away from the structural plan of the village. Moreover, Israeli soldiers physically hindered the Palestinian farmers' access to their agricultural lands adjacent to the fire under security reasons, while colluding with settlers in the persistent acts of sabotage and destruction in the region.

Additionally, in February of 2011, a group of settlers living in the outpost of Adei Ad located north of Al Mughayyir Palestinian village, destroyed cultivated wheat crops aligned the village, belonging to Palestinian citizens of the village. The total area of the land cultivated with wheat and adjacent to the mentioned settlement is approximately 150 dunums, noting that farmers can only access this land in times of planting and harvesting; in coordination with the Israeli liaison office.

Furthermore, on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2009, a group of Israeli settlers living in Adei Ad outpost uprooted 260 olive trees planted recently in Al Mughayyir territory, north of Ramallah.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2009, as part of the reprisals carried out by the settlers against the Palestinian people throughout the West Bank, Israeli settlers uprooted 150 olive trees in the village. Settlers have

since stepped up their attacks; as on the 7<sup>th</sup> of the same month, they uprooted another 50 olive trees in the village. Al Mughayyir village's main source of industry involves producing olive oil. Therefore, these attacks against olive trees made by settlers are considered a clear target against the main source of livelihood in the village.

Moreover, settlers' attacks included assault against private property in the village. On June the 7<sup>th</sup> 2011 settlers from Adei Ad settlement built on the northern slopes of the village, set fire to Al Mughahir Grand mosque located in the center of the village. This inflicted severe damage to the mosque, and destroyed a large number of Koranic religious texts in addition to the complete destruction of the Mosque's infrastructure. This can be viewed as a serious attack on village property motivated by religious hatred, considering that settlers displayed racist slogans on the Mosque's walls in Hebrew language, translated as 'death to the Arabs' and 'the beginning of revenge'.

Finally, settlers from Adei Ad outpost seized large tracts of agricultural land planted with olive vines in the area known as the 'square', located on the east side of Al Mughayyir village. Here settlers erected a tent in the region to impose a fait accompli and prevent Palestinians farmers from approaching. It is noteworthy that the 'square' area is one of the locations adjacent to Adei Ad Israeli outpost, which during the last five years has been targeted many times by the Israeli army and settlers alike, through destroying field crops, logging trees, attacking farmers and preventing them from exploiting agricultural lands. This has continuously been carried out in the knowledge that the people of the village were in process of securing coordination through the Israeli civil liaison to allow them to access their agricultural lands which they have been deprived access to on the grounds that it is adjacent to the settlement outpost.

### **Israeli Bypass Roads in Al Mughayyir Village**

The Israeli Government confiscated further lands from Al Mughayyir for the construction of Israeli bypass road 458, which stretches for more than 3.5km on the village's land, in order to link Israeli settlements established in the area with each other. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Force (IOF) along these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

### **Israeli Military Checkpoints Established on Al Mughayyir Village Lands**

Following the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the IOF constructed a number of military checkpoints in Al Mughayyir village, mainly in the area near bypass road 458 constructed east of the village. Israelis established concrete blocks on the eastern entrance of the village in order to prevent Palestinians from using this road. It is noted that the road was opened recently by Israeli forces for Palestinian citizens. In addition, an Israeli military observation tower was established on the bypass road in front of Al Mughayyir, in addition to a number of earth mounds on the village's agricultural entrances, which represent sub roads of the bypass road 458. Such Israeli barriers aim to restrict the movement of Palestinians in this village in particular, as well as to neighboring villages. The restriction of access in this way was done under the Israeli rationale of had protecting settlers using the nearby bypass road in addition to confiscating further village lands.

### Issued Military Orders in Al Mughayyir Village

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued multiple military orders to confiscate lands, demolish houses and/or stop Palestinian construction in Al Mughayyir. The following document some of these orders:

The Israeli civil administration targeted a number of Palestinian homes in the West Bank under the pretext of unlicensed construction due to its location in areas classified as 'C', which are considered under full Israeli security and administrative control. On the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010, the 'Organization and Construction Department' of the Israeli Civil Administration handed villagers of Al Mughayyir new military orders to suspend work and the construction of a number of houses and structures in the village under the pretext of building without a permit, due to the location of houses in area C. The number of notified facilities is eleven. The following are the names of the owners of establishments:

- Mousa Mohammed Hamdan Abu Alia; owner of a two-story house,
- Abd al Latif Hamid Abu Alia; owner of a one story house
- Zayed Mahmoud Abu Alia; owner of a one story house,
- Munir Mohammed Fayeze Abu Alia; owner of three independent houses,
- Hasan Mahmoud Abu Alia; owner of two, two storied houses.
- Shadi Wajih Mousa Abu Alia; owner of a one story house,
- Fouad Awad Zaghoul; owner of a one story house,
- Zaki Hussein Abu Alia; owner of barracks, which includes a stone cutter,
- Ahmed Mahmoud Jaber Abu Alia; owner of a two-story house,
- Mohammad Ahmad Hamed Abu Alia; owner of a two-story house,
- And Fouad Awad Allah Zaghoul Abu Alia; owner of a one-story house of a 250 M<sup>2</sup>.

The notification orders had given owners until the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 to submit objections to the issued orders and to start issuing the necessary permits for construction in the areas classified as C. It is noted that applying for permits in no way guarantees obtaining them from the Israeli Civil Administration, as stipulated in the military order.



## **Development Plans and Projects**

### **Implemented Projects**

Al Mughayyir Village Council has not implemented any developmental projects in Al Mughayyir during the past five years (Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011).

### **Proposed Projects**

Al Mughayyir Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Reclaiming agricultural land and the establishment of agricultural cisterns.
2. Constructing agricultural roads.
3. Constructing a model school.
4. Providing street lighting, expanding the electricity network, and strengthening the electrical current.
5. Paving the village's main street.
6. Supporting small productive development projects related to livestock.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al Mughayyir 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 feedback.

**Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Al Mughayyir**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement 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			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			150 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health clinic
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			secondary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			50 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			300 tons/ year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

\*1km is a main road, 3km are sub roads and 6km are agricultural roads

Source: Al Mughayyir Village Council, 2011

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