

Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2012

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

This report is part of a series of booklets which contain compiled demographic information and a needs assessment of the populations of each city, town, and village in the Ramallah Governorate. These publications come as a result of the comprehensive study of all localities in the Governorate and aim to depict the overall living conditions there, whilst also presenting plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the Jerusalem population. This was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" a 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 of the Ramallah region, along with reporting the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions there.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and their existing limitations. Based on these findings, the project further aims to conduct a needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in the 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 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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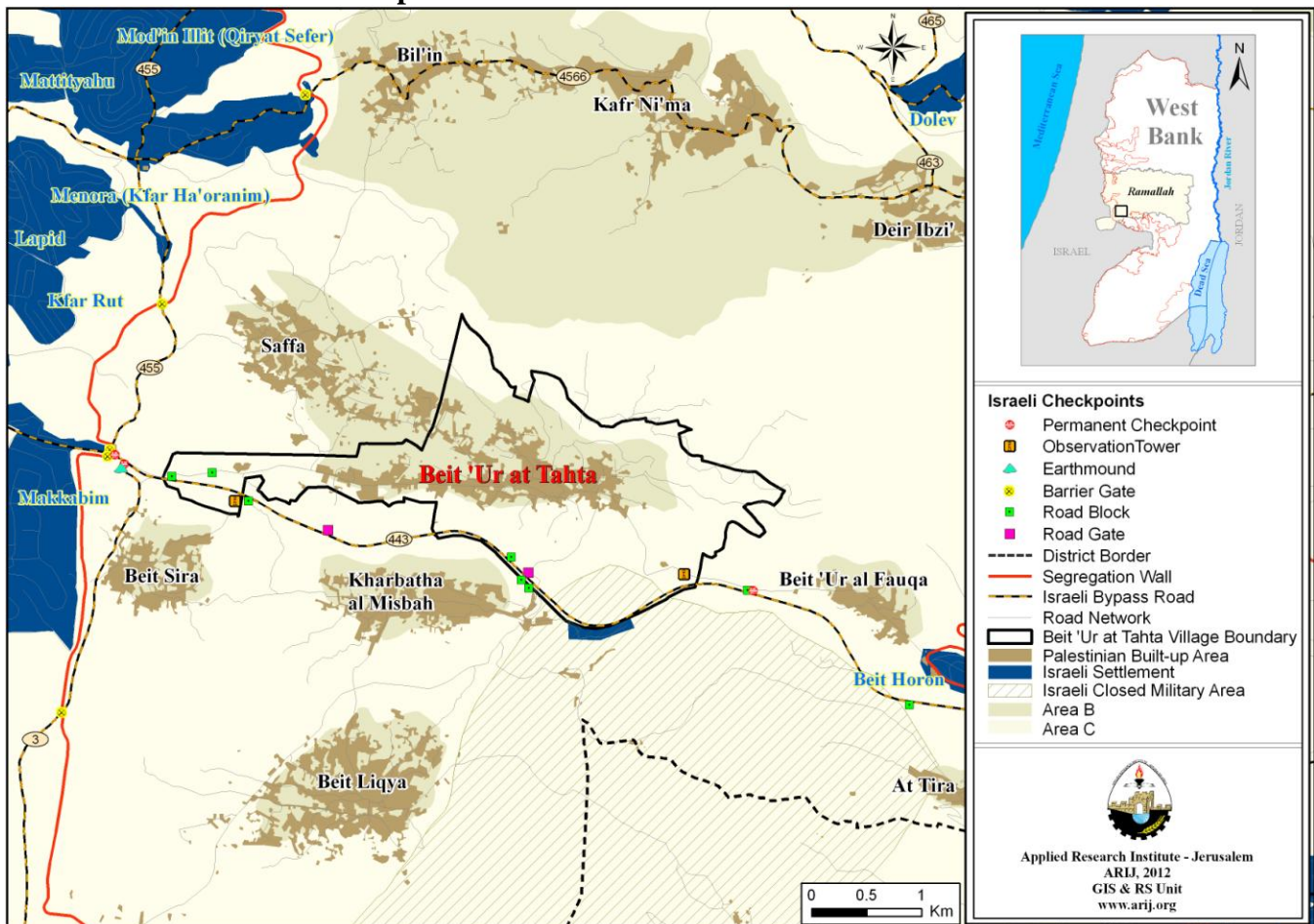
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Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit 'Ur at Tahta is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 11.4km west of Ramallah City. Beit 'Ur at Tahta is bordered by Deir 'Ibzi' and Beit 'Ur al Fauqa village lands to the east, Deir 'Ibzi' village lands to the north, Saffa and Beit Sira village lands to the west, and Kharbatha al Misbah village to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Beit 'Ur at Tahta location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Beit 'Ur at Tahta is located at an altitude of 407m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 570.6mm. The average annual temperature is 18 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1996, Beit ‘Ur at Tahta has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are an additional 6 employees working in the council. The Council is included within Ni’lin Joint Services Council, where it owns a permanent headquarters but does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta, including (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

1. Infrastructure services, including water management.
2. Solid waste collection and social development services.
3. Means of transportation.

History

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta is a Canaanite name which means ‘the house of light’ or ‘the house of wildfire’. The village was mentioned in the book *Our Country Palestine* as one of the Prophet Solomon’s seven cities, where he did some fortification work (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

The village was established in ancient times and it is said that 85% of its residents are descendents from one grandparent, Al Mashaqi (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village).

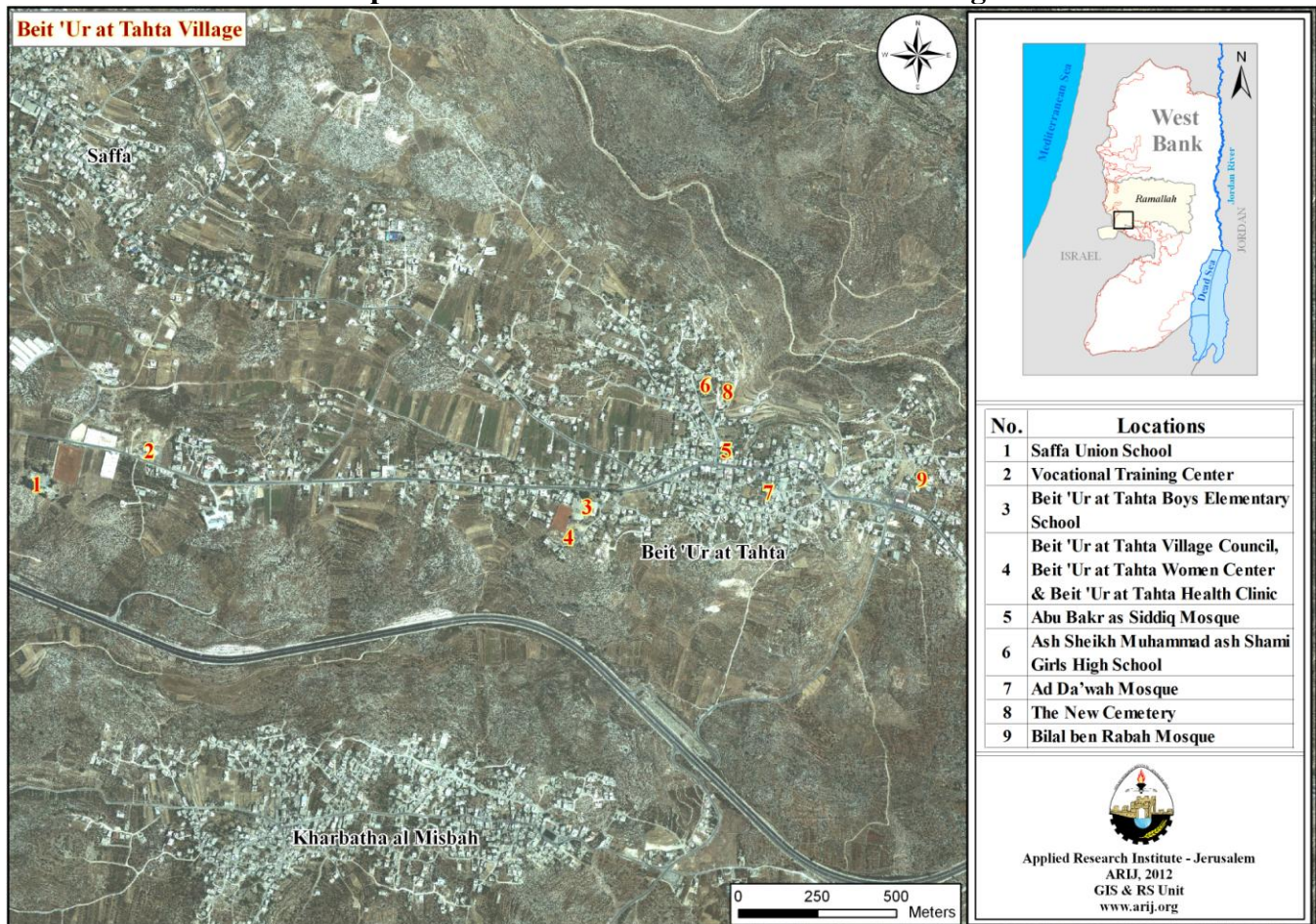
Photos of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the village, Abu Bakr as Siddiq, Ad Da'wa and Bilal ben Rabah Mosques. There are several sites of archaeological interest: Khirbet Khallaba, Khirbet 'E'beer Jan and Ash Sheikh 'Ur and Ash Sheikh Jum'a' shrines (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beit 'Ur at Tahta in 2007 was 4,109, of whom 2,108 were male and 2,001 female. There were 804 households living in 882 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 Beit ‘Ur at Tahta as follows: 38.1% were less than 15 years of age, 58.5% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.2% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village was 105.3:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51.3% and 48.7% of the population respectively.

Families

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta residents are from several families, primarily the Suleiman, Jad Allah, Badran, Abu ‘Elbah, Al Hajj Abd Allah and Deif Allah families (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that around 10 families have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Beit ‘Ur at Tahta population is about 7.4%, of whom 80% are females. Of the literate population, 10.3% can only read and write with no formal education, 29.2% had elementary education, 32.7% had preparatory education, 13% had secondary education, and 7.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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	45	138	501	538	193	36	67	2	10	2	-	1,532
F	180	173	381	452	200	50	51	1	2	-	1	1,491
T	225	311	882	990	393	86	118	3	12	2	1	3,023

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are three public schools in the village, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, but no kindergartens (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Girls Elementary School	Government	Females
Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Boys Elementary School	Government	Males
Ash Sheikh Muhammad ash Shami Girls High School	Government	Females

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

In 2011 the village had 983 students, 61 teachers, and 38 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 26.

However, due to the lack of high schools for males in the village, male students of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta attend Saffa village schools (2km from the village) in order to complete their secondary education.

The educational sector in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village faces some obstacles, mainly (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

1. The poor condition of classrooms.
2. The lack of scientific and computer laboratories.
3. The weak academic staff.
4. The lack of interest on the part of families in the education of their children.

Moreover, students attending Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Boys Elementary School and Saffa Union High School face difficulties due to the existence of permanent and flyer checkpoints on school access roads (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Health Status

There are some health centers and services available in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta including: Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Health Clinic, a governmental physician’s clinic, a physician’s clinic supervised by UNRWA, and a private pharmacy. However, in case of emergencies or in the absence of required health services, residents of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta use Ramallah Health Center or Ramallah governmental hospital, 16km from the village (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village faces some obstacles and problems, including:

1. The lack of availability of doctors on a daily basis.
2. The lack of medical laboratories.
3. The unavailability of medicines most days of the month.
4. The lack of an ambulance in the village.
5. The lack of developed medical devices.
6. The lack of commitment by doctors to their roles in the community.

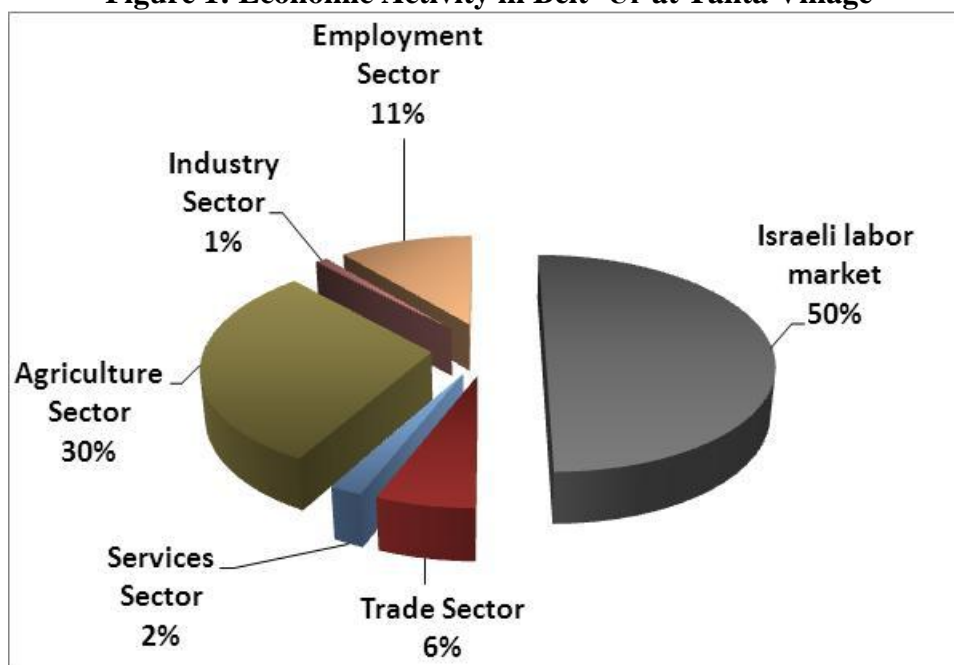
Economic Activities

The economy in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 50% of the village workforce (See Figure 1) (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta are as follows:

- Israeli Labor Market (50%)
- Agriculture Sector (30%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (11%)
- Trade Sector (6%)
- Services Sector (2%)
- Industry (1%).

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village



Source: Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011.

There are 25 grocery stores, one butcher, one bakery, one vegetable and fruit shop, 7 different professional workshops (carpentry, aluminum, glass), 6 different services stores, one olive oil-press and one agricultural nursery in the village (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta reached approximately 30% in 2011, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions have been (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the agriculture sector.

3. Workers in the trade sector.
4. Workers in the services sector.
5. Workers in industry.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 33.8% of Beit 'Ur at Tahta labor force was economically active, of whom 82% were employed, and 66.1% were not economically active, of whom 49.4% were students and 36.2% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Beit 'Ur at Tahta population (10 years 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	748	80	81	909	451	2	99	19	49	620	3	1,532
F	89	2	21	112	536	722	92	4	24	1,378	1	1,491
T	837	82	102	1,021	987	724	191	23	73	1,998	4	3,023

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

Agricultural Sector

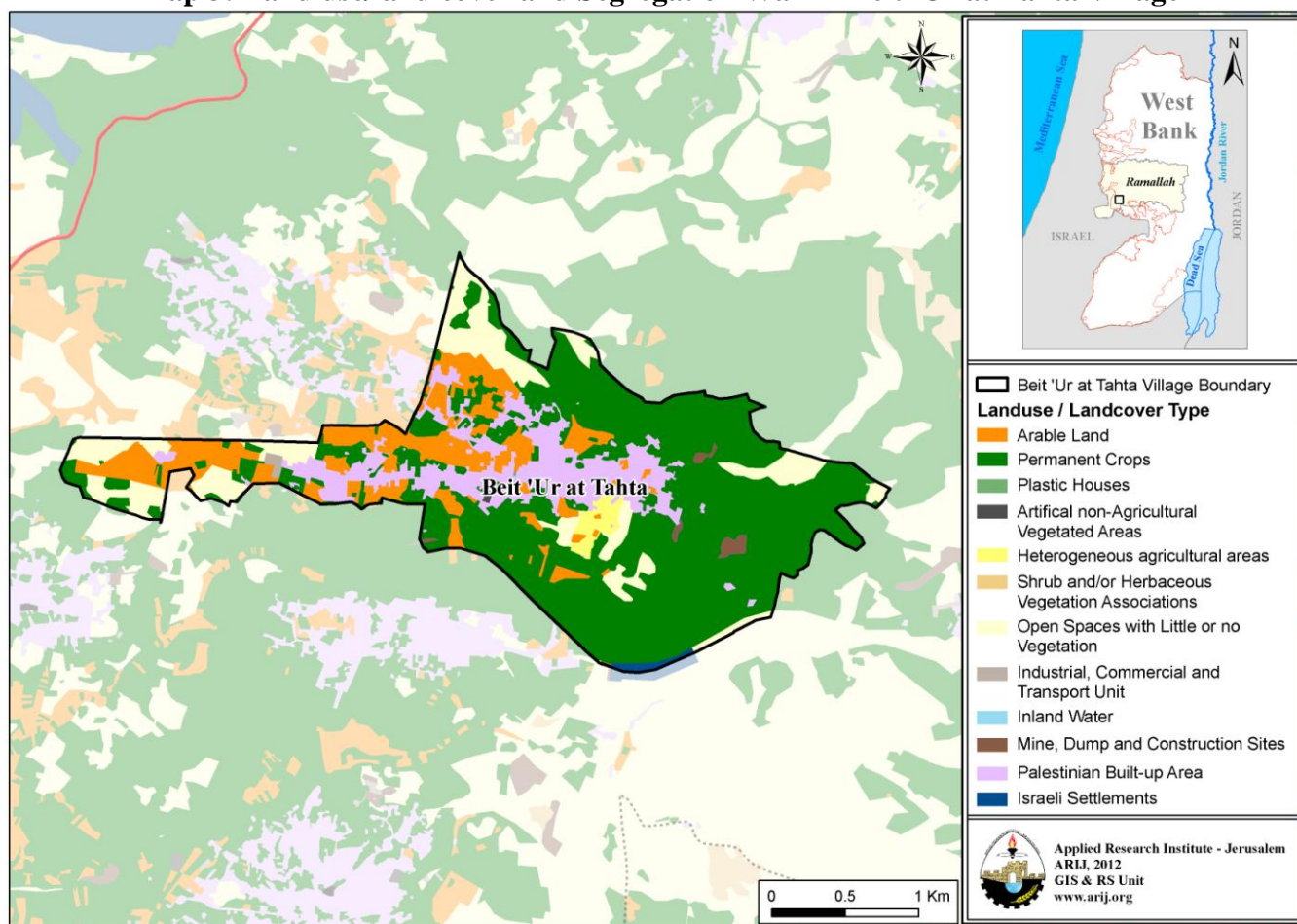
Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village lies on an area of 5,653 dunums, of which 4,064 dunums are arable lands and 773 dunums are registered as residential (see Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Beit 'Ur at Tahta village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (4,064)				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					
5,653	773	3,248	1	0	815	0	0	737	55	25

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta. The most common crop cultivated within this area is snake-cucumber.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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.
135	0	0	0	55	0	15	0	5	0	210	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. Beit ‘Ur at Tahta is famous for olive cultivation; there are 2,648 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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.
2,648	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	15	0	93	0	2,785	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated covering an area of about 600 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as beans (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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
600	0	28	0	63	0	10	0	95	0	0	0	0	0	796	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ’s GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) 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 instead of seasonal ones. The survey 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, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey shows that only 1% of the residents in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler chickens, and bees (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
17	492	190	0	0	0	0	91,600	8,600	31

*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 (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	0
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	3
For animals only	13
Unsuitable	2

Source: Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011

However, the agricultural sector faces some obstacles and problems, including:

1. The lack of access to agricultural lands.
2. The lack of water resources.

3. The lack of capital.
4. The lack of laborers.
5. The problem of marketing agricultural products.
6. The high costs of feed.
7. The lack of experienced farmers.
8. The lack of natural rangelands.

Institutions and Services

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village has no governmental institutions, but has several local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

- **Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Sports Club:** Founded in 1971 by the village youth and currently registered in the Ministry of Sports & Youth, the club provides sports and cultural activities for young people.
- **Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Women Center:** Founded in 2007 by the village council with an interest in women’s issues in the village, providing them with courses in food processing and capacity building.
- **The Woman Committee:** Founded in 2000 with an interest in all women’s issues and affairs in the village.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 99% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

1. The weak electrical power supply and power breakdowns during winter.
2. The existence of the high pressure network close to residential areas.
3. The old condition of the electricity network.
4. The high cost of electricity.

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 40% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

4 buses, 10 taxis and 200 illegal/unlicensed cars are the main means of transportation in Beit 'Ur at Tahta village, used by residents to travel from the village to Ramallah city. However, travelers suffer from the existence of the Segregation Wall and from the poor unqualified roads, which lengthen their journeys considerably (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011). There are a total of 7km of main roads which are paved but in poor condition and 8km of secondary roads, 3km of which are paved but in poor condition and 5km of which are unpaved (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Water Resources:

Beit 'Ur at Tahta is supplied with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1995. Approximately 93% of the housing units are connected to the water network.

The quantity of water supplied to the village reached approximately 140 thousand m³ in 2010 (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011), and therefore the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 93 liter/capita/day. However, no resident of Beit 'Ur at Tahta consumes this amount of water due to water losses from the transfer of water and its distribution through the network. These losses are estimated to be approximately 35%, and therefore the average water consumption per capita is 61 liter/capita/day (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011). This average is considerably less than the recommended amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Beit 'Ur at Tahta also has 200 household water harvesting cisterns. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 2.86 NIS (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as their main means of wastewater disposal (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 200 cubic meters, or 73,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 42 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. Additionally, there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council is responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village.

Most of the population in Beit 'Ur at Tahta benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to

certain locations due to the lack of containers in the locality. The Village Council collects the solid waste from these containers twice a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to Wad al Malaqi dumping site, which is owned by the village and is 2km from the locality, where it is burnt.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta is 0.7kg. Therefore the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Beit ‘Ur at Tahta residents is nearly 2.9 tons, or 1,050 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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 town for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources.
 - (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.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or 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), as it mixes with the waste water thus becomes unsuitable for drinking, because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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 central sanitary landfill to serve in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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 Beit ‘Ur at Tahta

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 2,078 dunums (36.7% of the total village area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a 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 camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the village’s population resides in area B which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the village. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 3,575 dunums (63.3% 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 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 (table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	2,078	36.7
Area C	3,575	63.3
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	3,653	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Israel confiscated an area of 2 dunums of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village lands so as to build the Israeli settlement Beit Horon, which is a part of the Israeli bloc Giv’at Ze’ev. Beit Horon is inhabited by 1,139 Israeli settlers (table 12).

Table 12: Israeli Settlements constructed over Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village’s lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated	Population of settlers
Beit Horon	1977	2	1,139
Total		2	1,139

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

In 2005 the Israeli government proposed a plan that suggests the integration of all major Israeli settlements in the West Bank such as Ma’ale Adumim, Ariel, Giv’at Ze’ev, Gush Etzion, and Modi’in Illit. The plan is to include and incorporate all lands on which those settlements are established into Israel behind the Wall, considering them an essential part of the Israeli State. The plan was considered important and wise because it “...contributes to security, political standing, economy and to the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel” as was said by the former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon when meeting with the former American president George Bush in 11th April 2005. With the implementation of the Segregation Wall plan, which is supposed to be completed by 2012, Israel will include the major Israeli settlements and blocs into its borders. This is in addition to the other settlements that lie to the west of the Wall. Altogether, the total number of Israeli settlements and blocs that are incorporated into Israel by the end of the Wall construction is 107.

The Government of Israel has also confiscated more land from Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa village to construct Israeli bypass road no. 443¹ in order to connect Beit Horon with other neighboring Israeli settlements to the east (within Giv’at Ze’ev bloc), settlements in east and west Jerusalem, the Modi’in Illit bloc and settlements within the Green Line. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, which extends to approximately 75 m on each side of the road. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

Issued Military Orders in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta for the construction of the Segregation Wall, including the following:

- Israeli Military Order No. (50/05/T): Issued on the 22nd of March 2005. It confiscates a total land area of 1123 dunams of the lands of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa and Deir ‘Ibzi’ villages for the construction of a bypass road.
- Israeli Military Order No. (47/04/T): Issued on the 14th of March 2005. It confiscates a total land area of 2.2 dunams of the lands of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta village for the construction of a bypass road.
- Israeli Military Order No. (55/02/T): Issued on the 23rd of December 2011. It confiscates a total land area of 3.8 dunams of the lands of Beit ‘Ur at Tahta and Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa villages for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.

¹ The Israeli bypass road 443 is considered the main link between Ramallah City and many other Palestinian Villages in the southwest of the City, such villages include Saffa, Beit Sira, Kharbatha al Misbah, Beit Ur at Tahta, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa At Tira and Betuniya.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council has implemented several development projects in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta during the past five years (See Table 13).

Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Beit ‘Ur at Tahta During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of sidewalks	Infrastructure	2009	USAID
Pavement of secondary roads	Infrastructure	2009	USAID
Source: Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011			

Proposed Projects

Beit ‘Ur at Tahta 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 workshop participants (Beit ‘Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011):

1. Rehabilitating the water network, and constructing water reservoirs and harvesting cisterns (100 cisterns).
2. Establishing health clinics and medical laboratories.
3. Rehabilitating and paving agricultural roads (12 km) and sub-roads within the village (5 km).
4. Providing a local market.
5. Creating job opportunities through providing productive projects in the public interest.
6. Providing livestock and agricultural projects and reclaiming lands.
7. Establishing a sewage network and a wastewater treatment unit.
8. Providing a transportation vehicle for the kindergarten, developing the schools and the teaching methods, and providing the necessary tools for different activities.
9. Weeding sports stadiums.
10. Monitoring the budgets for the restoration of old buildings.
11. Providing awareness and guidance projects in the field of agriculture.
12. Establishing a rehabilitation center for people with special needs.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beit 'Ur at Tahta suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's perspective (Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011).

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Beit 'Ur at Tahta

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			28km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			4km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			12km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			40,000m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			13km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			13km
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 of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			a health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary and secondary levels
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			700 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			300 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			20 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			400 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*			3 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*7km are main roads, 6km are sub roads and 15km are agricultural roads

Source: Beit 'Ur at Tahta Village Council, 2011

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