

Deir Dibwan Town 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 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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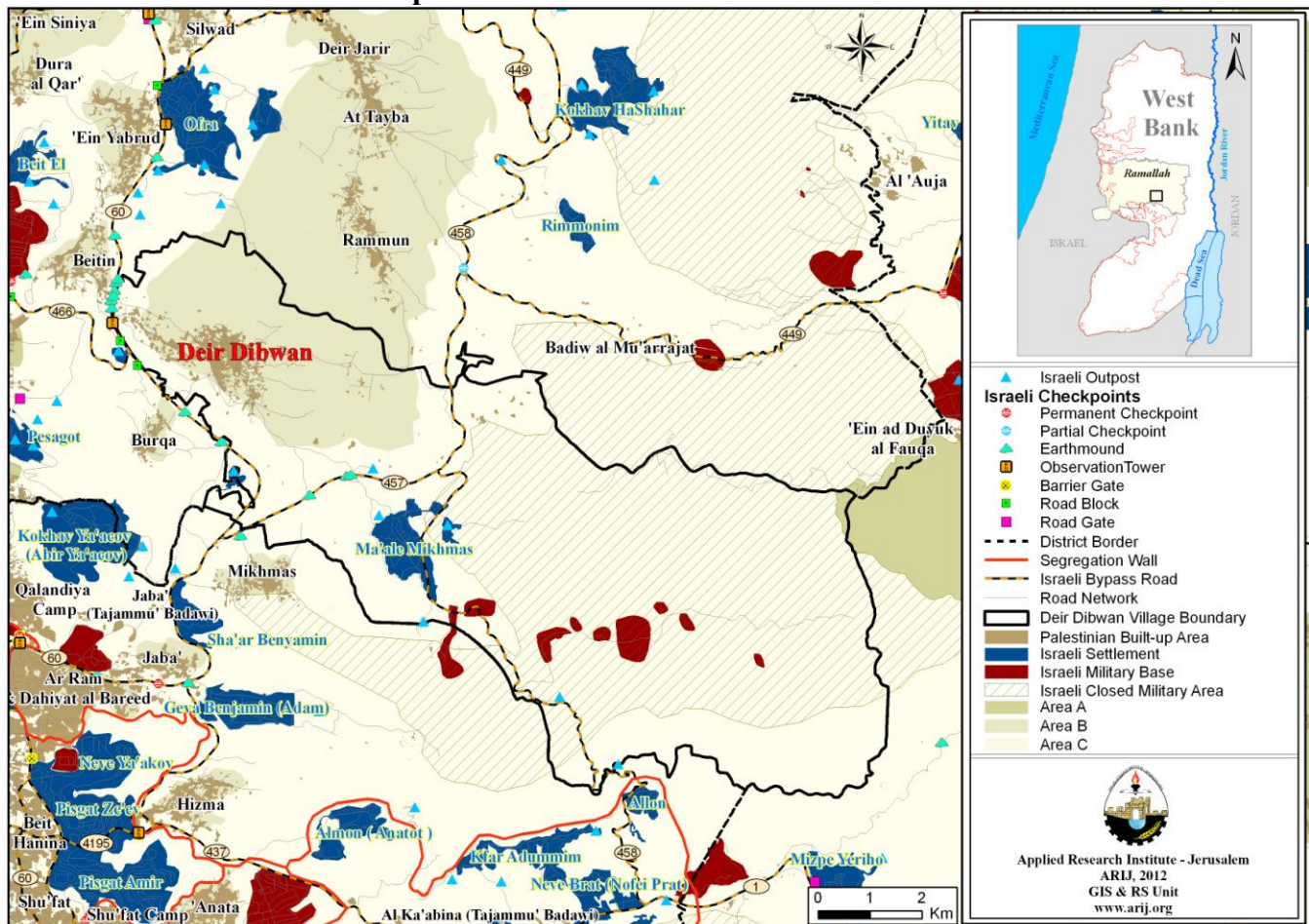
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Deir Dibwan Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir Dibwan is a Palestinian town in Ramallah Governorate, located 6.4km east of Ramallah City. Deir Dibwan is bordered by 'Ein ad Duyuk al Foqa territories to the east, Rammun and 'Ein Yabrud territories to the north, Beitin and Burqa villages to the west and Mikhmas village and 'Anata territories to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1)

Map 1: Deir Dibwan location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Deir Dibwan is located at an altitude of 739m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 455mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1956, Deir Dibwan has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 13 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority with an additional 18 employees working

in the Council. The Council owns a permanent headquarters and two vehicles for the collection of solid waste (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Deir Dibwan, including (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012):

- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organizing construction and licensing processes.
- Providing headquarters for governmental services (post, security, etc.).
- Implementing projects and case studies that contribute to the town's development.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites in the town.
- Protecting governmental properties.

History

Deir Dibwan town was originally a monastery ('deir') for Roman monks, where a monk known as Divan lived. Over time, the town's name shifted to Deir Dibwan. The town dates back to 1024 (according to the Hijri calendar), and its residents originate from East Jordan, Al Balqa' and Yemen (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Photo of Deir Dibwan

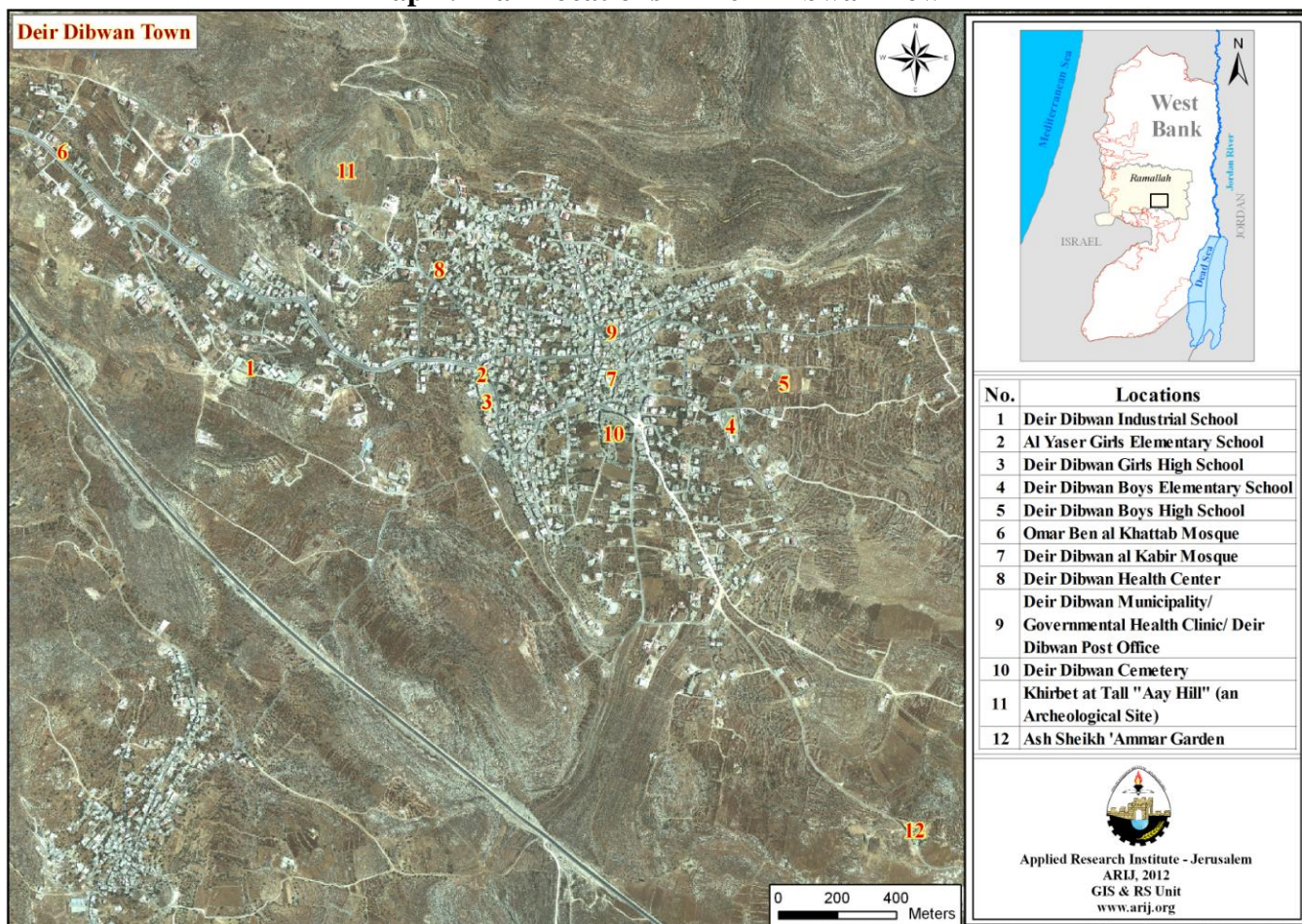


ARIJ Photo Courtesy

Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the town: Deir Dibwan Grand Mosque and Omar ben al Khattab Mosque. The town has several sites of archaeological interest, including Khirbet Hayyan, Khirbet al Khudariya, Khirbet at Tall, Khirbet Qasr at Tareez, Khirbet al Maqater, As Sabaq Monastery, Ad Darb Well, As Sahel Well, and Al Jabiya Spring (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012) (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Deir Dibwan Town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir Dibwan in 2007 was 4,937, of whom 2,268 were male and 2,669 female. There were 990 households living in 1,343 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Deir Dibwan was as follows: 36% were less than 15 years of age, 55% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 8.8% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 85:100, meaning that males and females constitute 45.9% and 54.1 % of the population respectively.

Families

The inhabitants of Deir Dibwan town are from several families, mainly the Al ‘Awawdah, Al Manasrah and As Sarmah families (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among population was about 11%, of whom 81.6% were females. Of the literate population, 14.5% could only read and write, with no formal education, 28.3% had only elementary education, 24.7% had preparatory education, 15.4% had secondary education, and 6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Deir Dibwan by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Deir Dibwan 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	77	276	550	396	282	35	84	3	11	1	-	1,715
F	343	278	529	548	307	32	51	-	10	2	3	2,103
T	420	554	1,079	944	589	67	135	3	21	3	3	3,818

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are 5 public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MoEHE), but there are no kindergartens (See Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Deir Dibwan by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Deir Dibwan Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Deir Dibwan Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Deir Dibwan Boys Industrial Secondary School	Government	Male
Deir Dibwan Boys Elementary School	Government	Male
Deir Dibwan Girls Elementary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

There are 1,539 students, 112 teachers, and 55 classes in Deir Dibwan (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the schools is nearly 14, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 28.

Health Status

There are a number of healthcare facilities available in Deir Dibwan town: a health center run by a charitable society, 3 physician's clinics (governmental, private and one run by a charitable society), 6 specialized physician's clinics, a medical laboratory run by a charitable society, a governmental motherhood and childhood center, a private physiotherapy center, and 3 pharmacies (governmental, private and one run by charitable society) (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012). In emergencies or in the absence of required facilities, residents of Deir Dibwan use Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city, 25 km from the town (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

The health sector in Deir Dibwan town suffers some obstacles, mainly (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012):

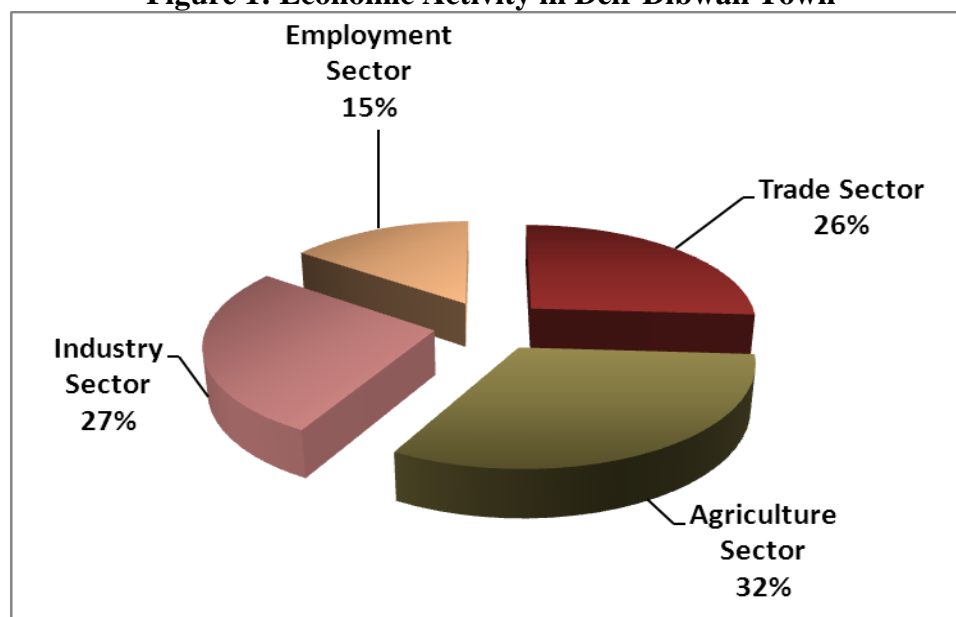
- The lack of a town ambulance.
- The poor medical facilities.
- The distance between the town and hospitals in Ramallah city.

Economic Activities

The economy in Deir Dibwan is dependent mainly on the agriculture sector which absorbs 32% of the town's workforce (Deir Dibwan Municipal 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 Deir Dibwan are as follows:

- Agriculture Sector (32%)
- Industry (27%)
- Trade Sector (26%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (15%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Deir Dibwan Town

Source: Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012

Deir Dibwan town has 8 grocery stores, 3 vegetable and fruit shops, 3 bakeries, 3 butcheries, 15 different services stores, 15 different professional workshops, 3 olive oil-presses, and 2 agricultural tool stores (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Deir Dibwan reached approximately 10.8% in 2012 and it was found that the social groups most vulnerable to Israeli policies and procedures are (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012):

1. Workers in the agricultural sector.
2. Workers in the trade sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 24.8% of the Deir Dibwan population was economically active, of whom 89.7% were employed, and 74.9% were not economically active, 41.7% of whom were students, and 38% of whom were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Deir Dibwan 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	752	47	34	833	599	-	163	86	31	879	3	1,715
F	96	10	6	112	592	1,086	220	40	41	1,979	12	2,103
T	848	57	40	945	1,191	1,086	383	126	72	2,858	15	3,818

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

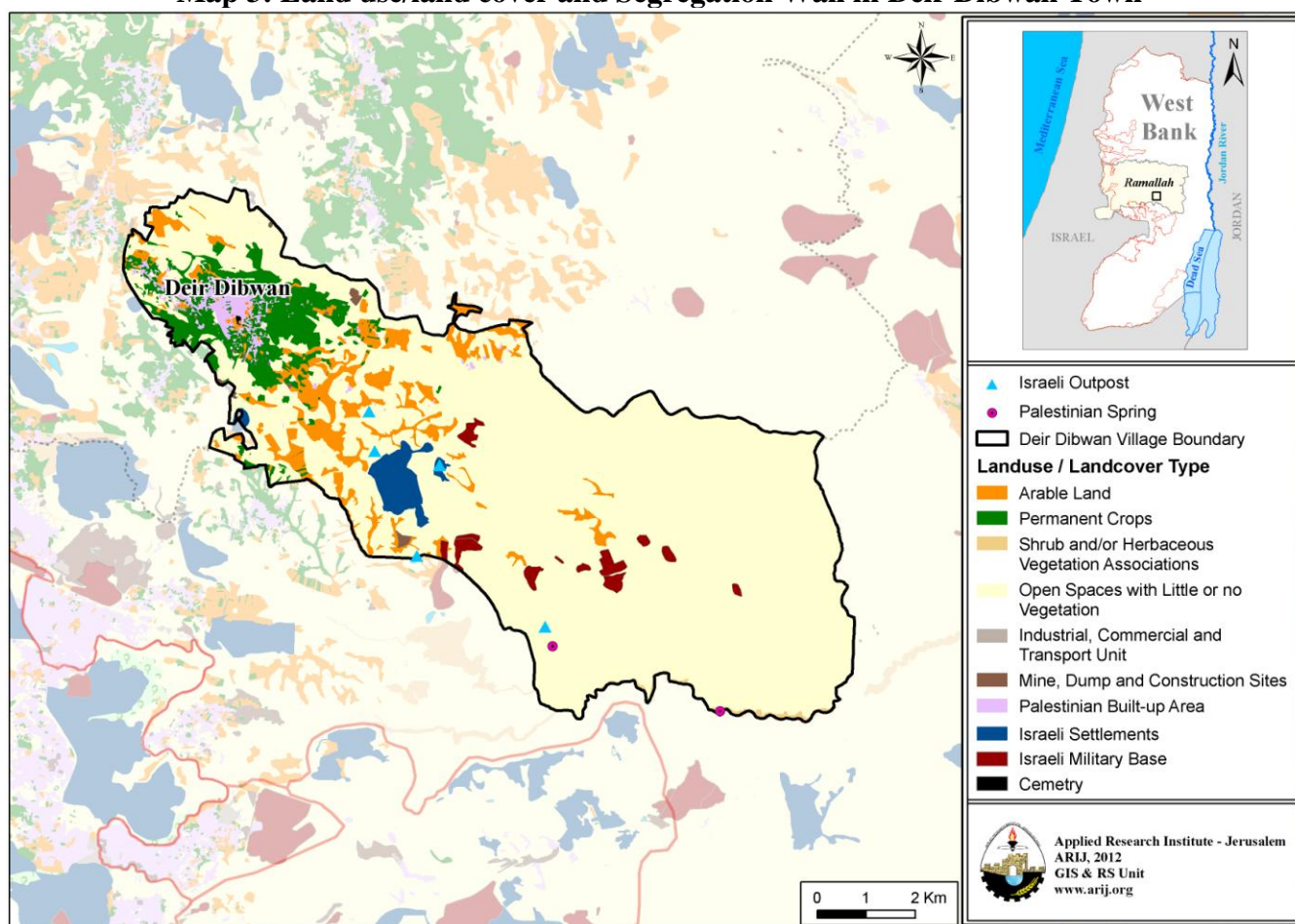
Deir Dibwan lies on a total area of about 74,290 dunums of which 10,614 dunums are arable land and 1,319 dunums are residential land (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Deir Dibwan town in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (10,614)				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					
74,290	1,319	4,730	0	376	5,508	0	0	59,692	233	2,432

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Deir Dibwan Town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

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

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Deir Dibwan town (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
35	11	0	0	18	1	5	0	0	0	58	12

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Deir Dibwan town is well-known for the cultivation of olive trees; there are 5,904 dunums of land planted with olive crops.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Deir Dibwan town (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.
5,904	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	30	0	117.5	0	6,069.5	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Deir Dibwan, cereals (in particular, wheat and barley) are the most cultivated; covering an area of about 4,200 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes, including lentils and beans (See table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Deir Dibwan town (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
4,200	0	17	0	90	0	0	0	240	0	0	0	0	0	4,547	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 shows that 5% of the residents in Deir Dibwan rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012) (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Deir Dibwan town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
5	6,107	399	0	0	0	0	58,800	0	23

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009.

There are about 30 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012):

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Deir Dibwan Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	15
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	-

Source: Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012

The residents face some obstacles and problems concerning the agricultural sector, mainly (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012):

- The lack of irrigation water.
- The lack of interest in farmers.
- The lack of governmental support for farmers.
- The weak profitability of the farming process.

Institutions and Services

Deir Dibwan town has few governmental institutions, including a post office, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012):

- **Deir Dibwan Municipality:** Founded in 1956, by Deir Dibwan village residents and is currently registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the goal of taking care of issues in the town and providing services to its population.
- **Deir Dibwan Palestinian Society:** Founded in 1979.
- **Deir Dibwan Women Society.**
- **Deir Dibwan Graduates Society.**
- **The Union Club.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Deir Dibwan has been connected to a public electricity network since 1965. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 96% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network. However, the town residents experience some problems concerning the electricity sector, primarily the weak electrical current in some residential neighborhoods (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Deir Dibwan town is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 99% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Transportation Services:

There are approximately 15 public taxis and 7 buses in the town; however, traveling is complicated by existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads in the vicinity of Deir Dibwan. There are 7km of main roads and 22km of sub-roads in the town (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Table 10: Roads in Deir Dibwan village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	3	-
2. Paved but in poor condition	4	14
3. Unpaved	-	8

Source: Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the town with water through a network constructed in 1965. This network supplies water to almost all housing units (99%) in the town. The quantity of water supplied to the town reached approximately 217,049 m³ in 2010, and therefore the amount of water consumed per person is estimated at 120 liters/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). However, no resident of Deir Dibwan consumes this amount of water due to water losses from the transfer of water and its distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units. Such losses are estimated at 26.5%, and therefore the average of water consumption per capita is 89 liters/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is less than the recommended amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The town has 3 water springs with an annual average pumping rate of 285 cubic meters, but the springs must be restored and renovated before they can be used. There is also a public water reservoir in the village with a capacity of 2,000 cubic meters and approximately 950 household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

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 ³)	Domestic (NIS/m ³)	Industrial (NIS/m ³)	Tourist (NIS/m ³)	Commercial (NIS/m ³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m ³)
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

Sanitation:

Deir Dibwan town lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits and endocrines as their main means of wastewater disposal (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 350 cubic meters or 128,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that per capita wastewater generation is approximately 62 liters per day (ARIJ WERU, 2012). 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.

Solid Waste Management:

Deir Dibwan Municipal Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of between 25 and 75 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good solid waste management; only 50% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Deir Dibwan benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. Deir Dibwan Municipal Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a dumping site 3km from the town, where it is burnt and buried (Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir Dibwan is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Deir Dibwan residents is nearly 5.2 tons, or 1892 tons per year (ARIJ WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, Deir Dibwan 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 in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources. Consequently, the Jerusalem Water Authority purchases water from the Israeli company of Mekorot in order to satisfy residents' needs.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Deir Dibwan residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and endocrines 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 town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater 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 Deir Dibwan 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 Deir Dibwan

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Deir Dibwan was divided into politically classified areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 172 dunums (0.2% of the town’s total area) are assigned as area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and Public order, whilst 12,487 dunums (16.8% of the town’s total area) are classified as area B where the PNA has complete control over civil matters and Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B currently constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, towns and some refugee camps. It is noted that the entirety of the town’s population resides in area B. The remainder of the town’s land area, constituting 61,630 dunums (83% 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. The majority of lands lying within the area C of which its largest part extends to the eastern slopes towards Jericho Governorate are mainly open spaces, in addition to Israeli settlements and military camps and small agricultural areas.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Deir Dibwan Town according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	172	0.2
Area B	12487	16.8
Area C	61630	83
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	74289	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Deir Dibwan Town and the Israeli Occupation

Deir Dibwan town has been subjected to a number of Israeli led land confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli ends, represented in the construction of settlements, military bases, outposts and Israeli bypass roads on the town territories, in addition to the establishment of numerous Israeli barriers, restricting freedom of movement to villagers. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations to have negatively impacted Deir Dibwan town territories:

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated 1,052 dunums in Deir Dibwan for the establishment of several Israeli military bases on its eastern located lands. . Through the establishment of such military bases in the heart of Palestinian territories, IOF are aiming at intensifying both their military and security presence within Palestine, thus increasing control over Palestinian citizens Further lands have also been confiscated (approx. 1287 dunums) in Deir Dibwan to build ‘Ma’ale Mikhmas’ settlement southeast of the town. Today, the settlement which was established in 1981 is inhabited by 1,261 Israeli settlers.

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements around Deir Dibwan have had a serious and significant impact on both the town’s residents and their properties. These attacks allow settlers to control Palestinian land adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from gaining access to it. Settlers near Deir Dibwan have enclosed land using barbed wire and planting trees to increase their control over these locations Settlers have further burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands nearby to the aforementioned settlements.

In addition, the Israeli Government has over time confiscated thousands of agricultural and non-agricultural lands to open several bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank. This has been carried out with the purpose of linking Israeli settlements with one another dividing Palestinian lands and enhancing security control over it. Israel has additionally confiscated further land from Deir Dibwan and lands to its east and south for the construction of 4 Israeli bypass roads; numbers 60, 457, 458 and 446. The total length of these roads stretches for 20.2km over Deir Dibwan lands. However, the real threat of bypass roads such as those aforementioned lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Force (IOF) alongside these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land confiscated by the construction of bypass roads.

Following the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada during September 2000, the IOF constructed hundreds of military checkpoint within the West Bank. In Deir Dibwan, three earth mound barriers were

constructed on sub entrances located to the southeastern side of the town, on bypass road 457. This was carried out with the intention of preventing Palestinians from using this road. It is noted that that Deir Dibwan is connected with Ramallah city through a tunnel that passes underneath bypass road 60, through Beitin, 'Ein Yabrud and Dura al Qar' villages. This tunnel additionally links the eastern areas of the governorate with Ramallah city. Moreover, occupation forces established a permanent military checkpoint near Beit El settlement bloc west of Beitin village, which neighbors Deir Dibwan from the south. This checkpoint has forced residents of Deir Dibwan and other neighboring villages to pass through the aforementioned villages then return to Ramallah city, in order to avoid this checkpoint which has been closed to Palestinians for many years. 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.

Deir Dibwan has experienced forcible land seizure for the establishment of 3 outposts on the southeastern side of the town, in the area surrounding 'Ma'ale Mikhmas' Israeli settlement. These outposts are named as; Mitzpe Danny, North Ma'ale Mikhmas and Far North Ma'ale Mikhmas. These outposts aim at expanding Ma'ale Mikhmas settlement through the control of further Palestinian lands.

It is further noted that during the past two decades, Israel has constructed 232 outposts in the West Bank, which are considered to be the nucleus for new settlement development. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans that are located on lands stolen by settlers and represent a contiguity of a nearby mother settlement. It is worth mentioning that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a "Sharonian"¹ call for Jewish settlers to take control of Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although the successive Israeli governments haven't legalized this phenomenon, they have managed to find both security and logistical cover to justify the act, its existence and continuity. After 2001 the Prime Minister of the time, Ariel Sharon, unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in the number of outposts within Palestinian areas. To this day, the construction and expansion of outposts has been undertaken with the full support of IOF which have assisted Israeli settlers in moving and settling in outposts, in addition to protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

Israel's Demolition Policy Sweeps Deir Dibwan Town

Arab al Malihat locality east of Deir Dibwan belongs to Deir Dibwan town citizens in Maghayer ad Deir area, and is considered the second largest gathering for Arab al Malihat in the West Bank after the first gathering which is located in Al Mu'arrajat area. Arab al Malihat residents live in tents and houses constructed from zinc (tin) and depend upon sheep herding as their main livelihood. This tribe has been living in the area since about 35 years.

Since the early 1980s eighties the Israeli army came to the site of the Aran al Malihat Bedouin tribe who used to live in Al 'Araqa area of Deir Dibwan, 7km to the east from the tribe's current location. The army forced its inhabitants to evacuate the area claiming it to be a location reserved from military training. Since this displacement more than twenty years ago, Arab al Malihat tribe has been residing in its current aforementioned location without any reluctance and in a stable condition. During this time, the Israeli Civil Administration through the Ministry of Education established a mobile school for local residents entitled the 'Canaanite Bedouin Co-educated Elementary School.' In addition, a water line

¹ As instigated by former Israeli Prime Minister 'Ariel Sharon' (2001-2006)

provided by the Israeli Company ‘Mekorot’ has been extended to supply the region with clean drinking water.

Following the Oslo II (1995), the area on which Arab al Malihat resides was classified as area C, which is subjected to full Israeli security and administrative control, thus, inhabitants of this area were considered illegal residents due to their lack of necessary licenses to reside in the region, provided by the Israeli Civil Administration. During early September 2008, IOF visited Beit El area to hand over a number of eviction notifications to families, notifying families they have one month to evict their homes. The families notified and threatened with demolition submitted an objection to the Israeli Civil Administration in Beit El, however, since the objection, the families have not received any written or even oral reply.

The threat of demolitions has continued to surround Arab al Malihat tribe. During October 2008, without any previous warning and before an official decision on the part of the Israeli Supreme Court, Israeli ‘Organizational Forces’ in Beit El, supported and guarded by soldiers, police and Israeli bulldozers, demolished the homes, living and animal barracks of the tribe. The damages and losses were counted at 37 facilities; of which approximately 14 were sheep barracks and 23 living barracks. The area of the demolished barracks ranges between 72 m² and 108 m².

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Deir Dibwan Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Deir Dibwan during the last five years as shown in Table 13.

Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Deir Dibwan during the Past 5 Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Rehabilitating and paving the main street	Infrastructure	2007	Islamic Development Bank
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2009	Municipal Fund
Paving the health center road	Infrastructure	2010	Municipal Fund
Paving Deir Dibwan/ Rammun road	Infrastructure	2011	USAID
Renovating the water network	Infrastructure	2012	Jerusalem Water Authority
Source: Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012			

Proposed Projects

Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Renewing the structural plan of the town.
2. Establishing a sewage network (approximately 25 km) to be connected to all housing units of the town in order to reduce environmental pollution.
3. Rehabilitating 10 km of internal roads of pavement, construction of sidewalks and provision of lightings, in addition to constructing another 10 km of internal roads.
4. Establishing an industrial zone to include all professional stores and workshops for blacksmiths and carpenters.
5. Rehabilitating and developing Ash Sheikh Ammar Park to become a public and an amusement park that serves all age groups in the town.
6. Supplying the town's clinic with medical equipments and hiring additional staff in order to provide appropriate medical services to residents of the town and neighboring villages on a 24 hour basis.
7. Establishing a sport, social, and cultural center with a playground.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Deir Dibwan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the Municipality Council's perspective.

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Deir Dibwan

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*		29 km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*		10 km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		2 km
4	Construction of New Water Networks		*		2 km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs		*		2 springs
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			20 km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		50 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		2 health centers
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools		*		
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools			*	
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			20 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			11,000 tons by year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

* 7km are main roads, 14km are internal roads and 8km are agricultural roads.

Source: Deir Dibwan Municipal Council, 2012

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