

Rammun 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 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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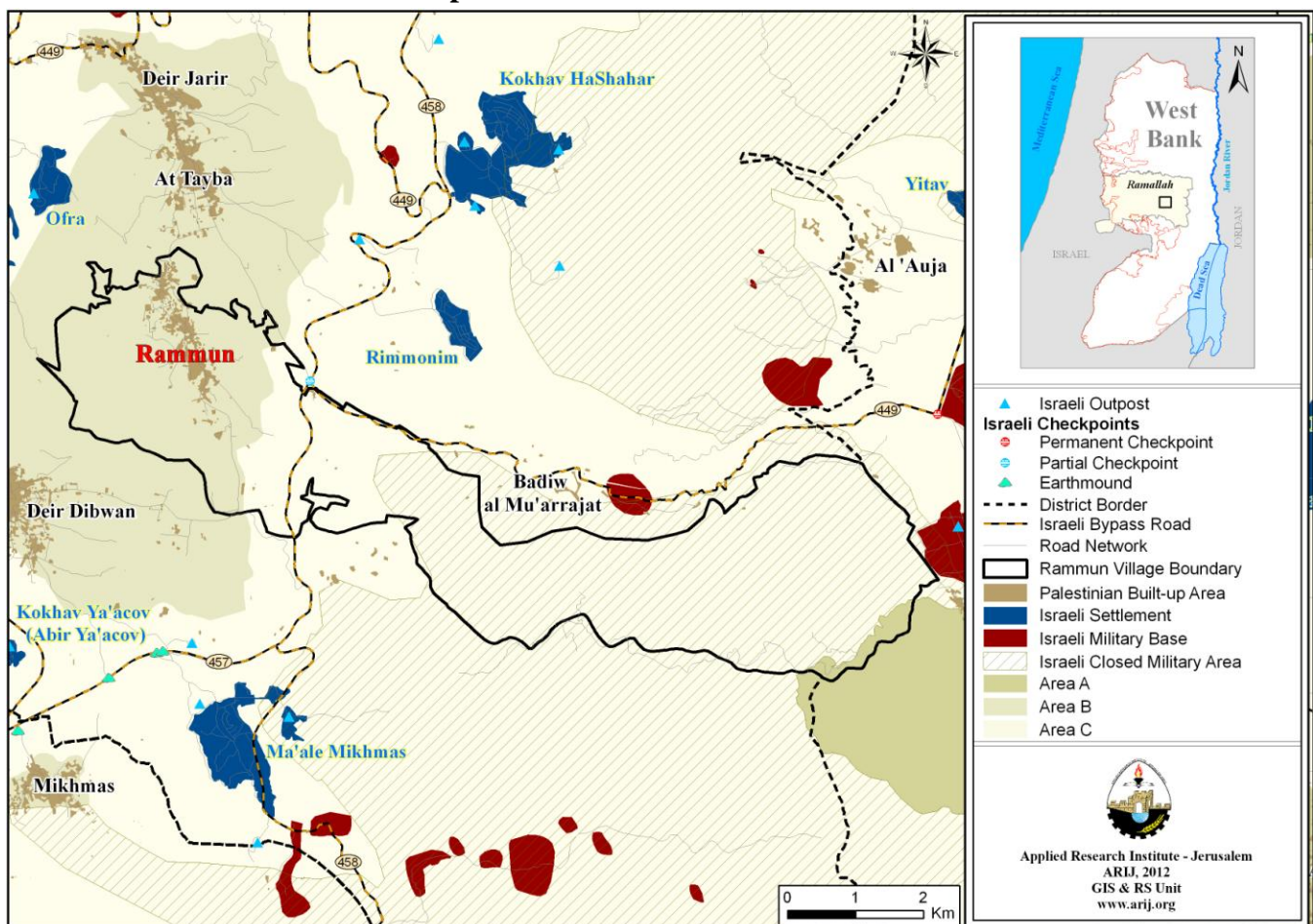
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Rammun Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Rammun is a Palestinian village in Ramallah Governorate, located 9.7km east of Ramallah City. It is bordered by ‘Ein ad Duyuk al Foqa and An Nuwei’ma territories to the east, Et Taiyiba to the north, ‘Ein Yabrud territories to the west, and by Deir Dibwan village territories to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Rammun location and borders



Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2012

The village is located at an altitude of 750 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the village is 426 mm, the average annual temperature is 17 °C and the average annual humidity is 58% (ARIJ-GIS, 2012).

A village council was established in 1958. It consists of 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority and one employee. It has a permanent headquarters which is owned by the Ministry of Waqf, and it possesses a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Rammun Village Council, 2012). The main responsibilities of the Council include:

- Implementing major projects and studies pertaining to village development.
- Waste collection, street cleaning and pavement, rehabilitation and construction of roads, and providing social services.
- Protecting governmental properties.
- Protecting archeological and historical sites in the village.
- Establishing and maintaining the drinking water network.
- Providing transportation.
- Establishing an electricity network or providing generators.

History

The village was named for its many pomegranates trees ('rumman' in the village (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

The village's original residents are believed to have been from Hejaz and Yemen (Rammun Village Council, 2012) (See photo below for Rammun village).

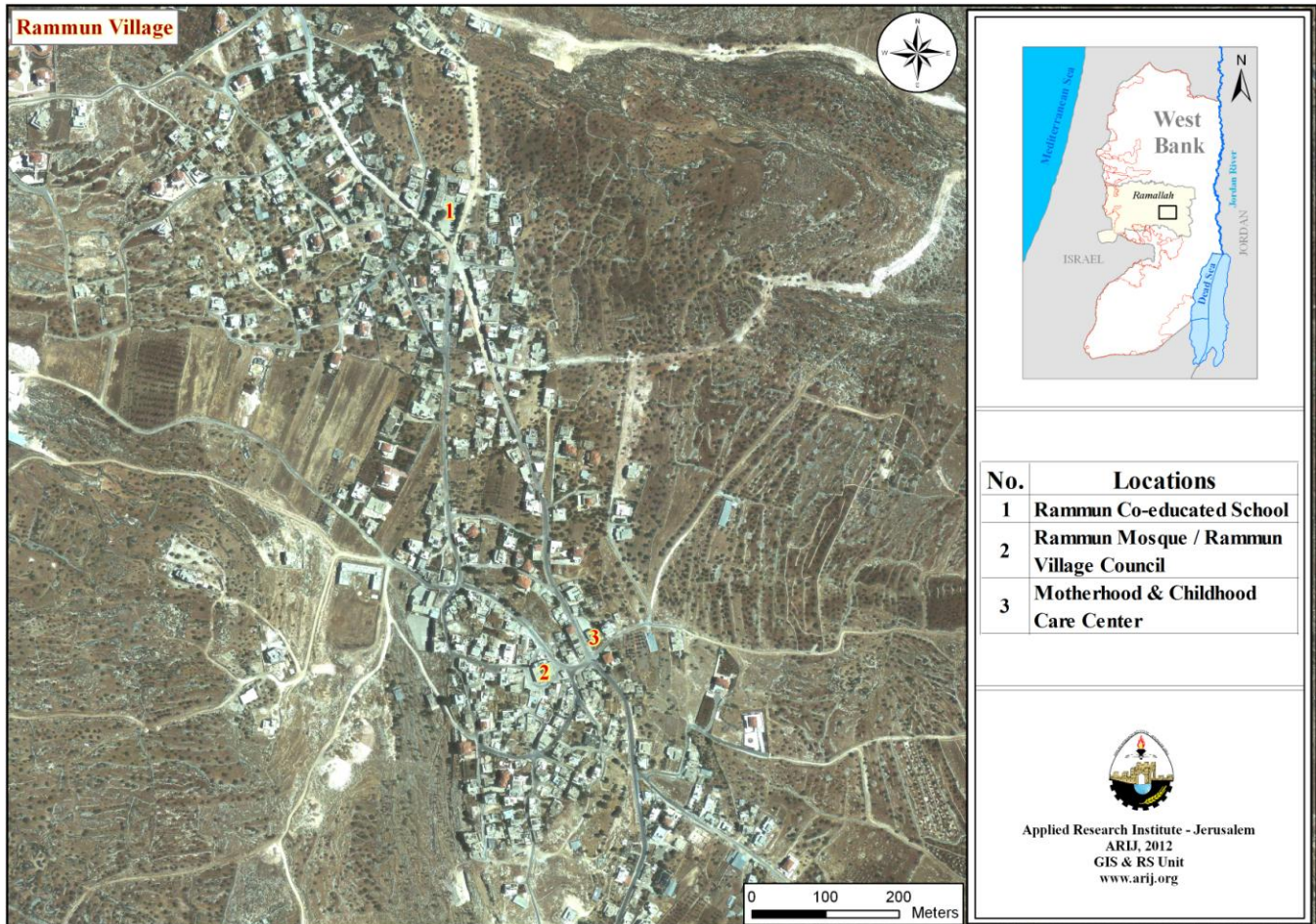
Photo of Rammun



Religious and Archaeological Sites

The village has two mosques, Abdul Rahman ben ‘Oof and Ber al Walidain Mosque. There are several sites of archaeological interest, including Ash Sheikh Rabah Shrine and Ash Sheikh Khader Shrine (Rammun Village Council, 2012), in addition to some ruins (Khirab), including Khirbet al Qusool, Khirbet al Kiliya and Khirbet Al ‘Alya (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See map 2).

Map 2: Main location in Rammun Village



Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2012

Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of Rammun was 2,469 inhabitants, of whom 1,211 were males and 1,258 were females. There were 468 households and 594 housing units in the village.

Age Group and Gender

The 2007 Census results for Rammun village showed the distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex, demonstrating that 40.9% of the total population was less than 15 years of age, 53.5% were in the 15-64 age group and 5.7% were 65 years of age or above. The sex ratio in the village was 96.3:100, meaning that males and females constituted 49% and 51 % of the population respectively.

Families

Rammun residents come from several families, including the Kahla, Thabta and Shofa families (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that around 600 persons have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 7.9% of the population were illiterate, of whom the majority were females, constituting 82.2% of this. Of the literate population, 14.3% could only read and write with no formal education, 26.2% completed elementary education, 27.9% completed preparatory education, 16.9% completed secondary education, and 6.8% had a specialized academic degree (See Table 1).

Table 1: Rammun population (10 years and above) by sex and educational statement

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read and write	Elem- entary	Prep- aratory	Secon- dary	Assoc- iate Diploma	Bache- lor	Higher Diploma	Master	Docto- rate	Not stated	Total
M	25	122	252	251	153	22	33	-	3	1	-	862
F	116	134	216	247	150	29	32	-	1	-	1	926
T	141	256	468	498	303	51	65	-	4	1	1	1,788

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

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

There are two registered governmental schools in Rammun run by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Rammun Boys High School and Rammun Girls High School. There are no kindergartens in the village (Directorate of Education – Ramallah, 2011).

In 2010/2011 there were 24 classes, 718 male and female students, and 38 teaching staff in Rammun. Classroom density was recorded at 30 students per class, and the average number of students per teacher was 19.

The education sector in Rammun suffers from some problems such as (Rammun Village Council, 2012):

1. The unqualified teaching staff.
2. The undersized classrooms.

Health Sector

Rammun has a governmental motherhood and childhood care center and a private pharmacy.

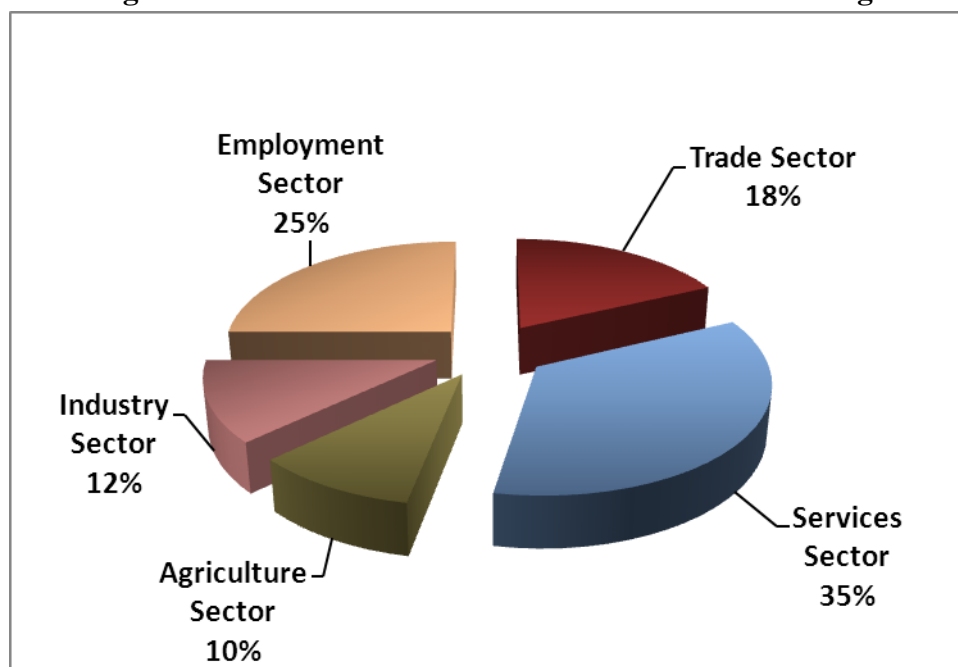
In case of emergencies, patients are transferred to Et Taiyiba Health Center in Et Taiyiba or to Al Amal Health Center in Silwad town, 0.5km and 10km in distance from the village respectively (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

The health sector in Rammun faces from some problems such as (Rammun Village Council, 2012):

1. The lack of a radiology center.
2. The lack of a medical laboratory.
3. The lack of an ambulance.

Economic Activities

The economy of Rammun Village depends on many sectors. The ARIJ field survey indicated that 35% of the Rammun labor force work in the services sector, meaning the services sector is the largest single employment destination in Rammun. The survey indicated that the second important sector is that of employment, followed by the trade sector (Figure 1).

Figure 1: the main economic activities in Rammun Village

Source: Rammun Village Council, 2012

In Rammun there are 12 grocery stores, 1 butcher's shop, 2 vegetable and fruit shops, 6 service offices, and 2 shops for occupational industries (such as carpentry, blacksmiths etc) in addition to a stone quarry (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Unemployment in Rammun reached approximately 20% in 2012 and it persists mostly amongst people depending on agricultural sector. The main reason behind the high unemployment level is the policies of the Israeli Occupation (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, 29.4% of the population was considered economically active of whom 88.6% were employed, and 70.4% of the population were non-economically active of whom 44.3% were students and 38.2% were involved in housekeeping (Table 2).

Table 2: Rammun population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active							Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total	Not stated	
M	414	23	31	468	265	-	78	39	10	392	2	862
F	52	-	6	58	292	481	76	15	2	866	2	926
T	466	23	37	526	557	481	154	54	12	1,258	4	1,788

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

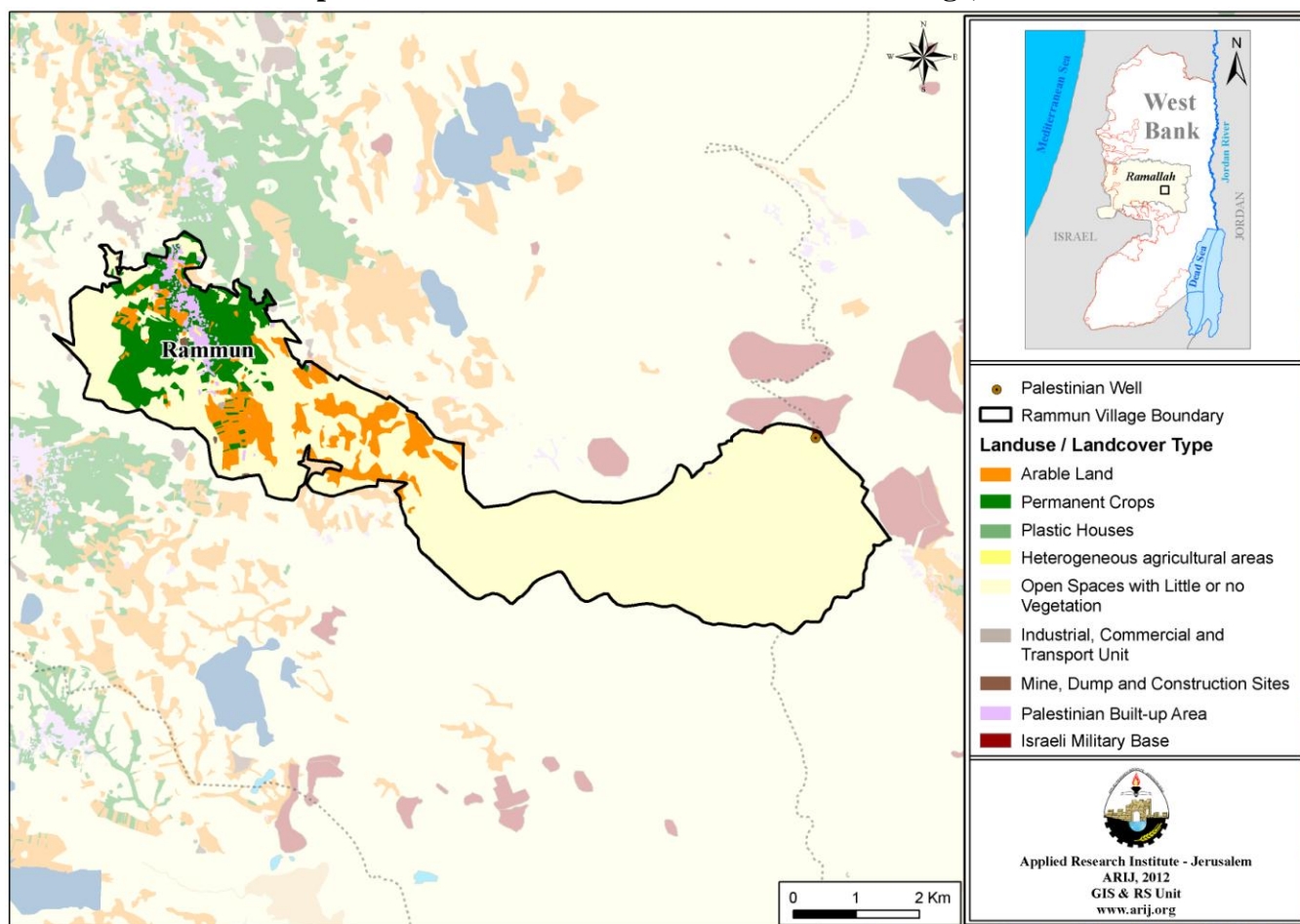
Rammun Village lies on an area of 27,342 dunums, of which 5,302 dunums are arable lands and 518 dunums are dedicated to residential services.

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Rammun village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,302)				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					
27,342	518	2,816	1	0	2,485	0	0	21,449	46	27

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use and land cover of Rammun Village, 2010



Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2012

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Rammun. Squash is the most-cultivated vegetable in Rammun.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Rammun Village (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
24	2	0	0	22	0	8	0	2	0	56	2

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Rammun Village is famous for the cultivation of olive trees and 3,304 dunums of land are planted with olives (Table 5).

Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Rammun Village (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
3,304	0	0	0	21	0	1	0	100	0	90	0	3,516	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the total area of field crops cultivated in Rammun, with cereals covering the largest area (approximately 1,150 dunums). In terms of dry legume cultivation, beans are the most cultivated.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Rammun Village (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
1,150	0	14	0	25	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	2	0	1,311	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 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 conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 2% of the residents in Rammun rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Rammun village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	1,165	810	0	0	0	0	800	0	22

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are around 26 km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Rammun Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	3
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	5
For animals only	8
Unsuitable	10

Source: Rammun Village Council, 2012

The agricultural sector in Rammun suffers from many problems, including (Rammun Village Council, 2012):

- Lack of capital.
- Lack of water resources.
- High feed prices.
- Lack of agricultural and veterinary guidance.
- Lack of cooperation with farmers by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Institutions and Services

Rammun village has no governmental institutions but has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Rammun Village Council, 2012):

- **Rammun Village Council:** Founded in 1958 by the village residents and registered in the Ministry of Local Government, with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Rammun Sports Club:** Founded in 1972 by the village's youth and registered in the Ministry of Youth & Sport, aiming to provide the young people in the village with sports, cultural and social activities.
- **Rammun Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2006.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Rammun is supplied with electricity through the network established in 1967. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company and approximately 95% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, Rammun suffers some problems in terms of electricity supply, primarily the weak electrical current due to urban expansion and increasing numbers of housing units (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

The village is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units are connected to phone lines (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Transportation Services:

8 public taxis, 22 illegal/unlicensed cars and two buses are the main means of transportation in Rammun village (Rammun Village Council, 2012). There are 10 km of main roads and 7 km of internal roads (Rammun Village Council, 2012) (See Table 9).

Table 9: Roads in Rammun village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	10	3
2. Paved but in poor condition	-	2
3. Unpaved	-	2

Water Resources:

The Jerusalem Water Authority for Ramallah and Al Bireh area provides the village with water through the public network established in 1968. This network supplies water to almost 90% of housing units in the village. In 2010 the village was supplied with approximately 97,730 m³ of water (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011), and thus the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 108 liter/capita/day. However, no resident of Rammun consumes this amount of water due to water losses during the transfer and distribution of water, which are approximately 26.5 %. Therefore, the average per capita water consumption in Rammun is 80 liters/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is low compared with the minimum amount of 100 liters/capita/day recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 10 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 10: 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:

Rammun Village lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits and endocrines for wastewater disposal (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 175 cubic meters, or 57,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 56 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits, are discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to environmental and public health (ARIJ – WERU, 2010).

Solid Waste Management:

Rammun Village Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the 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 considered sufficient for good solid waste management; only 65% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Rammun benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Village Council collects the solid waste twice a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the village dumping site, 3 km from the village, where it is buried or burnt (Rammun Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Rammun is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Rammun residents is nearly 1.7 tons, or 631 tons per year (ARIJ WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, in Rammun 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. 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 Rammun residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and endocrines 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) 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 Rammun 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 Rammun

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Rammun village was divided into areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 434 dunams (1.6% of the village’s total area) were classified as area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and Public order. While 7,370 dunams (27% of the total village area) were assigned as area B, where the PNA has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some camps. It is worth mentioning that all of the village’s population resides in area B. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 19,538 dunams (71.4% 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 Rammun – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total village area
Area A	434	1.6
Area B	7,370	27
Area C	19,538	71.4
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	27,342	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Rammun Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

There are no Israeli settlements on Rammun lands, although the Rimmonim Settlement is close to the eastern side of the village and located on the land of neighboring village Et Taiyiba. The Ofra settlement lies to the west of the village on the land of 'Ein Yabrud. Both settlements sit on a total area of 2,628 dunams and are currently inhabited by approx. 4000 Israeli settlers.

The attacks of Israeli settlers living in settlements established illegally on lands of Rammun village have had the greatest impact on Palestinians and their property. These attacks contributed much to the increased control of Palestinian lands adjacent to settlements by preventing land owners from accessing their lands. This was achieved by fencing them off with barbed wire and planting trees, thereby enhancing control over the land. Israeli settlers also carried out a series of attacks against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands located in close proximity of the aforementioned settlements.

Furthermore, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated 27 dunams in Rammun to establish a military base east of the village on the extension of its lands near Jericho & Al Aghwar Governorate. By establishing these military bases in the heart of Palestinian territory, the Israeli Occupation Forces are aiming to intensify their military presence within Palestinian land, strengthen their control over the Palestinian people and protect existing Israeli settlements.

In order to link Israeli settlements, the Israeli Government confiscated hundreds of dunams agricultural and non-agricultural land to open several bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank. In doing so, they dismember Palestinian land and enhance security control over it. Israel has also confiscated more land from Rammun and to its east for the construction of the Israeli bypass roads no. 458 and 449 which extend for more than 2.5km on the village's land. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side of the road. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total land area affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented projects

The Village Council of Rammun has implemented several development projects during the past 5 years. For more details please see Table 12.

Table 12: Implemented development projects and plans in Rammun, 2011

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Maintaining the water network	Infrastructure	2006	KFW
Constructing a school for girls	Educational	2009	Rammun Village Residents
The sewage network project	Infrastructure	2012	European Union

Source: Rammun Village Council, 2012

Proposed Projects

Rammun 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 viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Constructing a services complex to include the Village Council, Rammun Agricultural Committee, Rammun Women's Society, Rammun Sports Club and a kindergarten, as well as a meeting hall.
2. Connecting the sewerage network to the rest of the village housing units (60%).
3. Finishing construction work on Rammun Girls School.
4. Supporting the Agricultural Society and supplying it with the necessary furniture for the headquarters, in addition to a tractor with equipment (cart, water tank and plow), greenhouse, agronomist, guidance courses and technical support.
5. Constructing agricultural roads (8 km) and reclaiming about 1,000 dunums of the village lands, in addition to constructing agricultural cisterns.
6. Constructing 30 domestic cisterns to reduce the problem of water shortages.
7. Support poor families with small productivity projects such as sheep and poultry farms, beehives, greenhouses, fodder and hay.
8. Establishing a public park, an amusement park and a playground to serve all age groups in the village.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

The village suffers from a significant shortage in infrastructure and services. The following table shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the Rammun Village Council's point of view and the feedback from ARIJ's survey.

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Rammun

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			17 km*
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			2 km
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	*			3 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			0.5 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection			*	
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			*	
3	Purchasing of medical equipment and tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of new schools	*			elementary level
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			secondary level
3	Purchasing of new equipment for schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			120 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			15 cisterns
3	Construction of barracks for livestock			*	
4	Veterinary services	*			
5	Forage and hay for animals	*			90 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			22 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			4 greenhouses
8	Field crops seeds	*			
9	Plants and agricultural supplies	*			

*4 km are main roads, 5 km are sub roads and 8 km are agricultural.

Source: Rammun Village Council, 2012

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