

# Bardala village profile



**Produced by**



**The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem**

**In cooperation with**



**Funded by**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

*February, 2006*

**This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Community. The views expressed herein should not be taken, in any way, to reflect the official opinion of the European Community**

## *Table of Content*

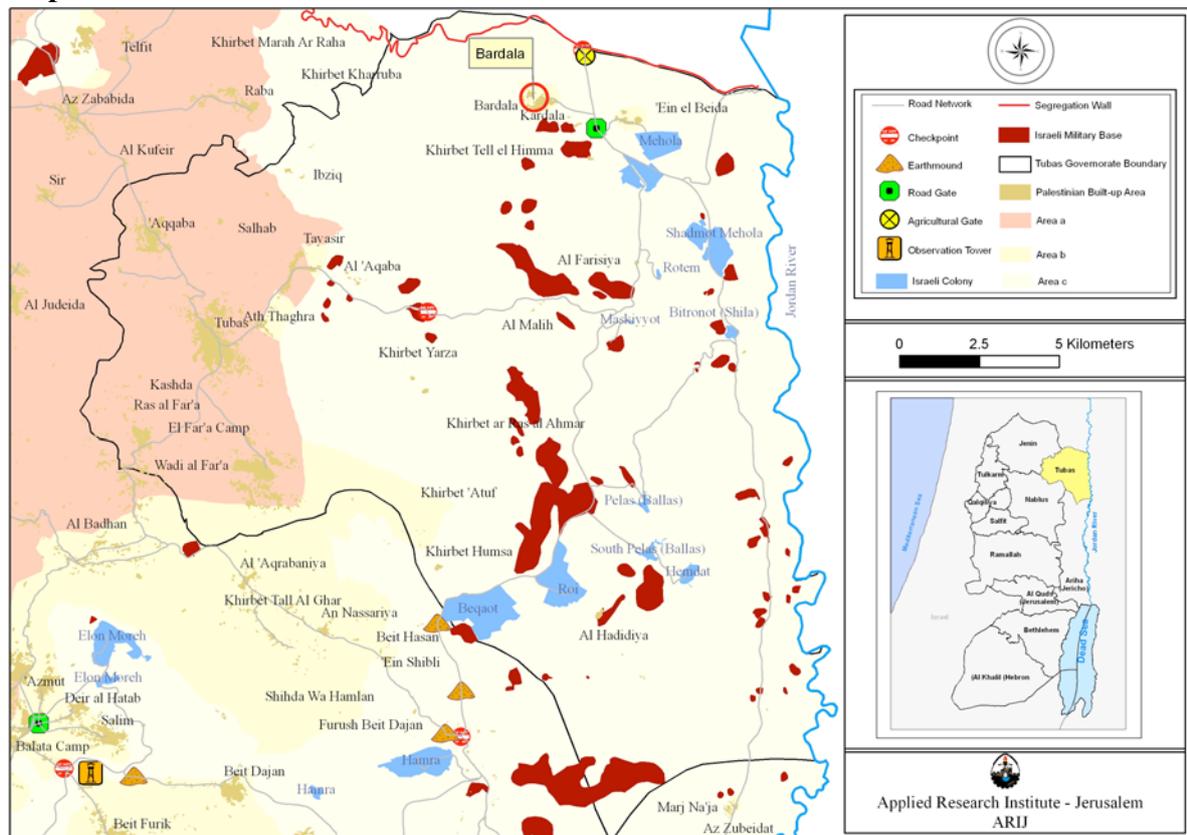
<b><u>LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</u></b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
<b><u>HISTORY</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
<b><u>DEMOGRAPHY</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
<b><u>RELIGIOS AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>
<b><u>ECONOMY</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>
<b><u>EDUCATION</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>HEALTH</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>
<b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>
<b><u>AGRICULTURE</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>
<b><u>IMPACT OF OCCUPATION PRACTICES</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>
<b><u>PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS</u></b>	<b><u>10</u></b>
<b><u>REFERENCES</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>

## *Bardala village profile*

### Location and Physical characteristics

**BARDALA** is a Palestinian village in the Tubas Governorate, located 13 km northeast of Tubas city, in the northern part of the West Bank. The village is located to the north of the Governorate of Tubas. Ein el Beida and Kardala villages bordered Bardala from the east and southeast, the Green Line and Besan Plain from the north and the Mountains of the Jordan Valley from the west and southwest.

**Map 1: Bardala location and borders**



The total area of Bardala village is 20,000 dunums, this covers approximately 4 % of the Tubas Governorate's land area. 480 dunums are classified as 'built up' area; whilst 10,000 dunums are agricultural and 400 dunums have been confiscated.

Bardala village is located on the eastern foothill of the west Jordanian Valley Mountains; it is located beside a fertile plain of land. The village is at the moderate elevation of -71 m below sea level. A warm climate is a characteristic of Bardala village, the summer is hot and dry, whilst the winter sees little rainfall. The mean annual rainfall in Bardala village is 293 mm; the average annual temperature is 21- 22 °C, and the average annual humidity is 55 % (ARIJ GIS).

Bardala village has been governed by a village council since 1996, which today comprises of 7 elected members who were elected during the 2005 local authority elections. One person

is a paid employee of the village council. The village councils operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development;
2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructure maintenance, water supply, electricity, solid waste collection.

## History

Bardala is an old historic village. The Bardala word is derived from "Bardaweel" which is a name of prince who ruled in the area in ancient times. There is a plain and a palace in the village called by his name "Bardaweel".

The evidence collected by archeologists indicates that the area was once rich in ground water and there were a lot of springs and wells and Bardala reservoir being the oldest and most a famous in the valley area. The ancient civilization in the area built upon the water resources of the area.

Bardala's residents originate from Tubas city. They were living in the area in the winter season to graze animals and cultivating the lands, the residents of the village increased in 1930s. During the 1948 war the number of residents in Bardala increased due to Israel aggression against the surrounding villages, many of which were destroy forcing the people to migrate to other places, which Bardala being on of them.

### Photography of Bardala village



## Demography and Population

In 1997, the total population of Bardala village was 1,148 people, of which 566 were males and 582 were females. There were 157 households resident in 192 housing units (1997 census).

The population of Bardala village constitutes about 3.3 % of the total population of the Tubas Governorate, which considered the governorate urban population.

### Age groups and gender

The population of Bardala village is classified by age groups. The data of the 1997 census reveals that 43.8 % are less than 15 years, 53.2 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 3 % are 65 year and above (See table 1)

Sex	Age				percent
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +	Total	
<b>Male</b>	248	297	21	566	49.3
<b>Female</b>	255	314	13	582	50.7
<b>Total</b>	503	611	34	1148	100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

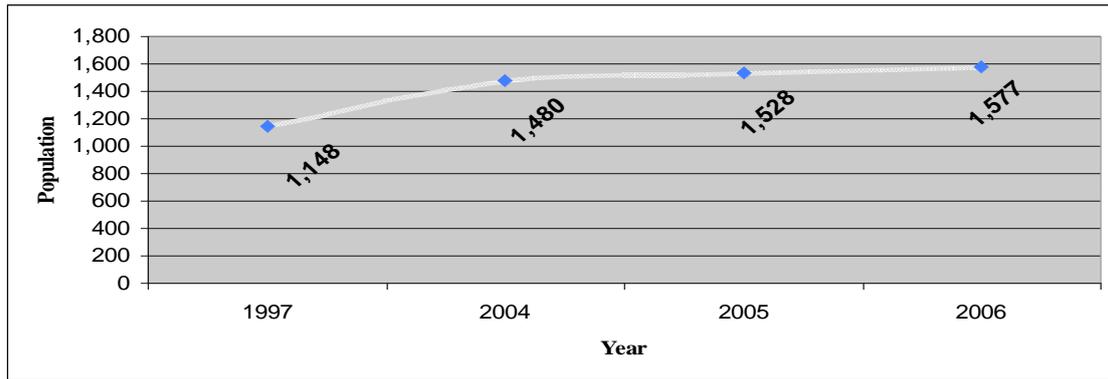
The sex ratio in the village was 97.3 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 49.3 % of the population and females constitute 50.7 %.

The estimated population of Bardala village by mid 2005 will be 1,528 and in mid 2006 will increase to 1,577. The data in table 2 indicates that the population of Bardala village grew by 24.9 % between 1997 and mid 2005 and in 2006, it will increase by 3.1 % (an increase of 49 people).

	1997 census	Mid-year population in		
		2004	2005	2006
<b>Tyasir village</b>	1,148	1,480	1,528	1,577

Source: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/populati/pop10.aspx>

**Figure 1: population growth in Bardala village**



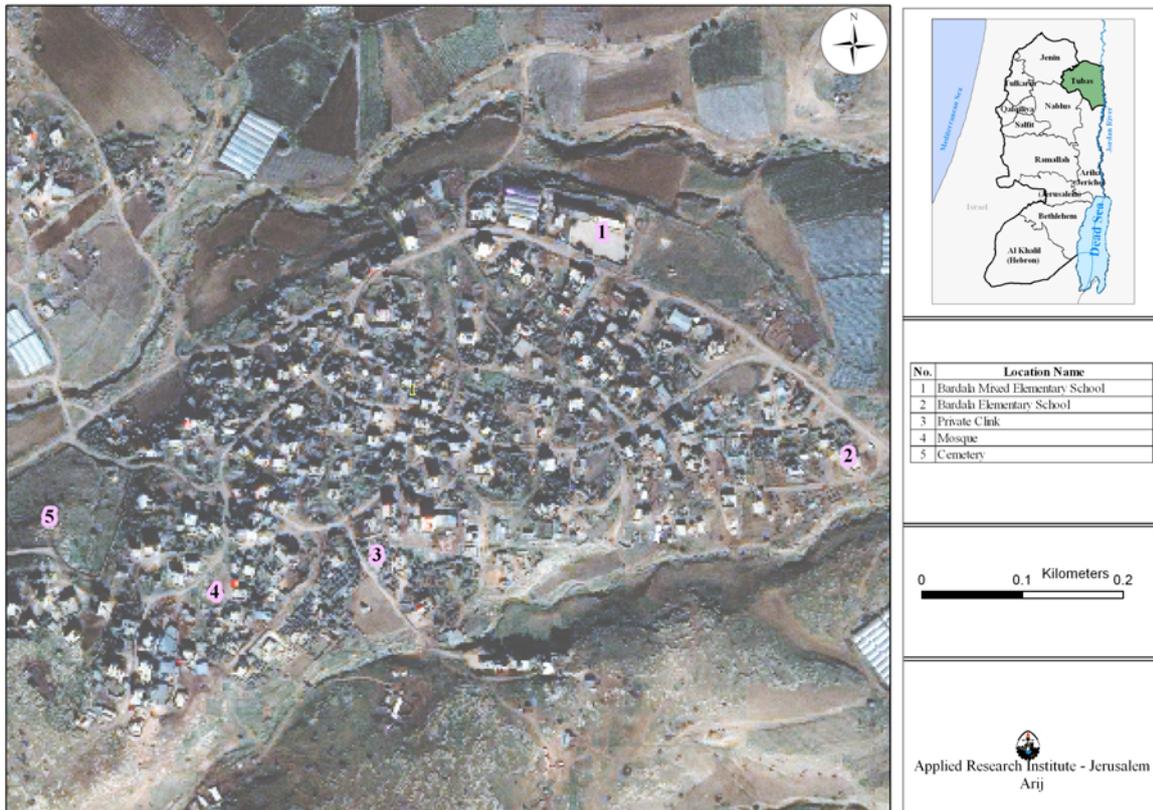
**Families:**

90 % of the residents of Bardala village are original residents, who belong to the Swafta family; the remaining 10 % are Bedouins and refugees who migrated from surrounding villages in 1948 war.

**Religious and Archeological Sites**

There is a mosque in the village called Bardala mosque. Archeological and historical evidence indicates that the village history dates back as far as 1500 BC. Coffers and graves indicate of living different civilizations in the area. The marked tourist place in the village is Al Khader Shrine, which is the oldest building in the village, and there are also a lot of ancient graves and Bardaweel palace.

**Map 2: Main locations in Bardala village**



## The Economy

Bardala boasts an almost entirely agricultural population. The village used to be a roadway for access across the river from east to west and vice versa, and it was also a rest station due to its abundant of water, plains and gardens. Of the total of 20,000 dunums of Bardala village area 10,000 dunums are arable lands; also more than 90 % of the residents are engaged in agriculture activities. Due to the dominance of agricultural activities in the village, other sectors are sharing a low percentage of the work force. So the economic base of the village is mainly farming production and dairy production. 50 household are engaged in this industry. There are 9 shops, one simple restaurant and small ceramics industries.

### Labor Force Construction

In 1997, the percentage of participants in the labor force of Bardala village was 70.1 % of the total population of the village. The participation of women was assessed to be 35.4 % (406 women in total). The labor force in Bardala village is 805 people in total; of which 47.3 % are economically active people and 52.7.8 % are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people 99.5 % are employed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housewives, who constitute 46.2 % and 37 % respectively. Table 3 shows the labor force in Bardala village.

**Table 3: Bardala Population (10 years and Over) by Sex and Employment Status**

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Empl-oyed	Currently Un-Employed	Un-Employed Never Worked	Total	Stud-ents	House -Wife	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	265	2	-	267	107	-	21	-	4	132	399
F	114	-	-	114	89	157	25	3	18	292	406
<b>T</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>805</b>

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

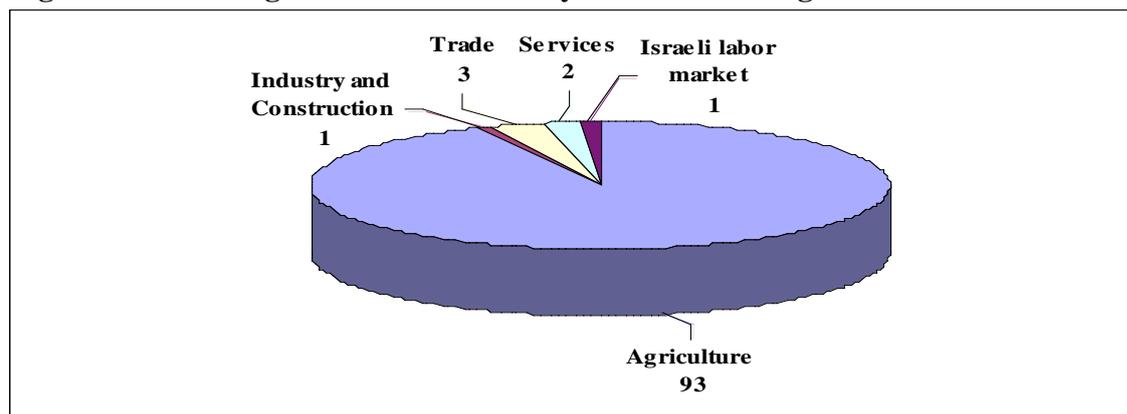
Israeli procedures against the Palestinian people since September 2000 have affected the economy of Bardala residents. In the beginning Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the residents' movements, so they can't access their lands, cultivate or harvest their crops. Farmers also cannot market their produce. A lot of areas, crops and trees have been destroyed and uprooted. As a result, the residents have lost their primary source of income and many have become unemployed.

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005 the social groups most affected by Israeli measures in Bardala village during the second Intifada are: 1) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 2) housewives and children 3) small farmers, 4) former migrant workers in the Israeli labor market.

The survey also indicates that the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 93 %,
- The industrial sector 0.5 %,
- The trade sector 3 %,
- The service sector 2 %,
- Israeli labor market 1 %.
- The construction sector 5 %.

**Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Bardala village**



The second Intifada has heavily affected the average household income in Bardala village. Prior to this, the average income stood at 1300 NIS. Today however it has declined sharply to 800 NIS. The result is that the average household income has decreased by 38.5 % in only four years.

## Education

In the 1997 census, the education status in Bardala village indicated that about 20.4 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (67.7 %) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (32.3 %). Of the literate population, 23.5 % of residents could read and write, 28.3% completed elementary education, 19.9 % completed preparatory education and 8 % completed their secondary and higher education. Table 4 shows the education status in Bardala by sex and education attainment in 1997.

**Table 4: Bardala Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment**

Sex	Illite-rate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Maa	P H D	Total
M	53	92	112	103	25	9	4	-	-	-	398
F	111	97	116	57	23	2	1	-	-	-	407
<b>T</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>805</b>

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

At the end of the 2004/2005 scholastic year there were two schools in Bardala village supervised by government, one for females and one co-education.

There is one kindergarten in Bardala village providing pre-education for 60 infants. As with other rural localities in Tubas governorate Bardala village is suffering from many problems in the education status such as:

1. Shortages in schools and classes.
2. Teachers and students facing difficulties to access their schools.
3. Israeli procedures against schools, where one school has been affected.

## Health Status

There is one health clinic in Bardala village, supervised by the government. It provides health services for two days a week and the services cover all of Bardalas residents. The village is in need of another health clinic and institutions, there are shortages in health services like:

1. There is no permanent clinic in the village which provides services on 24 hours.
2. There is no pharmacy to provide drugs and medicine.
3. There is no ambulance.
4. There is no maternity clinic.
5. Difficulties of residents to access health services outside the village - due to Israeli closures and barriers and shortage of services in neighbor villages.

## Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

Bardala is a small rural village; the residents get their most of their services from Tubas city as it is the main city in the Governorate. There are no other institutions in the village, except for the two schools and clinic.

- **Telecommunication services:** Bardala village is not connected to the telecommunication network. People rely on mobiles for their telecommunication services.
- **Water services:** Bardala has been connected for water network since 1975, the Israeli company "Mecrot" is the main provider of water resources. The paradox in Bardala village is that the the village has three water wells but due to the Israeli prevention of maintenance these wells are not working. The reason is so that Israel can provide the water. The water network provides water three days a week and Bardala has a water reservoir with 40 m<sup>3</sup>.
- **Electricity services:** Bardala has been connected to electricity network since 1996. Approximately 99 % of the households in the village are connected to the electricity network. Bardala village council manages the distribution of electricity which is supplied by Israeli Electric Cooperation.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste collection system in Bardala village. Every household disposes of their solid waste randomly in separated dumping sites.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage network in Bardala village. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater.
- **Transportation services:** There are about 11km of internal roads in Bardala village, 2 km are paved and in a good condition, 4 km are paved yet not in good condition and 5 km

are not paved at all. The only means of transportation in Bardala comprises of one bus and two taxis.

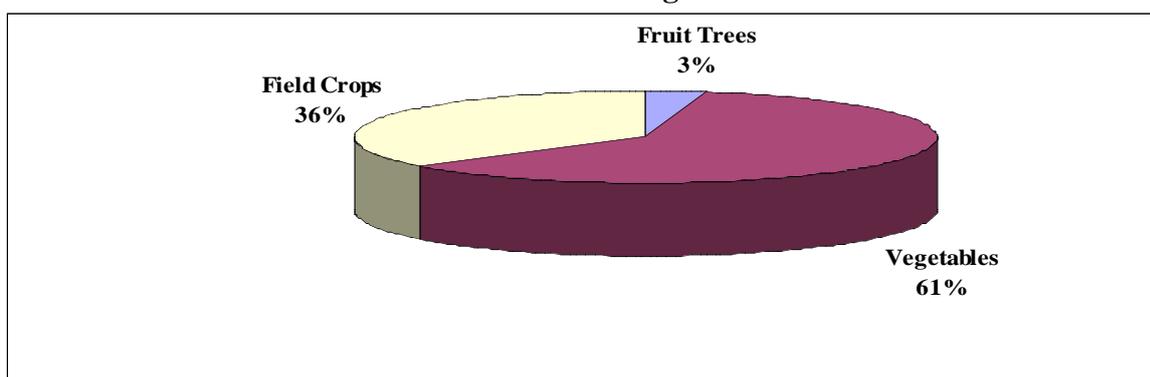
These are the many obstacles in front of the transportation of passengers in the village such as:

1. Israeli check points and barriers.
2. Deterioration of the roads.
3. Shortage of vehicles and transportation services.

## Agriculture Sector

As mentioned above 93 % of the residents of Bardala are engaged in the agricultural sector. The total arable land in Bardala village is 10,000 dunums, 5275 dunums are cultivated area. Out of the total cultivated area 108 dunums are primarily planted with fruit trees, 2045 dunums are for the cultivation of vegetables and 1200 dunumes are for the cultivation of field crops. (Ministry of Agriculture 2004)

**Figure 3: Percentage of cultivated area of fruit trees, vegetables and field crops in Bardala village.**



Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH, Bardala village produces approximately 48000 tons of vegetables and 200 tons of field crops per annum. The livestock produced 40000 of diary per annum.

### Agriculture area in Bardala



Bardala is rich in livestock, 30 % of the population is breeding local livestock. Data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicates the number of livestock in the village. There are 483 heads of cattle, 300 goats, 3410 sheep and 511 bee hives.

### Impact of Occupation Practices

The Israeli occupation is the main hindrance of the development and utilization of natural resources in Palestinian territory. Bardala is one of the Palestinian localities, which is subject to Israeli aggressions, 4000 dunums has been confiscated from the village land since the 2000. Israeli military forces constructed a check point on the eastern gate of Bardala, for which they confiscated 1.5 dunums from the village. This check point place restrictions on the residents movements, they make it difficult for people to access health services in the other localities, difficult for physicians to reach clinics and health centers, difficult for teachers and students to access their schools and universities and difficult for farmers to access their lands.

Since 2000, the Israeli occupation has bulldozed 200 dunums of vegetables crops and 2000 dunums of field crops and vegetables have been confiscated. Fifty households in the village are directly affected by Israeli procedures.

The Israeli procedures against the village are also continuing today, the Israeli Government threatened to confiscate 5000 dunums from the village land to construct a new settlement in the area and there have been many visits from the Israeli authorities conducted in the area as well as the issuing of orders to confiscate the land.

### Plans and Development Projects

Since Bardala village is suffering from a shortage of decent infrastructural services and vital projects, the village council has implemented many projects like the rehabilitation of roads, the rehabilitation of old buildings, the construction of building services, the rehabilitation of the health unit in the school, repairs to the health clinic and repairs to the water network. The strategic plan for Bardala village council includes implementing a lot of projects to develop and promote the village infrastructure and services, such as water, schools and roads. The shortage of funds and regular budgetary resources are the main obstacles to implementing the plan.

The development projects set up in the plan are listed in table 6.

**Table 6: Development plans and projects in Bardala village**

Project	Type	Budget
Built a water servitor and rehabilitation water networks	water	350,000 USD
Rehabilitation and paved internal roads	infrastructure	200,000 USD
Built new schools	education	300,000 USD
Built kindergartens	education	150,000 USD
Open agriculture roads	agriculture	100,000 USD
Rehabilitation of water cannels for irrigation	agriculture	200,000 USD

## References

1. ARIJ, 2005. Socio-economic field survey- Tubas Governorate, co-operation with Bardala village council.
2. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic, 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final result-Tubas district, first part Ramallah – Palestine.
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Tubas Office.
4. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistic and Palestinian Union of Local Authorities, 2000. Guide of Local Authorities 2000. Ramallah- Palestine.