

Umm Salamuna Village Profile



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Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Bethlehem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Bethlehem 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 Azahar Needs Assessment," the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The "Village Profiles and Azahar 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 Bethlehem Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

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 Bethlehem 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://proxy.arij.org/vprofile>.

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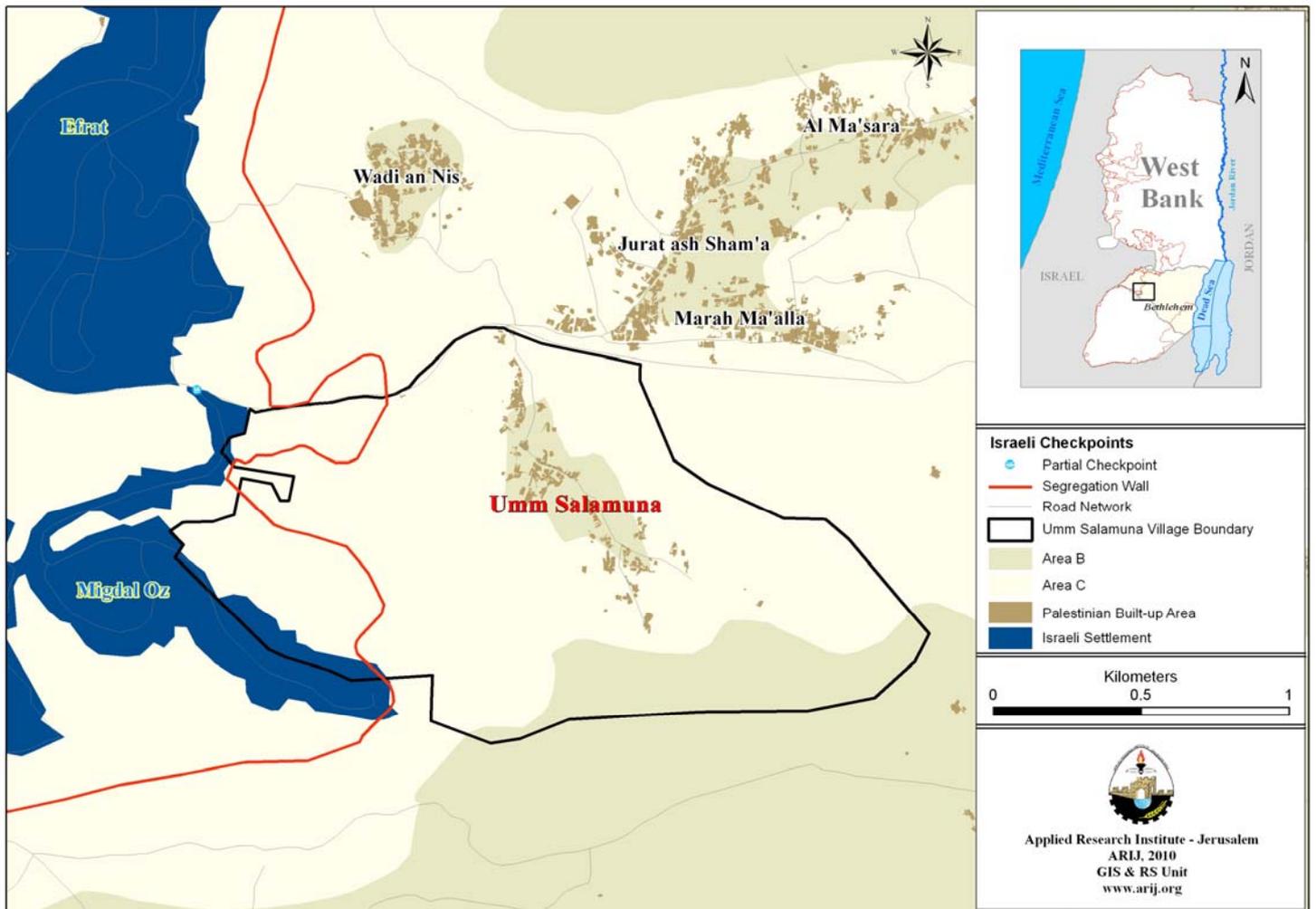
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Umm Salamuna Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Umm Salamuna is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located at 7.8km (horizontal distance) south of Bethlehem City. Umm Salamuna is bordered by Marah Rabah village to the east, Jurat Ash Sham'a village to the north, Efrat and Etzion settlements to the west, and Beit Fajjar village to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Umm Salamuna location and borders



Umm Salamuna is located at an altitude of 930m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 613mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 61 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1996, Umm Salamuna has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by seven members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also three employees working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle to collect solid waste, shared with other villages.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Umm Salamuna, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.

History

According to the 400 years old Ottoman documents, which were found in the village, Umm Salamuna is an old name. Umm Salamuna village was built on the relics of an old Roman village.

The history of the village of Umm Salamuna goes back to the year 1920AD, and the residents of Umm Salamuna are originally from Beit Fajjar village.

Photo of Umm Salamuna

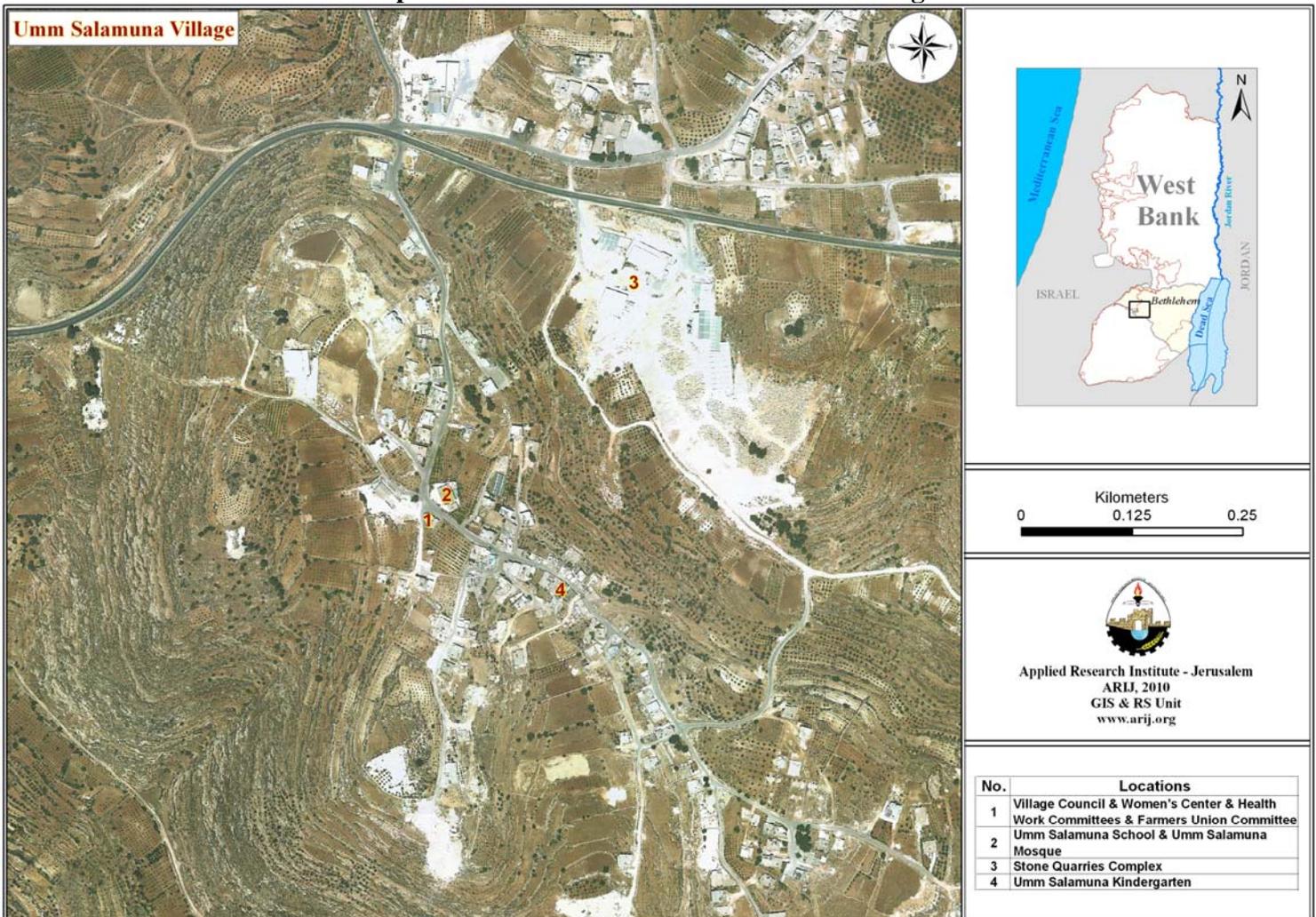


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in Umm Salamuna: Umm Salamuna Mosque.

There are no archaeological sites in the village, but it is said that Umm Salamuna was built on an archeological Roman village (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Umm Salamuna village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Umm Salamuna in 2007 was 945; of whom 475 are males and 470 are females. There are 139 households living in 144 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 Umm Salamuna is as follows: 43.6 percent are less than 15 years, 52.8 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 3.7 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 101:100, meaning that males constitute 50.3 percent of the population, and females constitute 49.7 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Umm Salamuna are composed of several families, mainly: At Takatka, which consist of two secondary families; Ash Sheikh and Hayan, in addition to several families that are considered refugees.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Umm Salamuna population is about 6.5 percent, of whom 80 percent are females. Of the literate population, 18.5 percent can read and write, 37.3 percent had elementary education, 33.5 percent had preparatory education, 8.8 percent had secondary education, and 1.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Umm Salamuna, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	8	51	122	96	28	2	5	-	-	-	312
F	32	56	94	98	23	1	3	-	-	-	307
T	40	107	216	194	51	3	8	-	-	-	619

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

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Umm Salamuna in the academic year 2008/2009, there is only one public school in the village; Umm Salamuna Mixed Elementary School, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, and no private schools.

In the village there are 159 students, 7 teachers, and 6 classes (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 23, while the average number of students per class is approximately 27. Due to the lack of secondary educational institutions in the village, some students head to Jurat Ash Sham'a schools, 2km away from the village, in order to complete their secondary education.

There is also one kindergarten in Umm Salamuna village; Umm Salamuna kindergarten, which is run by the village council and has 49 children (Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009).

Health Status

Umm Salamuna has no ambulance or health facilities, but it does have one private dental clinic.

In emergency cases, residents of Umm Salamuna use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Al Hussein Hospital, which is about 15km from the village.

Economic Activities

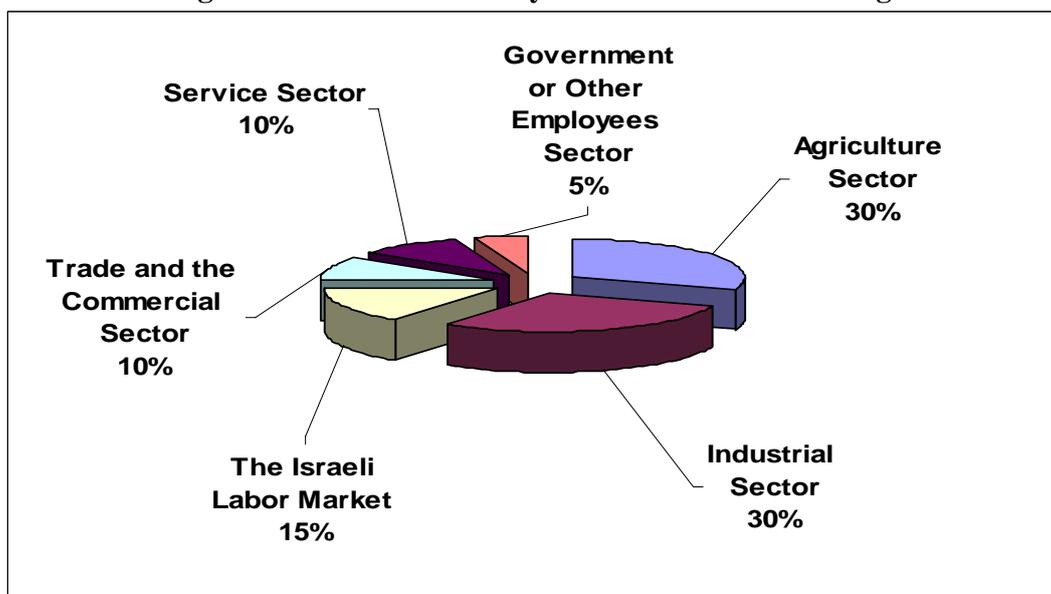
The economy in Umm Salamuna is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: agricultural and industrial activities; the agricultural sector absorbs 30 percent of the village workforce, and the industrial sector absorbs 30 percent of the village workforce too (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Umm Salamuna are the following:

- Agriculture Sector (30%)
- Industry (30%)

- Israeli Labor Market (15%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Service Sector (10%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Umm Salamuna Village



There are some economic and industrial activities in Umm Salamuna, mainly; the stone and marble manufactory, as there are 3 stone quarries in the village, in addition to 5 grocery stores, one butcher and one grocery.

As a result of the Israeli occupation and restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have become unemployed, thus forcing many to work in the service sector and agricultural activities, as a last resort for obtaining a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Umm Salamuna has reached about 20 percent, and the economical groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions were:

1. Workers in agricultural activities.
2. Workers in industry.
3. Former workers in Israel.
4. Workers in the trade sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.4 percent of Umm Salamuna labor force was economically active, of whom 86.7 percent

were employed, 69.6 percent were not economically active, 48.3 percent were students, and 41.8 percent were housekeepers (See table 2).

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	158	2	18	178	101	-	28	-	5	134	312
F	5	1	4	10	107	180	10	-	-	297	307
T	163	3	22	188	208	180	38	-	5	431	619

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

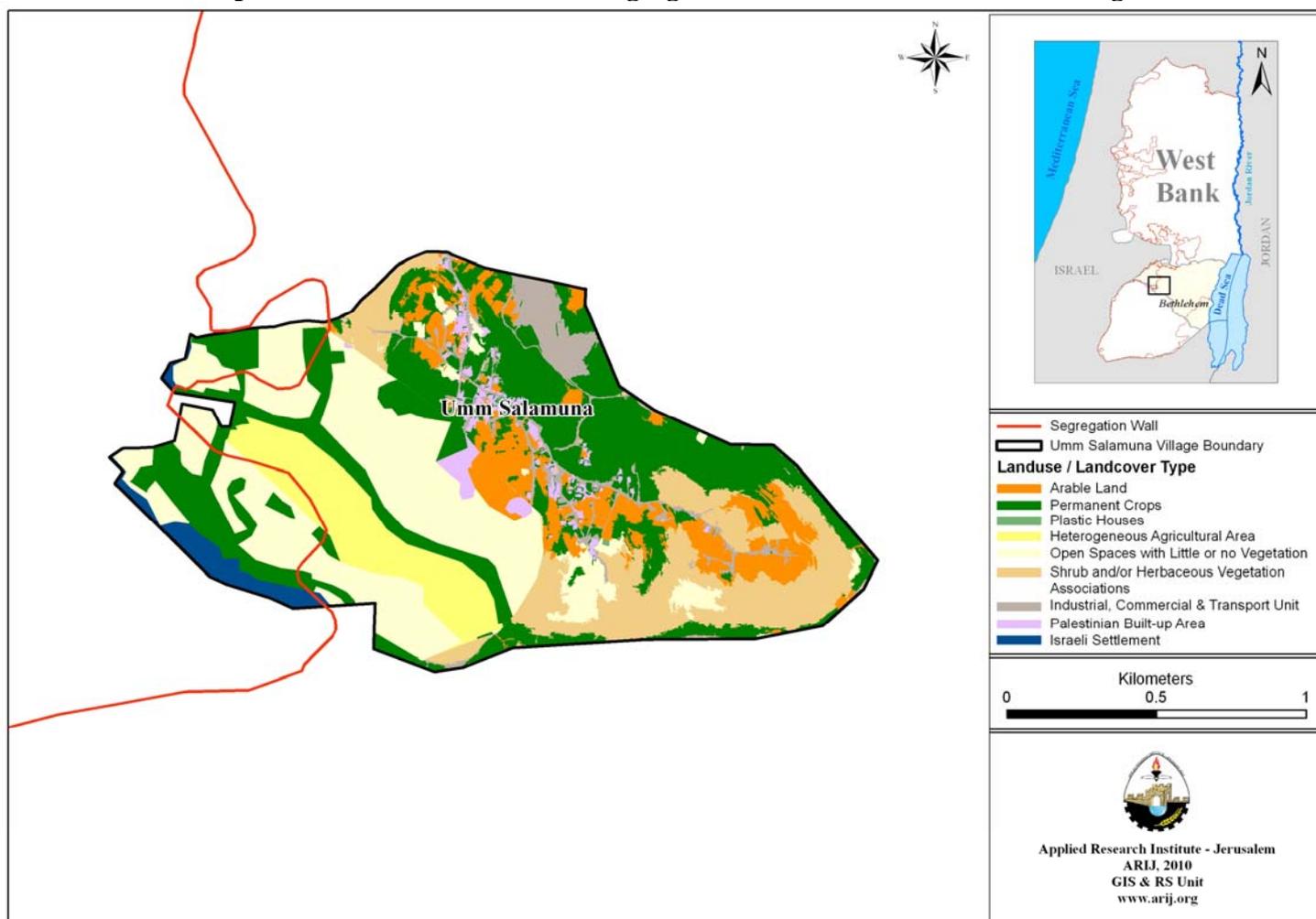
Agricultural Sector

Umm Salamuna lies on a total area of about 2,178 dunums of which 1,963 dunums are considered arable land, and 51 dunums are residential land (See table 3 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (1,963)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
2,178	51	408	679	1	0	875	114	50

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Umm Salamuna Village



Agricultural production in Umm Salamuna depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on the domestic public water network.

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Umm Salamuna. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Umm Salamuna 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.
16	12	0	4	0	1	0	1	0	5	16	23

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There is also one dunum of land on which there are greenhouses planted with cucumber.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area.

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.
310	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	34	0	352	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Umm Salamuna, cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 68 dunums, while dry legumes, such as chickpeas and lentils are the next most cultivated crop (See table 6).

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
68	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	102	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Umm Salamuna are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 7).

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	139	117	0	1	15	8	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 3 kilometers of agricultural road in the village suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery.

Institutions and Services

Umm Salamuna has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society: children, youth and women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including: (Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009)

- **Umm Salamuna 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.
- **Umm Salamuna Women's Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Interior Ministry and is interested in women's affairs and issues.
- **Cooperative Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2009 by the Labor office, aiming at developing the agricultural sector.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Umm Salamuna has been connected to a public electricity network since 1981; serviced by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 97.8 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, while the remaining units (2.2%) are dependent on private generators for electricity (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Umm Salamuna is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 13.4 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines.

Transportation Services:

Private cars and taxis are the two main means of transportation in Umm Salamuna. As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 3km of paved main roads and 3km of unpaved secondary roads (Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009).

Water Resources:

Umm Salamuna is provided with water by Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) through the public water network established in 1980, and about 100 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Umm Salamuna in 2008 was about 34,100 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 103 liters/day (PWA, 2008).

Here it should be noted that no Umm Salamuna citizen in fact consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 39 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (PWA, 2008), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Umm Salamuna is 62 liters per

day. This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, located in Umm Salamuna are 50 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009).

Sanitation:

Umm Salamuna lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as means for wastewater disposal. According to the results of Community Survey conducted by the PCBS in 2007 and the data provided from PWA, all of the housing units of Umm Salamuna (100%) use the cesspits as a major mean for wastewater disposal.

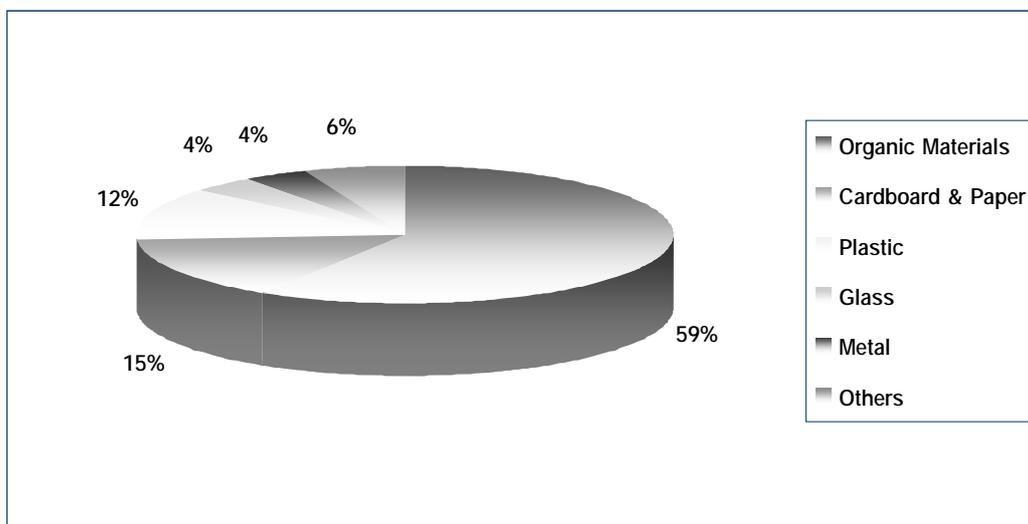
Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 47 cubic meters, or 17,108 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 50 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Service Council of the southern countryside is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in the village, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 12.5 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste. In general the solid waste management in Bethlehem governorate and in other West Bank governorates is based on the voluntary contributions of donor countries.

Most of the population in Umm Salamuna benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to containers. The Joint Service Council collects the solid waste from the containers two days a week and transports it to Dar Salah dumping site, 25km from Umm Salamuna. The common method for solid waste treatment in Dar Salah dumping site is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. It should be mentioned here that household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same landfill, with the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection. The largest volume of solid waste is household waste which makes up around 45-50 percent of total capacity of solid waste.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Umm Salamuna is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Umm Salamuna residents is nearly 640kg, or 235 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard, and then by plastic, as shown in the figure below:



Environmental Conditions:

Umm Salamuna experiences, like other villages in the governorate, several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved, these problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis:

Water is cut off for long periods of time in summer and winter in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; accordingly, supplying Palestinians communities with insufficient water quantities to cover their domestic needs
- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation.

Wastewater Management:

The absence of a public sewage network, thus the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, especially in winter because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental and health problems and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as wastewater mixes with water, making it contaminated for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the resident's health

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Umm Salamuna and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, such as the difficulty to obtain licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C, under the Israeli control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. Thus, the lack of a sanitary landfill is a hazard risk for the health, and a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it also produces bad odors and distorts the landscape. It should be noted here that a sanitary landfill is currently under construction in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

There is an absence of a system in the village and the governorate in general that separates hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Dar Salah landfill for disposal by burning.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Umm Salamuna is bordered by, Efrat and Migdal Oz settlements and the racist Segregation Wall, which Israeli began to construct in June 2002, to the west. According to Oslo agreement, 440 dunums (20.2% of the total area of the village) was classified as area B, and the remaining part of the village, 1738 dunum (79.8% of the total area) was classified as area C, which is an agricultural area that forms the main source of living for the Palestinian residents in the village (See Table 8).

Table 8: Land classification in Umm Salamuna according to Oslo II Agreement – Transition Phase (1995)

Land Classification	Area (dunum)	% of the Total Area
Area A	0	0
Area B	440	20.2
Area C	1738	79.8
Total Area	2178	100

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

Since 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have uprooted 400 olive trees, 500 grape trees, and 200 stone-fruit trees. Umm Salamuna village is also subjected to an Iron Gate and earth mounds at its entrances (Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009).

Bypass Roads in Umm Salamuna

The Israeli bypass No. 3698 cuts through the territory of Umm Salamuna village and separates the east of Bethlehem into two areas; north and south, and reaches up to bypass road No. 356, towards the north through the territories of Khallet Al Furdeis, Za'tara, Beit Ta'mir, and Al Khas and An Nu'man villages. This road links the Israeli settlements located in the east (Tekoa, Nokdim, Kfar Eldad) with the Israeli settlements located in Gosh Etzion and those inside Israel. It is worth mentioning that the settlement bypass roads that surround the eastern region of Bethlehem Governorate will isolate the region in a similar way that the racist Segregation Wall isolates other regions.

The Segregation Wall

The recent amendment of the Israeli Racial Segregation Wall plan in the West Bank, issued by the Israeli Ministry of Defense in April, 2007, showed that 1.7km of wall will be built on Umm Salamuna village territory and isolate 326 dunums (14.9 percent of the total area of the village) within the western separation area, that will be annexed to Israel through the construction of the wall, and which will include eleven Israeli settlements and seven Palestinian localities (between villages and khirab). The construction of the wall began in December, 2007 on the territory of the Umm Salamuna village, where the Israeli bulldozers razed agricultural lands cultivated with olives, almonds, figs and grape vines in order to construct the Wall. The Israeli settlers living in the neighboring settlements of Efrat and Migdal Oz also contributed in the suffering of Umm Salamuna residents as they chopped down the fruit trees in the village and caused other damages to the agricultural sector, which has become the only source of income for the villagers after they lost their jobs, following the outbreak of the second intifada in September 2000.

Umm Salamuna Crossing

In July 25, 2006, the Israeli Occupation Army issued new military order # (6/69/T) to confiscate 152 dunums from Beit Ummar village in Hebron, and the territories of Beit Fajjar, Umm Salamuna and Al Khadr villages in Bethlehem Governorate, for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall and the construction of a new crossing in

Umm Salamuna village. It is worth mentioning here that Umm Salamuna crossing is the sixth one that Israel plans to construct in Bethlehem governorate; following is a list of the six crossings:

- Al Walaja Crossing, north-west of Bethlehem city, which is still in the planning stage
- Al Khadr Crossing, west of Bethlehem city. Its construction started in 2008.
- Al Jab'a Crossing, south-west of Bethlehem city, which is still in the planning stage.
- Mazmuria Crossing, east of Bethlehem, which has been partially constructed.
- Rachel Crossing (Gilo 300), north of Bethlehem city, which was lunched in November, 2005.
- Umm Salamuna Crossing, which is planned to be constructed south of Bethlehem, is the sixth crossing that Israel plans to construct in Bethlehem governorate in order to increase their control over the movement of the Palestinians and the commercial goods to and from the governorate. Umm Salamuna crossing will be the only outlet for the Palestinian residents living north of the bypass road no. 3157 to reach the area south of this road.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Umm Salamuna village council has implemented several development projects in Umm Salamuna, during the years 2006 to 2009, as shown in Table 9.

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Women social center	Construction	2006	/
Kindergarten	Construction/Educational	2009	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Elementary school	Construction/Educational	2009	Islamic Development Bank

Source: Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009

Proposed Projects:

Umm Salamuna village council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was 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. Establishment of a Joint Service Council for the southern countryside.
2. Expansion of the south villages' structural schemes
3. Supporting agricultural production inputs, taking care of livestock, and construction of cooperative societies in the region.
4. Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns and water reservoirs.
5. Establishment of a sewage network or wastewater treatment plant.
6. Providing the area with a ground communications network.
7. Street Lighting.
8. Building the youth and women's capacities in the area.
9. Finishing Wadi an Nis playing field.
10. Construction of a park in the area.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Umm Salamuna suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 10 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, from the village council's point of view (Umm Salamuna Village Council, 2009).

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			8km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*		0.2km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		1.5km
4	Construction of New Water Networks		*		1.5km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			
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	*			
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools			*	
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			150 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			50 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*		
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*1km is a main road, 2km internal road and 5km agricultural road.

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