

Deir Samit 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 Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron 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'; a 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 Hebron 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 Hebron 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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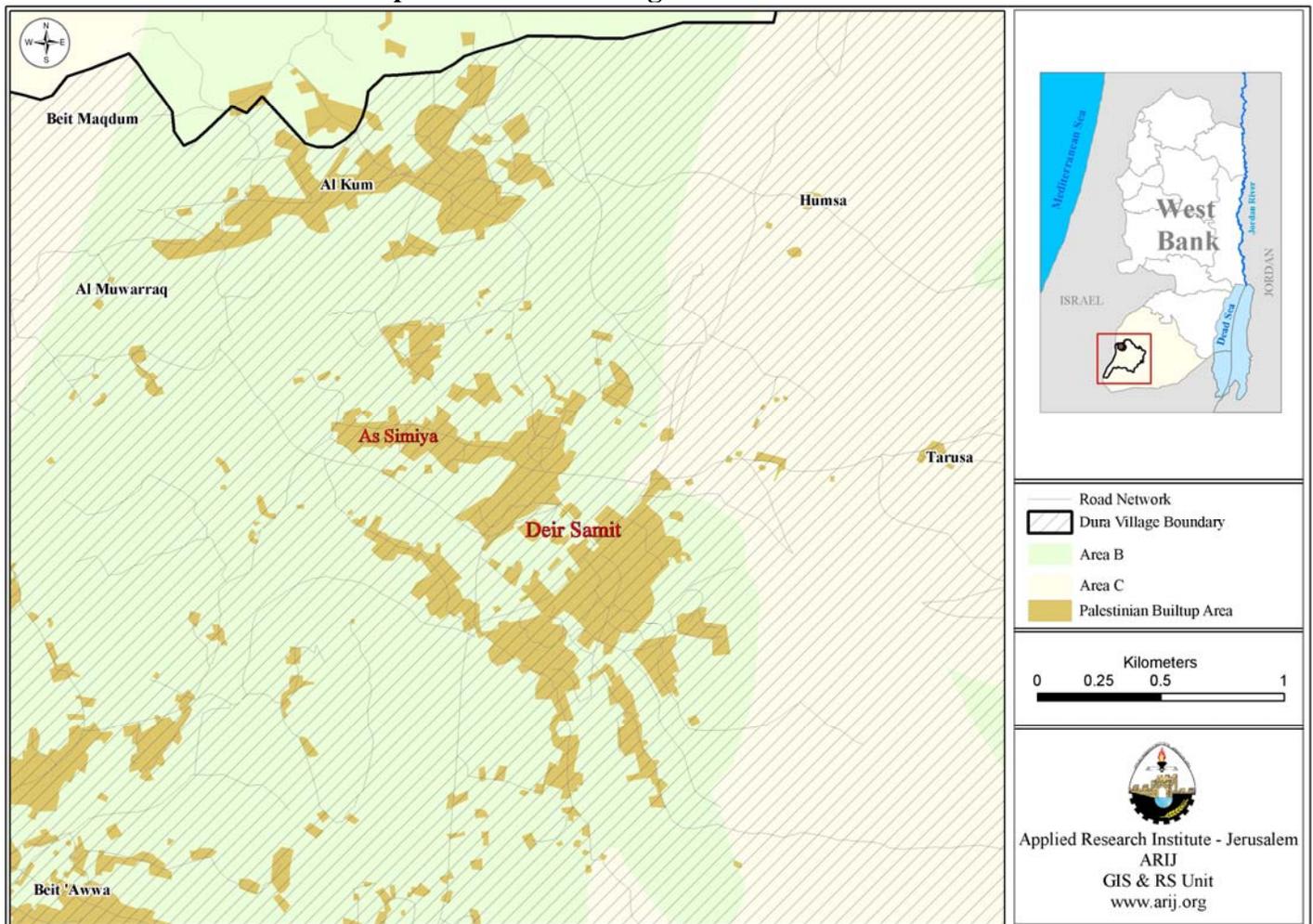
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Deir Samit Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir Samit is a village located 12 km southwest of Hebron city in the south part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Dura city to the east, Al Kum, Beit Maqdam, Al Muwarraq and Humsa villages to the north, Beit 'Awwa to the south and Green Line to the west.

Map 1: Deir Samit village location and borders



The total area of Deir Samit village is approximately 7,000 dunums. 550 dunums are classified as 'built up' area, 5,650 dunums are agricultural area, and 6,000 dunums have been confiscated by Israeli Forces since 1967.

Deir Samit village is located on the West Mountains of Hebron at a moderate elevation of 455 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Deir Samit village is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

According to Ministry of Local Authority classifications, Deir Samit comprises of Deir Samit and As Simiya villages.

Deir Samit village has been governed by a village council since 1982, which today consists of 9 elected members with 11 paid employees. The village council operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development;
2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructure maintenance water, electricity, solid waste collection, and the distribution of social services.

History

Deir Samit has a long history; its history can be traced back to the Canaanite period. The village has been occupied by the current residents for over 300 years. Deir Samit name is derived, according to one narrative from "Deir Sami". It is said that there was a Coenobite named Sami who resided in a convent in the village. The original residents of Deir Samit came from the Arab Peninsula and Alsham.

Photos of Deir Samit

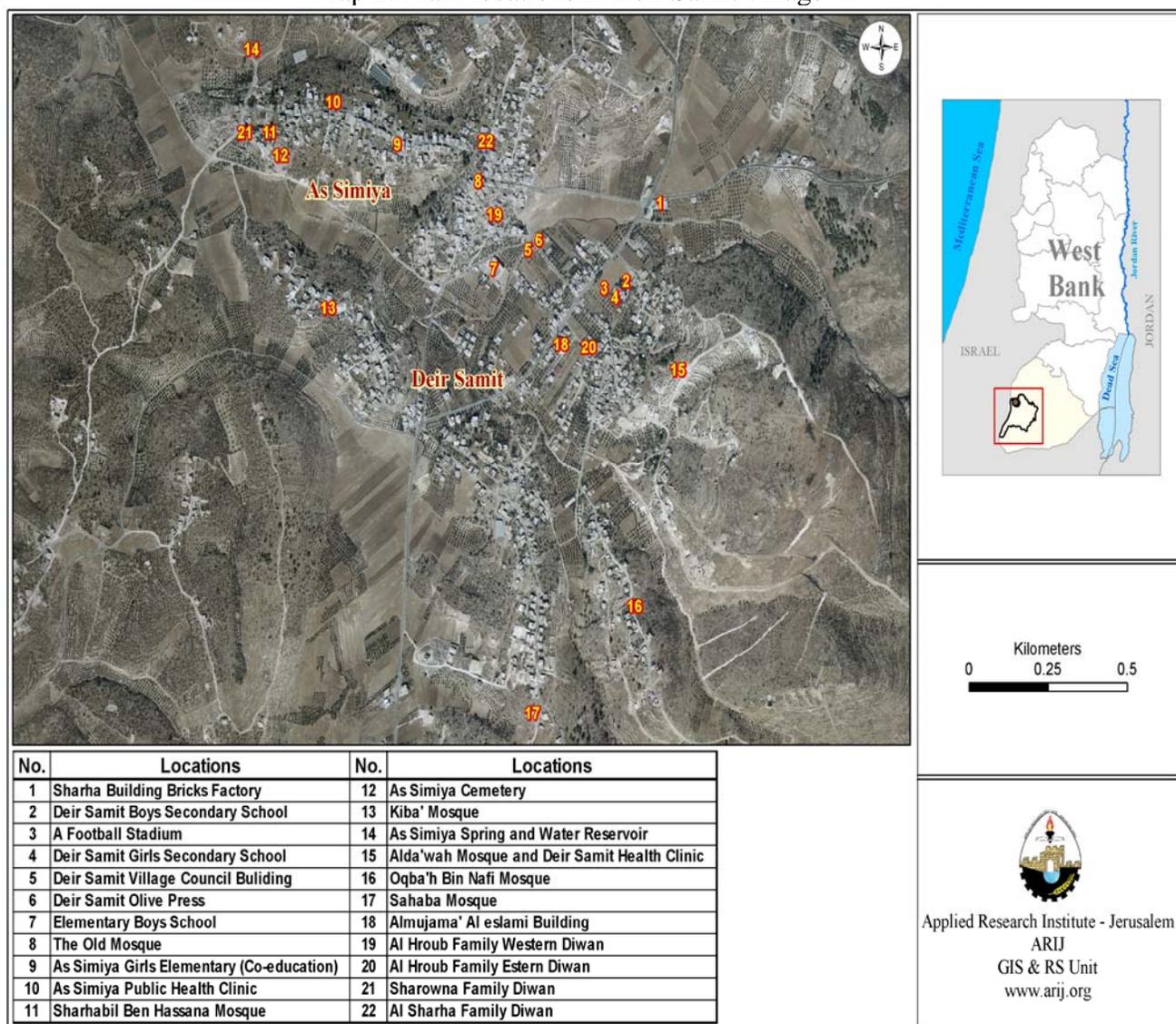


Religious and Archaeological Sites

Mosques: There are seven mosques in the village: The Old Mosque, Chrhabil Ben Hassana Mosque, Keba' Mosque, O'qbah Bin Nafih mosque, Al Sahaba Mosque, Al Ammam Al Bekharri Mosque and Ali bin Aby taleab mosque.

There are four sites in the village considered to be archaeological sites: a cave Um Alderrg, Spring Kimes, spring As Simiya and the old town.

Map 2: Main locations in Deir Samit village



Demography and Population

According to the first census implemented in Palestine in 1997 by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir Samit village was 5,338 people. 4,113 people were living in Deir Samit and 1,225 people were living in As Simiya. There were 811 households resident in 771 housing units (1997 census). Table 1 reveals the population of Deir Samit village by locality and sex in 1997.

Village	Male	Female	Total
Deir Samit	2,069	2,044	4,113
As Simiya	607	618	1,225
Total	2,676	2,662	5,338

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

The population of Deir Samit village constitutes about 1.4 % of the total population of the Hebron Governorate which is considered to be a rural area.

Age groups and gender

The 1997 census reveals the classification of population of Deir Samit village by age groups and sex. The census data showed that 54.4 % are less than 15 years of age, 43 % are aged between 15-64 and 2.6 % are aged 65 years and above (See table 2)

The sex ratio in the village was 100.5 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 50.1% of the population and females constitute 49.9%.

Sex	Age				percent
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +	Total	
Male	1518	1085	73	2676	50.1
Female	1388	1193	81	2662	49.9
Total	2906	2,278	154	5,338	100

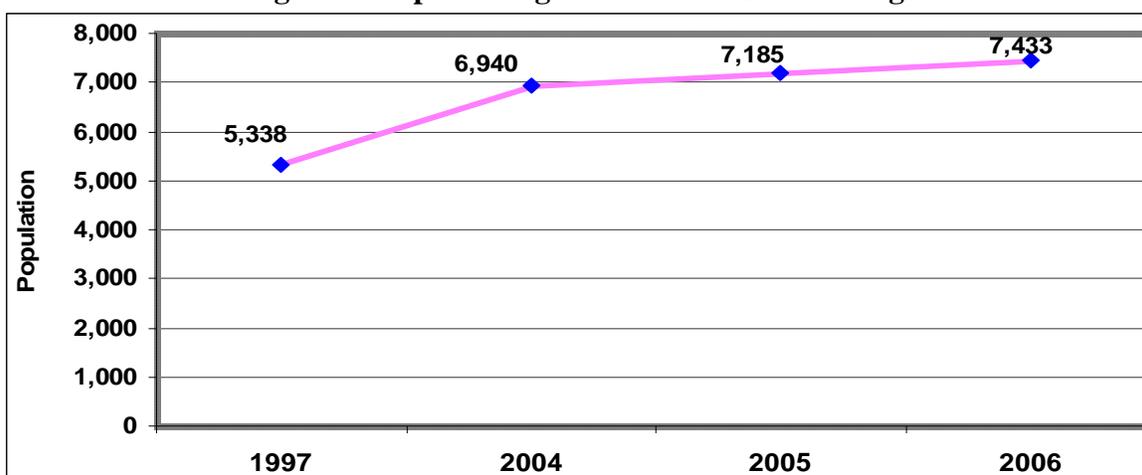
Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

Population Growth

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics estimated the population of Deir Samit village by mid 2006 to be approximately 7,433 people. The data in table 3 indicates that the population of Deir Samit village grew by 39.2 % between 1997 and mid 2006, an increase of 2,095 people over ten years.

	1997 census	Mid-year population in		
		2004	2005	2006
Deir Samit	4,113	5,348	5,537	5,728
As Simiya	1,225	1,592	1,648	1,705
Total	5,338	6,940	7,185	7,433

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

Figure 1: Population growth in Deir Samit village

Families

The residents of Deir Samit are comprised of four main families: Al _Haroub ,Al Sharowna ,Al Sharha' and Al'Awawdh family.

Education

According to 1997, census, about 16% of the residents were illiterate, with women (69.2%) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (30.8%). Of the literate population, 21% of residents could read and write, 29.5% completed elementary education, 22.3% completed preparatory education, 7% completed their secondary education and 4.2 % completed their higher education. Table 4 shows the education status in Deir Samit by sex and education attainment in 1997.

Table 4: Deir Samit population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	155	296	455	376	137	62	59	1	3	1	1,545
F	349	361	475	329	79	15	5	—	—	—	1,613
T	504	657	930	705	216	77	64	1	3	1	3,158

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

The data of field survey indicated that there are three levels of education in Deir Samit village: preschool (kindergartens), basic and secondary education. The data also reveals that there were five schools in the village, of which one school is for males, two schools for females and two co-educational schools. All the schools in Deir Samit are supervised by public sector. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 5.

School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1. Deir Samit Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2. Deir Samit Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
3. Shohadea' Dura Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
4. Deir Samit Girls Elementary Co-education School.	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
5. Deir Samit Boys Elementary Co-education School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental

The data of Ministry of Higher Education reveals that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 75 classes, 97 teachers and 2,382 Students in Deir Samit village (See table 6)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	1	0	1
	No. of class	14	0	14
	No. of Teachers	21	0	21
	No. of Students	447	0	447
Female	No. of Schools	2	0	2
	No. of class	30	0	30
	No. of Teachers	40	0	40
	No. of Students	912	0	912
Co-education	No. of Schools	2	0	2
	No. of class	31	0	31
	No. of Teachers	36	0	36
	No. of Students	1023	0	1023

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006/2007

In 2006, there were three kindergartens in Deir Samit village. These kindergartens provided pre-school education services to 220 children. Table 7 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	A Jeial Al Gad Kindergarten	2	26	2	Charity
2.	Al Jabal Al Akhder Kindergarten	2	30	2	Private
3.	Al Shaheed Ali Al Shawamreh Kindergarten	1	15	1	Private

Health Status

There are three clinics supporting the health sector in Deir Samit village. Two are governmental ran maternity clinics , that is only open part time and one is wondering general clinic supervised by Red Crescent Society also only open part time. The village has one pharmacy providing medicines to the residents.

In the cases of emergency, the residents of Deir Samit have to travel to Beit Awa health services which are about 4 km or for severe cases they have to travel 20km to Hebron city hospital.

The current main problem facing the health services in the village is that there is no clinics provide health services on full time base.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	-	-	-	-
Dental Clinic	-	-	-	-
Health Clinic	-	-	-	1
X- Ray Centre	-	-	-	-
Medical Lab	-	-	-	-
Maternity & Pediatric Center	2	-	-	-
Pharmacy	-	1	-	-
Other (Physiotherapy)	-	-	-	-
Total	2	1	-	1

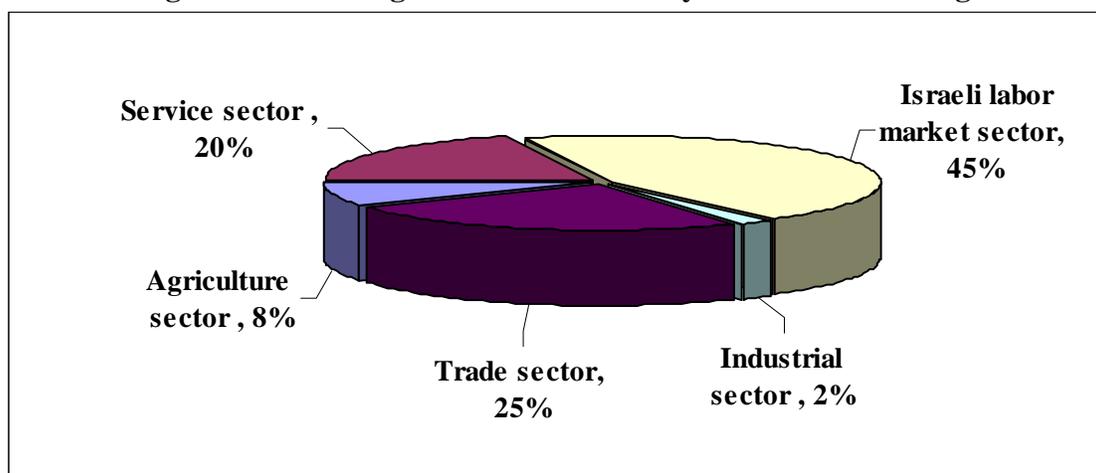
Economic Activities

Due to its location bordering the Green Line, Deir Samit's residents have been mainly dependent on the Israeli labour market and in trading since Israeli occupation of West Bank in 1967. In 2007 45% of the residents work in Israeli labour market and 25% in trading activities with Israel. However, the agriculture sector in the village has decline in last years, in 2007 merely only 8% of the total population engaged in the agricultural sector. The economy of Deir Samit also depends on employment in the public and private sector, industry and services sectors.

The survey also indicated the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy; listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 8 %,
- The service sector 2 %,
- Israeli labour market 45 %.
- The industrial sector 2%,
- The trade sector 25 %,
- The employee sector 18%,

Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Deir Samit village



The economic institutions in the village include: an Olive Press, a Brick Factory, one marble factory, two carpenters, four black smiths and number of groceries and shops.

Based on the survey conducted in November 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate localities, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Housewives and children. 2) Previous workers in the Israeli labour market, 3) small farmers, 4) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 5) small traders.

Labour Force

The 1997 census conducted a survey regarding the labor force status in Deir Samit and As Simiya. The data showed that about 59.4% of the population of Deir Samit were within the working age (10 years and above), which is considered high percentage compared with the national average of less than 45%. Out of 3,170 people within the working age, 978 people (31%) were economically active people –currently in labor force- and 2,192 people (69%) were not economically active persons –not currently in the labor force. Of the economically active people 90.2% were males and 9.8% were females. 83% of the labor force was employed in the village, 12% were unemployed and 5% were unemployed and had never worked. The largest groups of non-economically active people were found to be students and housewives, who constitute 46.5% and 42% respectively. Table 9 shows the labor force status in Deir Samit village.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Students	House-wives	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	731	111	48	890	515	—	81	49	6	651	1541
F	79	4	5	88	505	915	67	54	—	1541	1629
T	810	115	53	978	1020	915	148	103	6	2192	3170

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

Since September 2000, the Israeli procedures against Palestinian people had increased and affected the economy of Deir Samit residents, in the beginning; Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the residents' movements, meaning that they could not access the Israeli market for work and merchandise. Similarly, farmers could not market their productions. As a result, the residents have lost their primary source of income and many have become unemployed.

Agricultural Sector

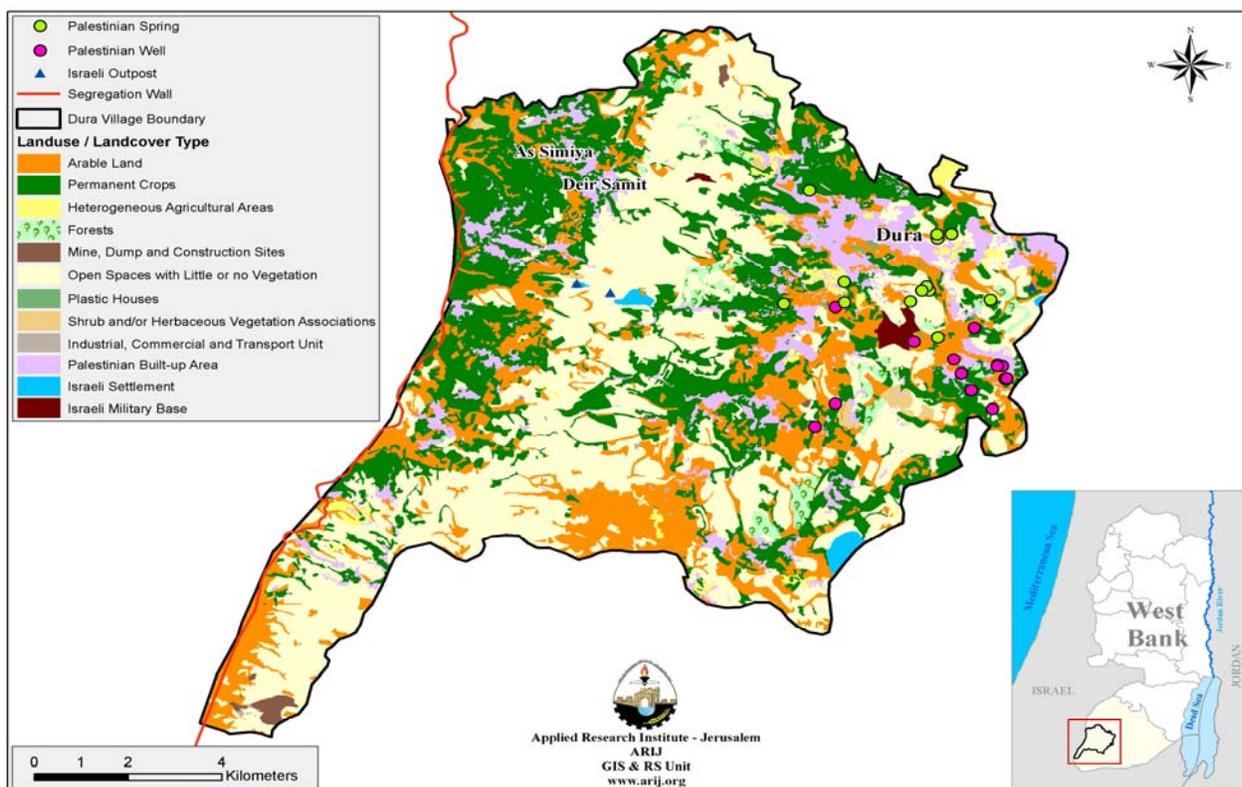
Deir Samit mostly depends on Israeli labor market and trading activities, the contribution of agriculture sector is approximately 8% of the total labor force. There are about 5,650 dunum of agriculture land in the village.

Deir Samit village lies on a total area of 7,000 dunums. 5,650 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 3,098 dunums are currently cultivated. The following tables have shown the agriculture status in Deir Samit village.

Table 10: Land Use in Deir Samit Village (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Un Cultivated Area			
7,000	3,098	2,552	550	185	200

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Deir Samit village



Plastic Houses	High Tunnels	Low Tunnels	Total
2	0	0	2

Table 12 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Deir Samit. The fruity vegetables, such as Squash, Tomato, and snake cucumber (Faqous) are the most cultivated vegetables with an area of about 34 dunums

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
34	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	5	6.5	43	6.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are three types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Deir Samit which are spread over a total area of about 4 dunums. These plants are thyme, mint and sage

In the village of Deir Samit, there is a total area of 2440 dunums olive tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area are mostly nuts trees and other fruits.

Olives		citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
2440	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	139	0	88	0	2673	3

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 14 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Deir Samit. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 225 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of Dry legumes such as Garbanzo (Humus) is also very common in the village of Deir Samit.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Seeds		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
225	0	1	0	23	0	0	0	1	0	14	0	1	0	1	0	266	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Deir Samit village are also dependent upon rearing livestock, such as sheep, goats and chicken

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
295	655	380	2	1	25	2	23800	0	176

**Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls*

Deir Samit village as mentioned above has a large area of arable land. 7,000 dunums are arable land and 8% of the residents are engaged in agriculture activities. Deir Samit is famous in planting vineyards and fruit trees. According to survey data there is about 7,000 dunum uncultivated due to Israeli procedures (confiscated and settlements), shortage of capital, shortage of water and unfeasible for agriculture.

Most of agriculture in Deir Samit is rain fed, but the field survey data indicated that the farmers also depend on the water network and cisterns in irrigated their crops.

Though there are about 11 km of agricultural roads in Deir Samit, these are only suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines. These roads are insufficient for general use. The village is in need of new roads to cover the vast agricultural area in the village.

The main agriculture problems in Deir Samit are:

1. Absence of any assistance to the village's farmers such as training and marketing.
2. Absence of protection for local production.

Institutions and Services

In order to obtain other services the residents have to travel to Hebron city, as it is the main city in the Governorate. In addition to the national institutions, Deir Samit has six societies, which are:

1. Deir Samit village council: Established in 1982. In 2005, a new council was elected consisting of 9 members. It provides public services to the residents like water, electricity, solid waste, organizing and issuing building license and other services.
2. Deir Samit Charitable Society: Established in 2005, it provides health and educational services.

Table 16 shows the number of institutions in Deir Samit by type.

	Type of institution						
	Gov.	Charitable	Women	NGO	Agriculture	Sports	Worship
Deir Samit	2	3	-	-		1	7

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Deir Samit village is connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 50% of the households currently have a telephone connection.
- **Water Services:** Deir Samit has been connected to a water network since 1982, Almost 90% of the households are connected to this network. The main source of water in the village is

provided by Israeli Water Network Company. There is also a water reservoir in the village providing water in emergency cases. This hold about 850 cubic meters of water. The cisterns are one other alternative source to water network. The village also has some springs which are used for agriculture irrigation; especially vegetables. The water services in Deir Samit are suffering from many problems. These include are:

1. The shortages of water in summer season.
 2. An old and deteriorated water network
- **Electricity Services:** Deir Samit has been connected to the electricity network since 1978. Approximately 100% of housing units in the village are connected to the electricity network. Deir Samit village council manages the distribution of electricity which is supplied by Israeli Electric Cooperation. As many localities Deir Samit is suffering from many problems in the electricity services which are:
 1. Old and deteriorated electricity network, which is in need of rehabilitation.
 2. Newly built up areas which are not connected to the electricity supply.
 3. The lack development and extension of the network to cover new areas in the village.
 4. Shortage of electricity regulators which distribute and increase the capacity of the electricity supply.
 - **Solid Waste Collection:** Solid waste management in Deir Samit is operated by the village council by cooperation with Joint Services Council. The solid waste is collected from the residential area and sent to dumping sites which owned and ran by the Joint Services Council.
 - **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Deir Samit was connected to sewage network in 2001. However, less than 50% of the village's households are currently connected with the sewage network. Therefore many households have to dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the village's groundwater.
 - **Transportation Services:** There are about 15 km internal roads in Deir Samit village, 2 km are paved and in a good condition, 7 km are paved but not in good condition and 6 km are not paved at all. The mode of transportation in Deir Samit compromises of mainly of taxis.

There are many obstacles that affect the transportation of passengers in the village such as:

1. Deterioration of the roads.
2. the wall building

Impact of Israeli Occupation

Deir Samit village is located bordering Green Line and since 1967 the village land subject to confiscation and regular destruction of land and property. During the second Intifada Israeli forces have confiscated more than 180 dunums. The Israeli authorities approved the construction of the Segregation Wall on the west side of Deir Samit, the length of the Wall which will be constructed amounted 1.2 km. The estimated area which will be confiscated for the Wall is

between 50 dunum and 180 dunums. The village council also estimated about 750 trees will be uprooted.

Development Plans and Projects

Deir Samit village Council has not implemented any project recently.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Deir Samit village council the village has suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural and services needs. Table 17 shows the development priorities in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			14 km
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*				2 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			1000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas		*			4.5 km
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network			*		
Health Needs						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*			
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools		*			
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Elementary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			
2	Building Cisterns		*			100
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			
4	Veterinary Services			*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*		
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		
7	Field Crops Seeds			*		
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		

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