Jerusalem 'Old City' Profile

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Acknowledgments

Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and city in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at http://vprofile.arij.org.

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Jerusalem "the Old City" Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Jerusalem 'Old City' is a Palestinian city and the only city in Jerusalem Governorate. It is bordered by Az Za'ayyem, El 'Eizariya and Abu Dis territories to the east, 'Isawiya and Shu'fat to the north, Western Jerusalem to the west, and Jabal al Mukabbir and Silwan & Ath Thuri to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Jerusalem "the Old City" location and borders
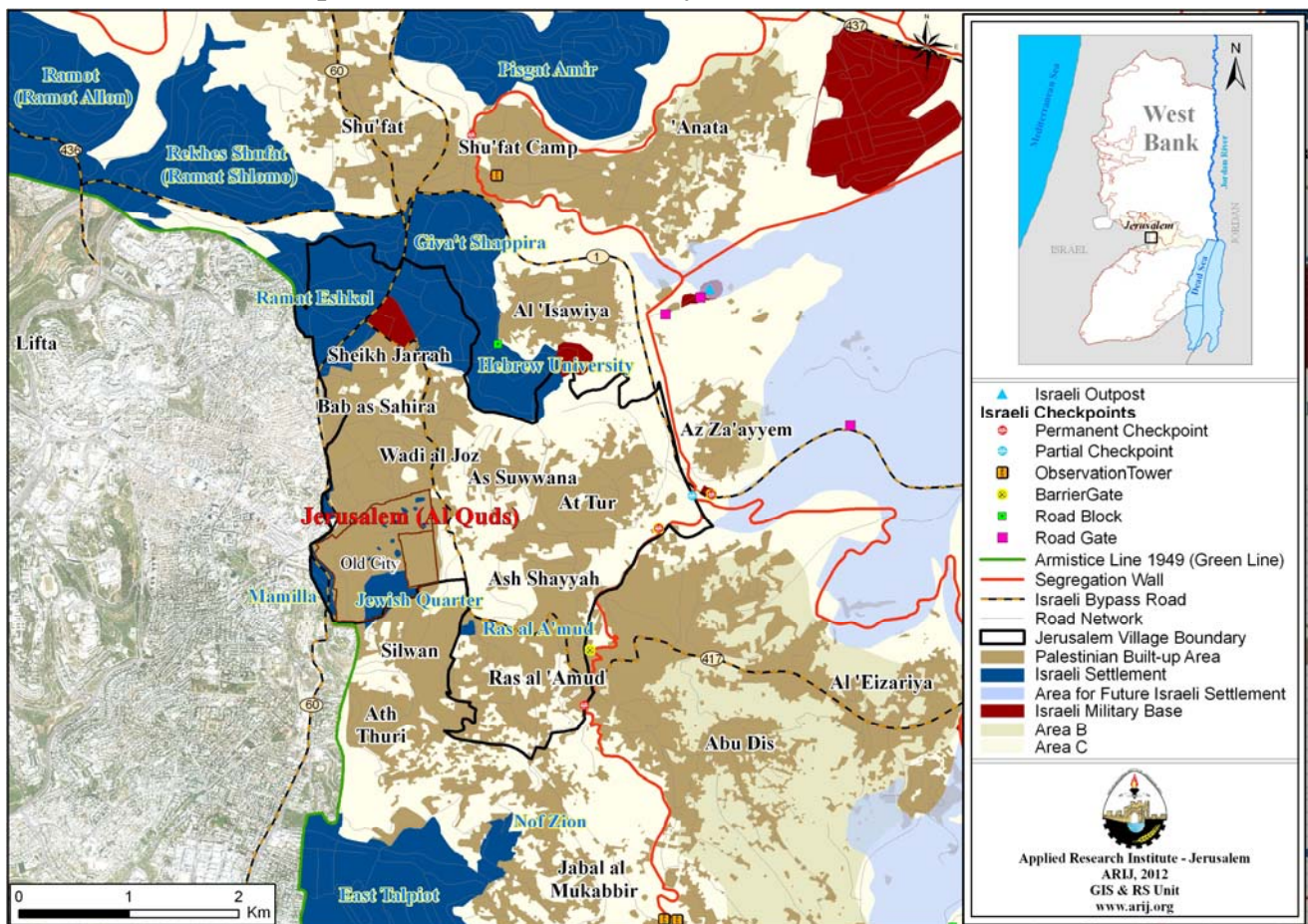
Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Jerusalem 'Old City' is located at an altitude of 745m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 422.3mm. The average annual temperature is 17 $^{\circ}$C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Jerusalem 'Old City' has several committees, including the Magistrate Clan Committee which is currently administrated by 7 members. There is also a youth committee in each neighborhood of the

city; each of these committees is administrated by 7 members but none owns a permanent headquarters, as they meet in active institution headquarters in Jerusalem city (The African Community Society, 2012).

Jerusalem 'Old City' also contains four neighborhoods: the Islamic, Christian, Armenian and Jewish Neighborhoods. It also includes some localities, namely: Ash Sheikh Jarrah, Wadi al Jozz, As Sawwanah, At Tur, Ras al 'Amood and Bab as Sahira (The African Community Society, 2012).

All services are provided by the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem (The African Community Society, 2012)

History

Jerusalem 'Old City' is the largest city in historic Palestine in terms of area, population and economic and religious importance. Jerusalem is known by other names, including Beit al Maqdis, Al Quds ash Sharif, and 'Ola al Qiblatain. The earliest recorded name of Jerusalem city is Or Salem, which appears in the Tal al 'Amarna Egyptian letters and means 'foundations of Salem'. Salem or Shalem is the Canaanite god who protects the city. Jerusalem has also been known as the City of Peace ('salam'); this name appears twice in ancient Egyptian documents from 2000 BC and 1330 BC. The city then became known as 'Jebus' after the Jebusites, descendants of the Canaanites, who built the city's castle. Historical sources have also mentioned the Jebusite king Melchizedek, referring to him as the original builder of Jebus or Jerusalem. Melchizedek was known as King of Peace, hence the city's name, and it may have been Melchizedek who named the city 'Or Salem' (City of Salem).[1]

The city was established over 5000 years ago, and its current residents are descended from residents of many different nationalities, including Turkish, Indian, Moroccan, Syrian and many others (The African Community Society, 2012) (See photo below for Jerusalem 'Old City').

Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are 12 mosques and 10 churches in the city. There are numerous sites of archaeological interest in the city, including: Al Aqsa Mosque, Dome of the Rock, Ottoman fountains (water sources), the Church of the Resurrection, hospices, Roman pools, Islamic and Turkish water wells (approximately 63 wells), and old markets. The ancient markets include Khan az Zeit, Khan al Attarin (spice dealers), the tanning market, and Al Attarin market. There are also 3 Turkish baths, the Via Dolorosa, Church of Mary Magdalene, Jaffa Gate, Herod's Gate, Lions Gate, the tomb of Mary, Montefiore mill, Damascus Gate, the castle tower and the Wailing Wall (The African Community Society, 2012).

- [1] History of old Jerusalem during the Arab Canaanite period: 1800-1000 BC.
- The Jerusalem Case - Dr.: Abdel Tawab Mustafa, a series of Islamic issues, September 2006, No. 139, the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Egypt.
- Freedman, David Noel (2000-01-01). *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*. Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing. pp. 694–95.
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Photo 1: Jerusalem 'Old City'

Population

Unfortunately, no census has been conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) to ascertain the population and housing in Jerusalem 'Old City', however, according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, the city population had reached 95,675 in 2010 (The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 2010).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team showed that around 3000 persons have left the city since the Al Aqsa (Second) Intifada in 2000 (The African Community Society, 2012).

60 houses have been confiscated during the last 10 years (The African Community Society, 2012).

Education

There are 16 governmental schools in the city run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 25 private schools and one school run by UNRWA (Directorate of Education – Jerusalem, 2011), in addition to 17 schools run by Jerusalem Municipality (The African Community Society, 2012) (See Table 1).

Table 1: Schools in Jerusalem 'Old City' by name, stage, sex and supervising authority, 2011/2012

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
The Orphans Islamic High School	Government	Male
The Orphans Islamic Elementary School (A)	Government	Male
The Orphans Elementary School (C)	Government	Male
The Orphans Islamic Elementary School (D)	Government	Male
An Nahda Islamic Elementary School (A)	Government	Female
Ar Rawda Modern Islamic School	Government	Female
the Orphans Islamic Elementary School (B)	Government	Male
A Dawha Elementary School	Government	Female
The Muslim Young Females High School	Government	Female
Al Fatat al Laji'a Elementary School (C)	Government	Female
Dar al Fatat al Laji'a High School	Government	Female
An Nahda Islamic Elementary School (B)	Government	Mixed
Al Fatat al Laji'a Elementary School (D)	Government	Mixed
Al Fatat al Laji'a Elementary School (A)	Government	Female
Al Fatat al Laji'a ash Shamila High School	Government	Female
An Nahda/ (C) Co-educated School	Government	Mixed
Dar al Awlad School – Jerusalem	Private	Male
Ash Shar'iya Girls High School	Private	Female
Al Aqsa ash Shar'iya Boys High School	Private	Male
Al Haram ash Sharif School	Private	Mixed
The Abrahamic College School	Private	Mixed
Al Huda School	Private	Mixed
Siraj al Quds School	Private	Mixed
Al Antwaniya Coptic College School	Private	Mixed
The Bishop High School	Private	Mixed
Schmidt College Girls School	Private	Female
Mar Mitri High School	Private	Mixed
Lady of Pillar School – Jerusalem	Private	Female
Terra Sancta Boys High School	Private	Mixed
Princess Basma Foundation Co-educated School	Private	Mixed
Terra Sancta - St. Joseph Sisters Girls High School - Jerusalem	Private	Female
Frères High School - Jerusalem	Private	Mixed
The Martyr Demiana Coptic College Girls School	Private	Mixed
Az Zuhoor School & Kindergarten	Private	Mixed

Mount of Olives Children School & Kindergarten	Private	Mixed
House of the Arab Child High School	Private	Female
Az Zahra' Model School	Private	Mixed
Nadi al Ansari School	Private	Mixed
Al Hidaya School	Private	Mixed
Noor al Quds School	Private	Mixed
Al Firdaws (Paradise) School	Private	Mixed
Al Quds Boys Elementary School	UNRWA	Male
Emilison Co-educated Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Mixed
At Tur Girls Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
At Tura Girls Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Ras al 'Amood Boys Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Ras al 'Amood ash Shamila Girls School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Khalil as Sakakini Girls Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Al Mailawiya Girls Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Al 'Omariya Boys Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Ar Rashidiya Boys High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Al Ma'muniya Girls High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Abd Allah Ben al Hussein Boys High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Abd Allah Ben al Hussein Girls High School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
At Tur Girls Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
The Boys (B) Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
At Tur Boys Primary (A) School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
At Tur ash Shamila Boys School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male
Ibn Khaldoon ash Shamila Boys School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male

Source: The African Community Society, 2012 & Directorate of Education – Jerusalem, 2011

There are 27,381 students and 994 classes. It should be noted here that the average number of students per class is approximately 28 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are 18 local kindergartens run by different bodies, attended by 1,761 children in total in 2012. Table 2 shows these kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 2 The Kindergartens in Jerusalem 'Old City' by name and supervising authority

Kindergarten Name	No. of Children	Supervising Authority
Al Hidaya Kindergarten	124	Private
Mount of Olives Children Kindergarten	332	Private
Al Aqsa Islamic Kindergarten	65	Islamic Civil
Az Zuhoor Kindergarten	65	Private
The Abrahamic College Kindegratten – Jeruslem	110	Islamic Civil
Al Huda Kindergarten	148	Islamic Civil
Bara'em Wadi al Jozz Kindergarten	50	Private
Terra Sancta Boys Kindergarten	30	Christian Civil
House of the Arab Child Kindergarten - Jerusalem	144	Private

St. Joseph Sisters Kindergarten	52	Christian Civil
Lady of Pillar Kindegragten - Jerusalem	25	Christian Civil
Schmidt College Kindergarten	58	Christian Civil
Princess Basma Foundation Kindegarten	134	Christian Civil
Mar Mitri Kindergarten	34	Christian Civil
Freres School Kindergarten	141	Christian Civil
The Bishop School Kindergarten	68	Christian Civil
Nadi al Ansar Jerusalem Kindergarten	63	Private
Noor al Quds Kindergarten	118	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

The educational sector in Jerusalem 'Old City' faces some obstacles, primarily (The African Community Society, 2012):

1. The residents are not allowed to construct new schools.
2. The overcrowded classrooms.
3. The lack of playgrounds for students.
4. The lack of land for the construction or expansion of schools.

Health Status

There are some health centers available in Jerusalem 'Old City'. These include 20 health centers run by the Israeli National Insurance (Patients' Fund), another 3 health centers run by an NGO, 6 private dental clinics, 2 pharmacies, an ambulance owned by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society and an ambulance owned by the David Star Society (The African Community Society, 2012).

However, the health sector in Jerusalem 'Old City' faces some obstacles, primarily (The African Community Society, 2012):

1. The lack of space for patients in hospitals.
2. Discrimination between Arab and Jewish patients.

Economic Activities

The economy in Jerusalem 'Old City' is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 40% of the workforce (The African Community Society, 2012) (See Figure1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2012 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Jerusalem 'Old City' is as follows:

- Israeli labor market (40%)
- Services sector (25%)
- Trade sector (25%)

- Government or private employees sector (10%)

Figure 1: Economic activity in Jerusalem "the Old City"
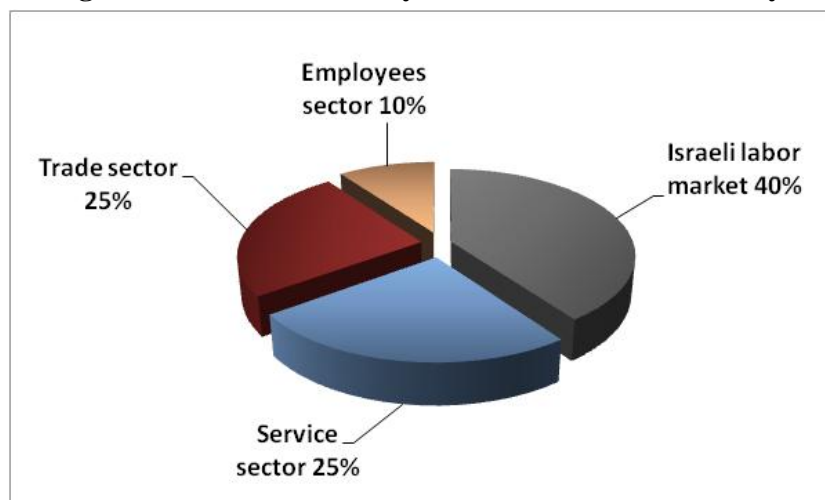
Source: The African Community Society, 2012

In terms of commercial and industrial productions in Jerusalem 'Old City' there are 700 grocery stores, 12 bakeries, 40 butcheries, 20 vegetable and fruit stores, 13 different services stores and 20 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry etc.), in addition to 2 sesame tahini presses (The African Community Society, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Jerusalem 'Old City' reached around 12% in 2012 and it was found that the social groups most affected in the city as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures are (The African Community Society, 2012):

1. Workers in the tourism sector.
2. Workers in the trade sector.
3. Workers in industry.

Agricultural Sector

Jerusalem 'Old City' has a total area of around 9,108 dunums of which 1,067 are considered 'arable' land and 4,498 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 3 and Map 2).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Jerusalem "the Old City" in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,067)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
9,108	4,498	715	0	37	315	0	215	1,269	398	1,660

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 2: Land use/land cover in Jerusalem "the Old City"
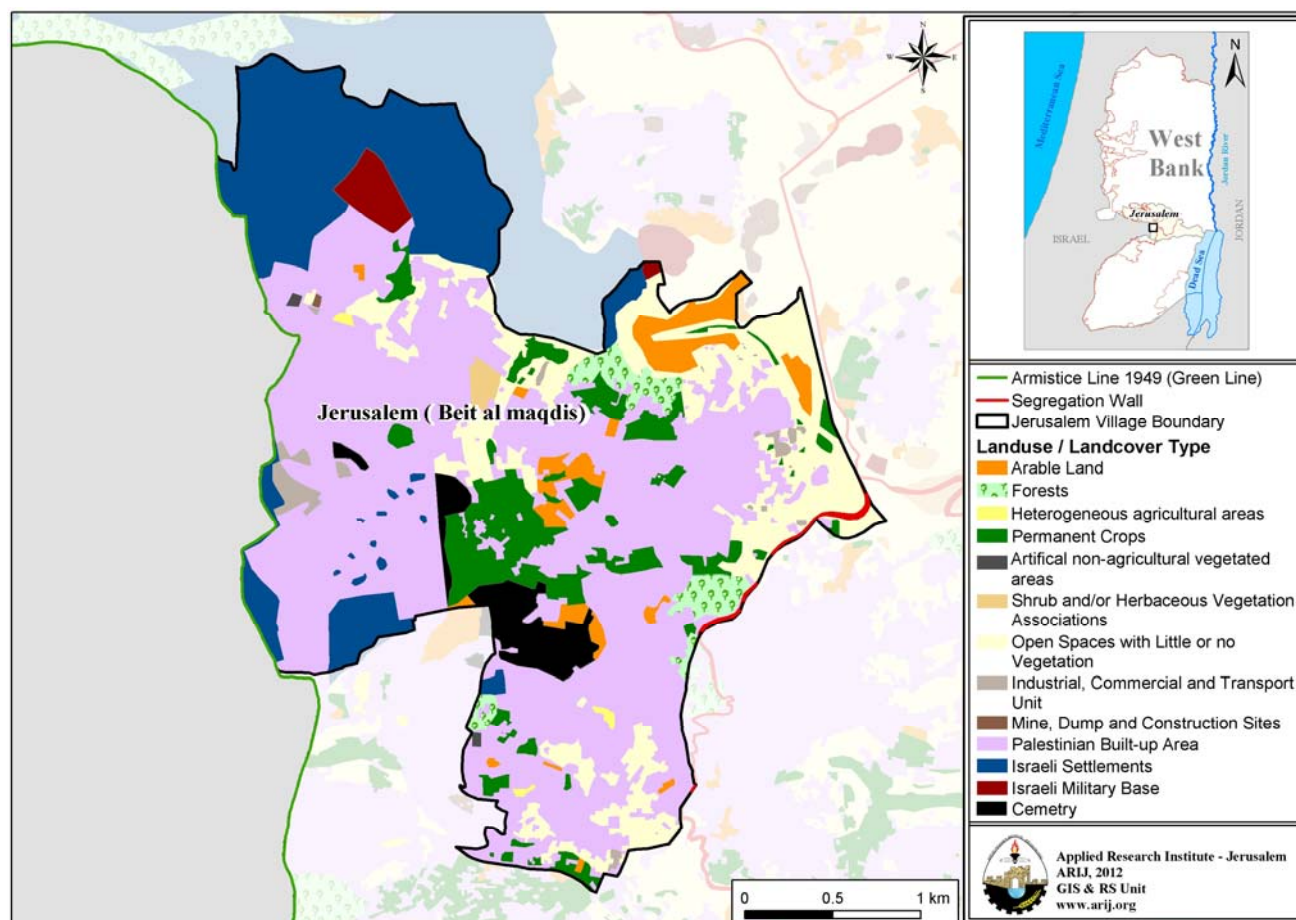
Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 4 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The city is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 38 dunums in the city cultivated with olive trees.

Table 4: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Jerusalem "the Old City"

Fruit trees	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Olives	38	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	0	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	4	0
Other fruits	2	0
Total Area	**44**	**0**

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

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 ARIJ shows that 30 families in Jerusalem 'Old City' rear and keep birds (pigeons) (The African Community Society, 2012), and that there are 20 beehives owned by residents in the city (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010)

There are no agricultural roads in the city (The African Community Society, 2012).

Institutions and Services

Jerusalem 'Old City' has very few governmental institutions. There is a police station and a few local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (The African Community Society, 2012):

- **Al Laqlaq Tower.**
- **Sons of Jerusalem Club.**
- **Sabafort Children Center.**
- **Zahret al Mada'en Society.**
- **The African Community Society.**
- **The Old City Youth Society.**
- **Saraya Center.**
- **The Arabs Catholic Group.**
- **Sons of Virgin Mary Society.**
- **The Syrian Club.**
- **The Armenian Club.**
- **Ladies of the Annunciation Society.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Jerusalem 'Old City' has been connected to a public electricity network since 1967. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the city. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the city are connected to this network (The African Community Society, 2012).

Jerusalem 'Old City' is connected to a telecommunication network through the Jerusalem Municipality and approximately 100% of the housing units within the city boundaries are connected to phone lines (The African Community Society, 2012).

Transportation Services

There are no means of transportation in Jerusalem 'Old City' (The African Community Society, 2012)

Water Resources

Jerusalem 'Old City' is provided with water by Jihon, an Israeli company, through the public water network established in 1967 and approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (The African Community Society, 2012).

Information about the quantity of water supplied monthly by Jihon to Jerusalem 'Old City' was not available. Each cubic meter of water from the network costs between 7 to 15 NIS (The African Community Society, 2012).

Sanitation

Jerusalem 'Old City' has a public sewerage network, established in 1967; almost all of the city's housing units (100%) use the sewage network as a major means for wastewater disposal (The African Community Society, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

Jerusalem Municipality is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the city. No specific fees are charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services; citizens pay the Arnona tax to Jerusalem Municipality which range from 3,000 to 10,000 NIS/ year depending on the size of household. This tax covers all services provided by Jerusalem Municipality to the city residents, including the collection of solid waste services (The African Community Society, 2012).

Most of the population in Jerusalem 'Old City' benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 130 containers, each with 1 cubic meter capacity, distributed throughout the city. Jerusalem Municipality collects the solid waste twice a week and then transports it using a waste vehicle to El 'Eizariya dumping site, where it is usually buried and sometimes burnt (The African Community Society, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Jerusalem 'Old City' is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by residents is nearly 100 tons, or 36,667 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Jerusalem 'Old City' Committee has not implemented any development projects (The African Community Society, 2012).

Proposed Projects

Jerusalem 'Old City' Development Committee, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the city and the city 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 city. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Restoring all houses in the Old City (around 1500 houses).
2. Establishing home gardens on rooftops.
3. Providing new containers (500 liters capacity).

City Development Priorities and Needs

Jerusalem 'Old City' suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 5 shows the development priorities and needs in the city according to the Development Committee's feedback (The African Community Society, 2012).

Table 5: Development priorities and needs in Jerusalem "the Old City"

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			15km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
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			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			100 containers (500 liters capacity)
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	*			computer devices
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting 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			*	

*15km are sub roads.
Source: The African Community Society, 2012

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