

# Burqa Village Profile



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## Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets were published as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" project which was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" project was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions of the villages, and the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions in the Nablus 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 Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability, with a focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles are in Arabic and English, and are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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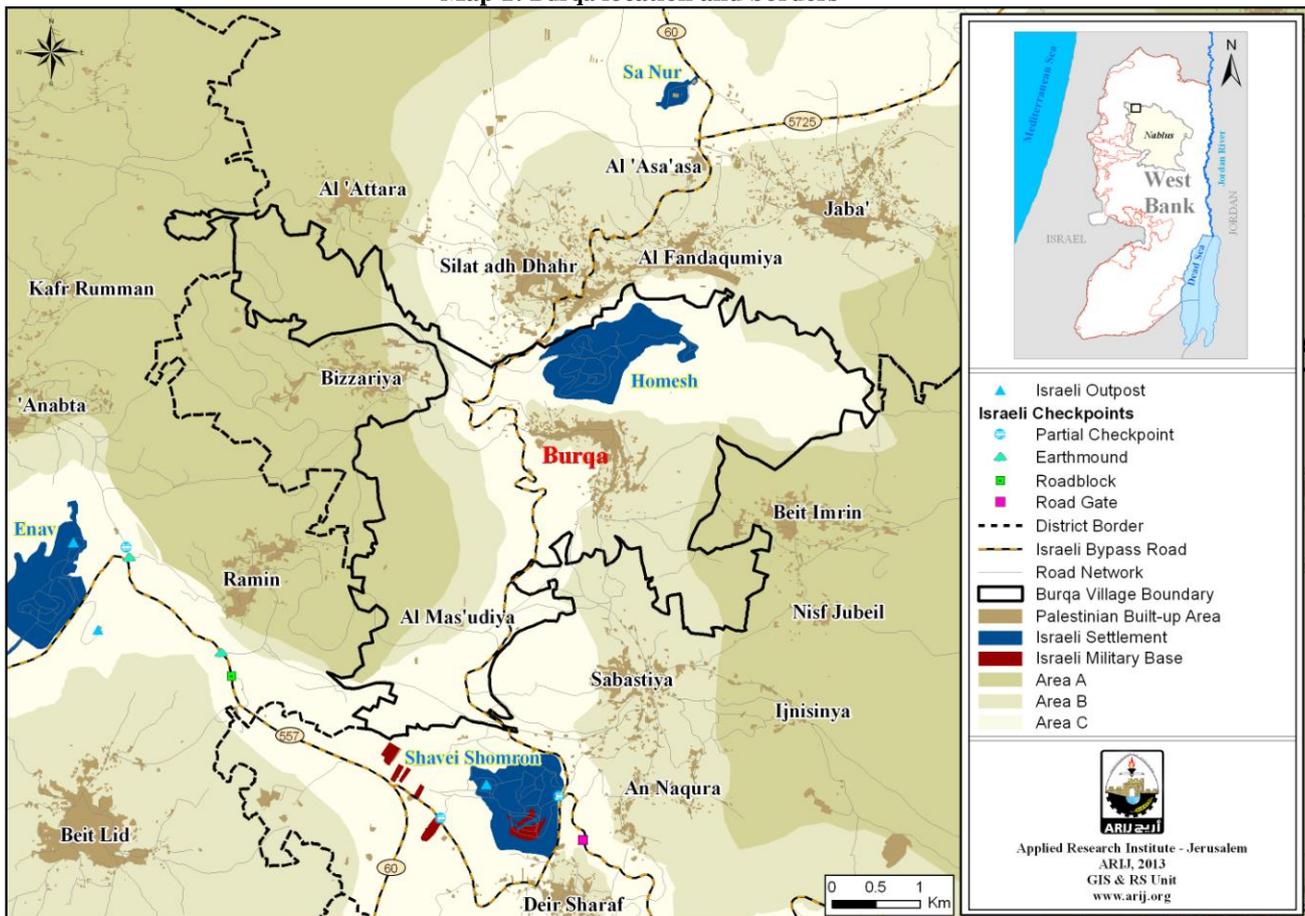
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# Burqa Village Profile

## Location and physical characteristics

Burqa is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 10.7 km northwest of Nablus City. It is bordered by Beit Imrin and Nisf Jubeil to the east, Jaba', Al Fandaqumiya, Silat Adh Dhahar, and Al 'Attara (Jenin Governorate) to the north, 'Anabta, Bizzariya and Ramin to the west, and Deir Sharaf and Sabastiya village to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (see map 1).

Map 1: Burqa location and borders



Burqa is located at an altitude of 473m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 544.07mm. The average annual temperature is 17°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Burqa village consists of approximately 18.174 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which was stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of local government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the demographic

variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent the space and the borders of private property in the district. It is also not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1963, Burqa has been governed by a Village Council which currently comprises of 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 9 employees working for the council. The council owns permanent headquarters which is included within the Southwest Joint Services Council. The Council also owns a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Burqa, including

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water.
- Street cleaning, waste collection, road rehabilitation, construction, paving and social services.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Organization of transportation.
- Provision of educational kindergartens.

(Burqa Village Council, 2013)

## History

Burqa village was named after its blighting gemstones (Shiny stones).

The village was established more than 1000 years ago, its residents lived there concentrated around the water springs. The village residents originally came from Yemen and Al Hijaz. (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

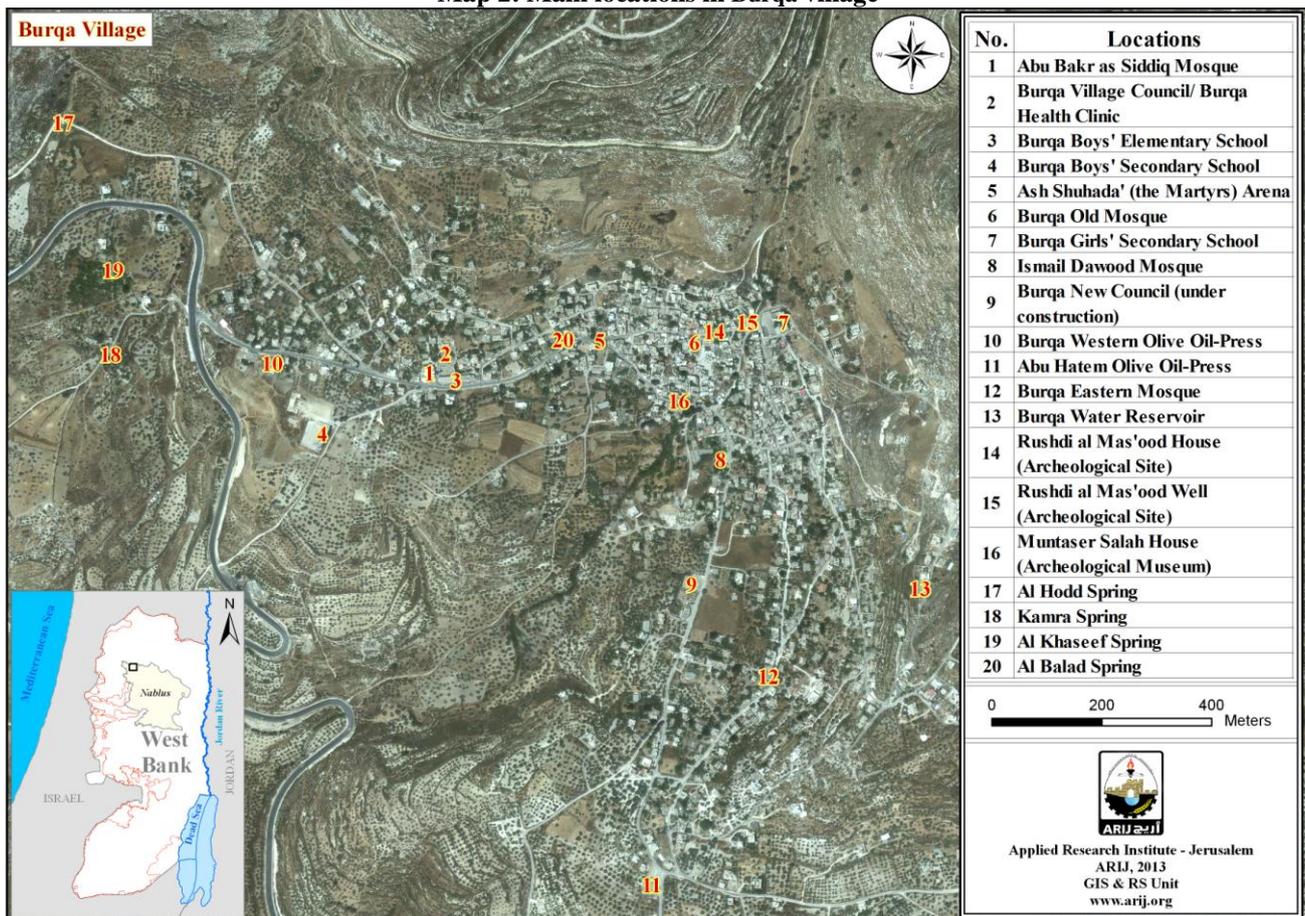
**Photo of Burqa**



## Religious and archaeological sites

There are four mosques in the village: Burqa Great Mosques, The Western Mosque, Abu bakr al siddiq Mosque, and Ahmed Ismail Mosque. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including Bayazid tomb which contains a water well, Al Qubeibat tomb, and Al Mas'oudieh site. None of these sites are suitable for tourism except for the Al Mas'oudieh site, parts of which have been repaired to make it suitable for tourism (Burqa Village Council, 2013) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Burqa village



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Burqa in 2007 was 3.615, of whom 1.846 were male and 1.769 female. There were 733 households registered as living in 925 housing units.

### Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Burqa was as follows: 38% were less than 15 years of age, 56.4% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 5.5% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 100:104.4, meaning that males and females constituted 51.1% and 48.9% of the population, respectively.

## Families

Burqa residents are from several families, including Al Hajjah, Daghlas, Salah, Abu Omar and Saif families (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, the illiteracy rate among the population of Burqa is approximately 5.7%, of whom 90.1% are females. Of the total population, 10.7% could only read and write with no formal education, 22.2% had elementary education, 32% had preparatory education, 17.7% had secondary education, and 11.6% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Burqa by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Burqa population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	15	140	325	442	256	84	87	0	11	4	0	1,364
F	138	147	271	416	218	49	76	0	0	0	1	1,316
<b>T</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,680</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are three public schools in the village, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 2).

**Table 2: Schools in Burqa by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)**

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Burqa Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Burqa Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Burqa Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

There are 1,065 students, 67 teachers, and 41 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16 whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 26 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are three kindergartens in Burqa village all of which are run by a different private organization (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 3 below).

**Table 3: Kindergartens in Burqa village by name and supervising authority**

Name of kindergarten	No. of classes	No. of teachers	Supervising authority
Al Ishraq Kindergarten	1	2	Private
Sanabil Al Amal Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Al Nasa'em Kindergarten	2	2	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

Due to the lack of a commercial stream in the village schools, students enroll at Sabastiya Secondary School which is located 3 km away from Burqa. (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

Burqa Boys' Secondary School students face continuous harassment by the Israeli military forces (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Burqa village faces a number of obstacles, mainly a lack of classrooms and overcrowding (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

## Health status

Burqa has some health facilities, Burqa governmental health clinic (Burqa Health Clinic), a charitable health clinic run by the alms committee, a private dentist clinic, and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidia Governmental Hospital, the National Governmental Hospital, and the private clinics in Nablus City (18km away respectively) (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of a resident physician working on a daily basis in the health center.
- The lack of an emergency center for emergency cases
- The lack of an ambulance.  
(Burqa Village Council, 2013)

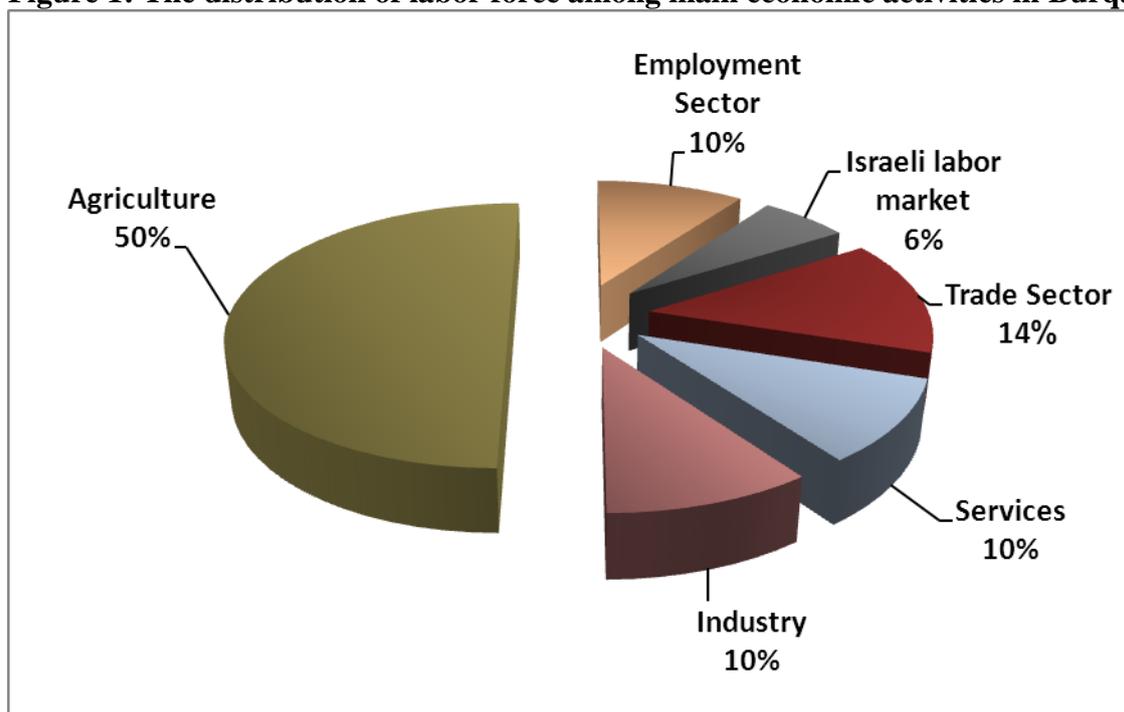
## Economic activities

The economy in Burqa is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 50% of the village's workforce (Burqa Village Council, 2013) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Burqa are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (50%)
- Trade sector (14%)
- Government or other employees sector (10%)
- Industry (10%)
- Services sector (10%)
- Israeli labor market (6%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Burqa**



Source: Burqa Village Council, 2013

Burqa has 48 grocery stores, 2 bakeries, 6 butchers, 2 fruit and vegetable stores, 11 service stores, 9 professional workshops, 3 olive oil presses, 2 stores for agricultural tools, 1 tailor, and 1 export and shipping company (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Burqa reached 10%. The groups most economically affected by Israeli restrictions have been those in the agricultural sector (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

### Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, 33.6 of Burqa’s labor force was economically active, of whom 80.8% were employed, 66.4% were not economically active, 50% were students, and 34.8% were housekeepers (see table 4).

**Table 4: Burqa population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

Sex	Economically active				Not economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
<b>M</b>	647	110	22	<b>779</b>	457	0	80	18	30	<b>585</b>	0	<b>1.364</b>
<b>F</b>	81	10	30	<b>121</b>	433	619	137	0	6	<b>1.195</b>	0	<b>1.316</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1.780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2.680</b>

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

### Agricultural sector

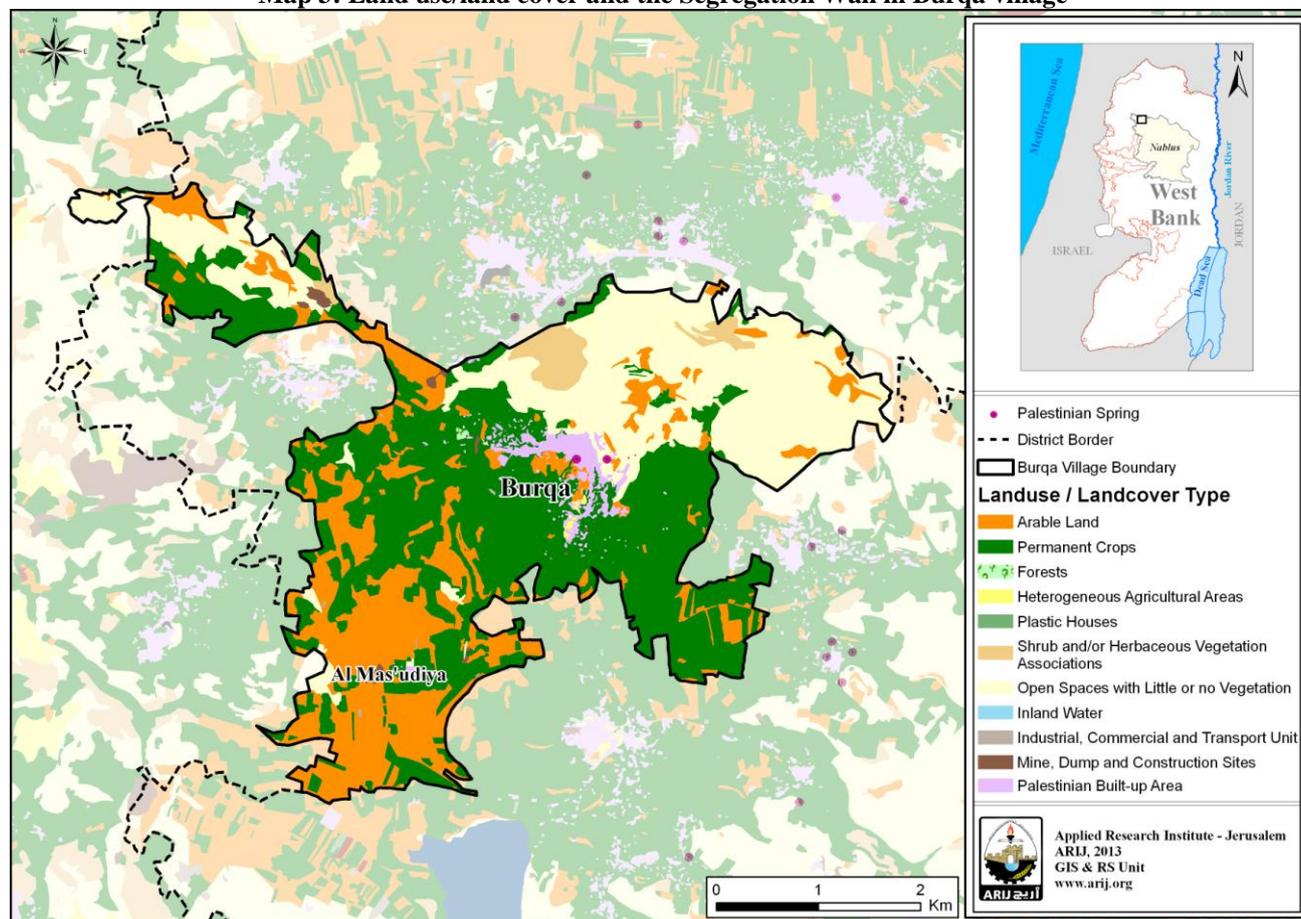
Burqa has a total area of approximately 18.174 dunums of which 12.708 is arable land and 415 dunums are registered as residential land (see table 5 and map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Burqa village (area in dunums)**

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (12,708)				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					
18.174	415	7.880	4	491	4.333	0	10	4.948	93	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and the Segregation Wall in Burqa village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Burqa. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is okra and green beans. In addition, there are 3 dunums of green-houses planted with different crops.

**Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Burqa (area in dunums)**

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
4	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	2

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture - Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Burqa is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 9.020 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

**Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Burqa (area in dunums)**

Olives		Citrus		Stone fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
9.020	0	0	0	101	0	11	0	175	0	78	0	9.385	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Burqa, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 340 dunums (see table 8).

**Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in Burqa (area in dunums)**

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
340	0	5	0	32	0	5	0	105	0	0	0	8	0	495	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in size of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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 and were not considered fragmented 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. This therefore, accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 4.5% of the residents in Burqa rear domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 9).

**Table 9: Livestock in Burqa**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Beehives
10	580	180	0	0	0	0	30,000	1,000	185

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 70kms of agricultural road in the village, divided as follows:

**Table 10: Agricultural roads in Burqa village and their lengths**

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	0
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	40
Unsuitable	20

Source: Burqa Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces various problems, including:

- The lack of access to agricultural land near Homesh settlement.
- The lack of agricultural road leading to the agricultural land.
- The lack of agricultural equipment.
- The confiscation of land by Israelis.
- The low price of agricultural products especially olive oil.
- The lack of any compensation or any kind of farmers' protection.

(Burqa Village Council, 2013)

## Institutions and services

Burqa village has no governmental institutions, but it has a number of local organizations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Burqa Village Council:** Founded in 1963 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, such as infrastructure services.
- **Burqa Sports Club:** Founded in 1975 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports with the aim of providing sports, social and cultural activities.
- **Burqa Charitable Women Society:** Founded in 2012 by the Ministry of Interior with the aim of training women and providing various activities and services.
- **Burqa Women Club:** Founded in 2001 by Ministry of Interior with the aim of training women concerning different issues, mainly: food processing, first aid, and embroidery...etc.
- **Burqa Society for Youth Development:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Interior. The society aims to support farmers through the implementation of different instructional and educational courses.

(Burqa Village Council, 2013)

## Infrastructure and natural resources

### Electricity and telecommunication services:

Burqa has been connected to a public electricity network since 1991. It is served by the Israeli Qatari Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily a shortage in the number of electricity cables, plugs and meters provided by the Electric Power Authority, and the weak electrical power supplied to the village due to the weakness of the electrical generators (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

Burqa is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

### Transportation services:

There are 5 public buses and 6 taxis in Burqa. In case there is not an efficient public transportation, residents use their own private cars. The existence of earth mounds or military checkpoints is considered to be the main obstacle faced by the village residents and the neighboring villages. In case there is no efficient public transportation, residents use their own private cars or an office car in the village (Burqa Village Council, 2013). There are 5 km of main roads and 7.5 km of secondary roads in Burqa (Burqa Village Council, 2013) (see table 11).

**Table 11: Roads in Burqa village**

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	1	1
2. Paved and in poor condition	4	5
3. Unpaved	-	1.5

Source: Burqa Village Council, 2013

### Water resources:

Burqa is provided with water by the Palestinian Water Authority. Residents also get water from wells in the village through the public water network established in 1953. All housing units are connected to the network (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Burqa village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 270,000 cubic meters per year (Burqa Village Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 182 liters per day. However, no Burqa citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 15% (Burqa Village Council, 2013). These losses happen at the main source, along major transport lines, within the distribution network and at the household level. Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Burqa is more likely to be around 154 liters per day (Burqa Village Council, 2013). In addition, the village has 4 springs that supply the citizens with water, 30 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns and wells with a capacity of 280 cubic meters, and 1 cistern to distribute water estimated at 150 cubic meters (Burqa Village Council, 2013). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

### Sanitation:

Burqa lacks a public sewerage network and most of the residents use cesspits and septic tanks as the main means of wastewater disposal (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 503 cubic meters, or 183.6 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 123 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly into open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. It is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both the environment and public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

**Solid waste management:**

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste in Nablus is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 13 NIS per household is charged to the residents and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. 70% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Burqa benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 6 containers (of 0.5m<sup>3</sup> capacity) which are located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste once daily and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zahret al Finjan dumping site in Jenin Governorate, 17km from the village, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (Burqa Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Burqa is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Burqa residents is nearly 2.9 tons, or 1.041 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

**Environmental conditions**

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Burqa experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

**Water crisis**

- The public water network is old and there is high rate of water loss.
- Cesspits are located near the internal water network of the village which may cause water pollution.
- The water cistern is located in the lowest are of the village which causes problems in the distribution of water among populations

**Wastewater management**

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Burqa residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and this allows wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to the residents' health. Farmers and villagers also suffer from the discharge of waste water into Burqa agricultural lands originating from Shavei Shomron settlement.

## Solid waste management

Burqa village does not suffer any problems concerning the management of solid waste, as the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environmentally friendly landfill serving the village, as well as most of the other localities in the Nablus Governorate.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical status in Burqa village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Burqa was divided into Area A, B and C. Approximately 4,930 dunums (27% of the village's total area) were assigned as Area A, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and public order, while 5,180 dunums (29% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the PNA has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting of 8,064 dunums (44% of the total area), were classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over the security and administration of the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through the consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Burqa's population resides in Area B, whilst most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land or open spaces (See Table 12).

**Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Burqa village according to Oslo Agreement 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	4,930	27
Area B	5,180	29
Area C	8,064	44
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,174</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

### Israeli occupation practices in Burqa village

Land belonging to Burqa village has been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military bases and the construction of Israeli settlement roads.

The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of land of the village of Burqa: -

Israel confiscated an area of 1,014 dunums from Burqa village for the establishment of "Homesh" settlement, located to the north side of the village. "Homesh" was founded in 1980, and remained on

Burqa village territory and remained on the territory of the neighboring village Burqa until 2005, when it was evacuated as a result of the unilateral Israeli withdrawal plan carried out in the Gaza Strip and the northern side of the West Bank under Ariel Sharon. This settlement were evacuated since 2005 and remained empty for eight years, but in 2013 Israeli authorities started using it for military training, preventing Palestinians who own the land from using it. However, the Israeli Supreme Court recently ruled that the land occupied by the former settlement should be returned to its Palestinian owners. This decision that has been issued by the Israeli supreme court, made the Israeli right-wing parties who want to see the re-establishment of the settlement protested this decision.

### **Israeli checkpoints on Burqa village**

After the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in 2000, Israeli authorities established a number of military checkpoints on the territory of Burqa village. These checkpoints consisted of earth mound blocks, which separate agricultural roads in the village from Israeli bypass road No. 60. These earth mounds have recently been removed. Burqa village and the neighboring villages have been negatively affected by “Shavei Shomron” permanent checkpoint which is established on the road that links Nablus Governorate with Jenin Governorate.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of residents. Checkpoints continue to hinder freedom of movement and sever the links between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, as well as the connection between the villages and their agricultural lands. This has resulted in heavy economic losses for residents of Burqa as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed. Checkpoints are often closed under the pretext of “security protection of settlers” living in “Shavei Shomron” and other settlements. Currently, these it is worth mentioning that these checkpoints and iron gates are open for the movement of the Palestinians.

### **Israeli bypass roads in Burqa village**

Israeli authorities have constructed a number of bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank. These roads have involved the confiscation of hundreds of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements with each other. It also impedes Palestinian territorial continuity, enabling further Israeli control over Palestinian territory. Israel has confiscated land in the western side of Burqa village territory in order to establish Israeli bypass road No. 60, which extends 7 kilometers onto the territory of the village.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the lands that were confiscated for the purpose of what is known as the buffer zone. The buffer zone is imposed by the Israeli army and usually occupies 75 meters on both sides of the road.

## Development plans and projects

### Implemented projects

Burqa Village Council has not implemented any development projects in Burqa during the past five years .

### Proposed projects

Burqa village council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted in the village by ARIJ staff. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the workshop participants:

1. Establishing a sewage disposal network (approx 14km long).
2. Renovating the public water network (3km long), and expanding the network to cover new areas (2km long).
3. Rehabilitating and Paving the village's main roads and paving the secondary roads (5km long) and main roads (2km long).
4. Renovating the public electricity network and expanding it.
5. Building retaining walls (approx. 2 km)
6. Continuing the construction of the elementary and secondary schools.
7. Constructing a public services complex to include the women societies and centers in the village.
8. Implementing educational projects through the Burqa charitable women society.
9. Rehabilitating the public sports stadium and providing it with exercise equipment, a tennis table, and sportswear.
10. Providing Burqa village council with a winch for electricity network maintenance, pesticides drugs, and 100 waste vehicles to collect solid waste.
11. Rehabilitating the main water spring and providing it with pumps and pipelines (Ain Al Dalbeh).

## Locality development priorities and needs

Burqa suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 13: Development priorities and needs in Burqa

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural needs</b>					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			16km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			2km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			3km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs	*			Ain Al Dalbeh
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			10 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			100 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
<b>Health needs</b>					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			Elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Burqa girls' school
3	Purchasing new school equipment			*	
<b>Agriculture needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			400 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns		*		50 Cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		30 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		100 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			10 dunums
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			8 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			
<b>Other Needs</b>					
1	Agricultural projects for poor families (animal husbandry and livestock).				

<sup>^</sup> 4km main roads, 2km secondary roads, and 10km agricultural roads

Source: Burqa Village Council, 2013

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