

Khirbet Abu Falah 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 Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Ramallah 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 Ramallah 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 Ramallah 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://vprofile.arij.org>.

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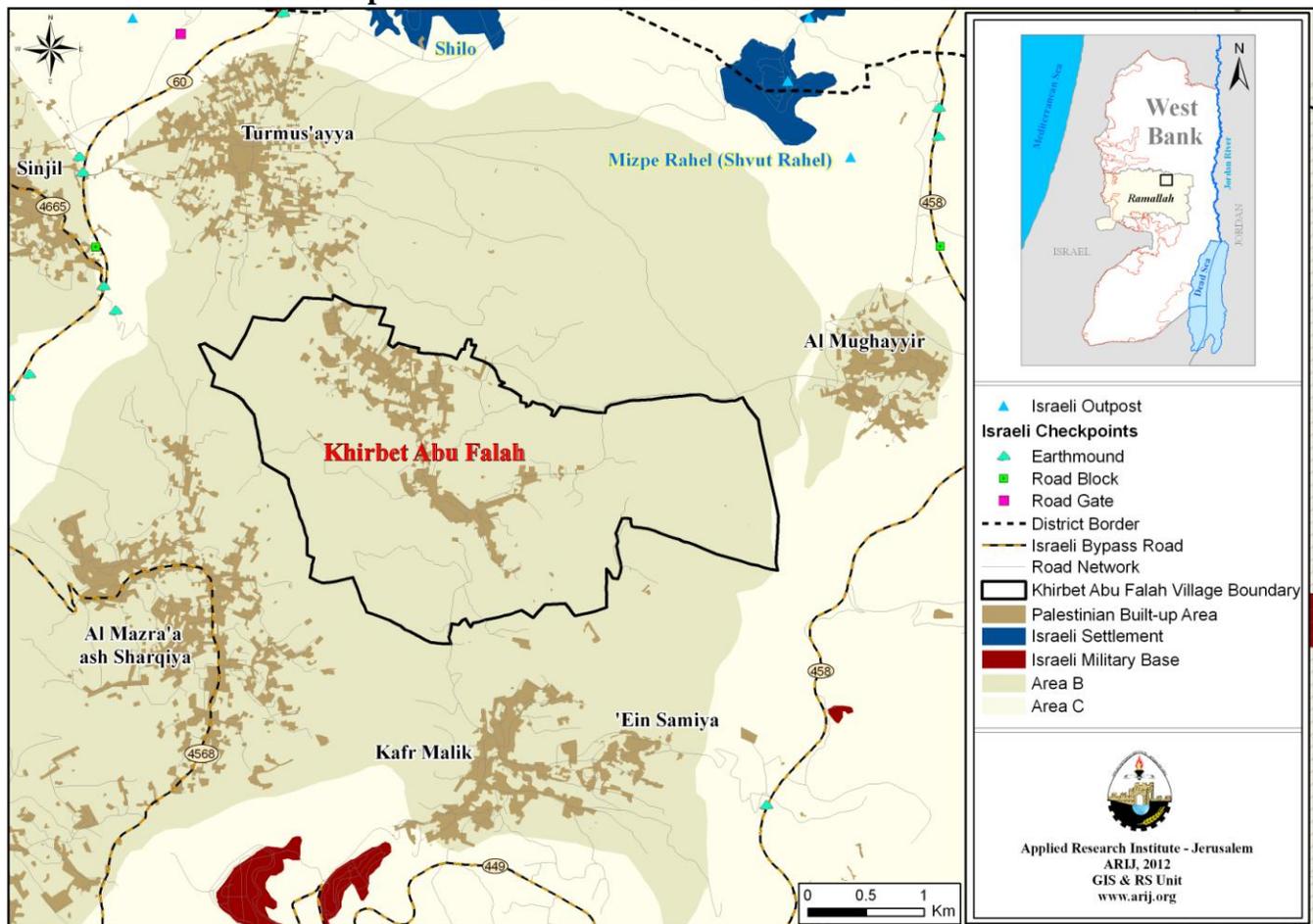
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Khirbet Abu Falah Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Khirbet Abu Falah is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located (horizontally) 15.7km north-east of Ramallah City. Khirbet Abu Falah is bordered by Al Mughayyir village to the east, Turmus'ayya village to the north, Al Mazra'a ash Sharqiya to the west, and Kafr Malik and Al Mazra'a ash Sharqiya to the south (ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Khirbet Abu Falah location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012

Khirbet Abu Falah is located at an altitude of 743m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 442.7mm. The average annual temperature is 17 ° C, and the average annual humidity is approximately 58.5% (ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1998, Khirbet Abu Falah has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority and has one employee working in it. Moreover, the village council is included within the Joint Services Council for Al Mazra'a ash Sharqiya, Kafr Malik, Al Mughayyir, and Khirbet Abu Falah localities. The Council owns a permanent headquarters but it does not possess any needed large equipment such as a vehicle or waste-management machinery (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Khirbet Abu Falah, including (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011):

- Solid waste collection and road construction, restoration and paving.
- Provision of various social services.

History

The village was named after its leader who was called Abu Falah (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

The establishment of the village goes back more than 250 years and its residents descend from the Jaradat family from Karak in Jordan (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Khirbet Abu Falah village).

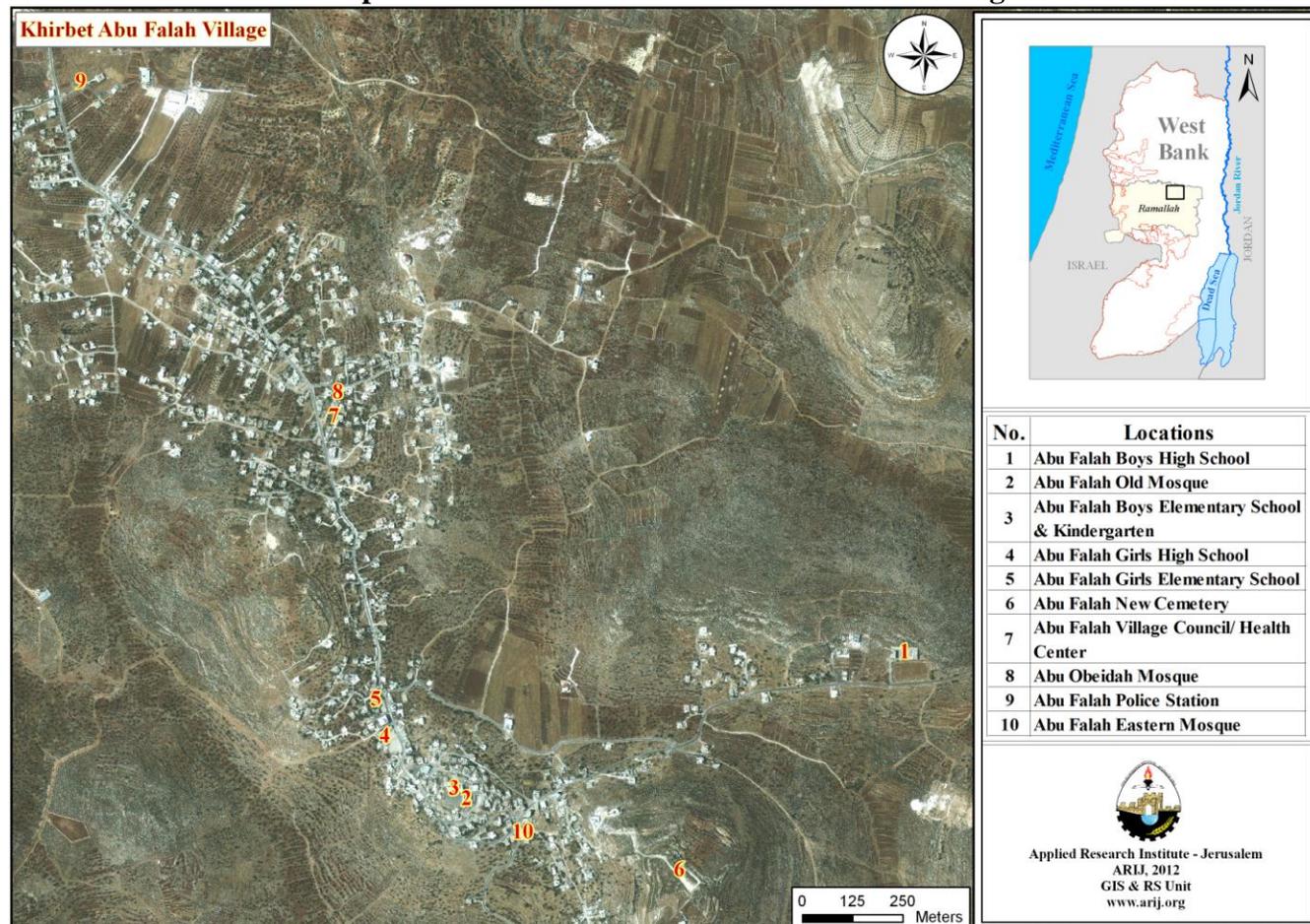
Photos of Khirbet Abu Falah



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are three mosques in the village; Abu Falah old Mosque, Abu Ubeidah Mosque and Abu Falah Eastern Mosque. As for the archaeological sites, there are very few, mainly Khirbet Sabe' and Khirbet Al Budood (See Map 2) (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Map 2: Main locations in Khirbet Abu Falah Village



Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Khirbet Abu Falah in 2007 was 3,756; of whom 1,914 were male and 1,842 female. There were additionally recorded, 620 households living in 718 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 Khirbet Abu Falah is as follows: 39% are less than 15 years old, 55.5% are between 15 -

64 years old, 5% are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 103.9:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51% and 49% of the population respectively.

Families

Khirbet Abu Falah residents are composed of several families, mainly Abu Murrah, Al Fuqaha', Nazel, As Saraseer, Abu Falah and Abu Hayyah (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that around 5 families have left the village since the second Intifada in 2000 (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Khirbet Abu Falah population was about 8.4%, of whom 80.5% were females. Of the literate population, 14.7% could only read and write, with no formal education 25.5% had elementary education, 24.9% had preparatory education, 17.7% had secondary education, and 8.8% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Khirbet Abu Falah, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Khirbet Abu Falah 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	Unknown	Total
M	46	214	357	385	279	29	102	2	11	2	-	1,427
F	190	196	357	310	215	35	62	2	1	-	-	1,368
T	236	410	714	695	494	64	164	4	12	2	-	2,795

Source: PCBS, 2009.

With regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Khirbet Abu Falah in the academic year 2010/2011, there are four schools in the village; all ran by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, but there are no kindergartens (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2010/2011) (See Table 2).

Table 2: The Schools in : Khirbet Abu Falah by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Khirbet Abu Falah Boys Elementary School	Government	Males
Khirbet Abu Falah Boys Secondary School		Males
Khirbet Abu Falah Girls Elementary School		Females
Khirbet Abu Falah Girls Secondary School		Females

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

In the village there are 1,117 students, 68 teachers, and 42 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2010/2011). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, while the average number of students per class is approximately 27.

Health Status

There are some health centers available in Khirbet Abu Falah village, including; 2 physician clinics; 1 private and 1 ran by the government, 2 health centers; 1 private and 1 governmental, a governmental motherhood and childhood care center and 1 private pharmacy. However, in emergency cases, residents of Khirbet Abu Falah head to Turmus'ayya in order to receive needed treatment and medical services; 3km from the village (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village suffers many obstacles and problems, including:

1. The lack of specialized clinics and medical centers.
2. The lack of an X- ray center and a medical laboratory.
3. The lack of an ambulance in the village.

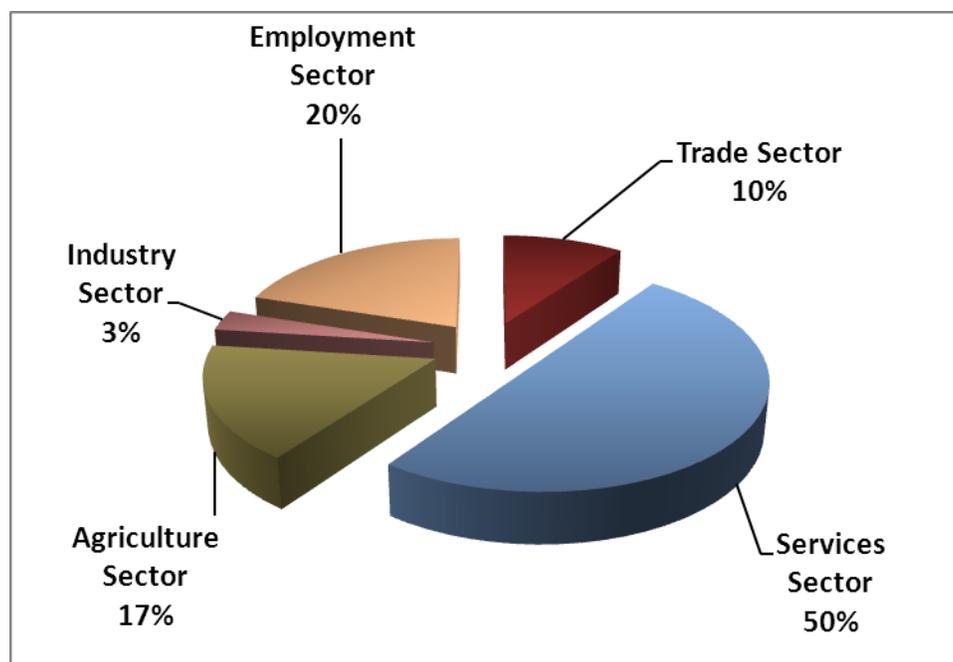
Economic Activities

The economy in Khirbet Abu Falah is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the services sector, which absorbs 50% of the village workforce (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011) (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ staff in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Khirbet Abu Falah are as follows:

- Services Sector (50%).
- Government or Private Employees Sector (20%)
- Agriculture Sector (17%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Industry (3%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Khirbet Abu Falah Village



Source: Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011

In term of economic and industrial productions in Khirbet Abu Falah village, the village is known for its stone industry, as there are 3 quarries and 2 stone saws, in addition to an olive oil-press, 30 grocery stores, 3 butchers, 2 vegetables and fruits stores, 3 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith,.. etc.) and 5 different services stores (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011). However, the unemployment rate in Khirbet Abu Falah reached around 20% in 2011 (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.4% of Khirbet Abu Falah labor force was economically active, of whom 90% were employed, 68.6% were not economically active, 52.6% were students, and 25.8% were housekeepers (See table 3).

Table 3: Khirbet Abu Falah population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	707	60	2	769	517	-	119	10	11	657	1	1,427
F	82	10	16	108	491	494	139	3	133	1,260	-	1,368
T	789	70	18	877	1,008	494	258	13	144	1,917	1	2,795

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

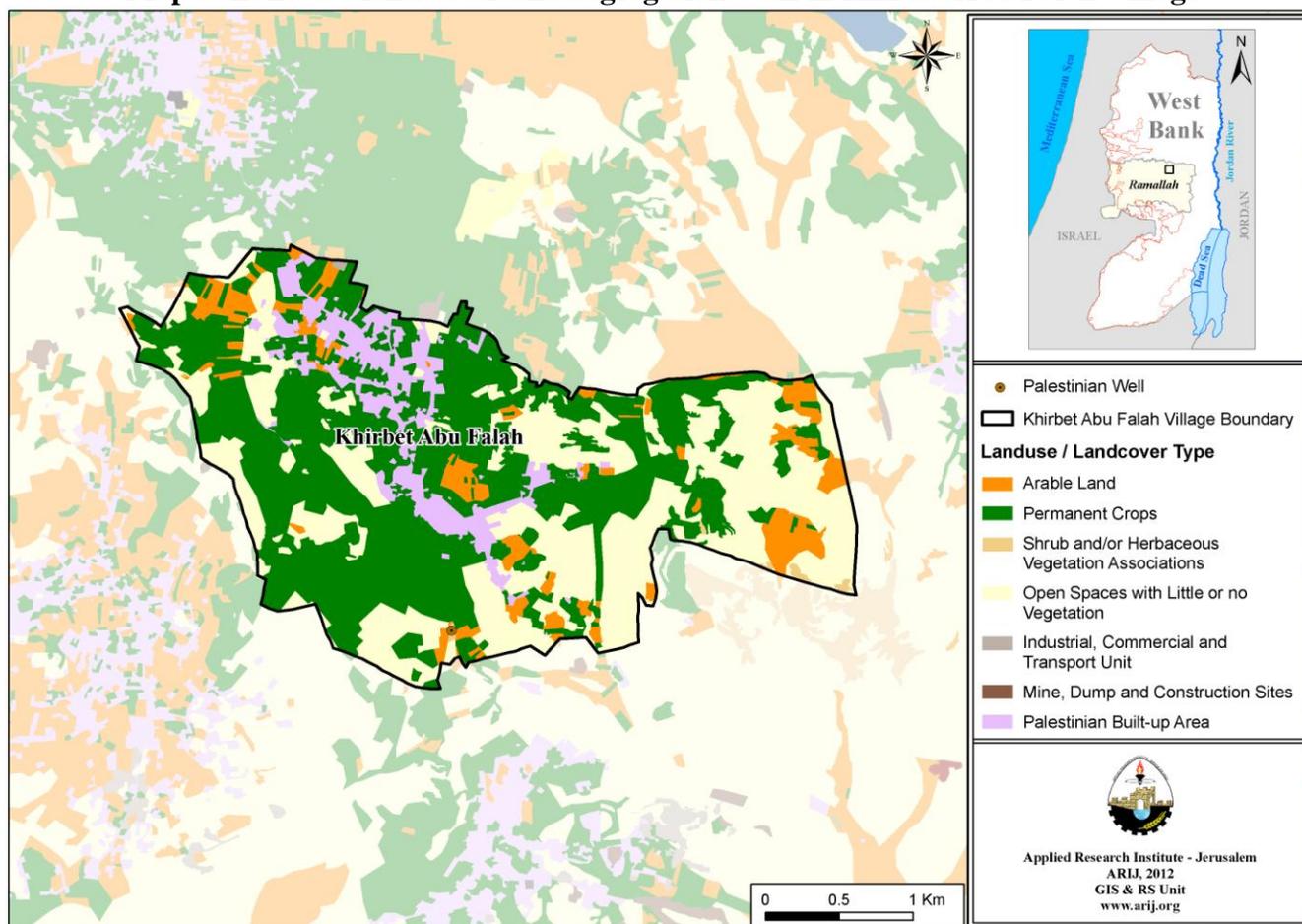
Khirbet Abu Falah lies on an area of 8,245 dunams, of which 4,649 dunams are considered arable land, and 691 dunams are dedicated to residential services (see table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Khirbet Abu Falah village in 2010 (area in dunam)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (4,649)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlement, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-land	Arable land					
8,245	691	3,981	0	28	640	0	0	2,898	5	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Khirbet Abu Falah Village



Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Khirbet Abu Falah. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is tomatoes.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Khirbet Abu Falah village (dunam)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
53	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	5	0	82	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Khirbet Abu Falah is famous for olives; there being a total of 2,434.5 dunams planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Khirbet Abu Falah Village (dunam)

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.
2,434.5	0	0	0	61.5	0	0	0	390	0	106	0	2,992	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

As for the field crops in Khirbet Abu Falah, cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated covering an area of about 1,500 dunams, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes, such as beans (See table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Khirbet Abu Falah village (dunam)

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
1,500	0	13	0	85	0	7	0	130	0	0	0	0	0	1,735	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that 5% of the residents in Khirbet Abu Falah rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats and others (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Khirbet Abu Falah village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
2	835	549	0	0	0	0	3,200	0	106

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are additionally around 40 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011), divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Khirbet Abu Falah Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	10
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	30
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	-

Source: Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011

However, the village suffers some obstacles concerning the agricultural sector, mainly (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011):

- The lack of an agricultural labor force.
- The weak economic feasibility of agricultural businesses and ventures.
- The lack of agricultural awareness in terms of adopting modern and more efficient methods of rearing livestock.

Institutions and Services

Khirbet Abu Falah village lacks the existence of service institutions; there is just one governmental office; a police station, and three local institutions in the village that provide services , which are (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011):

- **Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council:** Founded in 1998 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.
- **The Agricultural Committee:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- **The Woman Society for Social Work.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Khirbet Abu Falah has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, mainly the weak electric current in some of the village's power lines (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Furthermore, Khirbet Abu Falah is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

There are 20 public taxis in Khirbet Abu Falah which are considered to be the main means of transportation used by the village residents (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2010). As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 10km of main roads and a total of 20km of secondary roads (See Table 10) (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Table 10: Roads in Khirbet Abu Falah village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	10	10
2. Paved but in poor condition	-	10
3. Unpaved	-	-

Source: Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the village with water through a water network that was constructed in 1984. This network supplies water to most of the housing units in the village. The quantity of water supplied to the village in 2010 reached approximately 74,038 m³/ year (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). Thus the amount of water consumed per person is estimated at 54 liter/capita/day. However, residents of Khirbet Abu Falah do not really consume this amount of water due to the water loss from transfer and distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units. This loss reaches 26.5 %, thus the average of water consumption per capita is 39.7 liter/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is much less than the recommended amount proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) which is 100 liter/capita/day.

It is worth mentioning that there are 300 household harvesting cisterns in the village considered to be the alternative resources of water for the public network; however, these are not sufficient and do not meet the residents' needs (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

To regulate water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 11 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 11: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012

Consumption Category (m ³)	Domestic (NIS/m ³)	Industrial (NIS/m ³)	Tourist (NIS/m ³)	Commercial (NIS/m ³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m ³)
0 – 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

Sanitation:

Khirbet Abu Falah village lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits and endocrines as main means for wastewater disposal (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 119.3 cubic meters, or 43,534 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 27.8 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without 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 (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council 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 placed on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. This fee totals about 20 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for good management of solid waste and only 16% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Khirbet Abu Falah benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Village Council collects the solid waste from the containers twice a week and transports it by tractor, to a dumping site joined with neighboring localities, located 4km from the village. The common method for solid waste treatment in this dumping site is setting waste on fire (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Khirbet Abu Falah is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Khirbet Abu Falah residents is nearly 2.6 tons, or 960 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by the Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time during summer in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources. Consequently, the Jerusalem Water Authority purchases water from the Israeli company of Mekorot in order to satisfy residents' needs.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Khirbet Abu Falah residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and endocrines for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge wastewater in 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 and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns), as it mixes with the waste water thus becomes unsuitable for drinking, because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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 residents' health.

Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve in Khirbet Abu Falah and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Khirbet Abu Falah

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Khirbet Abu Falah was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 8,219 dunams (99.7% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some camps. It is worth mentioning that all of the village’s population resides in area B which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the village. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 26 dunams (0.3% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration (table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Khirbet Abu Falah – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	8,219	99.7
Area C	26	0.3
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	8,245	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Khirbet Abu Falah village council has implemented several development projects in Khirbet Abu Falah, during the last five years (See Table 13).

Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Khirbet Abu Falah During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of an elementary school for boys	Educational	2007	Spanish Government & Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council
Construction of a public hall	Public Services	2008	Spanish Government & Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council
Construction of agricultural roads	Agricultural	2007	Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council
Pavement of secondary roads	Infrastructure	2007	Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council
Pavement of main roads	Infrastructure	2008	Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council

Source: Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011

Proposed Projects

Khirbet Abu Falah 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 perspectives' of the participants in the workshop (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011):

1. Constructing women's centers to activate the role of women in society.
2. Maintaining the infrastructure of the village and expanding the village entrance, paving internal roads and rehabilitating the sewerage network.
3. Constructing agricultural roads, reclaiming land and supporting farmers with trees, seeds and agricultural machinery to strengthen their resilience.
4. Implementing relief projects to help poor families in the village due to the lack of resources.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Khirbet Abu Falah suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's feedback (Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011).

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Khirbet Abu Falah

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			7km
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			5km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		3km
4	Construction of New Water Networks		*		10km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*		500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network		*		13km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		70 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste		*		1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill		*		
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health center
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		*		200 dunams
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns		*		60 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*		20 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		700 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		15 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

* 2km are main roads, 4km are sub and 1km are agricultural.

Source: Khirbet Abu Falah Village Council, 2011

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