

## Village Profile of Al-Maleh and the Bedouin Communities



Prepared by



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## Introduction

This booklet is part of a series aimed at documenting and analyzing the social and economic conditions in the Palestinian Jordan Valley, specifically in the governorates of Tubas and Jericho, through a comprehensive study of the population clusters, monitoring developmental needs, and setting future plans to improve the living standards of the residents and enhance their resilience in the face of challenges.

In this context, the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) is implementing the project:

### **"Identifying and Diagnosing the Livelihoods of Palestinian Rural Women and Their Economic Empowerment in Area C."**

The project addresses the economic and social impacts of Israeli military orders and occupation practices, which directly affect Palestinian rural women, particularly in Area C of the West Bank. The project aims to empower rural women by raising awareness of their rights and developing their capabilities to face various challenges, such as settler attacks and the risks of displacement, in addition to supporting their participation in developmental planning to ensure a more stable future for them and their families.

The project relies on an integrated methodology that includes field data collection, documenting life stories of affected women, engaging with media and social media platforms, and fostering cooperation with local and international stakeholders. It also focuses on developing effective advocacy strategies to raise awareness of the challenges faced by rural women and push for the adoption of policies that support their access to necessary resources for their economic projects, particularly in the agricultural sector, which is a primary livelihood source for many of them.

This booklet aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the reality of the population clusters in the Tubas and Jericho governorates, highlight the challenges faced by women in these areas, and review the opportunities available to enhance sustainable rural development. It also seeks to serve as a reference that contributes to supporting efforts aimed at improving the economic and social conditions of the residents of the Jordan Valley and strengthening their resilience in the face of increasing political and economic challenges.

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## Geographical Location and Natural Characteristics

The village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities is one of the villages in the Tubas Governorate. It has a total area of 16,915 dunams, with a residential area of 401 dunams. It is located to the northeast of Tubas, about 10 km away from the city. To the east and northeast, it is bordered by a series of settlements in the northern Jordan Valley along the Jordanian border. To the north, it borders the communities of Kardala, Bardala, and Ein Al-Bida, and to the west, it is bordered by Al-Aqaba and Tayasir. To the south, it borders Khirbet Yirza, Atof, Al-Hamra (Al-Hamra checkpoint), and the Farush Beit Dajan area in Nablus Governorate.

It is important to note that Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities encompass the village of Al-Malih, Al-‘Abar/Ein Al-Halweh, Al-Joubieh, Al-Farisiyah, Al-Farisiyah Nabeh Al-Ghazal, Al-Mita, Al-Burj, Hammamat Al-Malih, Al-Hamiyeh, Hamir, Al-Deir, Al-Hadidiyeh, Khamsa, Al-Buqe'ah, Khirbet Samra, Khallat Makhul, Umm Al-Jamal, Wadi Al-Faw, and Khallat Khidr. These communities are not located in a single area but are spread across vast areas of the Jordan Valley, separated by distances of several kilometers. Some of them are located behind the settlement chain, such as Al-Hadidiyeh/Khamsa/Al-Buqe'ah.

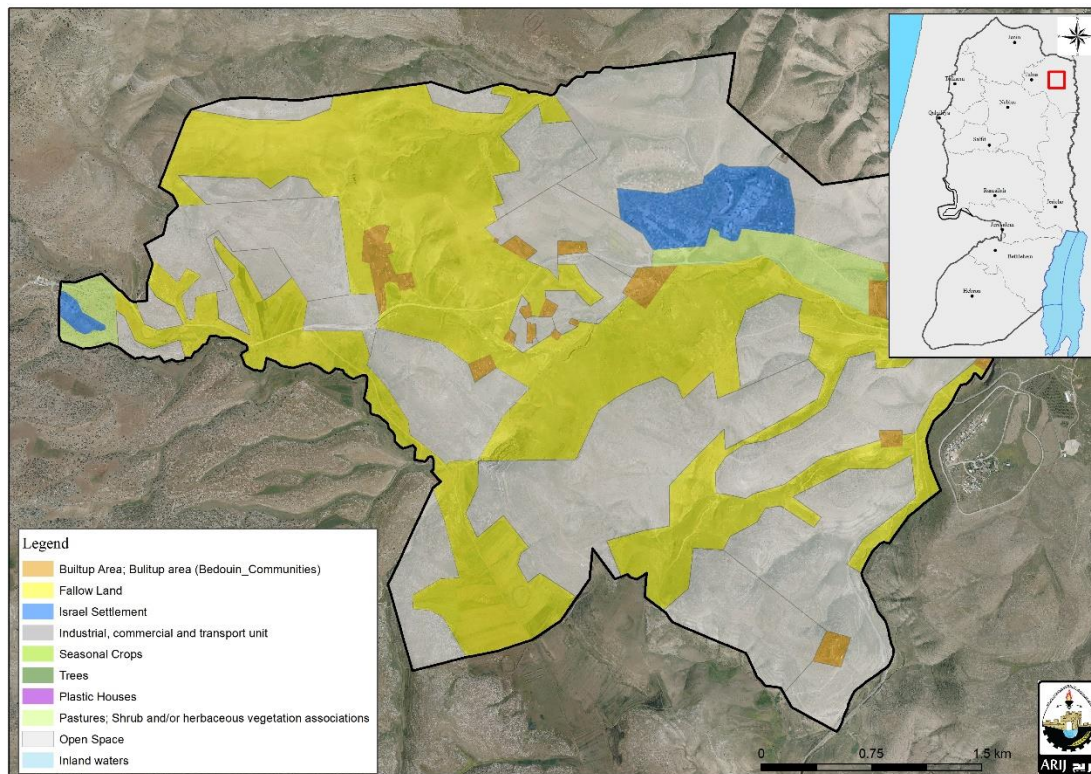
The village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities is located 98 meters above sea level. The average annual rainfall in the area is around 305 mm, with an average temperature of 20°C, and the relative humidity is around 54% (Geographical Information Systems Unit - ARIJ, 2024).

## Land Use and Land Cover Analysis: Al-Malih Village

The **land use/land cover analysis of Al-Malih village (using Aerial photographs for year 2021)** highlights the diverse utilization of its total area of **16,915 dunums** (see map 1 and table 1). The largest portion is **open areas with little or no vegetation**, covering approximately **11,388 dunums**, reflecting the **semi-arid nature** of the region. **Seasonal crops** occupy **3,554 dunums**, emphasizing the **importance of agriculture** in the village. Additionally, **pastures and shrubs** spread over **674 dunums**, providing **grazing areas** for livestock. **Bedouin communities** are distributed across **401 dunums**, reflecting the **traditional Bedouin lifestyle** in the region. **Uncultivated lands** make up **378 dunums**, while **internal water bodies** are limited to only **4 dunums**. Notably, an **Israeli military base** extends over **514 dunums**, indicating the **geopolitical complexities** affecting land use in Al-Malih village.

Land Use Type	Area (in dunums)
Uncultivated Lands	378
Bedouin Communities	401
Seasonal Crops	3,554
Internal Water Bodies	4
Israeli Military Base	514
Open Areas with Little or No Vegetation	11,388
Pastures and Shrubs	674
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>16,915</b>

**Data Source:** Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), GIS and Remote Sensing Unit, 2024



**Map: Land Use and Land Cover in Al-Malih Village, 2021**

### **Al-Malih Village Council and Community Overview**

The Al-Malih Village Council was established in 2012 and currently consists of nine members. There is one paid staff member in the local authority, appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The council does not have a permanent office or any council equipment and is part of the Northern Jordan Valley Services Council (Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities Village Council, 2024).

The responsibilities of the village council include the following:

1. Implementing projects and preparing studies in the village
2. Providing buses for transporting students to schools
3. Providing social services
4. Organizing community affairs
5. Monitoring violations

### **Services provided by the local authority in the community:**

Due to the lack of basic infrastructure—such as roads, electricity, and water—the local council is unable to provide any public services to the community. Coordinating with institutions, supporting entities, and facilitating their work.

## Historical Overview

The village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities got its name from the Al-Malih spring, which is located in the mountainous area on which the village is built, with water flowing from the Jordan River. The name "Bedouin communities" refers to the expansive areas where Bedouin and rural communities, dependent on livestock farming, are spread across vast tracts of land for grazing. The village's history dates back to before 1948, and its inhabitants are originally from Tubas Governorate. The village of Al-Malih is home to 15 families, around 70 people, and is surrounded by several Bedouin communities, including Hamsa, Al-Hadidiyeh, Khallat Makhul, Al-Hema, and Al-Farisiyah, Hamir, Al-Deir, Al-Joubieh, Al-Farisiyah Nabeh Al-Ghazal, Samra, Hammamat Al-Malih, with a total of 235 families, approximately 1,175 people (Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities Village Council, 2024).

## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque in Al-Malih. As for archaeological sites in the village, there is the Wadi Al-Malih spring, known for its saline water, which is used for therapeutic purposes, the Ein Al-Halweh spring, the old grain mill in Wadi Al-Malih, the Al-Malih tower, Al-Hama hill, and the Ottoman building, in addition to the ancient baths in Wadi Al-Malih.

There are also several ruins under the jurisdiction of the village council, such as Khirbet Al-Suwaidah, Khirbet Samra, Khirbet Jabarin, and Khirbet Umm Al-Quba, all of which contain remains of old houses, along with archaeological caves that are not utilized or developed for tourism (Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities Village Council, 2024).



## Population

According to the General Population and Housing Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2017, the population of the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities reached 732 people, including 355 males and 377 females. There are 131 households and 146 housing units (see Table 2).

<b>Table 2: Distribution of Population and Housing in the Communities under the Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council</b>					
Community	Male	Female	Total Population	Number of Households	Number of Housing Units
Al-Maleh	171	183	354	60	62
Al-Hadidiya	79	104	183	32	37
Khirbet Tell Al-Himma	43	34	77	15	17
Al-Farisiya	62	56	118	24	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>146</b>

### Age Groups and Gender

The data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the 2017 census showed the following distribution of age groups in the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities: 40.5% are under 15 years old, 54.5% are between 15 and 64 years old, and 5% are 65 years or older. The data also showed that the male population comprises 48.5%, while the female population comprises 51.5%.

### Families

The population of the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities is made up of several families, including: Bsharat, Bani Ouda, Daraghmeh, Nawaja'a, Abu Mohsen, Abu Amer, Abu Motawe', Zawahra, Kaabneh, Alyan, Al-Fuqha, Abu Al-Kabash, Al-Fukir, and Najada.

### Migration

The field survey indicated that around 35 families were displaced from the village since the Al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000. (Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities Village Council, 2024).

### Education Sector

The illiteracy rate among the population of the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities in 2017 was about 10.7%, with 77% of those illiterate being females. Among the literate population, 22.6% can read and write, 26.1% completed their primary education, 24.4% completed their secondary education, 11% completed their high school education, and 5.2% completed their higher education. Table 3 shows the educational level in the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities by gender and educational attainment for 2017.

**Table 3: Population of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities (aged 10 years and older) by gender and educational status, 2017**

Sex	Illite rate	Literate	Primary	Preparatory	Secondary	Intermediate Diploma	Bachelor's	Higher Diploma and Above	Total
Male	13	57	73	72	20	3	13	1	252
Female	43	60	63	54	36	0	10	0	265
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>517</b>

(Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2019. Population and Housing Census, 2017. Final Results)

Regarding educational institutions in the community, there is only one school, the Al-Malih Primary Mixed School (from 1st grade to 4th grade), with 38 students. This school serves the Al-Malih, Hammamat Al-Malih, Ein Al-Halweh, Al-Mita, and Al-Burj communities. There is also a government kindergarten attended by 12 children. As for the other children of the village, they receive their education in other grades in the schools of Ein Al-Bida village. They previously attended schools in Tayasir and Al-Aqaba before the recent events (October 7). Students from other Bedouin communities attend the schools of Ein Al-Bida, with buses provided by the village council to transport students to and from their schools.

The education sector in the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities faces several challenges, including:

1. Ongoing harassment by Israeli forces and settler attacks
2. Limited number of schools
3. Long distances to schools, with some being over 10 km away
4. Continuous military training in the area, posing a risk to students while commuting, along with the danger of mines and debris left by Israeli forces on the roads due to military exercises
5. Lack of electricity
6. Difficult roads that students use to reach the bus stops that take them to schools
7. Lack of transportation means
8. Military checkpoints
9. Schools continuously subjected to harassment by Israeli forces

## Health Sector

There are no health centers in the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities. In emergency cases, patients go to health facilities in the city of Tubas, the village of Ein Al-Bida, the cities of



Nablus, Jenin, and Jericho, which are located 15 km, 8 km, 40 km, 42 km, and 80 km away, respectively. These distances vary between the different communities under the jurisdiction of the Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities Village Council. (Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities Village Council, 2024).

The health sector in the village faces many challenges, including:

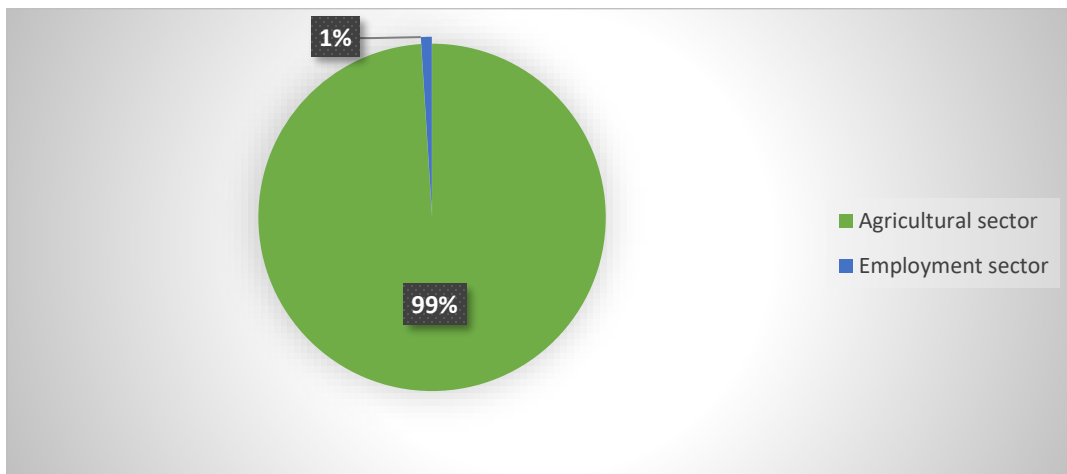
1. The absence of any health centers in the village
2. The distance to the nearest health center, which is located 8 km away in Ein Al-Bida
3. The lack of a nearby hospital in Tubas Governorate, so residents must go to hospitals in Nablus, Jenin, or Jericho during emergencies when the Tayasir military checkpoint is closed
4. Lack of an ambulance in the village
5. Mobile military checkpoints between the communities
6. Military checkpoints
7. Limited transportation

### Economic Activities

The economy in the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities primarily depends on livestock farming and dryland agriculture, which absorb 99% of the workforce.

Field survey results on the distribution of the labor force by economic activity in the village of Al-Malih and the Bedouin communities showed the following:

- Agriculture sector: 99% of the workforce
- Israeli labor market: 0% of the workforce
- Employment sector: 1% of the workforce
- Trade sector: 0% of the workforce
- Services sector: 0% of the workforce



**Figure 1:** Distribution of the labor force by economic activity in Al-Maleh and the surrounding Bedouin communities

Al-Maleh village and the surrounding Bedouin communities lack economic activities, as there are no commercial establishments. Moreover, the occupation prohibits any form of construction or establishment of infrastructure, and pursues the demolition and removal of houses and livestock shelters that have existed for decades, aiming to expel their residents.

Field surveys have shown that many individuals who lost their jobs in the Israeli labor market have shifted to working in agriculture and livestock rearing to secure a minimum level of income.

Previously, the unemployment rate in the village and its affiliated communities rose to nearly 30% due to measures imposed by the occupation. However, it has since decreased to 0%, occasionally rising to 10% as seasonal unemployment among the few who rely entirely on irrigated agriculture.

The social groups most affected by the occupation's measures in the village have been identified as follows:

1. Those working in the agricultural sector (livestock)
2. Those working in the Israeli labor market

### Labor Force

According to data from the Population and Housing Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2017 \* 57.3% of the population were economically active (of whom 97.2% were employed). Meanwhile, 42.7% of the population were economically inactive (of whom 30.1% were students and 48% were dedicated to household work). (See Table 4).

Sex	Economically Active (Employed)	Economically Active (Unemployed)	Total Economically Active	Students/Trainees	Home makers	Unable to Work	With Income/Retired	Total Economically Inactive	Total Population (10+)
Male	167	6	173	21	0	17	3	41	214
Female	72	1	73	34	88	20	0	142	215
<b>Total</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>429</b>

*Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Population and Housing Census – 2017, Final Results.*

*\*, This data includes the communities of Al-Maleh, Al-Farisiya, Khirbet Tell Al-Himma, and Al-Hadidiya.*

## Agricultural Sector

The village of Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities primarily rely on livestock breeding in addition to rain-fed agriculture. Moreover, the communities of Hamir, Al-Himma, and Al-Farisiya grow some irrigated crops using water from Wadi Al-Maleh. The agricultural roads in the village extend approximately 30 km, of which only 4 km are suitable for agricultural machinery, while the remaining 26 km are only passable by animals.

The agricultural sector in Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities faces several challenges:

1. Lack of water sources
2. Israeli control over water resources
3. Vast areas in need of land reclamation
4. Lack of capital
5. Large parts of the village's land are used for Israeli military training
6. Confiscation of land and establishment of new settlement outposts among the communities
7. Erection of barbed wire fences for settlements, further seizing land
8. Constant harassment of farmers by settlers, especially the so-called "Hilltop Youth"
9. Deliberate environmental pollution from settlement waste on agricultural lands

Field surveys indicate that most residents of Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities raise livestock such as sheep, goats, broilers, layers, and bees. (See Table 5).

Cows*	Sheep*	Goats*	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Laying chicken	Broiler chickens	Beehives
1238	19407	4571	-	19	132	3	2802		851

\*Number of cows includes cows, calves, heifers, and bulls (Al-Maleh and Al-Himma)

\*Sheep: Al-Himma, Al-Farisiya, Al-Maleh, Ein Al-Hilweh, Al-Hadidiya

\*Goats: Al-Himma, Al-Farisiya, Al-Maleh, Ein Al-Hilweh, Al-Hadidiya

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics - Agricultural Census 2021

### The livestock sector in the village also faces numerous challenges:

1. Burning of pastures and closure of grazing areas by Israeli forces
2. Israeli control over water sources
3. Lack of a veterinary clinic
4. Raids and demolitions of barns by Israeli forces to force residents to leave the area
5. Inadequate roads to transport fodder, especially during winter
6. Rising prices of fodder and veterinary medicine
7. Attacks by settlers on shepherds, sometimes resulting in livestock deaths

**Reasons for not utilizing arable land in the community:**

1. Land confiscation
2. Inaccessibility due to checkpoints
3. Lack of water sources
4. Presence of settlements and settlement outposts
5. Poor condition of agricultural roads

**Institutional and Services Sector**

The village suffers from a lack of local institutions that provide services to various segments of society. Currently, the services are limited to:

1. Village Council:
  - Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council, established in 2012, part of the Joint Services Council in the Northern Jordan Valley.
2. Religious Institutions:
  - Al-Maleh Mosque
3. Cooperatives:
  - Eastern Al-Buqai'a Cooperative for Livestock Development: Established in 2008 by the Ministry of Agriculture. It supports livestock breeders and facilitates the collective purchase of fodder.

**Some committees have ceased operations due to restrictions:**

- Feda Committee: A local organization founded in 2005 providing women's training and services.
- Bedouin Area Services Committee: Founded in 2000 to offer agricultural education and services.

**Infrastructure and Natural Resources****Electricity and Telecommunications**

There is no public electricity network in Al-Maleh village and the Bedouin communities. Residents rely on primitive lighting methods and, more recently, solar panels. The community faces several problems in this regard, including:

1. Prohibition of establishing a public electricity network.
2. Long distances between communities, sometimes several kilometers.
3. Lack of infrastructure for setting up an electricity network.

It is also worth noting that there is no telephone network in Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities. Residents use Israeli wireless communication networks.

## Transportation

Public buses, passing taxis to the Northern Jordan Valley, agricultural tractors, and private vehicles are the main means of transportation in the village.

The main roads in the village span approximately 7 km and are in poor condition, requiring rehabilitation and paving. The secondary roads, around 10 km long, are also in poor and unpaved condition and need development. (Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council, 2024). (See Table 6).

<b>Road Condition</b>	<b>Main Roads</b>	<b>Secondary Roads</b>	<b>Agricultural Roads</b>
Good and paved	0 km	-	-
Paved but in poor condition	7 km	-	-
Unpaved	0 km	10 km	30 km

**The community suffers from multiple transportation issues, including:**

1. Military and earth checkpoints.
2. Poor condition of main roads.
3. Limited number of vehicles and services.
4. Settler attacks on vehicles passing through the area.

## Water

There is no public water network or storage tank in Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities. Each farmer provides water independently through water tankers (at a cost of 20–30 NIS per cubic meter). Previously, residents depended on small rainwater collection wells scattered across the communities and on 10 natural springs. However, due to ongoing Israeli restrictions and settler attacks, all water sources, including wells and springs, have been confiscated. The village's estimated water need is around 1,200 m<sup>3</sup> per day (Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council, 2024).

Water-related problems include:

1. Lack of water sources.
2. No public water tank.
3. High cost of water transportation.
4. Dangerous and unprepared roads, especially due to military drills.
5. Confiscation of springs.
6. No water networks.
7. Prohibition on digging private wells.

**Confiscated Springs by Israeli Authorities and Settlers:** Ein Al-Sheik, Ein Umm Al-Jamal, Ein Al-Ghazal, Ain Al-Hilweh, Khillet Khudr, Ein Al-Sakout, Hammamat Al-Maleh, Ein Al-Deir, Al-Hamma, and Wadi Al-Faw.

### Sanitation

There is no public sewage network in Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities. Wastewater is disposed of through cesspits and random methods.

### Solid Waste

There is no solid waste collection system in the village. Waste is disposed of randomly or by burning.

### Impact of Israeli Occupation Measures

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in September 1995 between the PLO and Israel, all land in Al-Maleh was classified as Area C (16,917 dunums), under full Israeli security and administrative control. Palestinian construction or land use is prohibited without permits from the Israeli Civil Administration. (See Table 7).

Land Classification	Area (dunums)	% of Total Village Area
Area A	0	0%
Area B	0	0%
Area C	16,917	100%
Nature Reserve	0	0%
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>16,917</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: ARIJ GIS Unit Database – 2025*

Additionally, approximately 12,826 dunums (76% of the village's land) are designated as "closed military zones," significantly limiting land available for agriculture and grazing—the primary sources of livelihood.

Israeli violations extend beyond this classification. Authorities have reclassified lands as “state lands” under Israeli Military Order 59 (1967) and as “nature reserves” under Military Order 378 (1969) to create a false legal basis for land seizure.

Israel also established military bases on Al-Maleh lands, using them for live-fire training exercises, endangering residents and rendering large areas unsuitable for cultivation and grazing. Military presence leads to the forced evacuation of residents during drills, imposing further restrictions.

Such designations (military zones, nature reserves, etc.) serve to deny Palestinians their rights to land, housing, and agriculture, violating international humanitarian law that prohibits land seizure by force. Al-Maleh is a stark example of Israeli settlement policies aimed at depopulating the area

for military and settler expansion. Table 8 outlines land classifications under Israeli discriminatory laws.

<b>Land Classification</b>	<b>Area (dunums)</b>	<b>% of Total Village Area</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Closed Military Zones	12,826	76%	
Israeli State Land	9,347	72.8% of closed military zones, 55.3% of total area	Reclassified from military zones
Nature Reserves	6,508	50.7% of closed military zones, 38.5% of total area	Reclassified per Israeli plans 34/51, 67/51, 08/51
Israeli Military Bases	1,964		Converted from military zones (7 locations)
<b>Total Village Area</b>	<b>16,917</b>	<b>100%</b>	

*Source: ARIJ GIS Unit Database – 2025*

The Israeli occupation authorities classify 9,347 dunums of Al-Maleh village as "state land," representing 55% of the total village area.

### **Surrounding Settlements and Military Bases:**

#### **A - Settlements:**

1. Mehola Settlement – east of Al-Maleh.
2. Shadmot Mehola Settlement – east of the village.
3. Ro'i Settlement – south of the village.
4. Maskiot Settlement – east of the village.
5. Beqa'ot Settlement – south of the village.
6. Hemdat Settlement – south of the village.

#### **B - Israeli Military Bases in the Area:**

1. Hammamat Al-Maleh Base – west-central part of the village.
2. Tayasir Camp / Tayasir Checkpoint – west of the village.
3. Samra Camp, Al-Mazouqah, Thuqrat Al-Sawwan, Marah Al-Qamar – all located to the south of the village.

**C - Military Checkpoints and Barriers:** The area also contains mobile camps and is considered a closed military zone. Most lands are used for live-fire training, posing continuous danger to residents and livestock. Barriers that restrict movement include:

- **Permanent Checkpoints:** Tayasir Checkpoint (separates Al-Maleh from Tubas), Hamra Checkpoint (separates it from Nablus).
- **Earth and concrete barriers** between the village and communities.

- **Iron Gates:** Atouf Gate separating Khirbet Makhoul from Atouf in the west, Ibziq and Yarza Gates separating northeastern communities in the Jordan Valley from Tubas.

### **Environmental and Psychological Impacts of Israeli Settlements and Military Presence:**

1. Psychological distress and fear among children due to loud explosions and constant drills.
2. Instability among residents due to displacement tactics used by the occupation.
3. Environmental pollution from military exercises and leftover ammunition.
4. Burning of pastures and crops during military training.
5. Scattered waste dumps from military zones.
6. Wastewater from settlements and military camps.
7. Dumping of agricultural and non-agricultural waste on village lands.
8. Air pollution from waste burning.
9. Wastewater flooding into rainwater valleys.
10. Spread of mosquitoes and harmful insects, and unpleasant odors from wastewater.

The area of land that has been bulldozed in Al-Maleh and the Bedouin communities since the year 2000 is approximately 2,000 dunums. Around 5,000 dunums have been confiscated, approximately 400 homes have been demolished, and about 500 olive trees have been uprooted since the beginning of 2000.

**Israeli Settler Violations in the Jordan Valley:** Repeated Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians and their properties in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially in the Jordan Valley communities, threaten their stability. These attacks are not limited to direct violence but include destruction of farmland, uprooting fruit trees, livestock theft and killings, and contamination of natural water sources. Thousands of families dependent on farming and herding are at risk of losing their livelihoods. Settler violence generates fear and insecurity, negatively impacting Palestinians' ability to live and work.

### **Attacks on Agricultural and Livestock Resources**

Agriculture and livestock raising are considered fundamental pillars of the Palestinian economy, especially in "rural" areas and particularly in the Jordan Valley. However, the ongoing attacks by Israeli settlers on agricultural land and livestock resources are causing severe losses, as settlers deliberately commit acts of sabotage, including burning crops, destroying infrastructure and natural water sources, polluting agricultural wells, and destroying agricultural networks. This exacerbates the problem; especially since the Israeli occupation, authorities control Palestinian water sources and impose strict measures in this regard, leading to the destruction of the livelihoods of many Palestinian families.

In addition, Palestinian shepherds are exposed to the theft of their livestock, affecting their ability to provide food and income. The policy of land seizure and the establishment of illegal settlement outposts by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank also pose a significant threat to the Palestinian community, as Palestinian lands are seized and confiscated under various pretexts,



including “security” or “military” reasons. In most cases, the land is seized by force of arms due to its proximity to a settlement or illegal outpost.

These practices lead to the reduction of available land for Palestinians for agriculture and living, increasing economic and social pressures. Moreover, the establishment of illegal outposts also leads to a change in the demographic composition of Palestinian areas, as Israeli settlers are encouraged to move and live in settlements and illegal outposts. This creates a new reality that Palestinians find difficult to live with, increasing friction, tension, and ultimately insecurity.

These outposts are often under the protection of the Israeli occupation army, which takes no action when Israeli settlers assault Palestinians and their property.

The year 2024 witnessed a significant increase in the number of attacks carried out by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, exceeding 2,400 attacks across various governorates of the occupied West Bank, with the peak in the northern part of the West Bank.

- For more case studies documenting Israeli settler attacks in the Jordan Valley in all their forms, and the impact of Israeli military drills, visit: <http://www.poica.org>
- For Israeli military orders concerning the lands of Al-Maleh village, visit: <http://orders.arij.org>

## Implemented and Proposed Development Plans and Projects in Al-Malih Bediun Communities

### Implemented Development Projects in Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities

The Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Council has implemented several projects in the past five years. (See Table 9).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Funding Entity</b>
Water tanks (2 cubic meters, 5 cubic meters)	ACF, GVC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture
Provision of fodder and seeds	ACF, ASDC, Agricultural Relief
Construction of a school and kindergarten	ACF
Provision of sanitary units for all areas	GVC
Housing rehabilitation	We Are the World Foundation, GVC
Provision of food production tools (dairy and cheese), agricultural seeds, and solar energy	Union of Agricultural Work Committees
Provision of internet and surveillance cameras	Connect Me Foundation

*Source: Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council, 2024*

### Proposed Projects for the Al-Maleh and Bediun Communities

The Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council, in cooperation with civil society organizations and village residents, aims to implement several projects in the coming years. These project ideas were developed during a Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop held in the village and facilitated by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ). The following projects are listed in order of priority as identified by the workshop participants:

1. Agricultural tractor and provision of water tankers
2. Veterinary service vehicle
3. Establishment of a public water network
4. Reclamation of agricultural lands
5. Opening of agricultural roads
6. Construction of residential housing for residents
7. Support for livestock breeders through the construction of sheep barns
8. Construction and paving of internal and main roads

### Village Development Priorities and Needs

The village suffers from a severe lack of infrastructure and basic services. Table 10 presents the development priorities and needs of the village as identified by the Village Council. (Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council, 2024)

<b>Table 10: developmental priorities and need of Al-Maleh</b>				
<b>Priority Area</b>	<b>Urgent Need</b>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Not a Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Infrastructure Needs</b>				
Need to open, pave, or rehabilitate roads?				
1. Main roads	✓			7,000 meters
2. Secondary roads	✓			10,000 meters
3. Agricultural roads	✓			30,000 meters
Need to repair/rehabilitate existing water network?	✓			No network exists; installation prohibited by the occupation
Need to expand the old water network to cover new areas?				
Need to install a new water network?				No water sources available
Need to rehabilitate/restore springs or groundwater wells?				All springs and wells have been confiscated
Need to build a public water tank?	✓			200 cubic meters
Need for a sewage network?	✓			

Need to install a new electricity network?	✓			No network exists; installation prohibited by the occupation
Need for solid waste collection containers?	✓			
Need for vehicles for solid waste collection?		✓		
Need for a sanitary landfill for solid waste?				
<b>Health Needs</b>				
Need to build new health centers/clinics?	✓			Need a mobile medical service vehicle
Need to rehabilitate/restore existing health centers/clinics?				
Need to purchase medical equipment for existing centers/clinics?				
<b>Educational Needs</b>				
Need to build new schools? (Specify: primary, secondary, or both)	✓			Need both primary and secondary schools. Construction prohibited by the occupation. Alternatives like caravans possible.
Need to rehabilitate existing schools? (Specify: primary, secondary, or both)	✓			Mixed primary school
Need for educational equipment?	✓			
<b>Agricultural Needs</b>				
Need to reclaim agricultural land?	✓			
Need to construct water collection wells?		✓		130 household wells
Need to build livestock barns/shelters?	✓			100 barns
Need for veterinary services?	✓			
Need for fodder and hay?	✓			
Need to establish greenhouses?		✓		
Need to rehabilitate greenhouses?	✓			10 greenhouses
Need for field crops seeds?	✓			50 tons

## **References**

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2021), General Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 2017. Ramallah – Palestine.
- Al-Maleh and Bedouin Communities Village Council (2024).
- Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) (2024 & 2025), GIS and Remote Sensing Unit Database. Bethlehem – Palestine.