

Bardala Village Profile



Prepared by



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(ARIJ)**

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Introduction

This booklet is part of a series that aims to document and analyze the social and economic conditions in the Palestinian Jordan Valley, specifically in the governorates of Tubas and Jericho. It presents a comprehensive study of the population centers, identifies developmental needs, and proposes future plans to improve the living standards of residents and strengthen 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 Economically Empowering Them in Area C"

This 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 seeks to empower rural women by raising their awareness of their rights and building their capacities to face various challenges—such as settler attacks and the risks of displacement—while also supporting their involvement in development planning to ensure a more stable future for themselves and their families.

The project employs an integrated approach that includes field data collection, documentation of life stories of affected women, engagement with media and social platforms, and strengthened collaboration with local and international stakeholders. It also focuses on developing effective advocacy strategies to raise awareness of the challenges facing rural women and to push for the adoption of policies that support their access to essential resources for their economic initiatives—particularly in the agricultural sector, which is a key source of income for many.

This booklet aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the realities in the population centers of Tubas and Jericho, highlighting the challenges facing women in these areas and reviewing opportunities to promote sustainable rural development. It also seeks to serve as a reference supporting efforts to improve the economic and social conditions of residents in the Jordan Valley and enhance their resilience amid increasing political and economic challenges.

Table of Contents

Geographic Location and Natural Features	4
Land Use and Land Cover Analysis: Bardala Village	4
Bardala Village Council: Establishment and Responsibilities	5
Historical Background	6
Population	6
Education Sector	7
Health Sector	8
Economic Activities	9
Labor Force.....	10
Agricultural Sector	10
Institutions and Services Sector	11
Infrastructure and Natural Resources	12
Bardala and the Israeli Occupation.....	15
Development Plans and Projects Implemented in Bardala	16
The implanted developmental projects and interventions in Bardala are listed in Table 7...	16
References	19

Geographic Location and Natural Features

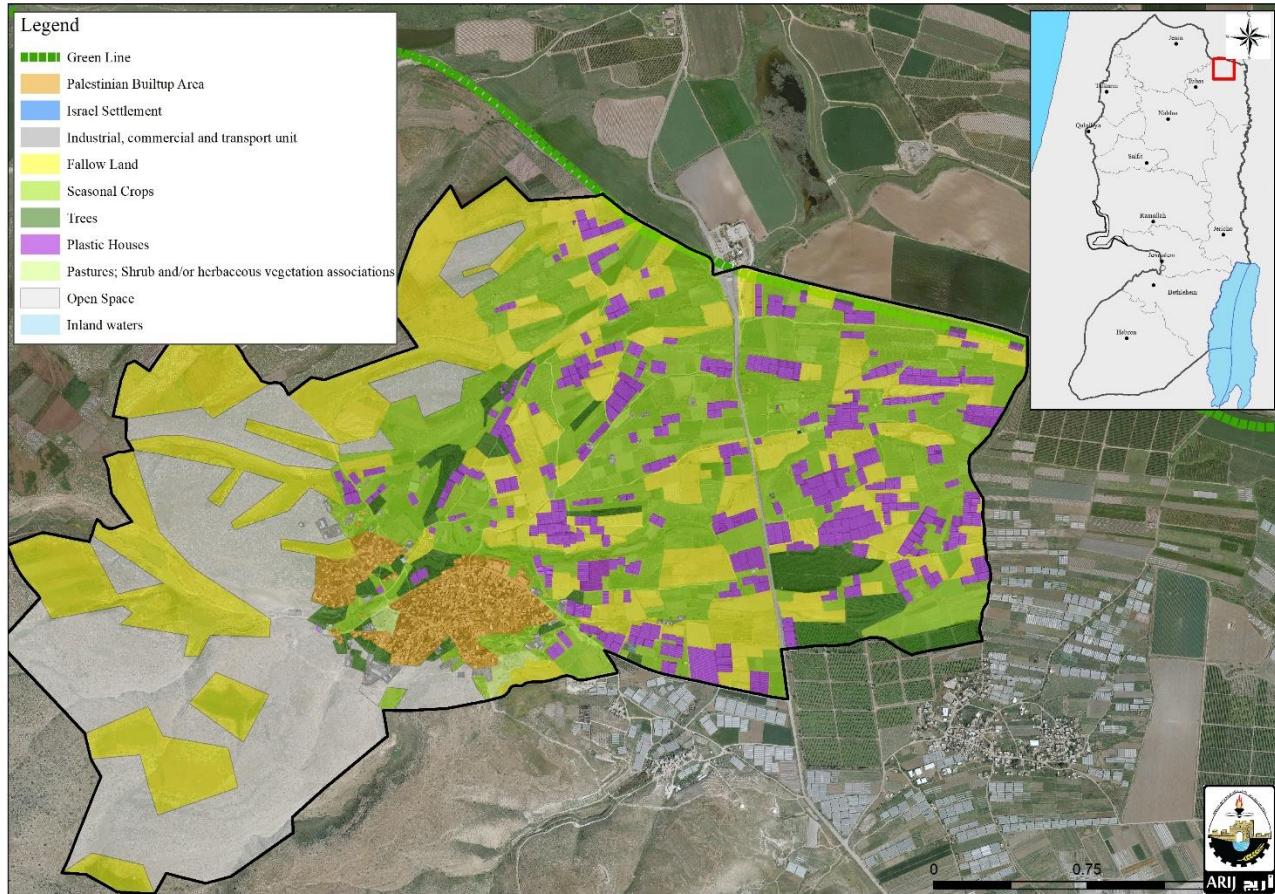
Bardala is one of the villages in the Tubas Governorate, with a total area of 9,727 dunums, of which 377 dunums are designated for residential use. A master plan has been prepared to include all residents' properties. The village is located in the northern Jordan Valley, northeast of Tubas city, about 25 km from the city center. It is bordered by Ibziq village to the west, Ein al-Beida to the east, the Qa'oun Plain, Bisan, and the Green Line (1949 Armistice Line) to the north, and Kardala and Jabarlis to the south.

Land Use and Land Cover Analysis: Bardala Village

The 2021 land use and land cover analysis of Bardala Village highlights a diverse distribution of land use types across a total area of 9,727 dunums. Barren lands constitute the largest share, covering approximately 3,066 dunums, followed by seasonal crops spread over 2,868 dunums, reflecting the village's strong reliance on agriculture. Pastures and shrublands occupy 2,163 dunums, providing important grazing areas. Built-up areas, including residential and urban infrastructure, extend across 377 dunums. Greenhouses, representing investment in protected agriculture, cover around 886 dunums. Industrial, commercial, and transportation units account for 111 dunums, while internal water sources are limited to only 5 dunums. In addition, open areas with sparse or no vegetation cover 44 dunums, and forested areas span 208 dunums, contributing to the village's environmental balance. See Table 1 and Map 1. Data Source: Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), GIS and Remote Sensing Unit, 2024

Land Use Type	Area (Dunums)
Barren Lands	3,066
Built-up Areas	377
Seasonal Crops	2,868
Industrial, Commercial, and Transportation	111
Internal Water Resources	5
Open Areas with Little or No Vegetation Cover	44
Forested Areas	208
Greenhouses	886
Pastures and Shrublands	2,163
Total Area	9,727

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



Map 1: Land Use and Land Cover in Bardala Village, 2021

Bardala Village Council: Establishment and Responsibilities

The Bardala Village Council was established in 1996 and currently consists of nine members (7 males and 2 females) appointed by the Ministry of Local Government. Two employees work in the council (an electricity technician and a water maintenance technician), and the council has a permanent headquarters. It is part of the Joint Services Council for the Northern Jordan Valley. The council also owns equipment to serve the residents (Table 2).

Table 2: Equipment Owned by the Village Council				
Equipment Type	Quantity	Year Acquired	Funding Source	Ownership
Garbage Truck	1	2020	Solid Waste Council / Tubas	Council-owned
Agricultural Tractor	1	2020	Solid Waste Council / Tubas	Council-owned
Excavator	1	2020	Solid Waste Council / Tubas	Council-owned
Electrical Maintenance Crane	1	2021	Solid Waste Council / Tubas	Council-owned

Responsibilities of the Village Council include:

1. Providing infrastructure services (water and electricity networks, including generators)
2. Waste collection, road paving, and social services
3. Protection of public, historical, and archaeological properties
4. Organizing construction and issuing permits
5. Implementing projects and preparing village-specific studies
6. Providing a fire station
7. Establishing kindergartens
8. Providing transportation means

Historical Background

Bardala was named after a Roman king named Baldwil. There is also a plain inside the village called Baldwil Plain, now home to public schools and kindergartens. The village was established in 1956 following the displacement of residents from the destroyed village of Qa'oun during the 1948 war. The residents trace their origins to Qa'oun and Tubas.

Religious and Archaeological Sites**Religious Sites:**

- Bardala Mosque – the only mosque in the village, in need of interior renovation.

Archaeological Sites:

- The ruins of the village of Qa'oun
- Al-Khader Shrine – an archaeological site not yet developed for tourism

Population

According to the 2017 general census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Bardala had 1,584 residents—817 males and 767 females—comprising 314 families and 390 housing units. However, data from the village council (2024) indicates that the current population is approximately 3,000.

Age and Gender Distribution (2017 Census):

- Under 15 years: 36.7%
- Ages 15–64: 59.6%
- Age 65 and above: 3.7%

The male-to-female ratio was 51.6% male and 48.4% female.

Families in Bardala include:

- Sawafteh
- Rabay'ah
- Al-Suqur
- Madarseh: including Al-Hureishat, Al-Yanouni, Alyan, Mabsalt, Al-Fatoon
- Dababreh: including Abu Subha, Al-Sibai, Abu Dawleh
- Khudairat: including Abu Salem, Al-Taj, Abu Nasriyeh
- Bedouin families: including Rabay'ah, Hmeil, Khneifes

Migration: Field surveys conducted by ARIJ revealed that approximately 20 families (around 80 individuals) left Bardala since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000.

Education Sector

As of 2017, the illiteracy rate in Bardala was around 6%. Among residents aged 10 years and above (see table 3):

- 17.2% could read and write
- 22.2% completed primary school
- 29% completed intermediate school
- 16.6% completed high school
- 9% completed higher education
-

Table 3: Educational Attainment by Gender (2017)

Gender	Illiterate	Literate	Primary	Intermediate	Secondary	Diploma	Bachelor's	Postgrad	Total
Male	13	98	152	202	84	10	32	1	592
Female	59	107	113	144	115	12	52	1	603
Total	72	205	265	346	199	22	84	2	1,195

Educational Institutions:

1. Bardala Mixed Secondary School – Grades 5 to 12
2. Bardala Girls' Secondary School – Grades 2 to 12
3. Bardala Mixed Elementary School – Grades 1 to 4

There are 29 classrooms, 454 students, and 52 teachers (Tubas Directorate of Education, 2024).

Challenges in the Education Sector:

1. Teachers' difficulty accessing schools due to Israeli checkpoints, especially Tayasir checkpoint
2. Constant and flying checkpoints harassing students, particularly those from Bedouin encampments
3. Student dropouts
4. Shortage of classrooms
5. Poor condition of sanitary facilities and schoolyards
6. Weak supervision from the Ministry of Education
7. Frequent hiring of inexperienced teachers
8. Lack of hiring local teachers despite local graduates being available

Health Sector

Bardala has a government health center that includes a general clinic, maternal and child health center, medical lab, and a pharmacy. There is also a private pharmacy. However, there are no private clinics or ambulances. In emergencies, residents travel to Tubas (25 km), Nablus (41 km), or Jenin (43 km).

The health center was improved in 2024 by the Ma'an Center but still lacks sufficient services, which are available only one to two days per week.

Nearest Medical Facilities:

- Ein al-Beida Health Center – 1.5 km
- Turkish Hospital in Tubas – 30 km
- Hospitals in Nablus – 41 km
- Hospitals in Jenin – 43 km

Challenges in the Health Sector:

1. No full-time general practitioner
2. No specialized doctors
3. No ambulance
4. No X-ray center
5. Limited lab test availability
6. No private labs
7. Lack of essential medicines
8. Health center needs upgrading to third level
9. Israeli checkpoints
10. Distance from hospitals

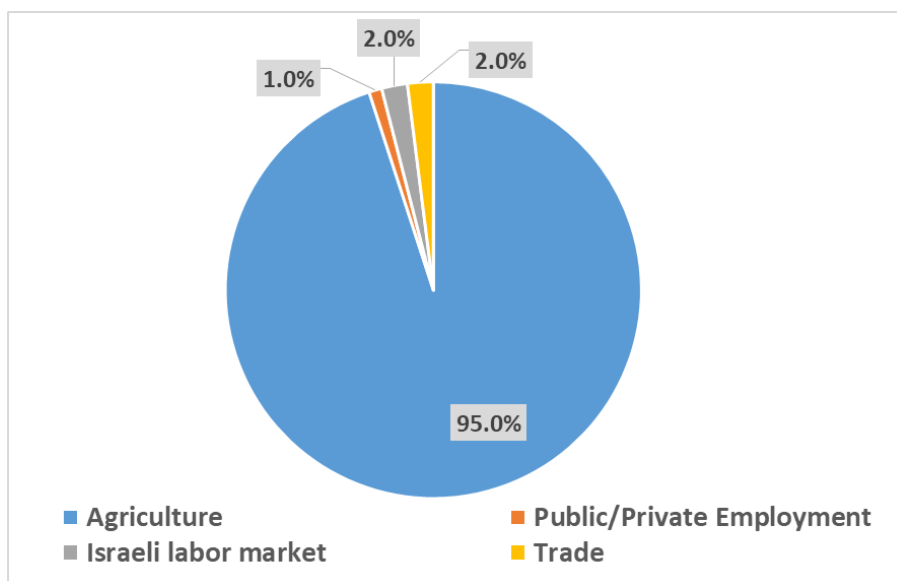
Economic Activities

Bardala's economy relies primarily on agriculture, employing 95% of the workforce (Figure 1).

Workforce Distribution (Bardala Village Council, 2024):

- Agriculture: 95%
- Israeli labor market: 2%
- Public sector: 1%
- Trade sector: 2%

Figure 1: Distribution of Economic Activity in Bardala Village



The residents of Bardala rely on both plant-based and animal agriculture, in addition to the health, education, and transportation sectors. Trade activities in the village are centered around vegetables and livestock.

The supply of vegetables is one of Bardala's most important commercial activities. Despite this, the local economy aspires to further development, although Israeli policies have adversely impacted five key economic sectors in the village:

1. Agricultural sector (60% damage)
2. Public sector
3. Private sector
4. Commercial sector
5. Service sector

Active commercial institutions in Bardala:

- 10 grocery stores (supermarkets)
- 3 industrial/professional shops (blacksmithing, carpentry, aluminum, glass, etc.)
- 4 service-oriented businesses (salons, photography, rentals, auto repair, etc.)
- 2 vegetable and fruit shops (central sales points)
- 1 human pharmacy
- 1 veterinary/agricultural pharmacy

According to a field survey by ARIJ, the unemployment rate in Bardala was 1%. However, by the end of 2023 and during 2024, amid recent events and Israeli restrictions—particularly the closure of the Israeli labor market—unemployment rose to 15%, with many losing their jobs and sources of income. By late 2024, many shifted to agriculture or started private projects, bringing unemployment down again to below 1%. This rate fluctuates seasonally, reaching up to 80% in some months following the agricultural season, indicating high seasonal unemployment.

It's important to note that agriculture in Bardala faces many obstacles due to Israeli policies, leading to significant losses for farmers. Although the sector employs most of the workforce, profits are low and sometimes negative, contributing to further economic deterioration.

Labor Force

According to the 2017 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics census, 54.4% of Bardala residents were economically active, while 45.6% were not. Of the inactive population, 30.2% were students and 52% were homemakers.

Table 3: Bardala Residents (Aged 10 and Older) by Gender and Labor Force Status – 2017

Gender	Employed	Unemployed	Total Active	Students	Homemakers	Unable to Work	Income/Retired	Total Inactive	Total
Male	410	0	410	51	0	28	6	85	495
Female	134	2	136	87	237	47	1	372	508
Total	544	2	546	138	237	75	7	457	1,003

Agricultural Sector

Like other agricultural areas in the West Bank—particularly Area C—Bardala faces several major obstacles limiting the development of its agricultural sector:

1. Confiscation of village lands by the Israeli occupation

2. Restricted access to farmland and grazing areas due to a settler road, cutting off around 1,500 dunums of cultivated land and 15,000 dunums of grazing land
3. Inaccessibility to farmland due to checkpoints, military restrictions, and settler violence
4. Israeli control over water sources (networks and springs), limiting water supply and harming irrigated crops
5. Underdeveloped agricultural road network due to Israeli policies. Bardala has 15 km of agricultural roads:
 - 2 km vehicle-accessible
 - 5 km tractor-accessible
 - 4 km for livestock use only
 - 4 km completely unusable

Around 30% of Bardala's residents raise livestock such as sheep, goats, chickens (meat and egg-producing), and bees.

Beehives	Layer Chickens	Broiler Chickens	Mules	Donkeys	Horses	Camels	Goats	Sheep	Cattle*
314	-	12,100	1	32	6	-	628	5,408	132

*Includes cows, calves, heifers, and bulls.

Key challenges facing agriculture in Bardala:

1. Scarcity of water due to Israeli control, leading farmers to abandon artesian wells
2. Reduced water quotas under the pretext of salinity in aquifers
3. Need for land reclamation and rehabilitation
4. Inadequate agricultural roads
5. Difficulty accessing fertilizers and pesticides
6. Israeli checkpoints controlling access routes
7. Lack of agricultural investment and increasing farmer debt
8. Rising prices of agricultural supplies
9. Israeli restrictions on importing fertilizers and organic compost, negatively impacting vegetable production

Institutions and Services Sector

1) Village Council Institutions:

- Bardala Village Council, established in 1996 under the Ministry of Local Government

2) Government Institutions:

- Post office and branch
- Ministry of Labor office
- Ministry of Interior office

- Directorate of Education and Economy offices
- Fire station
- General health clinic
- Maternal and child health center

3) Religious Institutions:

- Bardala Mosque

4) Cooperatives and Women's Institutions:

- Livestock Association (founded 2008, Ministry of Labor): support and guidance
- Northern Jordan Valley Agricultural Association (founded 2006, Ministry of Labor): support and guidance
- Charity Association for Wall Line Villages (founded 2008, Ministry of Interior): aid to needy families
- Women's Center (founded 2009, Ministry of Interior): food production and nursery services
- Bardala Girls' Medicinal Herbs Association (inactive)

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Communications

Bardala has had a public electricity network since 1993. The main provider is the Israeli national electricity company. 100% of housing units are connected (Bardala Village Council, 2024).

Electricity Needs:

- The village requires an upgrade and increased capacity, but this is denied by Israeli authorities.

Telecommunications:

- There is no public telephone network in Bardala due to its distance from Tubas and Israeli control.

Transportation

The road network in Bardala needs significant development to meet future growth. The Village Council reports road conditions as follows (see table 5):

Table 5: Internal Road Conditions

Road Type	Main Roads (km)	Side Roads (km)	Agricultural Roads (km)
Good/Paved	2	5	0
Paved/Poor	2	0	0
Unpaved	3	3	15

Transport Options:

- Limited to 3 taxis as the main means of transport.
- 8 km of roads are in poor condition and need rehabilitation.

Transportation Challenges:

1. Military and dirt checkpoints
2. Few vehicles available
3. Deteriorating road quality and Israeli restrictions on improvements
4. The separation wall has swallowed large agricultural areas and prevents the opening of new agricultural roads

Water

Since 1982, Bardala has been supplied by Israel's Mekorot water company. All housing units are connected to the water network.

Key Stats:

- Monthly water consumption: 25,000 m³
- Actual need: 50,000 m³ → a 100% shortfall
- Water loss in the network: ~20% due to incomplete network renewal
- Daily per capita share: 5 liters (needed: 100 liters due to high temperatures)

To compensate, residents use 60 household rainwater collection wells. Tanker water is no longer used due to high costs (70 NIS per 3 m³ tank), while water from the Israeli network costs 0.45 NIS per m³. Bardala has one public water tank (capacity: 500 m³), which is insufficient and cannot be filled under Israeli restrictions.

There are four groundwater wells in Bardala that need rehabilitation, pumps, and solar panels to increase water supply for agriculture.

Summary of Water Issues:

- Full Israeli control over water sources and distribution

- Prohibition on filling the public water tank
- Incomplete water network upgrades
- Low-yield wells needing rehabilitation

Sanitation

Bardala lacks a public sewage network. Residents rely on cesspits to dispose of wastewater.

Solid Waste

The Joint Solid Waste Council for the Northern Jordan Valley is responsible for waste management in Bardala, including collection and disposal.

Waste Management Overview:

- Daily waste: ~1.5 tons
- Collected in plastic bags and placed in 35–40 distributed bins (1 m³ each)
- Plans to add 50 more containers and 200 barrels (each 1 m³)
- One garbage truck serves the village twice a week, transferring waste to the “Zahrat Al-Finjan” landfill in Jenin (50 km away)
- Disposal includes burning or burial
- Long-term plans include waste-to-energy technologies
- Monthly waste collection fee: 18 NIS per household (Bardala Village Council, 2024)

Impact of Israeli Occupation Measures

According to the Interim Oslo Agreement signed on September 28, 1995, between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, the lands of Bardala village in Tubas Governorate were divided into Areas B and C. A total of 897 dunums (9% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, which falls under full Palestinian administrative control and full Israeli security control. Meanwhile, 8,830 dunums (91% of the village's total area) were classified as Area C, which is under full Israeli control. In these areas, Palestinian construction or use is prohibited without a permit issued by the Israeli Civil Administration. Area C includes the village's agricultural lands and open spaces.

Area Classification	Area (Dunums)	Percentage of Total Area
Area A	0	0%
Area B	897	9%
Area C	8,830	91%
Natural Areas	0	0%
Total	9,727	100%

Source: GIS Unit – ARIJ, 2025

The residential area of Bardala spans 478 dunums. A master plan has been developed to include all residents' properties.

Bardala and the Israeli Occupation

In Bardala, around 2,226 dunums are designated by Israel as "State Land," according to Israeli Military Order No. 59 (1967). The Israeli authorities restrict construction, land reclamation, and development of agricultural infrastructure due to their complete control (both administrative and security) over Area C. Palestinians are prohibited from expanding housing or engaging in agricultural or livestock activities without Israeli approval. Because of the burdensome conditions imposed for obtaining building permits, many are forced to build without licenses, making their homes and facilities subject to demolition.

Israeli Military Eviction Orders

- On April 25, 2021, Palestinian residents and farmers in Bardala, Kardala, and Ein al-Beida received unprecedented eviction notices from the Israeli Jordan Valley Settlement Council. These orders targeted Palestinian commercial structures, especially seven vegetable stalls along Israeli Bypass Road No. 90, citing lack of a business license under the 1968 Israeli Business Licensing Law.
- On January 23, 2020, Israel issued a military order to evacuate 50 trees on a 3-dunum plot, claiming they were planted on "state land" (Order No. 001375).
- On December 23, 2020, Israel's "Custodian of Government Property" issued two orders (Nos. 001375 and 001376) to evacuate 6 dunums planted with 165 olive trees, again claiming the land as "state property."
- On November 5, 2018, the Israeli Civil Administration issued four eviction orders targeting 260 olive trees in Bardala, labeling them as planted illegally on "state land."
- On December 31, 2017, the Israeli army renewed Military Order No. (08/15/T) extending control over 36.88 dunums of Bardala land near the Beisan checkpoint, originally confiscated in 2008 for checkpoint expansion.
- On January 11, 2017, Israel's "Planning and Building Committee" issued two orders (Nos. 203724 and 203676) to stop construction of a 5-km water pipeline that serves vast agricultural lands in Bardala.

Israeli Demolition Policy in Bardala

Bardala has faced continuous demolitions of homes, agricultural structures, water and farming networks, and livestock facilities under the pretext of "unlicensed construction" in Area C, where Israeli authorities retain full control. Israel systematically denies structural plans for Palestinian communities in Area C, thereby restricting urban expansion while encouraging Israeli settlement growth.

Even in villages where Israel approved structural plans, the designated boundaries only cover the built-up area without accounting for future expansion or agricultural/investment needs. Palestinian structures outside these boundaries remain under constant threat of demolition.

These Israeli practices openly reveal their strategic aim of undermining any prospect for a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. Meanwhile, Israel continues expanding illegal settlements in contradiction to international law and peace agreements.

Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) prohibits the destruction of private or public property unless absolutely required by military operations. Article 147 classifies widespread destruction of property not justified by military necessity as a grave breach of the Convention.

Development Plans and Projects Implemented in Bardala

The implanted developmental projects and interventions in Bardala are listed in Table 7

Project Name	Type	Year	Funding Source
Paving 1,350 meters of road	Infrastructure	2022	Arab Fund (Kuwait)
Building a maternal and child health center	Services	2024	Ma'an Center
Constructing 3 classrooms with balconies	Education	2024	Ma'an Center
Paving 800 meters of roads with sidewalks	Infrastructure	2024	French Grant
Establishing 3 agricultural earth ponds (300 m ³ capacity)	Agriculture	2024	WeWorld
Establishing veterinary pharmacy and milk collection unit	Agriculture	2018	ARIJ
Building 2 km agricultural water pipeline	Agriculture	2023	WeWorld
Installing solar units (42 kW capacity)	Services	2023	ARIJ
Installing 3 biogas production units	Agriculture/Services	2023	ARIJ

Source: Bardala Village Council, 2024

Proposed Projects for development in Baradala Village

The Bardala Village Council, in collaboration with civil society and residents, developed a list of priority projects during a Participatory Rapid Appraisal workshop conducted by ARIJ. Proposed projects include (Table 8):

- Rehabilitation of greenhouses and irrigation systems
- Construction of new greenhouses for farmers affected by the 2023 bypass road confiscations
- Construction of agricultural earth ponds
- Paving at least 7 km of internal village roads
- Reclamation of at least 1,500 dunums
- Provision of cooling containers for agricultural products
- Support for livestock farmers with animal feed
- Job creation projects for farmers during the summer
- Training workshops in food processing
- Infrastructure rehabilitation

Development Needs of the Bardala Community

Table 8: Bardala Village – Development Needs Assessment				
Priority Area	Urgent Need	Need	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructure Needs				
Does the community need road construction or paving?	✓			
Road lengths needed:				Length (meters)
1. Main roads	✓			3,000
2. Secondary roads	✓			4,000
3. Agricultural roads	✓			12,000
Is there a need to repair/rehabilitate the existing water network?		✓		The network is under renewal but the project is not yet complete
Is there a need to expand the old water network to cover new areas?	✓			Network length: 0.5 km
Is there a need to install a new water network?		✓		No
Is there a need to rehabilitate springs or groundwater wells?	✓			4 artesian wells
Is there a need to build a public water tank?	✓			Drinking water: Not needed; Need for agricultural tank (1,000 m ³)
Is there a need for a sewage network?	✓			Network length: 15 km
Is there a need to install a new electricity network?	✓			2 km

Is there a need for waste collection containers?	✓			Number: 70
Is there a need for waste collection vehicles?	✓			Number: 1
Is there a need for a sanitary landfill?		✓		
Health Needs				
Is there a need to build new health centers/clinics?		✓		Number: 1
Is there a need to rehabilitate existing health centers/clinics?		✓		Number: 1
Is there a need to purchase medical equipment?	✓			Yes
Educational Needs				
Is there a need to build new schools? (Primary or secondary?)	✓			Primary stage
Is there a need to rehabilitate existing schools?	✓			Both primary and secondary levels
Is there a need for educational equipment?	✓			School gymnasiums
Agricultural Needs				
Is there a need for land reclamation?	✓			Area: 1,500 dunums
Is there a need to construct rainwater harvesting wells?	✓			Number: 100 (based on study)
Is there a need to build livestock barns/shelters?	✓			Number: 90 (based on study)
Is there a need for veterinary services?			✓	Available
Is there a need for livestock feed and hay?	✓			1,000 tons per year
Is there a need to build new greenhouses?	✓			100 dunums (based on study)
Is there a need to rehabilitate greenhouses?	✓			1,000 dunums (based on study)
Is there a need for crop seeds?	✓			20 tons
Is there a need for seedlings and agricultural materials?	✓			250,000 seedlings
Other Needs				
Construction of metal agricultural ponds and rehabilitation of irrigation networks	✓			Build 10 earthen ponds (250 m ³ capacity each) + rehabilitate irrigation networks on 2,000 dunums

References

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2017), Population, Housing and Establishments Census 2017. Ramallah, Palestine
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