

# **Kardala Village Profile**



**Prepared by**



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## Introduction

This booklet is part of a series aimed to documenting and analyzing the socio-economic conditions in the Palestinian Jordan Valley, with a focus on the governorates of **Tubas and Jericho**. Through a comprehensive assessment of population clusters, developmental needs, and future planning, this initiative seeks to improve living standards and strengthen the resilience of local communities in the face of ongoing challenges.

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

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

The project addresses the economic and social repercussions of **Israeli military orders and occupation practices**, which disproportionately affect **Palestinian rural women in Area C of the West Bank**. The project aims to empower rural women by raising awareness of their rights and enhancing their capacity to confront challenges—including **settler attacks, displacement risks, and restricted access to resources**—the initiative empowers women to engage in developmental planning, securing a more stable future for themselves and their families.

Utilizing an **integrated methodology**, the project combines **field data collection, firsthand testimonies from affected women, media engagement, and collaboration with local and international stakeholders**. Additionally, it focuses on **advocacy strategies** to amplify the voices of rural women, advocating for policies that facilitate their access to essential resources—particularly in **agriculture**, a key livelihood source for many.

This booklet documents the realities faced by Tammun Community which is one of targeted communities in **Tubas and Jericho**. **It provides a comprehensive analysis of socioeconomic conditions, with a special focus on the unique challenges women encounter** while exploring opportunities for **sustainable rural development**. Serving as a **valuable reference**, it aims to support efforts to enhance socio-economic conditions in the communities in the Jordan Valley and bolster community resilience amid escalating political and economic challenges.

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## Geographical Location and Natural Characteristics

Kardala village is one of the villages in Tubas Governorate, with a total area of **1,709 dunums**. It is located **13.5 km northeast** of Tubas city.

**Borders:** **East:** Ein al-Beida village; **North:** The Green Line (1949 Armistice Line); **West:** Jabbris, Burda, and Ibziq villages; **Northwest:** Bardala village; **South:** Wadi al-Malih and Bedouin encampments and **Southeast:** Tal al-Hama, al-Farisiyah, and the Israeli settlement **Makhula**.

### Topography and Climate:

- **Elevation:** 134 meters **below** sea level
- **Annual rainfall:** ~284 mm
- **Average temperature:** 21°C
- **Average humidity:** 54%

*(Source: GIS Unit – ARIJ, 2024)*

### Land use/ Land cover analysis:

The land use and land cover analysis for **Kardala Village**, based on the **2021 aerial photograph**, provides valuable insights into the distribution of different land types across the **total area of 1,710 dunums**. The analysis highlights the predominance of **agricultural and natural land cover**, with **pastures and shrubs** being the most extensive category, covering **1,098 dunums (64.2%)**, which accounts for the largest share of the village's landscape.

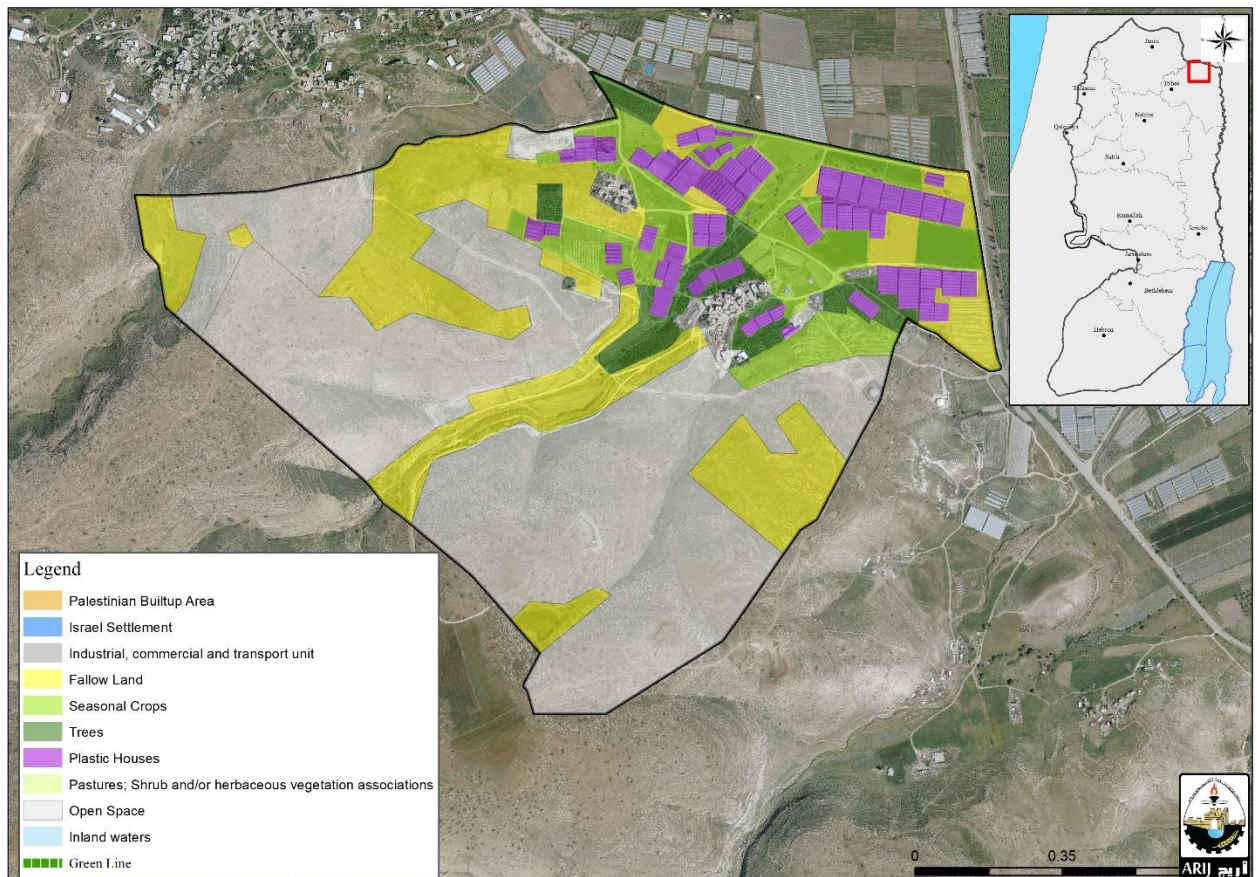
**Agricultural activities** play a significant role in land use, with **seasonal crops covering 226 dunums (13.2%)**, and **plastic houses occupying 118 dunums (6.9%)**, reflecting the presence of controlled agricultural practices. Additionally, **65 dunums (3.8%)** are covered with trees, further supporting agricultural and ecological diversity. **Built-up areas**, including residential and other structures, occupy **26 dunums (1.5%)**, indicating a relatively small urban footprint. Moreover, **9 dunums (0.5%)** are allocated to **industrial, commercial, and transport-related units**, highlighting a limited presence of non-agricultural economic activities in the village.

**Fallow land**, which accounts for **168 dunums (9.8%)**, represents land that is either temporarily unused or left to regenerate for future agricultural use. **Inland water bodies**, covering only **1 dunum (0.06%)**, form a minimal component of the village's land cover.

This land use classification underscores the **rural and agrarian nature** of **Kardala Village**, where the **majority of land (84.3%)** is utilized for grazing, cultivation, and protected agriculture, with only a minor portion allocated to built-up and industrial activities. (see table (1) and Map (1))

Type	Area in Dunum
Fallow Land	168
Built-up Area	26
Seasonal Crops	226
Industrial, commercial and transport unit	9
Inland water	1
Trees	65
Plastic houses	118
Pastures and Shrubs	1,098
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,710</b>

Source of Data: ARIJ, GIS and Remoting Sensing Unit, 2024.



Map (1): Land Use-Land Cover for Kardala Village, 2021

## Kardala Village Council

Established in 1996, the Kardala Village Council operates under the Northern Jordan Valley Joint Services Council. As of 2024, the council consists of seven elected/appointed members and employs one administrative staff member. Due to space constraints, the council currently operates from temporary headquarters in the ground floor of the village mosque adjacent to the school, as its original council building has been repurposed to serve as a primary school for the community. This temporary arrangement reflects both the council's adaptive approach to limited infrastructure and its commitment to prioritizing education needs in the village. *Source: Kardala Village Council.*

### Services Provided

Among the services provided by the village council are the following:

1. **Infrastructure:**
  - Water network maintenance
  - Electricity network & generators
2. **Waste management & road paving**
3. **Project implementation & feasibility studies**
4. **Sewage network** (planned/partial)
5. **Kindergarten facilities**
6. **Availability of Public transportation**

**Note:** *The council lacks heavy machinery/equipment; services are partially provided by the Northern Jordan Valley Joint Services Council. (Source: Kardala Village Council, 2024)*

### Historical Overview

The village was established in 1925, and its inhabitants originally came from the city of Tubas.



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

The village of Bardala has one mosque. As for archaeological sites, there are no discovered archaeological locations in the village.

## Population

According to the 2017 Population and Housing Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the population of Kardala Village was **200**, consisting of **103 males** and **97 females**. The village has **36 families** and **41 housing units**. However, according to the Village Council's data, the population reached **350** persons. (*Source: Kardala Village Council, 2024*).

## Age Groups and Gender

The 2017 PCBS census revealed the following age distribution in Kardala Village:

- **Under 14 years:** 33%
- **15-64 years:** 63%
- **65 years and above:** 4%

The male-to-female ratio was **103:97**, meaning males constituted **51.5%** and females **48.5%** of the population.

## Families

The residents of Kardala Village belong to several families, including:

- **Faqha and Araysha** (original inhabitants)
- **Daraghme and Sawafta** (families practicing permanent seasonal stay)

## Migration

Field surveys indicate that **more than 14 families** have left the village since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in **2000**.

## Education Sector

In 2017, the illiteracy rate in Kardala Village was **3.5%**, with **83.3%** of illiterate individuals being female. Among the educated population, (see table 2):

- **11.2%** could read and write (basic literacy)
- **31.8%** completed primary education
- **32.4%** completed preparatory education
- **9.4%** completed secondary education
- **8.8%** completed higher education

**Table (2): Population of Kardala Village (10 years and above) by Gender and Educational Status, 2017**

Gender	Illiterate	Basic Literacy	Primary	Preparatory	Secondary	Diploma	Bachelor's	Higher Diploma	Master's	PhD	Not Specified	Total
Male	1	4	30	29	11	4	8	0	0	0	0	87
Female	5	15	24	26	5	1	7	0	0	0	0	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>170</b>

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), 2018, *Population and Housing Census, 2017, Final Results*.

### Educational Institutions

There is only one school in Kardala:

- **Kardala Mixed Elementary School**  
However, students face difficulties accessing it due to **restrictions and obstructions by the Israeli occupation forces**.

For secondary education, students attend schools in **Bardala Village (2km away)**:

- **Bardala Secondary School for Girls**
- **Bardala Secondary School for Boys**

### Challenges in the Education Sector

1. **Irregular attendance of teachers** due to their residence outside the village and Israeli checkpoints.
2. **Unfit school building** in the village.
3. **Lack of secondary education** within the village.
4. **Shortage of necessary educational equipment.**

(Kardala Village Council, 2024)

### Health Sector

Kardala has **no health facilities**, forcing residents to seek emergency care in:

- **Ein al-Beida Health Center (1.5km away)**
- **Tubas City Hospital (24km away)**

An **ambulance** is available under the management of the Joint Services Council, serving Kardala and neighboring communities.

### Health Sector Challenges

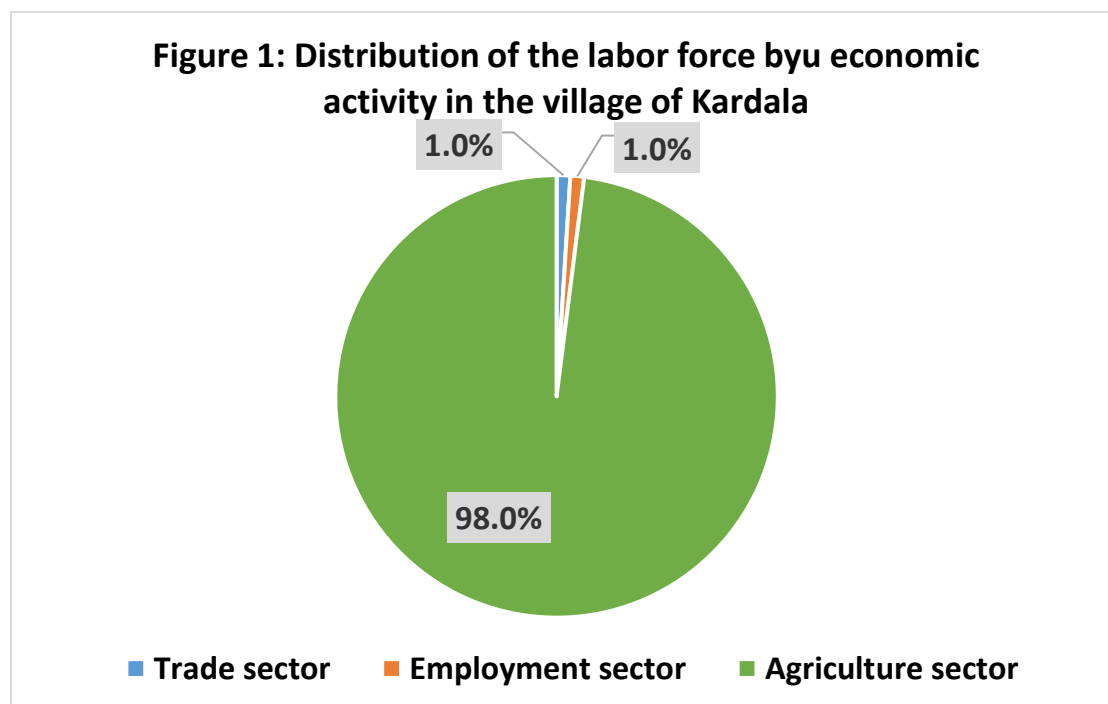
1. **No clinic or health center** in the village.
2. **No nearby hospital** in Tubas Governorate—residents must travel to Nablus or Jenin for emergencies.
3. **Lack of an ambulance** in the village and nearby communities.
4. **Military checkpoints** (including the permanent Tayasir checkpoint and mobile barriers) surrounding the village.



## Economic Activities

The economic activity in Kardala Village relies on **four sectors** (see Figure 1):

1. **Agricultural sector** – **98%** of the workforce.
2. **Commercial sector** – **1%** of the workforce.
3. **Public/private employment** – **1%** of the workforce.
4. **Israeli labor market** – **0%** (no workers in this sector).



**It is worth noting that the most prominent economic activities in the community are:**

- **Livestock products**
- **Vegetables**
- **Fruit trees**

Additionally, there is **one grocery store (supermarket)** serving the village residents. Regarding the labor force in Kardala, the Village Council indicated that the unemployment rate in the community is approximately **5%**, but it can rise to **98% during summer months** after the agricultural season ends—a phenomenon known as **seasonal unemployment**.

### Labor Force

According to the **2017 Population and Housing Census** conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS):

- **69.4%** of the population were economically active (**100% employed**).
- **30.6%** were economically inactive (**43.9% students, 34.1% homemakers**). (See Table 3).

Gender	Economically Active			Economically Inactive					Total
	Employed	Unemployed	Total	Studying/ Training	Home maker	Disabled	Retired with Income	Total	
<b>Male</b>	62	0	<b>62</b>	4	0	4	0	<b>8</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Female</b>	31	0	<b>31</b>	14	14	5	0	<b>33</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>134</b>

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

## Agricultural Sector

The residents of Kardala Village rely on **irrigated agriculture**. The village's water supply comes from two main sources:

1. **Public water network** (managed by the Joint Services Council).
2. **One artesian well.**

Additionally, water is obtained from the **Israeli company Mekorot**, which supplies **5 m<sup>3</sup>/hour**—a very limited amount that does not meet the community's needs.

### Challenges Facing the Agricultural Sector

- **Lack of water resources:** Israel controls water sources, forcing farmers to depend on artesian wells and private sources, leading to **underutilization of agricultural land** and **reduced cultivated areas**.
- **Targeting of farmland and harassment by Israeli occupation forces,** including military checkpoints and settler violence.

*Notably, Kardala Village and neighboring communities are located above Palestine's **second-largest aquifer**, but Israeli occupation authorities control it, depriving Palestinian farmers of sufficient water for livelihood and agriculture.*

The Village Council also reported that:

- **10%** of villagers depend on **livestock raising**.
- **1%** of households engage in **poultry farming**.
- **1%** practice **beekeeping**.

Field surveys indicate that Kardala residents raise livestock, including **sheep, goats, broiler chickens, layer chickens, and bees** (*See Table 4*).

#	Bees (Hives)	Layer Chickens	Broiler Chickens	Mules	Donkeys	Horses	Camels	Goats	Sheep	Cattle*
	-	-	5,100	-	-	-	-	10	51	8

\*(Total cattle, calves, heifers, and bulls.)

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Livestock Census 2021.

### Agricultural Roads

The Village Council stated that agricultural roads span **10 km**, of which:

- **5 km** are suitable for agricultural machinery.
- **2 km** are suitable for vehicles.
- **3 km** are only suitable for animal-drawn carts. (*Kardala Village Council, 2024*).

### Key Challenges in the Agricultural Sector

1. Lack of sufficient water sources.
2. Lack of investment capital for agricultural production.
3. High prices of agricultural inputs and animal feed.
4. Absence of veterinary clinics.
5. Limited marketing outlets.

### Institutional and Services Sector

The institutional and service presence in Bardala Village is limited to:

- **Kardala Village Council:** Established in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government, it provides **water and electricity services** to residents.
- **The Green Agricultural Cooperative Association:** Founded in 1991 by the Ministry of Labor, it offers **agricultural support services**.
- **Rahman Mosque**

The council noted that **no official governmental service institutions** exist in the village.

### Infrastructure and Natural Resources

#### Electricity and Telecommunications

- **100%** of residential and commercial units in Kardala are connected to the electricity grid.
- The **Israeli Electric Company** has been the primary electricity supplier since **1990**.
- **Tubas Electricity Company** provides maintenance services (one technician and a maintenance vehicle). (*Kardala Village Council, 2024*)

*Note: The village has no landline network; residents rely on Israeli wireless communication networks.*

### Transportation

Transportation in Kardala has improved, but residents still await better services. The main means of transportation include:

- **4 buses**
- **4 public taxis** (operating to/from nearby communities)
- **4 unlicensed vehicles** (informal transport within the village)

For road conditions (see Table 5), further development is needed to support future urban, economic, and social growth.

<b>Road Condition</b>	<b>Main Roads</b>	<b>Secondary Roads</b>	<b>Agricultural Roads</b>
<b>Paved (Good Condition)</b>	4 km	-	-
<b>Paved (Poor Condition)</b>	-	1 km	-
<b>Unpaved</b>	-	2.5 km	10 km

### Water

- The **Joint Services Council** supplies water via a **network established in 1990**, covering **100%** of households and facilities (3,600 m<sup>3</sup>/month).
- A **50-m<sup>3</sup> public water tank** (barely sufficient for two families).
- Additional supply from **Mekorot (Israeli Water Company)** at **5 m<sup>3</sup>/hour**—far below demand.

### Key Water Sector Challenges:

1. Frequent water cuts.
2. Insufficient water quantity.
3. Lack of a large-capacity public water tank.

### Sanitation

- **100%** of households are connected to a **sewage network (operational since 2020)**.
- **No wastewater treatment plant** due to Israeli restrictions, forcing residents to dispose of sewage haphazardly.
- **No fees** are charged for sewage services. (*Kardala Village Council, 2024*)

### Solid Waste Management

The **Joint Services Council for Solid Waste Management in the Northern Jordan Valley** is the official body responsible for managing solid waste generated by residents and commercial establishments in the village. Currently, its role includes waste collection and disposal.

Most residents of Bardala village benefit from solid waste management services. Waste is collected at a daily rate of **1.5 tons** from homes, shops, and public spaces in plastic bags. The waste is then transferred to **10 collection containers** distributed throughout the village, each with a capacity of **1 cubic meter (m<sup>3</sup>)**. The council is working to provide **30 additional containers** of the same capacity.

For waste transportation, Bardala is served by a **single collection vehicle** operated by the **Joint Services Council for the Northern Jordan Valley**, which transports waste **twice a week** to the "**Zahret Al-Finjan**" landfill in Jenin, a shared waste disposal site located **about 50 km from the village**. Waste at the landfill is disposed of through **burning or sometimes burial**. Meanwhile, landfill operators—including the **Ministry of Local Government** in partnership with **local and international companies**—are working to implement **safe waste incineration technologies** that convert waste into electricity without producing smoke or toxic leachates.

Due to the **high cost of solid waste management**, a **monthly fee of 25 ILS** is imposed on beneficiaries of waste collection and transportation services. (Bardala Village Council, 2024)

### Impact of Israeli Occupation Measures

According to the Oslo Interim Agreement signed on September 28, 1995, between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, all lands of Kardala village in Tubas Governorate were classified as Area C, covering an area of 1,709 dunums. These areas are under full Israeli control, where Palestinian construction or utilization is prohibited in any form unless authorized by the Israeli Civil Administration. Area C includes the village's agricultural lands and open areas (See Table 6).

<b>Area Classification</b>	<b>Area (Dunums)</b>	<b>Percentage (%) of Kardala's Land</b>
Area A	0	0%
Area B	0	0%
Area C	1,709	100%
Natural Areas	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: ARIJ GIS Unit, 2025

### Israeli Occupation Authorities' Land Seizure Policies

The Israeli occupation authorities classify 720 dunums (40% of the village's total land area) as "state land" under Israeli Military Order No. 59 of 1967. In its continued efforts to seize as much Palestinian land as possible, the Israeli occupation has enforced the State Land Law (59–1967), which is administered by an officer in the Israeli military within the "Civil Administration" under the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, Israel has accelerated its land confiscation by establishing a specialized team within the Civil Administration known as the "Blue Line Team." This team examines and assesses Palestinian lands that Israel aims to appropriate for settlement expansion under the pretext of being "state lands."

Today, Israel claims ownership of vast land areas in the West Bank, arguing that it inherited these lands from the Jordanian administration before the 1967 occupation.

As a result, 843,922 dunums (843.9 km<sup>2</sup>), representing 14.9% of the West Bank, have been designated as "state lands after 1979." Additionally, 666,327 dunums (666.2 km<sup>2</sup> or 11.7% of the West Bank) are undergoing registration under Israeli law as state lands. Overall, Israel unilaterally classifies 2,145,169 **dunums (2,145 km<sup>2</sup>)**, which **accounts for 37.8% of the total area of the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, as "state land."**

#### **Israeli Military Bases on Kardala's Lands**

Kardala village suffers greatly from Israeli military training exercises conducted in three military training camps established on its lands years ago. These camps have become a source of fear for the village residents and have imposed additional hardships on their daily lives. The presence of these camps poses an escalating danger and a direct threat to the lives of the Palestinian residents of Kardala and neighboring villages.

It is worth noting that since the 1967 occupation of Palestinian lands, Israel has established over **210 military bases** in the occupied West Bank, with a strong focus on the Jordan Valley area to provide security for Israeli settlements, which have become integral parts of these military zones. Today, Israeli military bases occupy a total area of **45 km<sup>2</sup>** in the West Bank.

#### **Israeli Demolition Policy**

Kardala village in Tubas Governorate is a frequent target of Israel's demolition policy, which focuses on demolishing Palestinian homes, structures, and infrastructure under the pretext of lacking building permits. Israeli authorities refuse to grant Kardala an approved master plan that would allow for urban expansion and development.

These policies are part of a broader Israeli strategy to reduce Palestinian presence in the Jordan Valley—an area considered the "**breadbasket of Palestine**" and one of the most targeted regions for settlement expansion. The Israeli occupation aims to **forcibly displace Palestinians by preventing them from constructing or renovating their homes and agricultural structures**, in clear violation of international law, which prohibits the destruction of civilian property in occupied territories without military necessity.

Israel's demolition and displacement policies in Kardala and other Palestinian villages reflect a wider plan to **seize control over land and natural resources in the Jordan Valley while depriving Palestinians of their basic rights to land and housing.**

## Development Plans and Projects Implemented and Proposed in Kardala Village

### Implemented Projects

The **Kardala Village Council** has implemented several projects over the past five years, as shown in Table 7:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Funding Entity</b>
Sewer Line	Infrastructure	2020	Al-Aqsa Fund & Islamic Development Bank
Paving of the Main Road	Infrastructure	2024	Arab Kuwaiti Fund
Rehabilitation of School Canopy	Infrastructure	2022	World Vision
Construction of a Stone Fence around the Mosque and School	Infrastructure	2023	Al-Aqsa Fund

*Source: Kardala Village Council, 2024.*

### Proposed Projects

The **Kardala Village Council**, in collaboration 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**, conducted in the village by the **Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)**. Below do workshop participants identify the proposed projects ranked by priority, as?

1. Development of a master plan for the village.
2. Establishment of a primary school.
3. Construction of a village council building.
4. Establishment of a wastewater treatment plant.
5. Rehabilitation of 5 km of agricultural roads.
6. Rehabilitation of greenhouses.
7. Construction of a health clinic building in the village.
8. Installation of water transmission lines.
9. Construction of an agricultural water reservoir.
10. Land reclamation for agriculture.
11. Construction of livestock barns.
12. Provision of food processing equipment.
13. Construction of 1 km of retaining walls.
14. Establishment of packaging houses and provision of refrigeration units and necessary machinery.

### Village Development Priorities and Needs (See Table 8)

The following table presents the Kardala village priorities and needs for development.

<b>Table 8: Kardala Village Priorities and Needs</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Urgent Need</b>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Not a Priority</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Infrastructure Needs</b>				
Does the community need new roads or road paving?	✓			
<b>Road Lengths by Type:</b>				<b>Length (meters)</b>
1. Main Roads		✓		<b>3 km</b>
2. Secondary Roads		✓		<b>5.5 km</b>
3. Agricultural Roads	✓			<b>5 km</b>
Does the community need repair/maintenance of the existing water network?			✓	<b>Network length:</b>
Does the community need expansion of the old water network to cover new areas?		✓		<b>Network length (km):</b>
Does the community need a new water network?		✓		<b>Network length (km):</b>
Does the community need restoration/rehabilitation of springs or groundwater wells?			✓	<b>Number: Type:</b>
Does the community need the construction of a public water reservoir?		✓		<b>Required capacity (m<sup>3</sup>):</b>
Does the community need a sewage network?			✓	<b>Network length (km):</b>
Does the community need a new electricity network?			✓	<b>Network length (km):</b>
Does the community need solid waste collection containers?	✓			<b>Number: 30</b>
Does the community need solid waste collection trucks?	✓			<b>Number: 1</b>
Does the community need a sanitary landfill for solid waste?			✓	
<b>Health Needs</b>				
Does the community need new health centers/clinics?	✓			<b>Number: 1</b>
Does the community need rehabilitation/maintenance of existing health centers/clinics?			✓	<b>Number:</b>
Does the community need medical equipment for existing centers or clinics?			✓	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Educational Needs</b>				
Does the community need new schools? If yes, specify the educational level (primary or secondary, or both).	✓			<b>Secondary School</b>



Does the community need rehabilitation of existing schools? If yes, specify the educational level (primary or secondary, or both).	✓			<b>Primary School</b>
Does the community need educational equipment?	✓			<b>(Sports &amp; Labs)</b>
<b>Agricultural Needs</b>				
Does the community need agricultural land reclamation?		✓		<b>500 dunums</b>
Does the community need the construction of rainwater harvesting wells?		✓		<b>Number (Based on study): 20</b>
Does the community need livestock barns/sheds?	✓			<b>Number (Based on study): 10</b>
Does the community need veterinary services?			✓	
Does the community need fodder and hay for livestock?			✓	<b>100 tons annually</b>
Does the community need new greenhouses?	✓			<b>Number (Based on study): 30</b>
Does the community need rehabilitation of existing greenhouses?	✓			<b>Number (Based on study): 100</b>
Does the community need seeds?	✓			<b>20 tons</b>
Does the community need seedlings and agricultural materials?	✓			<b>300,000 vegetable seedlings</b>
<b>Other Needs</b>				

### References:

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2017), **General Census of Population, Housing, and Establishments, 2007**, Ramallah – Palestine.
- **Kardala Village Council (2024).**
- Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) (2024-2025), **GIS and Remote Sensing Database, Bethlehem – Palestine.**
- Veterinary Directorate (2021), **Tubas – Palestine.**