



Community Profile



Al-Dahrieh City

Al-Dahrieh is located in the far south of the West Bank, approximately 22km south of Hebron and is considered the southern gate of the West Bank. It is built upon the ruins of the ancient Canaanite town of Goshen, where its ruler sultan Al Dahir made the city a strategic location within his sultanate. It is from this Sultan that Al-Dahrieh derives its name. Al-Dahrieh is surrounded by the lands of Beersheba and Al Samu'a and the villages of Al-Burj, Deir Al-Asal, Beit Al-Rush and Dura, and has a population of nearly 50,000 people, though this figure rises to approximately 70,000 when including the surrounding villages according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' figures from 2018. Al-Dahrieh's urban center has an area of 15,198 dunums, according to the municipality's structural plan, while its surrounding areas include a total land area of 120,854 dunums which entails just over 70% of its historical area of 167,000 dunums. Al-Dahrieh is the third largest city within the governorate of Hebron following the cities of Hebron and Yatta and is the last major population center in the Southern West Bank.

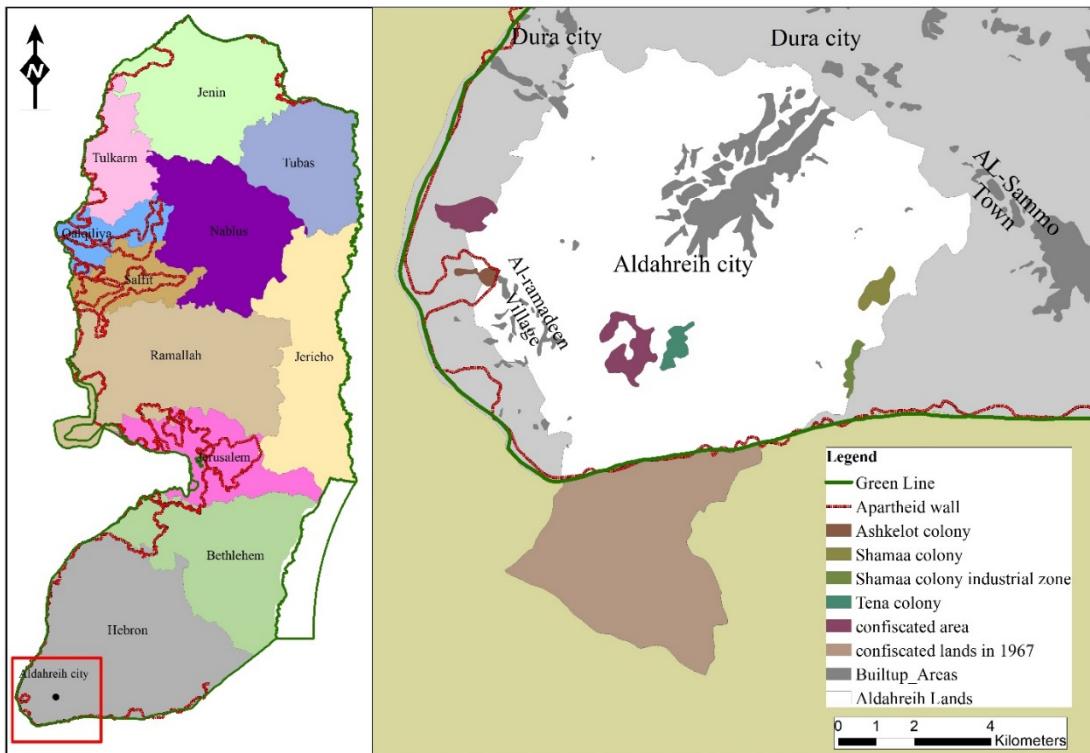


Figure 1: Aldahreih City Site

Vision of Al-Dahrieh

The citizens of Ad Dhahiriya, the Municipality and its Municipal Council are committed to achieving the vision:

“Ad Dhahiriya is a Thriving, Modern, Developed and Safe City, With A Unique and Entrepreneurial Cultural Characteristic”

Strategy:

This vision will be achieved by coordinating our efforts to improve the provision of quality services and enhancing the leadership and developmental role of the Municipality. However, to ensure our success we need to move towards financial self-reliance with the support from our citizens, civil society organizations, the private sector, the national government, and the international donor community.

Thus, the priorities programs/projects across the four developmental domains: 1) Environment and Community Infrastructure; 2) Local Economic Development (LED); 3) Social Development and Empowerment; and 4) Good Governance.

Al-Dahrieh's Economy

Al-Dahrieh's location has made it a commercial center for more than one hundred thousand residents of the Negev, in addition to being a central gathering point for workers who work in the city of Beersheba within the Green Line, from the surrounding southern West Bank areas. According to the records of the municipality, over 1040 commercial licenses have been issued to professionals and organizations provide a wide range of goods and services, including a comprehensive market to meet the needs of citizens. It is also the home to one of the most important livestock markets in the Palestinian Territories.

Al-Dahrieh's workforce is composed of 68.6% of its population, of which 52% work within the borders of the Green Line, 17% in official government capacities, 15% in agriculture, 11% in trade and 5% in the manufacturing industry.

Essential Institutions

In Al-Dahrieh there are governmental departments and non-governmental organizations providing vital services to citizens of the town and the surrounding areas. These institutions are the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for the south of Hebron governorate. Also, the Al-Dahrieh Youth Sports Club, the Central Police Station, the Medical Emergency Center and the Safe Birthing Center and health clinics. It also includes the Governmental Department for Agrarian Guidance, Central Post Office, the Office for the Directorate of the Interior, the Consultative Court, the Southern Governorate Electricity Company, a College for Islamic Da'wa, a Local Radio Network including Rotana Radio, Women's Centers and Associations, Directorate of the Bureau of Labor, the Red Crescent, a children's hospital, a Teacher's Forum, Agricultural Cooperatives, four bank branches(bank of Palestine, Quds bank and Palestinian Islamic bank) and the Islamic Charitable Society.

Livestock Market

The city has a 130-year-old livestock market, that brings together livestock merchants from Naqab, Galilee, Gaza and North Palestine. The market is located in the middle of the livestock-raising areas, and it is now considered the most important livestock market in the West Bank. The large numbers of expert livestock raisers gives more significance to that market. Currently, the market sets the prices of the livestock in the West Bank. The municipality received a grant from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to develop the market and equip it with veterinary services, quarantine, and fodder warehouse.

History and Tourism

The old town of Al-Dahrieh is considered an important site of historical heritage, consisting of 972 structures of historical architectural significance, representing 2.5% of all such buildings within Palestine. Initiatives from donors and the municipality have restored several historical buildings and courtyards. They have invested services and centers for tourists. The most prominent landmarks in Al-Dahrieh is the building known as “Al Khawkha”, a compound in the old town. Today it has become a center named after Fawzi Pasha, a former leader of the Ottoman Army who constructed a fort with buildings characterized by their distinct architecture of bows and stripes. Also, there are rock wells and caves exhibiting harmonious geometric architecture. In addition to the old town, a number of archaeological sites exist in the villages and hamlets surrounding AL-Dahrieh dating back to various historical periods. The most notable of these include Kafr Jul, Al Ras, Deir Al Loz, Um Seer, Al Rahwa, Al Jabari, Aseelah, Badghosh, Deir Saeedah, Deir Al Hawa, Atir, Um Al Demnah, Tal Awad, Um Al Nakhla.

Anab Church

The Byzantine Anab Church (600 B.C) is one of the rare churches, that was discovered during the last fifteen years in Palestine. The Church is a rectangular Basilica building, its length from east to west is twice the width from north to south, with a space of 700 squared meters. The Mosaic floors of the Church need to be renovated, and the road to the Church has to be paved.

Recreation and Sport

The people of Al-Dahrieh are united by their love for sports, especially football. The town's football team, which is known as the Deers of the South, is one of the best teams on the national level. It was established in 1974 by a group of young amateurs and became a nationally recognized club that won several national championships, most notable of which were: West Bank Cup (1983), Palestinian Union Cup (2005), Abu Ammar Cup (2012), Palestine Cup (2012), Palestine Cup (2014), Abu Ammar Cup (2015), as well as the recent Jawwal cup, in addition to several other formal and informal titles and championships.

Al-Dahria Amusement Park

The municipality had erected Abu Kharrouba park in the south west part of the city, on an area exceeding 20 Dunam, which was a landfill site in the past. In 2015, the municipality established a self-funded amusement park, the first of its kind in the region, which the municipality develops continuously.

Al-Dahrieh Municipality

Al-Dahrieh's Municipality was established in 1963, when it was classified as a village. In 1997 the village council was upgraded to a municipality leading to the formation of the first municipal council composed of thirteen members, the current elected council lead by the Mayor Mr. Rateb Al sbar. The municipality consists of 85 employees and operates within the “class B” classification of the Ministry of Local Government. The municipality provides diverse services, like infrastructural, medical, educational services. In addition to water, sanitation, developmental, investment, as well as logistical and administrative services such as licensing and certification. The municipality coordinates and cooperates with all sectors of local civil society and with a variety of partners. It operates in a coherent and integrated manner under the motto of “excellence in services, advanced performance, and openness to society”, aiming to provide the best possible services through qualified government officials to contribute to provide a decent life for all its citizens.

Currently, the municipality is expanding its network, through establishing new relations with international partners, so as to enhance the cultural and institutional interaction, and to empower the mutual understanding between our different cultures. Hence, we are highly interested in creating a partnership relations.

The most important challenges:

The Development Priorities/Objectives of Ad Dhahiriya within the four domains are:

- **Environment and Community Infrastructure**

1. Improving the public services and developing the city infrastructure, mainly the roads network and traffic organization.
2. Improving the environmental conditions of citizens and preserving the environment through improving the solid waste management.
3. Rehabilitating and improving the water network and city's share, establishing sewerage network and treatment plants plus reducing the risks of environmental pollution.

- **Local Economic Development**

1. Developing the agricultural sector in the city, improving farmers' conditions and supporting their resilience, also encouraging investment in the agricultural sector, plus preserving and reclaiming the agricultural lands.
2. Organizing the industries, crafts and professions through the allocation of industrial and handicrafts zones rehabilitated with essential infrastructure.
3. Encouraging and promoting joint investments with the private sector, to achieve the local economic development and securing employment opportunities for youth in the city.

- **Social Development and Empowerment**

1. Improving social and economic welfare programs for youth, women and persons with disabilities, plus activating their participation and integration in the local government sector and securing financial support for programs and projects directed to them.
2. Improving the educational services and infrastructure along with activating the role of cultural centers in the city.
3. Improving the health services and infrastructure along with activating the medical services provided in the city.

- **Management & Good Governance**

1. Updating and expanding the physical plan, plus developing geographical database integrated with the other municipal computerized systems.
2. Improving the preparedness level for crises and disasters, plus providing necessary equipment and machineries, and protecting citizens from the potential crises and disasters.
3. Strengthening and developing the institutional capacity of the municipality and the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the city and promoting the principles of good governance.

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