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# Rural Development and Community Participation within Joint Planning Areas

## Al-Yaserreyeh Case Study

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**Abstract:** *Palestinian rural areas are suffering real shortages on many different levels concerning mainly social, economic, infrastructural, services and governance aspects of life. The Palestinian government adopted recently a strategy to amalgamate adjacent rural localities in one unit seeking to tackle the aforementioned shortages. Nevertheless, the strategy focuses mainly on tackling administrative aspects without implementing a comprehensive approach, meaning it does not integrate administrative issues with developmental ones. Furthermore, the process of amalgamation did not involve community and public participation as important components to guarantee the successful implementation of this strategy. This paper tackles one of the areas where the amalgamation strategy was implemented: Al-Yaserreyeh (West Bank, south of Hebron). The new administrative body faces serious challenges in regard to administrative ruling and developmental proceedings as a result of amalgamation. Data used in this paper was collected through an extensive questionnaires, field visits, and interviews with decision makers, key persons in the study area, and community members. Maps were also prepared in order to understand the spatial configuration of the localities within the area of study. Results show that the amalgamation strategy implemented in the area of study, as it was initially defined, was not the appropriate tool to produce a sustainable rural development and good governance. The study proposes another model for rural development to be implemented which depends on joint planning area, developmental and strategic planning, community and decision makers involvement throughout the entire process.*

**Key words:** Amalgamation, Community Participation, Comprehensive Planning, Joint Planning Areas, Rural Development.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2003, the number of Palestinian localities was 686, in 2005 the number decreased to be 598 then to 512 in 2010. This decrease in the number of localities was due to the amalgamation policy which was adopted by MoLG (PCBS, 2010). However, there are many cases of amalgamation in the West Bank which proved a failure such as Al-Yaserreyeh in the west of Hebron Governorate which will be the case study of this paper.

Al-Yaserreyeh was announced as an amalgamated municipality in 2010. It is consisted of seven communities: Beit 'Awwa, Deir Samit, As-Semya, Al-Kum, Al-Muraq, Beit Maqdoum, and Humsa. There were many problems in the amalgamation process of AL-Yaserreyeh, like lack of

community participation and lack of physical planning schemes that are essential to support the new municipality.

Al-Yaserreyeh area is one of the marginalized rural areas, that suffers the lack of government's interest. The development of such area is not a priority of the government, despite the construction of the Separation Wall on its land which causes lots of spatial, economic and social problems. In addition to these problems, job opportunities are rare, youth migration to both West Bank cities and outside the country. Other problems affecting rural areas such as shortage in basic services, and neglect of women and youth roles in development

Community participation is considered as one of the most important elements in the planning process. Community participation gives the local citizens more opportunities to participate in forming their future according to their needs and visions. Participating of local inhabitants in the planning their future, increases the sense of belonging among people for the outputs of that planning process.

This study aims to find a comprehensive approach that could be considered as an appropriate approach for practicing amalgamation in Palestinian rural areas, by investigating the case that failed to implement amalgamation.

Hence, interviews, field visits, and analysis of maps and Aerial Photographs were conducted to understand the case study in cooperation with locals to achieve appropriate community participation. Then lots of data in different layers were interrelated and analysed to come up with the results of this study, which led to know the problem and to create administrative and physical models in order to achieve the objectives of the study.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Problems and potentials in rural areas

The main problem of rural areas in the world is (urbanization), and serious comparative disadvantages resulting from the growing of global market competition. The aim of the rural development process is to reduce or eliminate the effect of these problems and disadvantages, ensure fair competition, in addition to create social and economic cohesion and cooperation between different areas (Nemes,2005).

Gusztav Nemes (2005) in his paper "Integrated Rural Development: the concept and its operation" discussed in rational and dialectical way the rural problems and disadvantages. He saw that the current problems of the rural areas originating from two different resources: the underdevelopment of different infrastructure which results limited communication of people, products, money and information. The second resource is the limited ability and resources to produce goods and services saleable on the global market.

And then Gustav Nemes (2005) classified the rural values into three categories, which can be developed and used to become potentials. These values are ecological values, cultural values, and community values.

**Ecological Values:** in the 20th century, due to the natural increase of population and also because of the Industrial Revolution, cities have become crowded, polluted, and diseases spread, which affected the life in these cities. Rural areas were not affected and kept the open spaces, the clean water and air that give value to the ecological aspects. **Socio-Cultural Values:** The rural people tried to modernize their lives and get away from traditionality because of the effect of modernization overall world. The richness of the traditional culture is only found in the isolated rural areas or the places where the policies stopped the effect of modernization. **Community values:** Community values such as social networks, mutual trust and understanding are almost related to rurality. This kind of values is important for human communities, and they are existing within traditional and small scale societies more than urban societies. In rural areas, the social connection is strong where everybody says "Hello", even for strangers. This kind of trust and peace can be a good base for the social and economic co-operation. This kind of social atmosphere helps make rural development smooth.

In conclusion, the three types of values mentioned above are come after the view of rural areas changed in the people eyes, specially after the industrial revolution, the modernization and globalization had changed the urban areas. These values make the way for developing rural areas to take new track and new image, and it enable people in these areas to know the potential of their rural areas.

## 2.2. Amalgamation

The joint planning areas or the amalgamated or merged municipalities are tools of reforming the existence municipalities into larger municipalities to make urban or rural development for these areas. There are many approaches and methods to develop the rural areas such as smart development, Joint services councils (JSCs), and the amalgamation. Some of these approaches can be considered as initial stage to another approaches such as the JSCs which considered as initial stage to make amalgamation (Salameh,2009).

Increasing the size of local units and then decreasing the number of local units can contain some advantages such as increasing the sources with in these areas like natural resources and human resources due to increasing of geographic area of the units and the increasing of its population. All of that can make the unit or municipality more able to control the services and to be independent from the government as a result new larger power obtained by amalgamation (Ghanem,2004).

There was a wide experiment of amalgamation in Japan. The implementation of the amalgamation reduced number of localities from 71,497 to 3,234 through a hundred years. This amalgamation process to develop both urban and rural areas in Japan appeared when there was a bad need for establishing new municipalities with sufficient capacity to provide public services such as education, sanitation, and welfare. They based on that larger municipality more cost efficient than small municipalities to provide these services (Mabuchi, 2001).

### 3. Al-Yaserreyeh Area

Al-Yaserreyeh is joint area consist of seven villages (administrated by one municipality and two local councils) located in the southern part of West Bank in south-west of Hebron governorate as part of Dura city lands. In 2010 council of ministers decided to merge these seven villages into Al-Yaserreyeh village based on the amended Basic Law of 2003 and based on Local Authorities Law No.(1) of 1997.

#### 3.1. Al-Yaserreyeh Social network

The relations between the main families and between the sub-families in Al-Yaserreyeh are strong and good relations. There are no problems or revenges, but there is relationship by marriage between almost all families.

According to this social network in Al-Yaserreyeh, the representing of people in the municipality committees based on this distributing of families on the villages. Mr. Hasan Al-Rjoub (a Journalist from Al-Kum Village) says that this kind of representation make two consecutive problems, first problem is the families with more power have more representatives in the municipality, this lead to other problem which is affecting the distribution of projects within the villages. However, the good relationships can form strong base for any rural developing projects especially in such rural areas where older people consider one of important decision makers.

#### 3.2. Al-Yaserreyeh Economic Situation

Economy of Al-Yaserreyeh is not independent; it is related and depend on the Israeli working market. In addition, there are many traders of gold, cattle, and clothes from Al- Yaserreyeh, but their markets and their trading take place out of al- Yaserreyeh, which depends on those markets in Hebron city and Bethlehem City.

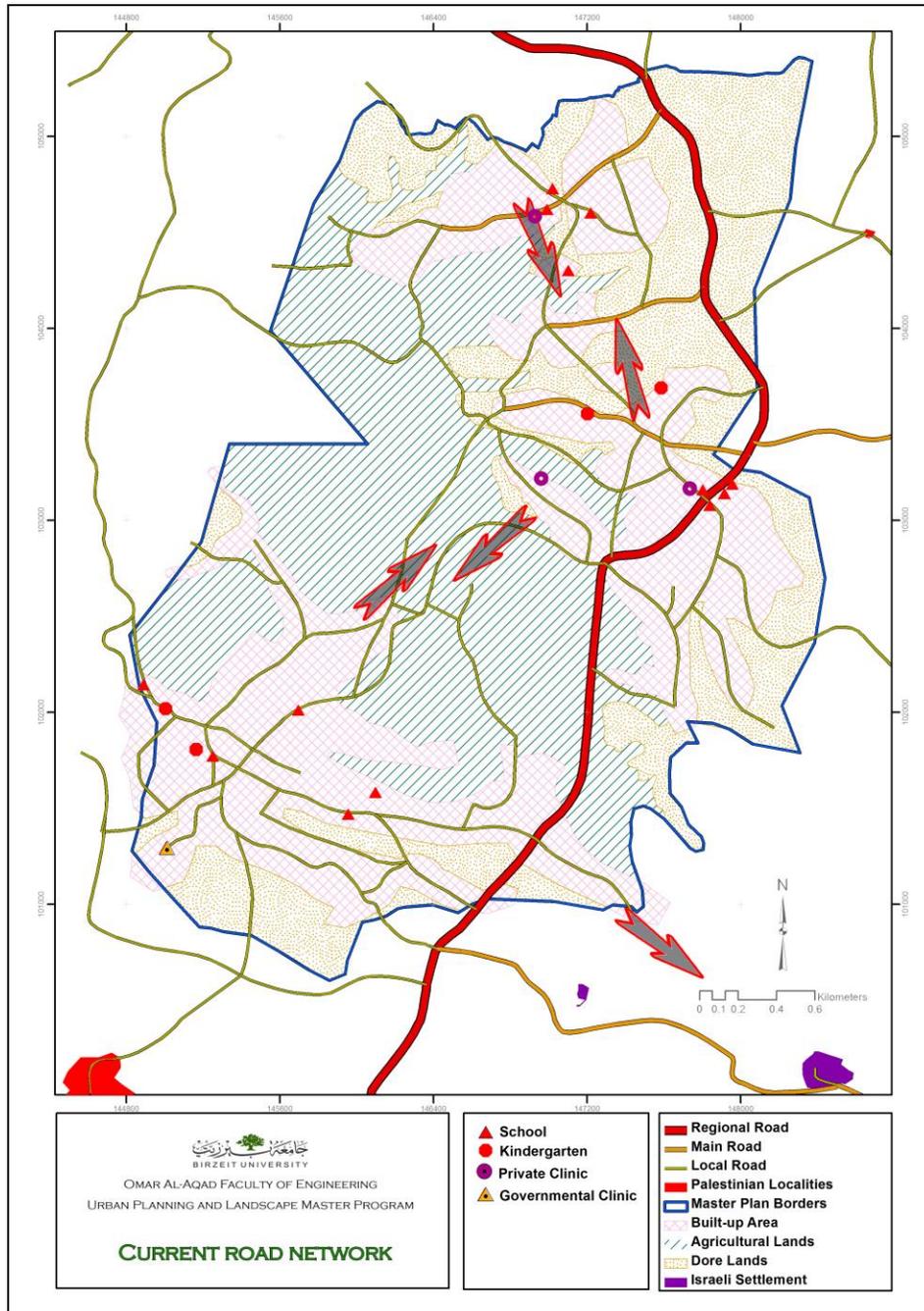
It is clear that the area is in bad need for development, and in order to do this development, there must be a comprehensive master plan prepared according to the needs of the residents, and in the same time take in conceder the potentials and the opportunities of the area in a good way.

#### 3.3. Al-Yaserreyeh Infrastructure

According to field study and interviews conducted with locals, the infrastructure situation in Al-Yaserreyeh is suffering from weakness and a lack of sufficiently. In the following, there will be a description for the infrastructure of Al-Yaserreyeh.

Health services is one of the sectors that suffers from many problems. Al-Yaserreyeh depends totally on both Hebron city and Dura city for health services, it has one governmental clinic that provides services for more than 22,000 citizens (ARIJ, 2009. In other hand, education sector is also suffering from many problems such as shortage of schools in different levels, and kindergartens, and number of students still increasing and these schools are not enough. The spatial distribution of the schools suffers from many problems, Most of these schools are

located near the main streets and commercial and industrial areas, and this causes noise and a danger to the students (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** Current services in Al-Yaserreyeh Area.

Water sector in Al-Yaserreyeh suffers from shortage and deficit in water availability. Domestic water reaches Al-Yaserreyeh houses by irregular way, because Israel controls water resources in the area. Water for agricultural purpose is also suffering from same problems that is affecting the agriculture sector, and force farmers to cultivate rainfed crops such as wheat, barley, and olive trees.

There is a main street cross Al-Yaserreyeh lands, that connects Al-Yaserreyeh and the surrounding localities with the rest of West Bank cities and towns, this road considered as a potential for the area because it gives the area a direct connection with the surrounding area's services. It suffers from many problems as narrow, drilled, not well lighted, and most of this network are not paved (Figure 1). Waste vehicles collect solid waste in Al-Yaserreyeh, and then it carried to landfills out of Al-Yaserreyeh near Yatta city. This long trip costs the municipality extra costs and make the process not efficient. The municipality did not improved this situation.

## 4. Analysis

Amalgamation in AL-Yaserreyeh was a top – down decision imposed by the government and was not a bottom – up one. The decision of amalgamating the localities in Al-Yaserreyeh area was made by a small group of local figures. It has been mainly realized through meeting of a group of one political party. The process of the decision-making proved a failure, which was reflected on the perception of the public towards amalgamation and the way they dealt with it at the time of its implementation.

However, problematic decision making was not the only reason behind the failure, it was followed by other reasons which had negative impacts such as lack of community participation, lack of public awareness on this subject, lack of future vision or physical plan to the amalgamated area, the only focus on the administrative issues, lack of implementing developmental projects.

This research intends, prior to the analysis of Al-Yaserreyeh case, to conduct a comparative study between the Palestinian model of rural development and an international model that is called "Better Practice Guide for Amalgamation" adopted by the Canadian government. The data collected will be analyzed according the two adopted approaches; Administrative and Physical, in addition to, land use assessment for Al-Yaserreyeh area.

### 4.1. Comparison between the "Better practice guide" and the Palestinian model

The comparison between the Palestinian model and an international one is necessary to highlight pros and cons in Al-Yaserreyeh case. The guide " Better practice guide ", is for managing amalgamation of government departments developed by the Audit Office of New South Wales (AONSW, 2008). It contains five parts, these parts discuss both administrative issues and planning issues. Administrative issues as new appointments, committees, and structures, legal delegations, risk assessment, management plans, ..., and human resource

policies and systems, these issues related to the municipal body which will lead the amalgamation or merging municipalities and local councils.

On the other hand, this model discusses developing and planning elements which represent the physical results of the amalgamation process. These issues are; new corporate plan, new services plan, ongoing integration projects, and it is clearer in first two phases of achieving amalgamation which are taking early action & developing formal plans. In addition to all these issues, this model focuses on moral issues too which are related to staff changes and redundancies that might spark people's resistance for amalgamation process. And as in the whole planning process there is a part that insures revision of the project and its results by observing and measuring indicators.

The Palestinian model for amalgamation contains three main phases. The first deals with initiating the amalgamation process by studying the ability and possibility of the area to be amalgamated or merged. The second phase contains the preparations of the municipality or local councils to be merged as a pure administrative step. Finally, the third phase implements the administrative components out of previous phases. It is clear that the Palestinian model for amalgamation talks only about administrative issues without taking in consideration planning or physical settings. It is noted that there is nothing about physical action or developmental projects, which had to be proposed for implementation in order to develop the target area. At the same time, if there were no services plan or developmental plan, there would be no chances for success in the new formed area to prove success. Even on the administrative side discussed in the Palestinian model there is a problem in defining the right method to select the representatives, which should have been through elections instead of appointing, and because of appointment, many social conflicts appeared within the community.

According to "Better practice guide" there are important requirements that should realized prior to proceed with the amalgamation such as: awareness, public participation, preparatory studies and analysis, financial plan, action plan, and implementation plan, to make successful amalgamation (AONSW, 2008). Shortcomings in implementing of such steps that led to the failure of many attempts of amalgamation in several communities in the West Bank. These failed attempts also undermined the relationship between citizens and their representatives in these communities. They also caused delay in reforming institutions in these areas, which had a negative impact on overall process of amalgamation and development.

## **4.2. Data Analysis**

In this section, the data collected by the questionnaire, interviews, maps analysis, and field studies about Al-Yaserreyeh case will be analysed and discussed. Data will be analysed according to its relation to administrative and physical issues since the structure of the questionnaire and the interviews were outlined accordingly.

### **4.2.1. Administrative issues**

The administrative issues that will be discussed here are sequentially public participation and public awareness, Al-Yaserreyeh strategic development plan, and the representatives' selection.

### Public Participation and Public Awareness

Through interviews with decision makers in PA ministries they were asked: how the amalgamation process in Al-Yaserreyeh can be successful? They almost agreed that amalgamation could be appropriate and suitable for Al-Yaserreyeh and other Palestinian communities based on to their geographic location and social relations. At the same time, they agreed that geographical location and social relations are not the only parameters that can generate a successful amalgamation; a comprehensive planed process is needed to implement it in right way.

They proposed some measures that can be implemented by MoLG and the related ministries and institutions to guarantee a successful amalgamation process. These steps can be summarized as testing if the communities are willing to support amalgamation or not, testing if amalgamation is the best way or joint services council (JSC). Then providing enough financial support for the new council to be able to implement projects (especially infrastructural projects like roads, water, electricity network, etc.) and encouraging citizens to be part of the process. There are many examples that succeeded because there was like Al-Kfryyat south of Tulkarm city, north of West Bank, and Al-Etihad north of Ramallah city, middle of West Bank.

These steps were not implemented in Al-Yaserreyeh case. There was no joint services council, and there was no referendum for citizens to participate in the future vision of their community. When citizens in Al-Yaserreyeh were asked whether they were informed about merging their municipalities or local councils, 71.9% answered that they knew nothing about the merging before announcing it in 2010, and only 20.3% knew about it before implementing.

Even if they were informed about merging or were asked about their opinion about the merging in their area, they were not able to make an effective participation because they knew nothing about merging or its future impact. When they were asked about any awareness about amalgamation and merging in the area 74.2% answered that there was no awareness about it, and 16.3% only said that there was awareness.

### Al-Yaserreyeh Strategic Development plan

A strategic development plan, which is “a list of projects”, was prepared for Al-Yaserreyeh after taking the decision of the amalgamation and implementing it. It was prepared by committees formed by local members in addition to external experts and consultants. These committees prepared the development plan according to methodology described in manual called “Strategic Development and Investment Planning (SDIP) for Palestinian Cities and Towns” which was prepared by MoLG. They defined negative and positive factors in each developmental sector. And they analyzed the local available resources which are natural resources, human resources, infrastructure, and social relations (MoLG, 2001).

When Al-Yaserreyeh citizens were asked if they participated in forming the strategic development plan of Al-Yaserreyeh or not. The answers give a clear indication about the level of community participation in producing this development plan, only 8.7% of them participated, and 78.1% did not participate in any way in the process of this plan, not in decision-making nor by sharing their point of view. From those 8.7% who participated, not all of them made an effective participation, part of them participated only in data collection process as mentioned previously.

In addition, this strategic plan did not shown for public to give their comments and obligations on.

### Representatives Selection

There were two experiments for the selection of representatives to the municipal council. The first experiment, the municipal council has been appointed through a coordination between the MoLG and one of the political parties in the area. In this experiment, there was no involvement for citizens, and the municipal council impose on the community in a non-democratic way. The second experiment, representatives were nominated from the various communities of Al-Yaserreyeh, and the members won through acclamation. But the prevailing culture has made the nomination of members as based on a family, political affiliation or national affiliation. But, during this critical stage of building, any institution needs to be selected on the basis of their experience and their education primarily, to create new municipality able to bring the success to the amalgamation.

When locals were asked if they participated in electing their representatives, about 83.2% of them replied that they did not participate, and only 9.6% participated. This shows that there is a serious gap between citizens and municipality.

### **4.2.2. Physical Issues**

The major factor behind the failure of the amalgamation process was the absence of physical planning components; the focus in that process was on the administrative issues. However, as mentioned previously, physical issues are of high importance and the priorities of these issues depend on the concerns of the people which are identified through their answers in the questionnaire and the interviews.

Accordingly, the priorities were infrastructure and economy. These sectors involve many important sub-sectors such as agriculture, industry, job opportunities, new services centres, health, education, housing, etc.

The priority in Al-Yaserreyeh case and can be classified as an urgent one, is the development of infrastructure. This sector involves water network, electricity network, road network, public transportation, sewage network, and solid waste management.

A well-developed services and infrastructure in al-Yaserreyeh are the basis for any comprehensive development of the area. Infrastructure sector in Al-Yaserreyeh is suffering from many problems, and the reason behind this situation is the lack of financial resources, and the governmental marginalizing of the area. The following, discussions and analysis are done for infrastructure sectors in Al-Yaserreyeh, in addition to analysis of the response of the inhabitants to the questionnaire related to these sectors.

When inhabitants were asked about the main services which underwent an improvement by Al-Yaserreyeh municipality, most of the answers were negative. That means, most of these services were not improved (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Inhabitants response for developing infrastructure sectors

Sector	Reject	Agree
Health	63.9 %	26.4%
Education	68 %	21.2 %
Water	41 %	52 %
Power network	55 %	37 %
Road network	65.1 %	25.8 %
Transportation	80.1 %	9.4 %
Solid waste	51.6 %	26.2 %

However, according to the analysis of the current situation, and the results of the questionnaires and the interviews, the problem is not totally about the financing of infrastructure projects. The absence of future vision for the state, specially the rural areas, is considered one of the most effective factors that influence the planning process, put forward for the rural areas.

#### **4.2.3. Economic sector**

The second level of the locals' priorities in the physical domain is the economic sector which involves developing the agricultural sector (cultivation, livestock and dairy production), and the crafts sector (cement blocks manufacturing, formation and cutting stones, recycling used electric devices, and recycling metal scraps), in addition to localizing the capitals and bring new investments for the area.

When al-Yaserreyeh citizens were asked if the municipality developed the agriculture sector in the area, 64.3% of them answered that the municipality did not develop this sector, and 20.8% of them said yes it developed this sector. And when they were asked if the municipality developed the industrial sector in Al-Yaserreyeh, 86.5% of them said no the municipality did not developed this sector, and only 5.7% of them said yes the municipality developed this sector.

The figures show that the new municipality did not have clear strategy to develop the economic sector including its sub-sectors knowing that any development plan for the area will not proves a success unless a strong economic tools are envisaged. Therefore, AL-Yaserreyeh municipality need to work on localizing the capital within its area in order to revive the economic situation. At the same time, there is a need to attract some investments in agriculture and light industries that are environmental friendly and suitable for the area. In addition, there is a need to strengthen the local market to absorb the existing trading movement and any new trading movement could be established in the area. These steps can provide good opportunities for the labour force in the area, and localize them especially the young and stop their emigration.

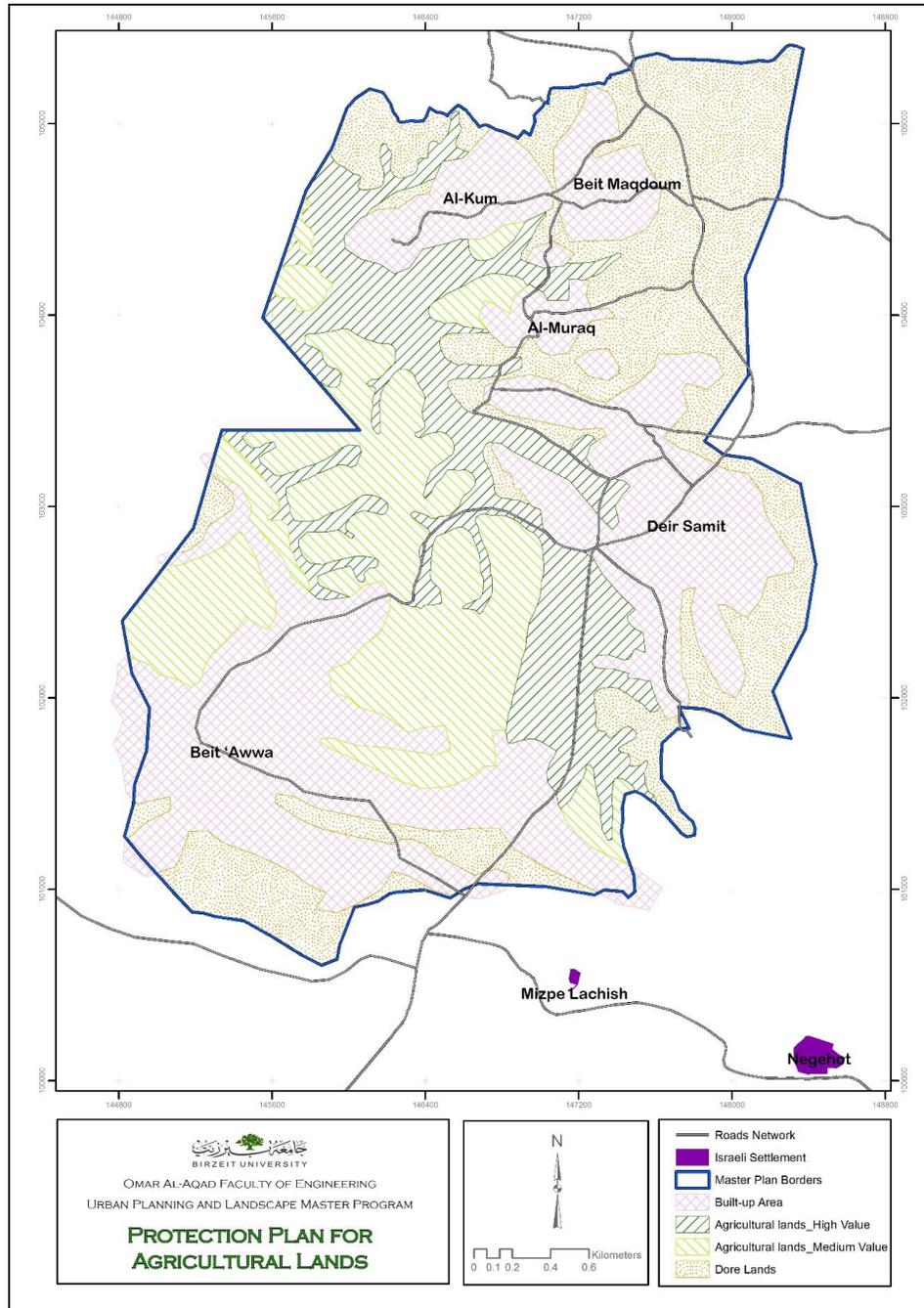
#### **4.2.4. Land use Assessment**

Analysis was conducted for the current land use and current land cover of Al-Yaserreyeh area. This analysis was based on analysis of the Aerial photo of 2012 for Al-Yaserreyeh, filed visits, and analysis of previous master plans for Beit 'Awwa, Deir Samit, and Al-Kum .

According to this analysis, a protection plan was proposed for Al-Yaserreyeh lands (Figure 2). This protection plan consist of three grades of Agricultural lands as follow:

- Grade 1: "High -valued agricultural lands which are flat lands and characterized by their validity for agriculture, besides they are appropriate for most types of agriculture" (NSP, 2012).
- Grade 2: "Medium- valued agricultural lands which are semi-flat lands and appropriate for all types of agriculture and serve well for the purposes of tree farming" (NSP, 2012).
- Grade 3: this grade presents rest of lands in Al-Yaserreyeh area, which contains hillsides, and bare lands.

To sum up, after the previous analyses, Al-Yaserreyeh area suffers from weakness of the administrative planning and improper physical planning. Next chapter will discuss approaches for developing Al-Yaserreyeh area by introducing a new model for implementing the amalgamation, and introducing guide map for future development.



**Figure 2:** Protection plan for Agricultural Lands in Al-Yaserreyeh Area.

## 5. Future Development Guidelines

In the previous chapter, analysis and discussion have been conducted for various elements of the development in Al-Yaserreyeh area such as infrastructure, agriculture and industry. The analysis showed that the main and the basic sectors in the area are suffering from several problems and they are weak and inadequate.

In this chapter, an introduction for future development guidelines will be proposed. These guidelines will be introduced as administrative guidelines that will be discussed through a new model for amalgamation for Al-Yaserreyeh. Then the physical guidelines will be discussed as guide map for future of Al-Yaserreyeh Area.

### 5.1. Administrative future guidelines

Here is a model consists of three basic steps will be discussed to be future guidelines for the administrative issues that Al-Yaserreyeh is suffering from. These steps: preparation, empowerment and implementation.

The preparation step aims to know the communities that can be amalgamated due to the social, geographical and administrative factors; this step is done on a national level. The second step is the empowerment; it aims to enable the communities to be ready for the amalgamation and receptive to it. The final step is the implementation step; this step aims to implement the amalgamation on the community in both administrative and physical form, where the focus will be on the physical side of implementation in this study.

#### The "Preparation" step

This step is applied at the national level and not at the level of a particular community, where the MoLG doing this step. This step is work to determine viable communities to be amalgamated, through a set of criteria that applied by the MoLG, related to social, geographical and administrative cohesion between the selected communities. After selecting the communities that are able to be amalgamated, a need to arrange these communities on the ladder of priorities for amalgamation. In addition, the amalgamation policy is used to be a part of future vision of the state to link it to other developing polices at the national level.

#### The "Empowerment" step

This is consist of two parallel steps applied simultaneously; these steps are creating join services council (JSC), and awareness campaign about the amalgamation. Then, a referendum between inhabitants about amalgamating their community follow these two steps.

Creating JSC to serve areas will be amalgamated helps to bring the image of the amalgamation close to minds of inhabitants of region. Moreover, it reinforces the relations between these communities. Serving inhabitants of these areas by one unit in a good way can tempt these people and make them acceptable for the idea, and in the same time, this can test the acceptability of people for the amalgamation idea. In addition, it introducing to administrative the area as one unit. Initiating an awareness campaign in the region through the local media, schools, mosques, and any available tools is a very important step to integrate with the mission of the JSC, which aim to educate inhabitants of the area about the amalgamation. Then,

educating the inhabitants about amalgamation as shown previously, make them ready to give their opinion in an effective way in any referendum, and make them ready to be involved to make a decision about the future of their region.

Here the involving of inhabitants done in a democratic way, and the level of their participation is high. This makes the “empowerment” step a very sensitive step and effect the whole amalgamation process, so dealing with this step is must to be sensitive and accurate too. Because this step determines the fate of the region future, and here, the amalgamation process either stopped or completed.

### The “Implementation” step

The previous steps are almost administrative steps, and they are needed to know if this area suitable to be amalgamated or not, and the final result of these steps is “yes” continue the amalgamation process, or “no” stop the process because it is refused by the citizens. The physical part in the amalgamation process is the “Implementation” step, which aims to implement the amalgamation on the ground in efficient and effective way. This step consist cycle of: analysis, evaluating, visioning, arranging the priorities, preparing action plan with financial plan, implementing the actions, monitoring, evaluating, and review. The process is starting by analysing the components of the region as inhabitants, lands, resources, and current situation. Then the results of the analysis need to be evaluated to establish a vision for the region which could be a guide map. This vision must be shown for the inhabitants to give their opinion about it, which help in evaluating it and developing it to be suitable for the communities.

At this stage, the needs and vision of the area have become clear and agreed by inhabitants. Then an action plan with financial plan must be prepared according to the priorities of the region needs. Then this plan implemented according to time frame known by the inhabitants, and monitored by the local council and MoLG. Then this process and its results must be evaluated and review, if there is any failure or shortage it must be solved and continuing in the cycle.

## **5.2. Physical future guidelines**

The sectors, that need development and suffering from neglecting and weakness, are the road network and associated networks of water, electricity and sanitation. In addition to, health, educational and cultural services, as well as the agricultural sector, the industrial sector, and the crafts.

Developing the road network in Al-Yaserreyeh is very important to serve all the development projects, which needed for the area. In addition to developing the whole road network, there is urgent need to develop the main road, which connect the seven communities with the surrounding area.

There is a need to establish two nodes on this road, each node has its own character. First one as shown in previous figure will be the main entrance of Al-Yaserreyeh which forming center of the crafts and light industries are. The second node will be the downtown of Al-Yaserreyeh and its services center, which contains the municipality and the governmental institutions. As following to develop the main road in Al-Yaserreyeh, there is a need to create new services center. All of rural areas around Dura city are depending heavily on it and on Hebron city for

their basic, health services, education services, and governmental services. This situation strengthens the centrality and put pressure on inhabitant. To develop these areas and to rise life standards of citizens live in it, they need to have new services centers to provide them their basic need, help to decrease pressure on the existing centers, and serve the area in case Israelis blocked the roads around the area.

The preferred orientation of built up area is to fill the gaps that exist between communities and create sustainable built up clusters. It is preferred because it preserves the agricultural lands of Al-Yaserreyeh, keep the residential areas away from pollution and noise of the industrial areas, and it creates homogeneity of a community and increase connectivity between the different communities. As well as, it increases the efficiency of infrastructure networks.

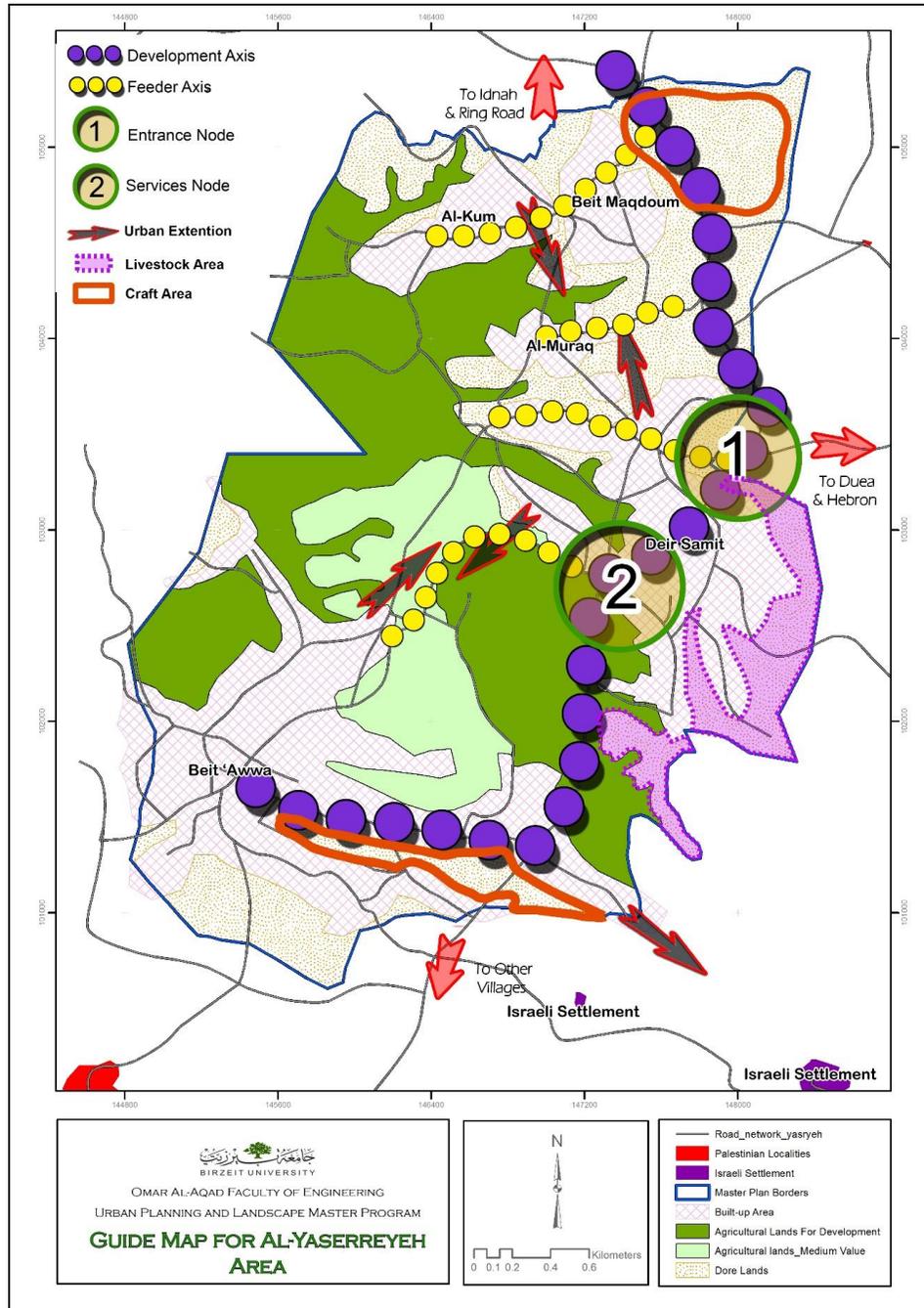
In Al-Yaserreyeh, there are agricultural lands can be developed and cultivated in a sustainable way, which can support the local economy and support the per capita income by providing job opportunities. In the same time, there is livestock trading, diary production, and fresh meat trade in the area. Developing this sector can help as the agricultural sector, but these activities must be developed a way from the residential areas regarding to health issues like smell, disease, and insects. At the east of Al-Yaserreyeh there are high mountains suitable for establishing areas for livestock farms because the wind movement their will carry the smell, and insects away from the residential area.

The crafts and industrial sector is one of the participant sectors in the economy of the area. This sector is suffering from serious problems, which are concentrated in two key points: weakness of industrial projects, and environmental pollution, which caused by some activities such as burning of metal scrapes to extract minerals such as iron, and copper. These activities are most often in the middle of residential areas or near them. To make this sector more effective, there is a need to create industrial or craft zone. This area needed to contain some factories for burning the metal scraps and arrange it for exporting it. In addition, to contain workshops to accommodate the activities which help in organizing this sector.

### **5.3. Guide Map**

These sectors or layers of the guide map of Al-Yaserreyeh developed by analysis conducted for Al-Yaserreyeh Area. This analysis guided to develop a protection plan for the agricultural lands in AL-Yaserreyeh. This protection plan formed a platform for developing a guide map to help in developing the area in the future.

Now, the problem that Al-Yaserreyeh surfing from are clear, and the sectors that need to be developed in the area are clear too. This guide to know the main elements of the guide map of Al-Yaserreyeh, which are Road network development, Agricultural and livestock zones, Light industries and crafts zone, and where is the best way for built-up expansions (Figure 3).



**Figure 3: Future Guide Map for Al-Yaserreyeh Area.**

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