



## Marda's Community Comprehensive Resilience Plan



Resilience refers to the community's ability to prepare for potential crises, respond effectively, and adapt to changing conditions by adopting collective solutions and sharing challenges. This capability is manifested through enhancing prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery strategies, enabling the community to quickly recover from disruptions and return to life at a normal pace.

**Community resilience** refers to the collective capacity of individuals in a neighborhood or specific geographical area to deal with pressures and resume daily life efficiently through cooperation and participation in facing the shocks resulting from disasters. The concept of resilience is highlighted here in the context of "resilient communities," which develop high capacities for endurance, adaptation, and recovery from disasters and crises. These communities rely on effective social support systems, cohesive neighborhood ties, and formal and informal networks, with strong social cohesion and effective civil society, which enhances levels of individual and collective responsibility.

This study aims to develop a comprehensive and integrated plan to enhance the resilience of Marda Community, with the objective of preparing for potential hazards, adapting to changing conditions, and recovering swiftly from any disruptions the community may face.

## **Essential Components of the Plan**

The foundational plan for any community includes several key components that must be addressed, detailed, and verified in collaboration with all segments of the local community. This is achieved through reviewing secondary information available from relevant institutions and official entities at both local and national levels, in addition to organizing participatory workshops, focus groups, and individual interviews within the local community to gather the necessary information and data. These steps also assist in understanding the community from geographic and demographic perspectives, identifying the community's resources and capacities, addressing various challenges and issues, setting priorities and developmental



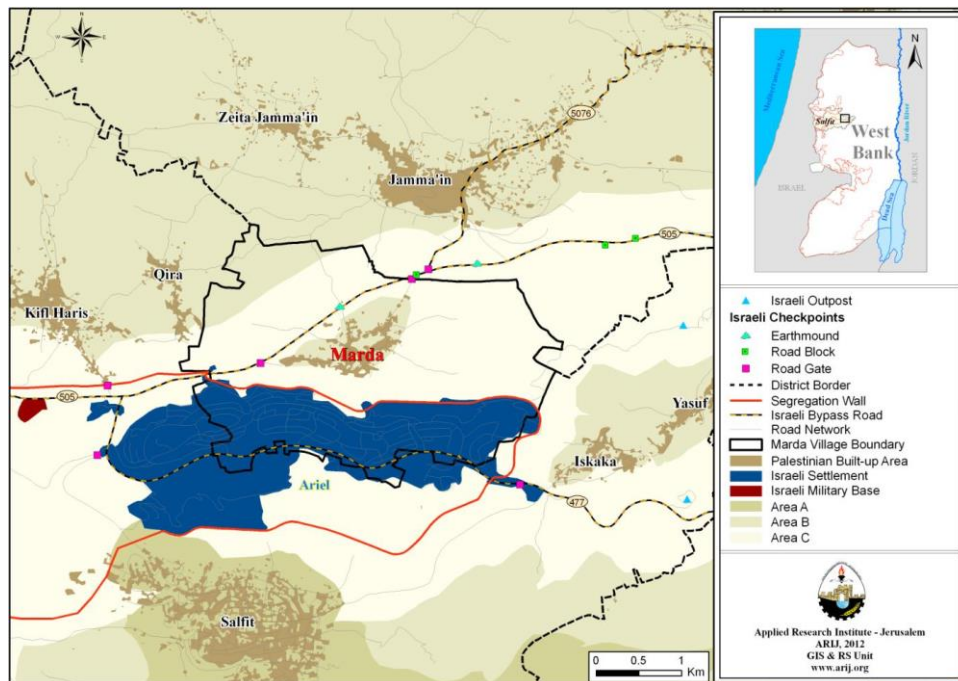
proposals as well as identifying available financial resources.

Below are the main components and essential information that should be included in the community plan:

### **1) General Information about Marda Community**

Marda is a Palestinian community located in the Salfit Governorate, approximately 3.6 kilometers north of Salfit City. It is bordered to the east by the communities of Iskaqa and Jama'in, to the north by the communities of Jama'in and Zita Jama'in, to the south by Salfit City, and the west by the communities of Qira and Kifl Haris.

Marda is situated at an elevation of 449 meters above sea level, with an average annual rainfall of 645 mm. The average annual temperature reaches 18 degrees Celsius, while the annual humidity averages around 60.7%. The community has two main entrances, one from the eastern side and the other from the western side.



Marda Location Map

The land area of Marda covers a total of 8,816 dunams, of which 1,398 dunams are classified within area (B) and 7,418 dunams within area (C). According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of Marda in 2017 was approximately 2,375, consisting of 1,205 males and 1,170 females. Currently, the estimated population is around 2,644, with 1,341 males and 1,303 females.

About 40% of Marda's residents work in agriculture, while 15% are employed in government jobs. Additionally, 25% of the population works in the Israeli market, and 15% are in the private sector, with an unemployment rate of approximately 5%.

## 2) Community Resources in Marda Community

A public workshop was held in Marda attended by all components of the local community, during which data related to the community's resources was collected, including the following:

1. **Schools:** There are three government schools in the community: a secondary school for boys, a mixed basic school, and a secondary school for girls.
2. **Kindergartens:** The community has three kindergartens.
3. **Mosques:** There are two mosques in the community, one old and the other new under construction, which is threatened with demolition by the occupation authorities.
4. **Clinics:** There is one government medical clinic and another private clinic available.
5. **Village Council:** The community has a village council building located on the main street, consisting of 9 elected members, with supporting committees and an advisory council.

6. **Event Halls:** There is a Diwan for the Al-Khafash family and two wedding halls in the community.
7. **Public Parks:** The community includes two public parks, one next to the village council building that needs rehabilitation and activation, and another at the Marda Spring site that requires maintenance.
8. **Community Associations:** Marda Development Association works in the fields of youth, children, and women, in cooperation with the village council. Efforts are underway to establish a youth center and a women's center, and there is also the Al-Basma Charity Association, which focuses on health-related issues.
9. **Water Network:** The community has a public water network renewed in 2019, managed and operated by Marda Village Council, with water supplied by the Israeli company "Mekorot." The network reaches all homes, with a daily allocation of about 100 liters per person. The community needs a distribution tank with a capacity of 500 m<sup>3</sup>.
10. **Water Springs:** There is Marda Wellspring (with a capacity of 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day in winter and 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day in summer) and Samita Spring, which needs rehabilitation to be utilized for agriculture, as the spring waters are currently contaminated.
11. **Sewage Network:** There is no sewage network in the community; residents rely on cesspits to dispose of wastewater, leading to groundwater and environmental contamination. This resulted in the contamination of drinking water in 2019 due to the leakage of wastewater into the water network, which was resolved in cooperation with the Water Authority.
12. **Solid Waste:** Waste collection and disposal are managed by the Joint Services Council in the Salfit Governorate.
13. **Transportation:** There is one service vehicle to Salfit and two to Nablus.
14. **Archaeological Sites:** The community includes several archaeological sites, including the shrine of Prophet Thuraya, the shrine of Sheikh Jum'a, the shrine of Sheikh Badr, the castle, Maqseib, and the old community.
15. **Social Relations:** The community is characterized by solid social ties among families and residents.
16. **Education:** The education rate in the community is high, with various specializations that represent important human resources supporting the community's strength.
17. **Agriculture:** Agriculture is a significant resource within the community, with a focus on olive cultivation. There is also an organic farm for training in organic agriculture and a limited number of greenhouses covering approximately 5 dunams.
18. **Craftsmen and Professionals:** The community has several skilled professionals and craftsmen in various fields such as construction, plastering, tiling, carpentry, aluminum work, and others.

These resources are among the most important assets of the community and significantly contribute to supporting the local community and providing it with the elements of resilience and sustainability.



### 3) Major Environmental and Climate Challenges and Issues

1. **Flooding Issues:** Marda Community suffers from severe flooding problems, especially during the winter, due to its specific topography and water wadis extending from east to west and southeast. Many homes are affected, particularly in low-lying areas near Wadi Al-Masara and Wadi Qareqea, where water overflows during heavy rainfall, causing damage and losses to approximately 30 houses. The lack of water culverts on the main road and their poor maintenance contribute to the inundation of some parts of the road with water, obstructing the movement of individuals and vehicles and allowing water to enter nearby houses.
2. **Sewage Disposal:** Families in the community rely entirely on cesspits to dispose of domestic sewage, which imposes a significant financial and environmental burden. These cesspits were constructed randomly and without planning, leading to sewage leaks into public streets and causing social conflicts between neighbors. Families incur high costs for emptying these cesspits, reaching up to 100 ILS per tank, with the wastewater being disposed of in nearby wadis and agricultural land, resulting in environmental and groundwater pollution. In 2019, sewage leaked into the drinking water network, causing health issues for many residents.
3. **Settlement Wastewater:** The community faces a significant challenge from the wastewater generated by the Ariel settlement, which negatively affects the olive-growing lands located below the settlement. This wastewater complicates the olive harvesting process and causes the death of many trees due to continuous exposure to wastewater. Sometimes, the water reaches nearby homes, leading to foul odors and health hazards.
4. **Land Confiscation:** Approximately 4,000 dunams of the community land have been confiscated for the benefit of the Ariel settlement, which is surrounded by an apartheid wall on the southern side. This situation hinders farmers' access to their lands, negatively impacting their agricultural production and services.
5. **Occupation Closures:** The occupation has constructed a fence around Marda on the western and northern sides, with iron gates at the community entrances. These gates are sometimes closed, obstructing patients from reaching hospitals and health centers, and preventing employees from getting to their workplaces.
6. **Solid Waste:** The community suffers from a lack of waste containers, leading to waste accumulation beside the existing containers. Additionally, waste collection by the services council in the Salfit Governorate is irregular, and there is no landfill in the community or the governorate.
7. **Maaad Well Water:** Water from the Maaad Well, drilled by the occupation on the western side of the community, causes a constant flow of water onto the farmers' lands planted with olive trees, making it difficult for them to harvest and maintain those lands.

8. **Wild Pigs Proliferation:** The policies of the occupation have led to the proliferation of wild pigs in Palestinian areas, causing significant damage to crops. These pigs also appear in residential neighborhoods at night, leading to multiple traffic accidents.
9. **Farmer Training:** Farmers lack training and awareness regarding proper and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, such as organic farming, including techniques for tillage, organic fertilization, and organic pest control.
10. **Nighttime Lighting:** Some streets and old paths in the community, especially in the old community area, suffer from a lack of nighttime lighting, posing a danger to residents.

#### 4) Proposed Response

The community requires several developmental, progressive, and humanitarian interventions to advance and enhance the resilience of its residents, particularly in areas classified as (C). Among the proposed interventions are:

1. **Cleaning Water Channels:** It is essential to clean the water channels of Wadi Al-Masara and Wadi Qareqea, as well as the channel near the Maaad Well, from dirt, soil, and excess stones in flood-prone areas.
2. **Constructing Culverts and Drainage Lines:** Develop an effective system for draining flood waters resulting from rain, especially in residential areas, to address the issue of water entering homes and flooding the streets.
3. **Water Pumping Project:** To reduce the impact of flooding and make use of spring water for agriculture, a project should be established to pump water from the springs to the community's old reservoir, utilizing part of the old drinking water network and creating an irrigation network to serve agricultural lands.
4. **Rainwater Drainage:** In residential areas prone to flooding, pipes should be installed to drain rainwater.
5. **Public Sewage Network:** Provide a public sewage network extending 10 km for effective sewage disposal.
6. **Water Distribution Reservoir:** Construct a water reservoir with a capacity of 500 m<sup>3</sup> to meet the needs of all the community's households.
7. **Providing a Tractor:** Secure a tractor with a trailer to help reduce solid waste accumulation, particularly waste that the waste collection vehicle does not pick up, in addition to collecting organic waste to establish a composting station in the community.
8. **Solar Street Lighting:** Provide solar-powered lighting units for some streets and old paths within the boundaries of the old community of Marda.
9. **Waste Containers:** Provide 40 waste containers to reduce waste accumulation on the streets and compensate for irregular waste collection periods.

10. **Agricultural Road Rehabilitation:** Construct and rehabilitate agricultural roads to facilitate access to agricultural lands, making it easier to transport agricultural inputs and outputs.
11. **Waste Separation Containers:** Provide small containers for separating organic waste and establish a composting station.
12. **Establishing Environmental Clubs and Awareness Campaigns:** Organize environmental clubs and awareness campaigns that aim to teach how to separate waste at home, manage cesspool emptying, create greywater stations in houses, and use them for irrigation.
13. **Farmer Training:** Offer training and awareness programs for farmers on sound and environmentally friendly agricultural practices, including organic farming techniques, organic fertilization, and organic pest control.
14. **Supporting Institutions and Associations:** Support existing and planned institutions and associations to enhance developmental work in the community.

#### **5) Required Financial Resources by Priority**

1. **Providing a Public Sewage Network:** Extending 10 km, with an estimated cost of \$1,200,000.
2. **Constructing and Rehabilitating Agricultural Roads:** Extending 16 km, with a cost of \$320,000.
3. **Building a Concrete Water Reservoir:** With a capacity of 500 m<sup>3</sup>, at a cost of \$250,000.
4. **Water Pumping Project from Springs:** Involves pumping water to the community's old reservoir and utilizing part of the old drinking water network, as well as creating an irrigation network to serve agricultural lands, with a cost of \$60,000.
5. **Cleaning and Rehabilitation of Flood Channels:** Includes the construction of drainage lines for rainwater in affected residential areas, extending approximately 800 m, with an estimated cost of \$200,000.
6. **Providing Small Containers for Organic Waste Separation:** Along with securing a tractor with a trailer to establish a composting station, with a total cost of \$100,000.
7. **Installing Solar Lighting Units:** For the old community and paths, at a cost of \$6,000.

#### **6) Emergency Contacts**

## List of Contacts for Emergencies and Crises

Organization/Service	Responsible Person	Mobile/Phone Number	Responsible Person	When to Call?
<b>Wastewater suction tank</b>	The Village Council	092596707	The Village Council	In cases of absorption pit flooding and drowning
<b>Water Technician</b>	Hamada Abu Shama	0598590679	Hamada Abu Shama	In cases of water shortages, issues with the water network, maintenance
<b>Marda Village Council</b>	Nasfat Khafsh	0599675155	Nasfat Khafsh	For all services
<b>Solid Waste Management</b>	Ala'a Khafsh	0597566907	Ala'a Khafsh	Waste accumulation and health nuisances
<b>General Excavation</b>	Raed Salah Asfour	0599100497	Raed Salah Asfour	Landslides and demolitions
<b>Ambulance Service</b>	Red Crescent (101)	0599375995	Red Crescent (101)	Ambulance and emergency services
<b>Environmental Quality Authority</b>	Environmental Quality Authority	092596707	Environmental Quality Authority	Environmental violations, hazardous waste, and health nuisances
<b>Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid (JLAC)</b>	Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid	0598914174	Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid	Notifications of confiscation or demolition by the occupation
<b>First Aid (101)</b>	First Aid (101)	022400666	First Aid (101)	Ambulance and emergency services
<b>Police (100)</b>	Police (100)	022429199	Police (100)	Emergency
<b>Civil Defense (102)</b>	Civil Defense (102)	022955880	Civil Defense (102)	Emergency