

Khallet al Louza Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar Program

2010

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Bethlehem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Bethlehem Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Bethlehem Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Bethlehem Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile>.

Table of Content

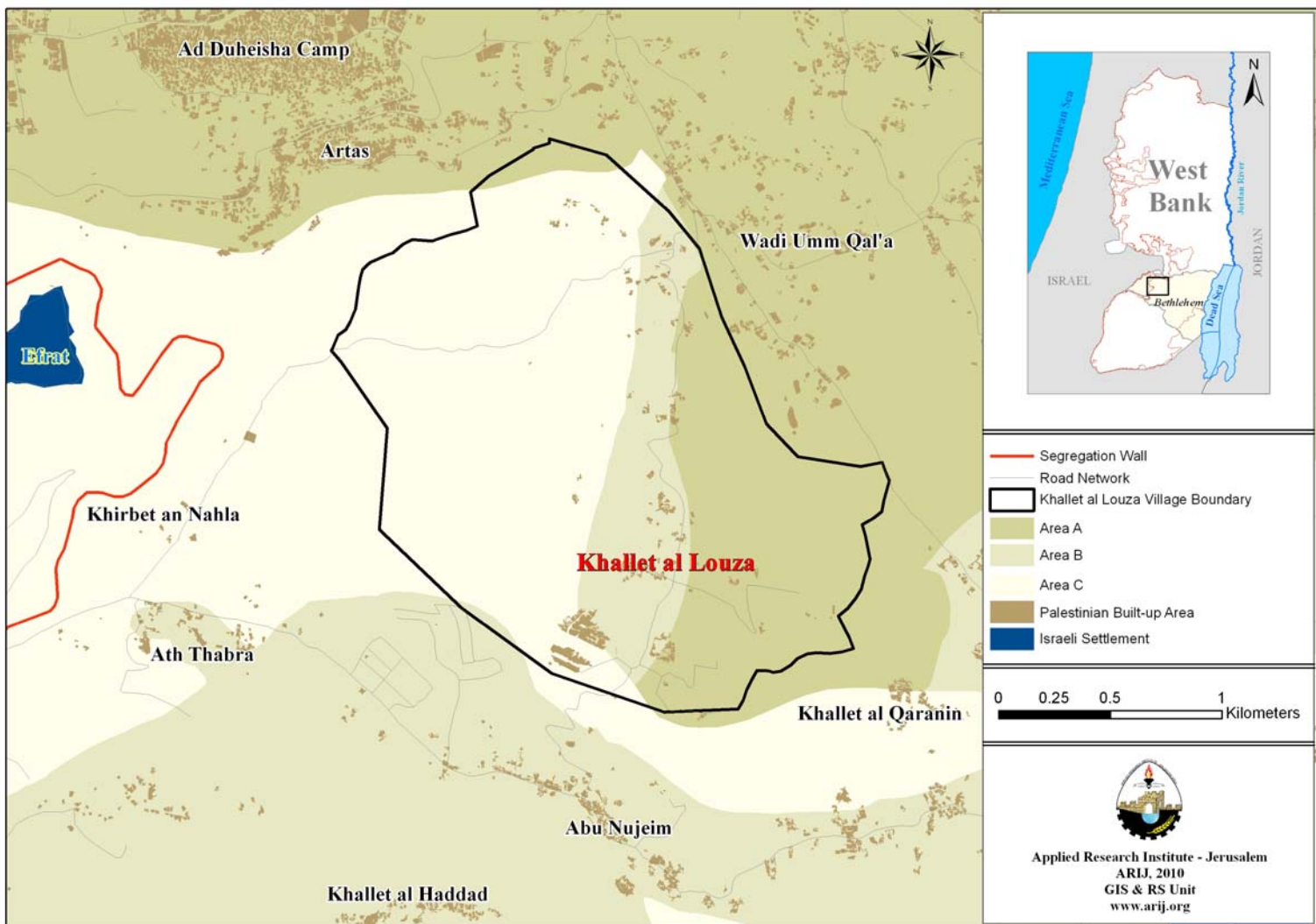
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> _____	4
<i>History</i> _____	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> _____	5
<i>Population</i> _____	6
<i>Education</i> _____	7
<i>Health Status</i> _____	8
<i>Economic Activities</i> _____	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i> _____	9
<i>Institutions and Services</i> _____	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> _____	12
<i>Environmental Conditions</i> _____	14
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i> _____	15
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i> _____	16
<i>Implemented Projects</i> _____	16
<i>Proposed Projects</i> _____	16
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> _____	17
<i>References:</i> _____	18

Khallet al Louza Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Khallet al Louza is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 4km (horizontal distance) south of Bethlehem City. Khallet al Louza is bordered by Jannatah town to the east and south, Hindaza village to the north, and Wadi Rahhal village to the west (See map 1).

Map 1: Khallet al Louza location and borders



Khallet al Louza is located at an altitude of 753m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 492mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60.5 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1996, Khallet al Louza has been governed by a projects committee which is currently administrated by five members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are two employees working in the council. The projects committee does not have a permanent headquarters.

It is the responsibility of the projects committee to provide a number of services to the residents of Khallet al Louza, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.

History

Khallet al Louza village was called so due to the large number of almond trees planted in the village. Khallet al Louza residents originate from Arab at Ta'amrah.

Photo of Khallet al Louza

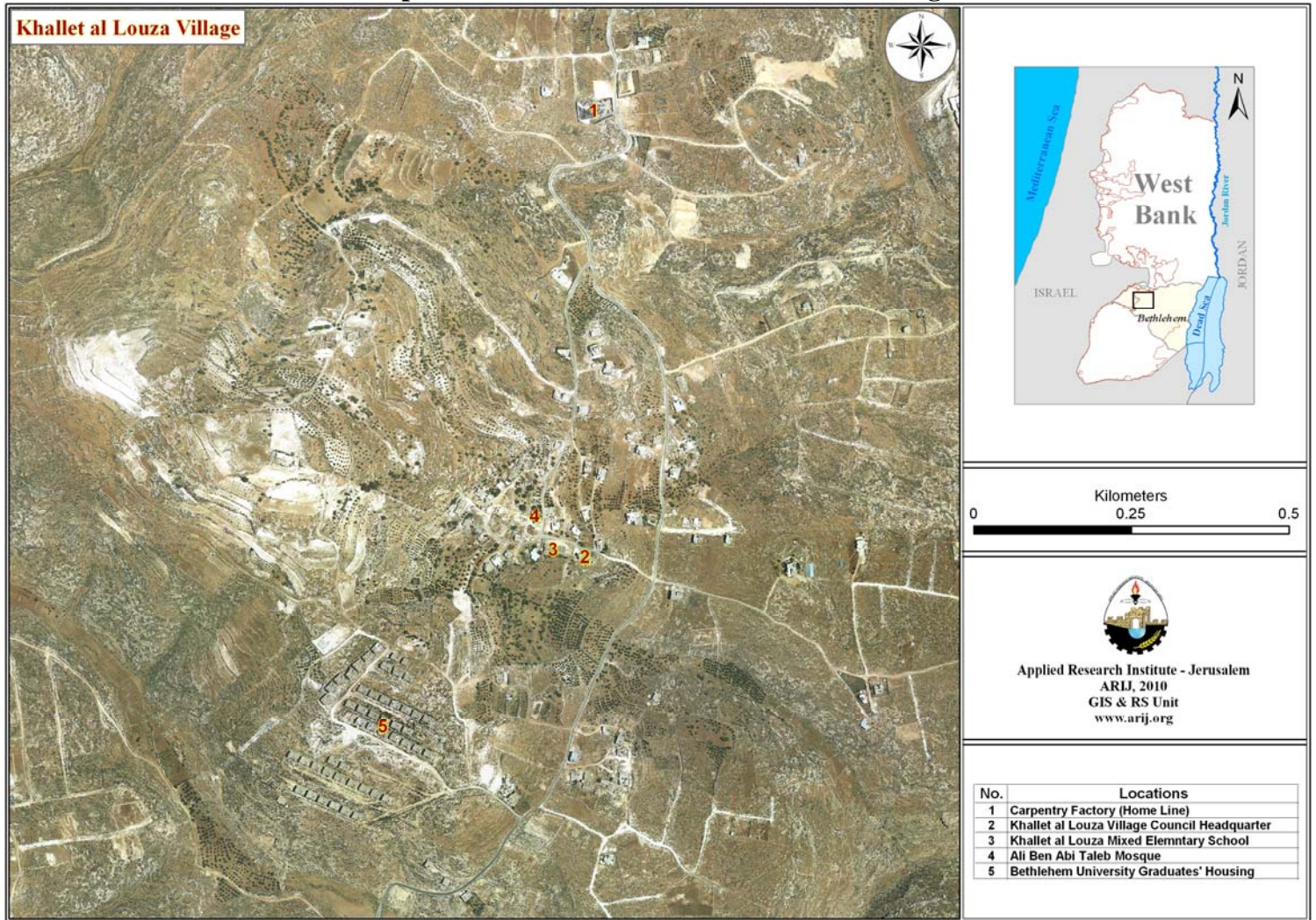


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is only one mosque in Khallet al Louza: Khallet al Louza Mosque.

There are no archaeological sites in the village (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Khallet al Louza village



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Khallet al Louza in 2007 was 578; of whom 290 are males and 288 are females. There are 93 households living in 104 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Khallet al Louza is as follows: 45.5 percent are less than 15 years, 51.6 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 2.5 percent are 65

years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 100.7:100, meaning that males constitute 50.2 percent of the population, and females constitute 49.8 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Khallet al Louza village are composed of several families, mainly: Salahat, Al Mawalih, 'Ebeyat, and Al 'Erooj.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Khallet al Louza population is about 9.3 percent, of whom 75 percent are females. Of the literate population, 20.2 percent can read and write, 32.3 percent had elementary education, 28.3 percent had preparatory education, 13 percent had secondary education, and 5.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Khallet al Louza, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	9	36	61	50	22	7	5	-	-	-	191
F	27	35	53	50	24	4	5	-	-	-	198
T	36	71	114	100	46	11	10	-	-	-	389

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

In regards to the basic and secondary educational institutions and schools in Khallet al Louza in the academic year 2008/2009, there is one public mixed school in the village: Khallet al Louza Mixed Elementary school which is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Khallet al Louza (See Table 2).

In the village there is a total number of 161 students, 14 teachers, and 10 classes (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, while the average number of students per class is approximately 17.

Health Status

There are no health facilities of any kind available in Khamlet al Louza village. In emergency cases residents of Khamlet al Louza use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Bethlehem Health Clinic, which is about 5km from the village, and the Relief Agency Clinic, about 5km from the village.

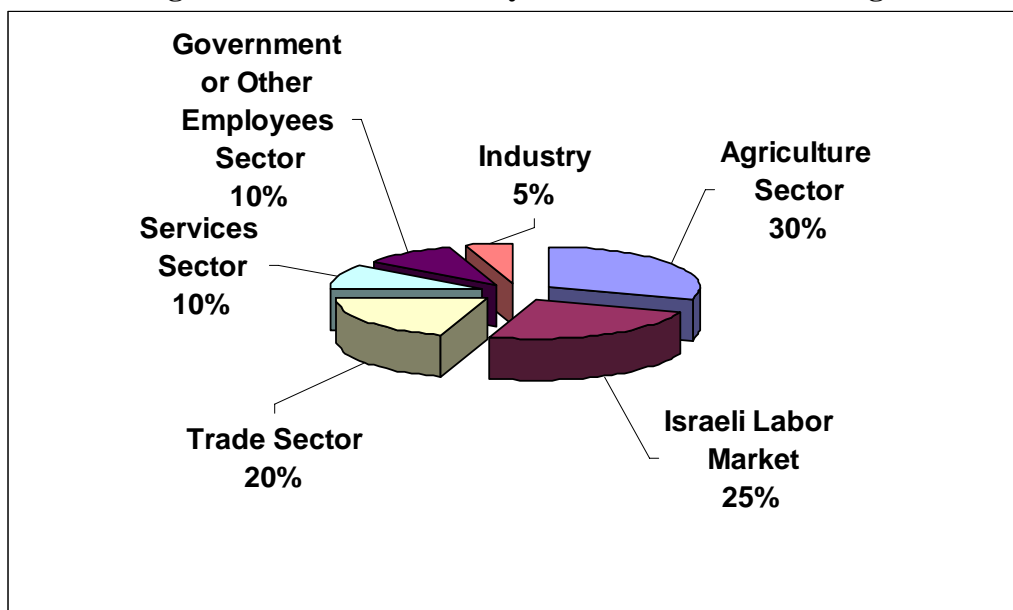
Economic Activities

The economy in Khamlet al Louza is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the agricultural sector, which absorbs 30 percent of the village workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Khamlet al Louza are the following:

- Agriculture Sector (30%)
- Israeli Labor Market (25%)
- Trade Sector (20%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (10%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Industry (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Khamlet al Louza Village



There are a few businesses and industrial parks in Khallet al Louza, mainly: wood factories, in addition to three grocery stores and one workshop.

As a result of the Israeli occupation and restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have become unemployed, thus forcing them to work in the service sector and agricultural activities, as a last resort for obtaining a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Khallet al Louza has reached about 20 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Workers in agricultural activities.
2. Workers in the trade sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.1 percent of the Khallet al Louza population was economically active, of whom 71.8 percent were employed, 69.4 percent were not economically active, 51.9 percent were students, and 34.4 percent were housekeepers (See table 2).

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	69	6	27	102	65	2	15	-	5	87	191
F	15	-	-	15	75	91	17	-	-	183	198
T	84	6	27	117	140	93	32	-	5	270	389

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

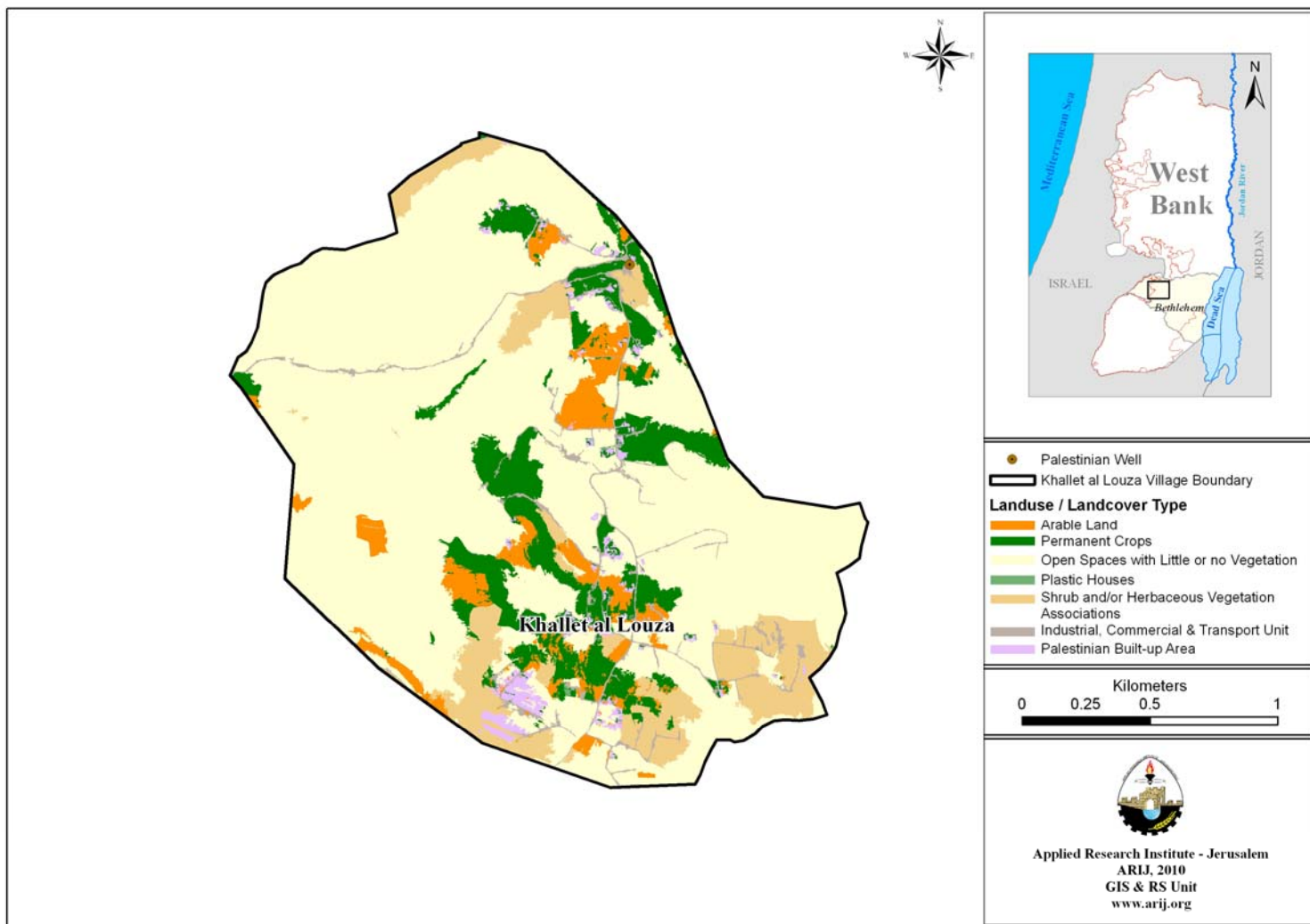
Agricultural Sector

Khallet al Louza lies on a total area of about 3,880 dunums of which 3,714 dunums are considered arable land, and 65 dunums are residential land (See table 3 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (3,714)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
3,880	65	214	412	1	0	3,087	101	0

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Khallet al Louza Village



Agricultural production in Khallet al Louza depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on domestic harvesting cisterns and the public water network.

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Khallet al Louza. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
34	26	0	4	0	3.5	0	0	0	4	34	37.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There is also one dunum of land on which there are greenhouses planted with cucumber.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The village is well known for its grape vines; there are 460 dunums of land planted with grape trees in the village.

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	105	0	460	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Khallet al Louza, cereals, in particular, wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 285 dunums, while dry legumes, such as chickpeas and lentils are the second most cultivated crops (See table 6).

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
285	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	330	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that 50 percent of the residents in Khallet al Louza are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler chicken, and bees (See Table 7).

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	600	200	0	2	9	3	3,000	0	30

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village suitable for tractors and agriculture machinery.

Institutions and Services

Khallet al Louza has no local institutions or associations that provide services to the society; Khallet al Louza projects committee is the only party that provides various services to its population (Khallet al Louza Projects Committee, 2010).

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Khallet al Louza has been connected to a public electricity network since 1999; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 98.9 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (1.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Khallet al Louza is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 14.5 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Transportation Services:

Private cars and taxis are the two main means of transportation in Khallet al Louza. As for the road network in the village; there is a total of 4km of main paved but in bad condition roads, and a total of 11km of secondary roads; of which 3km are paved but in bad condition and 8km are unpaved (Khallet al Louza projects committee, 2010).

Water Resources:

Khallet al Louza is provided with water by West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1999. About 100 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network (PCBS, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Khallet al Louza in 2009 was about 10,800 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 51 liters/day (Khallet al Louza projects committee, 2010).

Here it should be noted that many Khallet al Louza citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 30 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Khallet al Louza projects committee, 2010), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Khallet al Louza is 36 liters per day. This is a low rate

compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, in Khallet al Louza there are 50 rain water harvesting cisterns (Khallet al Louza projects committee, 2010).

Sanitation:

Khallet al Louza lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as means for wastewater disposal. According to PCBS's Population and Housing Census in 2007 and PWA data, the majority of Khallet al Louza 's housing units (97.8%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal, while the rest of Khallet al Louza 's housing units (2.2%) have no means for wastewater collection and disposal.

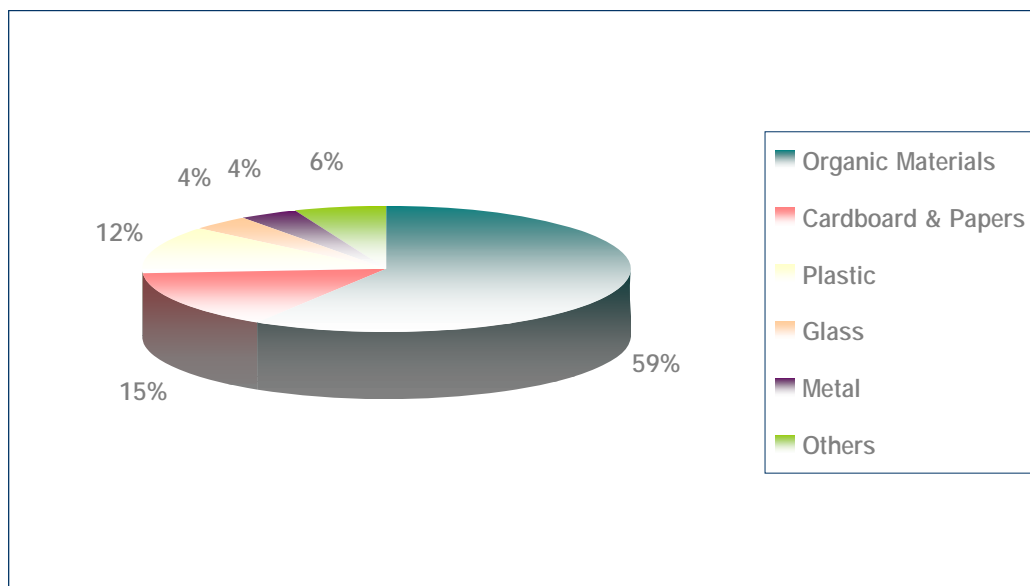
Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 16.8 cubic meters, or 6,132 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 29 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

Khallet al Louza village has no solid waste collection or disposal management service; solid waste is being disposed of by the village residents in neighboring villages by burning it.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Khallet al Louza is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Khallet al Louza residents is nearly 404kg, or 148 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper, cardboard, and then plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced



Environmental Conditions

Like other villages in the governorate, Khallet al Louza experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis:

Water is cut off for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; accordingly, supplying Palestinians communities with insufficient water quantities to cover their domestic needs.
- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old, and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management:

The absence of a public sewage network, thus, the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, especially in winter, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental damages, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as the wastewater mixes with water and contaminates it and thus makes it inappropriate for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the residents' health.

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a solid waste management service for Khallet al Louza village constitutes a hazard risk to the environmental, health and other aspects in the village. Moreover, the accumulation of waste in several different places in the village causes the contamination of soil and water resources through the leachate produced from the solid waste, odors, and distortion of the landscape. In some cases, the villagers resort to burning the waste for disposal, thus, contaminating the air with smoke and harmful gases resulting from the burning of some hazardous wastes like plastics, which causes the spread of some diseases such as asthma, allergies and respiratory diseases.

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Khallet al Louza and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, such as the difficulty to obtain licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C, under the Israeli full control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. Thus, the lack of a sanitary landfill is a hazard risk for the health, and a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it also produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape. It should be noted here that a sanitary landfill is currently under

construction in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates.

Other problems:

- The limited role of the projects committee, like other projects committees, councils and municipalities, in providing only certain services without considering other various aspects for development.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, signed in September 1995, between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli government, 1161 dunums of Khallet al Louza lands (29.9 percent of the total area of the village) were classified as area A, in which public order and security matters fall under the Palestinian National Authority's responsibility, and 631 dunums were classified as area B, in which public order falls under the Palestinian National Authority's responsibility, where Israeli has full control over security matters. As for the remaining part of Khallet al Louza lands; 2088 dunums (53.8 percent of the total area of the village) were classified as area C; an area that is under full control of the Israeli government. It is worth mentioning that the majority of lands in area C are agricultural lands and open spaces (Table 8).

Table 8: Land classification in Khallet al Louza according to Oslo II Agreement in 1995

Land Classification	Area (dunums)	% of the Total Area
Area A	1161	29.9
Area B	631	16.3
Area C	2088	53.8
Total Area	3880	100

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

Since 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have uprooted 200 olive trees, 300 grape trees, and 300 stone-fruit trees (Khallet al Louza Projects Committee, 2010).

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Khallet al Louza projects committee has not implemented any development projects in Khallet al Louza during the previous years (Khallet al Louza projects committee, 2010).

Proposed Projects

Khallet al Louza projects committee, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishment of a sewage network and a wastewater treatment plant.
2. Establishment of a new water network and renovation of the old network.
3. Establishment of a new electricity network, strengthening the existing network, and providing street lighting.
4. Providing supporting projects for farmers, such as: creating home gardens, establishing greenhouses, and providing fodder for livestock.
5. Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns
6. Expansion and pavement of main and secondary roads,
7. Construction of a public park.
8. Construction of new schools and the addition of new classrooms to existing ones.
9. Construction of a health clinic.
10. Providing a structural scheme for the village.
11. Providing public transportation.
12. Supporting citizens whose lands are threatened to be confiscated.
13. Construction of a public library.
14. Establishment of sport clubs for the youth.
15. Establishment of educational centers and providing computers and internet network.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Khallet al Louza suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 9 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the projects committee's point of view (Khallet al Louza Projects Committee, 2010):

Table 9: Development Priorities and Needs in Khallet al Louza					
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			20km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			3km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			2km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			2km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*		500m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network		*		6km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			2km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			30 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			elementary schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*	*		20 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*		3 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

*4km is a main road, 8km internal road and 8km agricultural road.

References:

- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)*. 2009. Bethlehem, Palestine: Geographic Information System unit database, 2009.
- *Directorate of Education - Bethlehem*. 2008/2009. Bethlehem, Palestine: A database of schools.
- *Khallet al Louza Projects Committee*. 2010.
- *The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- *The Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)*. 2007/2008. Bethlehem, Palestine: Directorate of Agriculture data.