

Nahhalin Village Profile



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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>

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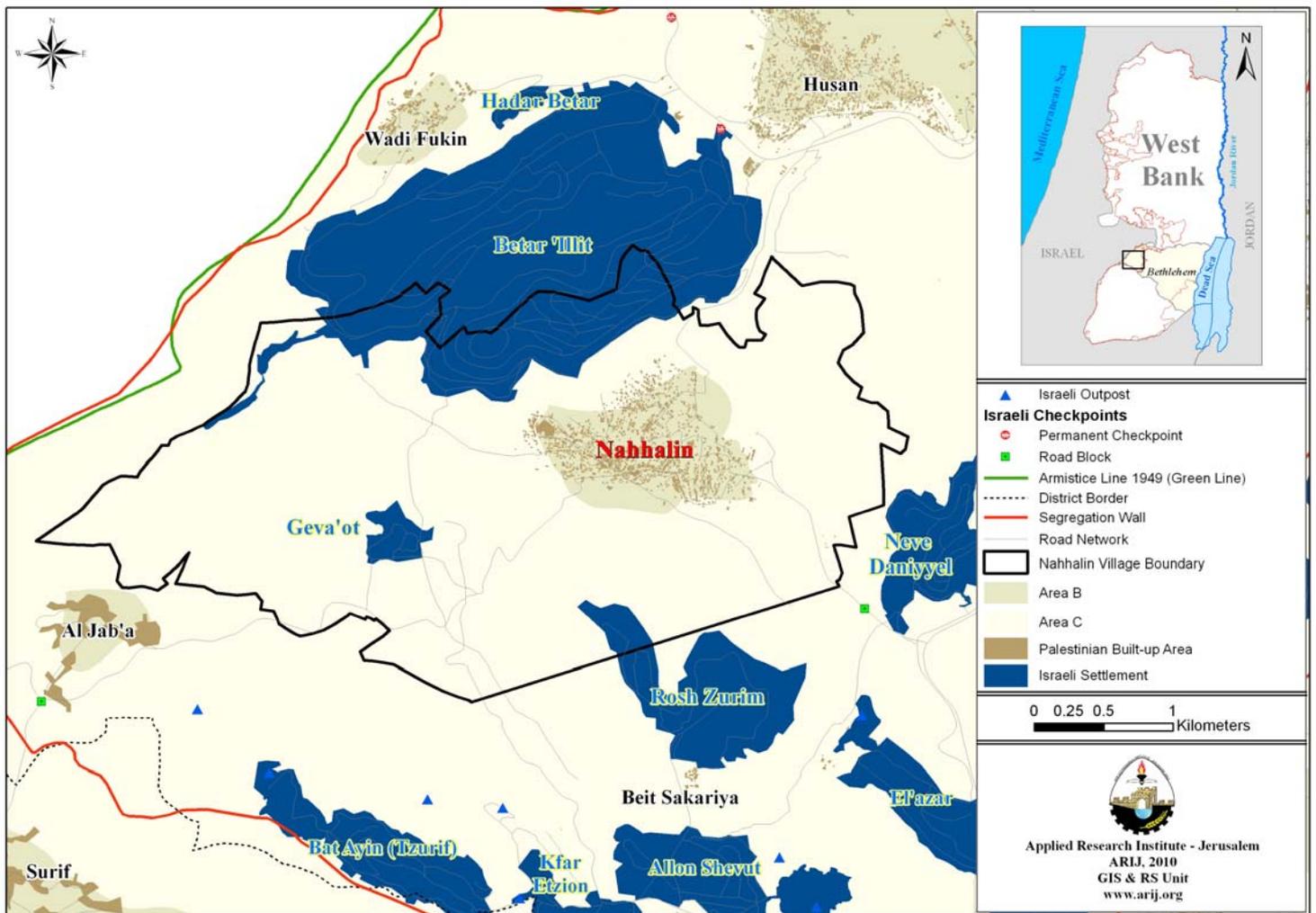
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Nahhalin Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Nahhalin is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located at 8km (horizontal distance) south-west Bethlehem City. Nahhalin is bordered by Neve Daniyyel settlement to the east, Husan village to the north, Betar ‘Illit settlement and Geva’ot Camp to the west, and Etzion settlement to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Nahhalin location and borders



Nahhalin is located at an altitude of 682m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 700mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 61 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1996, Nahhalin has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by eleven members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also 5 employees working in the council. The village council owns a permanent

headquarters, a pumping tank, and a vehicle to collect solid waste, which is shared with three residential communities: Husan, Battir and Wadi Fukin.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide the listed services to the residents of Nahhalin, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.

History

Nahhalin is an old name which means the house of bees or the house of honey. It is a very old residential community; indicated by the existence of archaeological sites, namely, the Roman, Byzantine and Canaanite monuments, and oak trees which are all thousands of years old.

Photo of Nahhalin

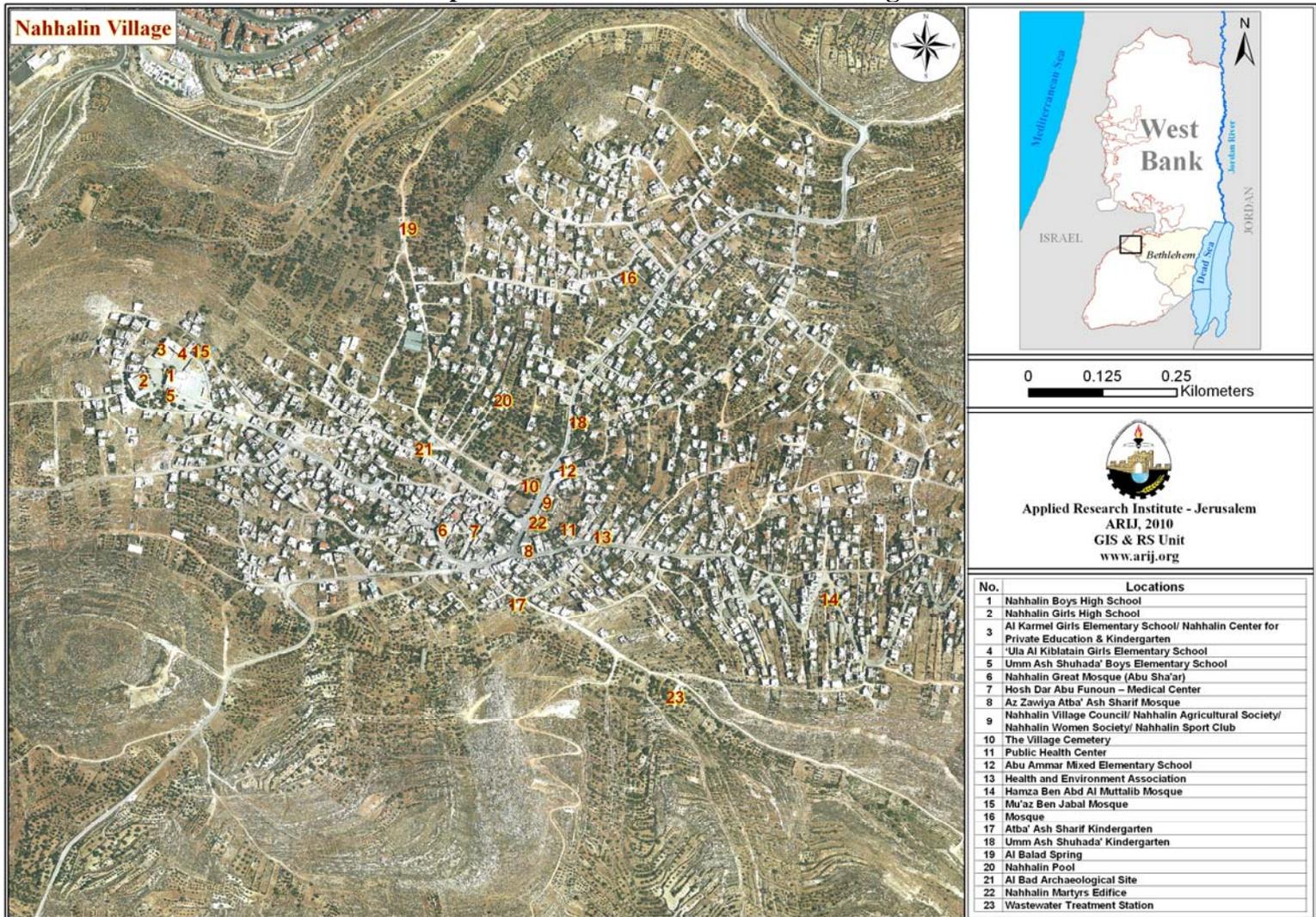


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are five mosques in Nahhalin Village: Nahhalin Al Kabeer Mosque, Ash Shuhada' Mosque, Hamza Bin Abd Al Muttalib Mosque, and the Mosque of Ma'az bin Jabal and Zawiyat Atba' Ash Sharif (See map 2).

As for the archaeological sites in the village, there are several, mainly: Al Bad site and Hosh Dar Abu Funoon, which are qualified in term of tourism, and Abu Qeir Valley (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Nahhalin Village



Population

According to the Palestinian population census, the total population of Nahhalin village in 2007 was 6,827; of whom 3,542 are males and 3,285 are females. There are 1,204 families living within 1,352 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Nahhalin was as follows: 44.3 percent are less than 15 years, 53 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 107.8: 100, meaning that males constitute 51.9 percent of the population, and females constitute 48.1 percent.

Families

The inhabitants of Nahhalin are composed of several families, mainly: Shakarna and Al Najajra.

Education

The illiteracy rate among Nahhalin population in 2007 was about 4.9 percent, of whom 62.2 percent are females. Of the literate population, 13.4 percent can read and write, 23.6 percent had elementary education, 32.1 percent had preparatory education, 17.9 percent had secondary education, and 13 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Nahhalin, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Total |
|----------|------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| M | 85 | 265 | 550 | 716 | 403 | 127 | 168 | 11 | 19 | 11 | 2357 |
| F | 140 | 314 | 468 | 670 | 371 | 73 | 146 | 1 | 2 | - | 2185 |
| T | 225 | 579 | 1018 | 1386 | 774 | 200 | 314 | 12 | 21 | 11 | 4542 |

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

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Nahhalin in the academic year 2008/2009, there are six public schools in the village, three for girls, two for boys, and one mixed school, all run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Nahhalin. See Table 2.

In the village there is a total number of 2,367 students, 101 teachers, and 73 classes. It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is

nearly 24, while the average number of students per class is approximately 33 (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009).

| School Name | Supervising Authority | Sex |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Nahhalin Boys High School | Government | Male |
| Umm Ash Shuhada' Elementary School | | |
| Nahhalin Girls High School | Government | Female |
| Al Karmel Girls Elementary School | | |
| 'Ula Al Kiblatain Girls Elementary School | | |
| Abu Ammar Mixed Elementary School | Government | Mixed |

Source: Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009

Furthermore there are three kindergartens in Nahhalin; two run by a charitable society, while the other is privately run. The total number in both kindergartens is 250 children. See Table 3.

| Kindergarten Name | Number of Children | Supervising Authority |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Atba' Ash Sharif Kindergarten | 100 | Private |
| Nahhalin Association for Private Education Kindergarten | 90 | Charitable Society |
| Umm Ash Shuhada' Kindergarten | 60 | Charitable Society |

Source: Nahhalin Village Council, 2009

Health Sector

Nahhalin has some health facilities; one health center run by the government, three private physician's office, five private dental clinics in the village, and two pharmacies. The village has no ambulance, and in emergency situations, residents of Nahhalin use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Al Hussein Hospital, which is about 12km from the village, Rehabilitation Arab Society in Beit Jala, which is about 10km from the village, and Al Yamamah Hospital in El Khader town, which is about 9km from the village.

Despite the existence of a health center in Nahhalin, the health sector faces several obstacles:

- 1- No ambulance in the village.
- 2- Insufficient supply of important medications in the health center.
- 3- Lack of specialized doctors and medical equipment in the health center.

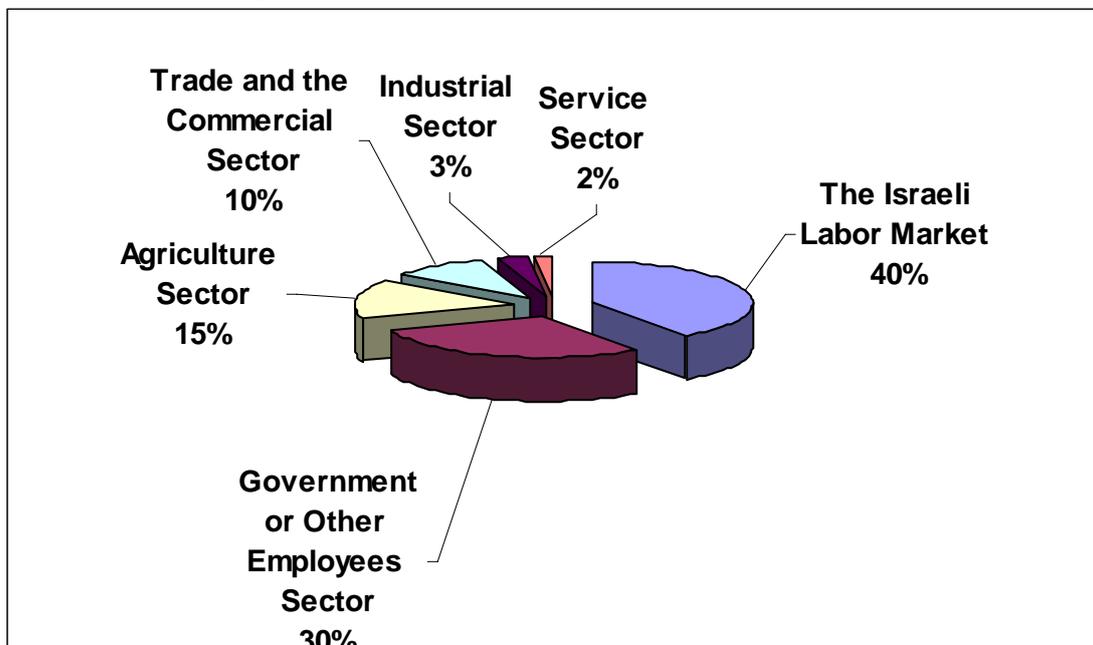
Economic Activities

The economy in Nahhalin depends on a number of economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 40 percent of the village workforce, followed by the employees 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 Nahhalin are the following:

- Israeli Labor Market (40%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (30%)
- Agriculture Sector (15%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Industry (3%)
- Service Sector (2%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Nahhalin Village



Nahhalin is considered an agricultural area, characterized by grape vines, nuts and various other crops. There are several economic and industrial activities in the village; one bakery, five groceries, three butcheries, 12 different services stores, and 25 different workshops (blacksmiths, carpentry, etc.), in addition to 4 grocery stores.

The unemployment rate in Nahhalin has reached about 25 percent, and the economical groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions are:

1. Workers in the agricultural sector.
2. Former workers in Israel.
3. Workers in the employment sector.
4. Workers in the trade sector.
5. Workers in the transportation sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.8 percent of Nahhalin population was economically active, of whom 87 percent were employed, 68.2 percent were not economically active, 60.5 percent were students, and 30 percent were housekeepers (See table 4).

Table 4: Nahhalin population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

| 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 | |
| Male | 1,093 | 123 | 34 | 1,250 | 934 | 1 | 132 | 23 | 16 | 1,106 | 2,356 |
| Female | 161 | 13 | 18 | 192 | 940 | 930 | 107 | 4 | 12 | 1,993 | 2,185 |
| Total | 1,254 | 136 | 52 | 1,442 | 1,874 | 931 | 239 | 27 | 28 | 3,099 | 4,541 |

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

Agricultural Sector

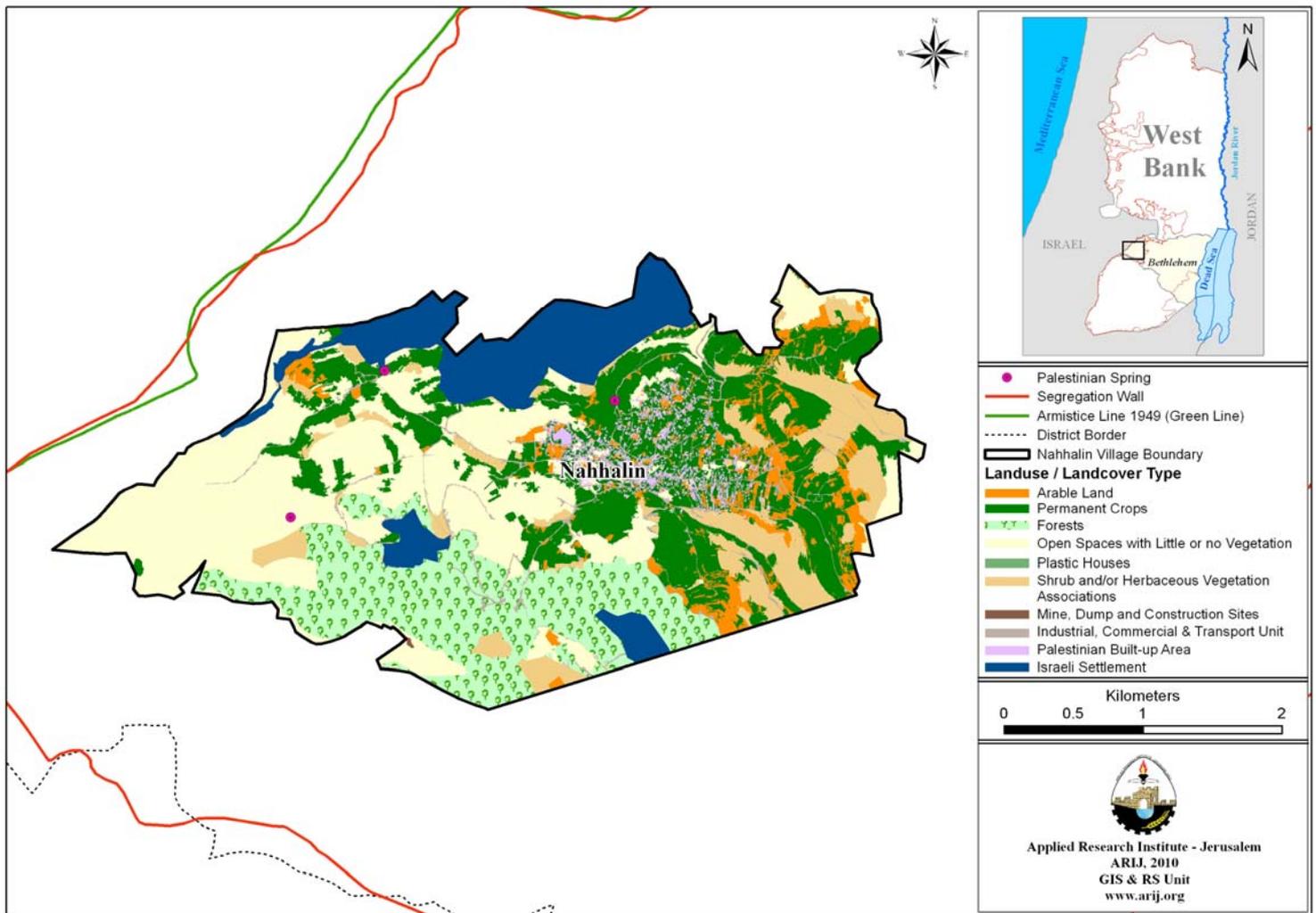
Nahhalin lies on a total area of about 12,126 dunums of which 10,130 dunums are considered arable land, and 234 dunums are residential land (See table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land Use in Nahhalin village (dunum)

| Total Area | Built up Area | Arable Land (10,130) | | | | | Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit | Area of Settlements and Military Bases |
|------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------------------|---|--|
| | | Seasonal Crops | Permanent Crops | Greenhouses | Forests | Open Spaces and Rangelands | | |
| 12,126 | 234 | 681 | 2,693 | 4 | 2,051 | 4,701 | 363 | 1,399 |

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Nahhalin Village



Agriculture in Nahhalin depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on water springs and domestic harvesting cisterns.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Nahhalin. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Nahhalin village (dunum)

| Fruity vegetables | | Leafy vegetable | | Green legumes | | Bulbs | | Other vegetables | | Total area | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------|------|-------|------|------------------|------|------------|-------|
| RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. |
| 24 | 58 | 0 | 37.5 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 8 | 26 | 129.5 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

Moreover, there are about 4 dunums on which there are greenhouses planted with different types of vegetables, most importantly cucumber.

One of the aromatic medical plants that is cultivated in Nahhalin is sage, with a total area of 5 dunums, fed by rain.

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees and its total area. Nahhalin is characterized with grape vines, with a total area of 1000 dunums.

| 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. |
| 512 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 1,035 | 0 | 1,615 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Nahhalin, cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 290 dunums, while forage crops, such as bitter vetch and common vetch are the second most cultivated crops (See table 8).

| 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 |
| 290 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 326 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Nahhalin are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler chickens, and bees (See Table 9).

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 0 | 1,112 | 981 | 0 | 5 | 23 | 18 | 0 | 3,000 | 400 |

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 15 kilometers of agricultural road in the village suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery

Institutions and Services

Nahhalin has a post office, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society: children, youth, and women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including: (Nahhalin village council, 2009)

- **Nahhalin Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government to take care of all types of issues of the village and provide all services to its population.
- **Nahhalin's Women Society:** Founded in 2004 by a local committee and it is interested in women's issues in Nahhalin.
- **Nahhalin Association for Special Education:** Founded in 1990, its main interest is people with special needs. The association also has a kindergarten and a games library.
- **Health and Environment Society:** Founded in 2004 and is interested in the environmental and health affairs in the village.
- **Nahhalin Water Society:** Founded in 1979 by a local committee, and is interested in water issues in the village.
- **Nahhalin Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2006 in order to support the farmers and serve in developing agricultural in the village.
- **Palestinian Women Committee:** Founded in 2007 to provide training and guidance for women.
- **Nahhalin Sports Club:** Founded in 1975 by a local committee and is interested in sport activities in the village.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Nahhalin has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 99.7 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, and 0.3 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

The village suffers from a high pressure power line that belongs to the neighboring Israeli settlements, and passes over the houses and establishments of the village.

Furthermore, Nahhalin is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 27.5 percent of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Transportation Services:

Buses and private cars are the two main means of transportation in Nahhalin. As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 11km of roads; of which 8km are paved and 3km are unpaved. However, there are 18km of secondary roads; of which 12km are paved and 6km are unpaved (Nahhalin Village Council 2009).

Water Resources:

Nahhalin is provided with water by West Bank Water Authority, through the public water network that has been connected since 1979, and about 99.7 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, 0.2 percent are dependent on water harvesting cisterns, and 0.1 percent are dependent on tanks, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Nahhalin in 2008 was about 117.500 cubic meters/year therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 48.5 liters/day (PWA, 2008).

Here it should be noted that many Nahhalin citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 39 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (PWA, 2008), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Nahhalin is 30 liters per day, which is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization; 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, located in Nahhalin are 500 rainwater harvesting cisterns, in addition to two water springs which are used for agricultural purposes; Ein El Balad and Ein Faris springs. The annual average flow of the two springs is 3000 m³ and 3600 m³, respectively (Nahhalin Village Council, 2009).

Sanitation:

Nahhalin lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a means for wastewater disposal. According to the results of Community Survey conducted by the PCBS in 2007 and the data provided from PWA, the majority of Nahhalin's housing units (98.2%) use the cesspits as a major means for wastewater disposal, and 1.6 percent of the housing units have no means for wastewater disposal, while it is unknown for the remaining units (0.2%).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 158 cubic meters, or 57,676 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 24 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys 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 which poses a threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

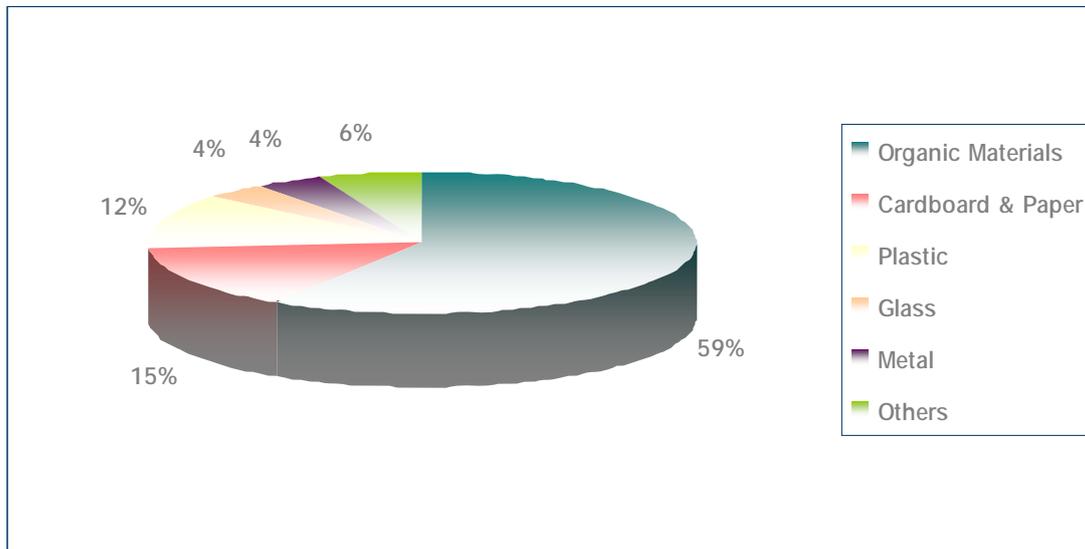
The Joint service council of the western countryside is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in the village, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about

18 NIS/month. However, the fee collections are not sufficient for a good management of solid waste.

Most of the population in Nahhalin benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 20 containers with a capacity of 1.1 cubic meters each, spread throughout the neighborhoods. The joint council collects the solid waste from the containers two days a week and transports it to Yatta’s dumping site in Hebron Municipality, 60km from Nahhalin. The common method for solid waste treatment is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. In the future, the solid waste will be disposed in Al Maniya landfill that will be established in Bethlehem governorate. It should be mentioned here that household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same landfill, with the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection. The largest volume of solid waste is household waste which makes up around 45-50 percent of total capacity of solid waste.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Nahhalin is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Nahhalin residents is nearly 4609kg, or 1682 tons per year. The major volume of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard then plastic, as shown in the figure.

Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced



Environmental Conditions

Like other villages in the governorate, Nahhalin experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved; these problems can be identified as follow:

Water Crisis:

Water is cut off for long periods of time in summer and winter 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 proportion of water losses due to the old and worn out network.

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. All of this 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.

Taking a stand, the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) targeted Nahhalin to build small scale wastewater treatment units at the household level in order to replace the cesspits with these units, due to the suffering of the residents of the village from the pollution caused by the absence of a good environmental management of wastewater. In 2008, 10 wastewater treatment units were established to serve 10 households in the village within the activities of "Establishment of small scale wastewater treatment plants in the rural areas of Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates" project, funded by the Mennonite Central Committee, which targets 18 villages including Nahhalin. This is in addition to the establishment of a central treatment plant that serves 1,300 people in the village, where the wastewater will be pumped and transferred from the cesspits to the station to be processed. This project will contribute to the reduction of pollution resulting from the use of cesspits; it will provide a source of water that can be used in irrigation, and provide better health and better environmental conditions.

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Nahhalin and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, like granting licenses to establish such a landfill, as the appropriate land is within Area C, under the Israeli 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, a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it creates bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

There is an absence of a system in the village and the governorate in general that separates hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Yatta's landfill in Hebron governorate landfill for disposal by burning.

Other problems:

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

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Nahhalin is bordered by two Israeli settlements from the north; Betar 'Illit and Hadar Betar, Al Khader village from the east, the Green Line and Wadi Fukin village from the west, and Al Jab'a and a number of Israeli settlements which are part of Gosh Etzion settlements (Rosh Zurim, El'azar, Allon Shevut and Kfar Etzion) from the south. With reference to the Oslo Interim Agreement signed in September, 1995 between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, Nahhalin territories were divided into two areas; B and C, where an area of 1,096 dunums was classified as area B, in which responsibility for public order falls under the Palestinian National Authority where Israel has full authority over security matters. It is worth mentioning that the majority of the population is concentrated in Area B, which constitute a very small percentage of the total area of the village; 9 percent of the total area of the village. As for the remaining part of the territory of the Nahhalin village, a total of 11,030 dunums (91 percent of the total area of the village) was classified as area C, an area that is under the full control of the Israeli government, preventing any Palestinian construction or benefit without a permission from the civilian Israeli administration in Bethlehem. It is also worth mentioning that most of the land in Area C is agricultural land and open areas, which could potentially be a major source of income for villagers who lost their jobs inside the Green Line after the outbreak of the second Intifada in September, 2000 (Table 10).

| Land Classification | Area (dunum) | % of the Total Area |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Area A | 0 | 0 |
| Area B | 1,096 | 9 |
| Area C | 11,030 | 91 |
| Total Area | 12,126 | 100 |

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

During the years of occupation, Israel confiscated an area of 1411 dunums of Nahhalin lands (11.6 percent of the total area of the village) in order to establish three Israeli settlements. More than 29,000 Israeli settlers are living on these settlements

today, which are considered to be part of the Israeli Gush Etzion settlement community that includes 11 Israeli settlements (Table 11).

| Settlement | Year of Establishment | Seized land of the Village (dunum) | No. of Settlers |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Geva'ot | 1984 | 135 | 44 |
| Betar 'Illit | 1985 | 1166 | 29000 |
| Rosh Zurim | 1969 | 110 | 364 |
| Total | | 1411 | 29408 |

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

Since the beginning of 2000, the Israeli occupation forces have uprooted 450 olive trees, 320 grape trees, and 200 stone-fruit trees. Nahhalin village is also subjected to two iron gates at the village entrances, a number of permanent and mobile military checkpoints, and earth and concrete mounds surrounding the village (Nahhalin Village Council, 2009).

Bypass Roads in Nahhalin

The Israeli Occupation Army has confiscated more land in Nahhalin village to build Bypass road number 367 on Nahhalin lands in order to link the Israeli settlements of Betar 'Illit and Hadar Betar to the nearby settlements in Gosh Etzion settlement district, (Geva'ot, Rosh Zurim, Allon Shevut, Kfar Etzion, and Beit Ein). Moreover, the Israeli bypass road no. 3676 cuts through the village land and the two bypass roads no. 367, and no. 3676 extend for 6.2km on Nahhalin village territory.

The Segregation Wall

The Israeli racist discrimination plan, represented mainly by the construction of the Segregation Wall, isolated Nahhalin and the rest of the villages west of Bethlehem city (Battir, Husan, Wadi Fukin, Al Walaja, Khallet 'Afana, Khallet Al Balluta, and Beit Sakariya) from the big cities and centers in Bethlehem governorate and put them inside the Israeli settlement district known as Gosh Etzion, which Israel intends to control and include in Jerusalem city limits, based on the wall chart that is currently being implemented; Israel will also include other settlement communities around the city of Jerusalem (Ma'ale Adummim and Giv'at Ze'ev settlements) in its borders in order to achieve the vision of the future project 'Greater Jerusalem Scheme'. As a result of this Palestinian citizens will be denied access to many services that exist only in city centers, such as: police, fire stations, ambulance, hospitals, health centers, and universities, etc. The countryside in Bethlehem Governorate lost the bigger part of its agricultural land, which is considered the main source of income for many residents, as the Segregation Wall separated it from its owners.

According to the updated Segregation Wall plan published on the web page of the Israeli Ministry of Defense in April 30, 2007; the Segregation Wall will isolate all of Nahhalin village territories (12,126 dunums) behind it.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects:

Nahhalin Village Council has implemented several projects during the years 2006 to 2009 as shown in table 12:

| Name of the Project | Type | Year | Donor |
|--|----------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Wastewater Treatment stations | Infrastructure | 2006 | ARIJ |
| Main & Secondary Street Lighting | Infrastructure | 2007 | World vision |
| Construction and Expansion of Schools' Yards | Educational | 2006/2007 | An Italian Association |
| Construction of Additional Classrooms | Educational | 2008 | PECDAR |
| Hosh Dar Abu Funoon Project | Infrastructure | 2008 | Center for Heritage Conservation |
| Al Badd Project | Heritage | 2009 | Save the Children |

Source: Nahhalin Village Council, 2009

Proposed Projects:

Nahhalin village council, 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. Finding an appropriate sewage system.
2. Restoration of the public water network.
3. Construction of agricultural roads and the reclamation of agricultural lands.
4. Addressing the problem of stray dogs, insects, and diseases.
5. The continuation of institutions support, such as ARIJ institution.
6. Providing seedlings, seeds, and fertilizer to farmers.
7. Providing awareness seminars and courses for the citizens.
8. Establishment of rainwater harvesting cisterns.
9. Construction of public water reservoirs.
10. Providing job opportunities for the residents.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Nahhalin suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village from the village council point of view. (Nahhalin Village Council, 2009)

| Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Nahhalin | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Not a Priority | Notes |
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | ✕ 9.5km |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | * | | | 8km |
| 3 | Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas | | * | | 3km |
| 4 | Construction of New Water Networks | * | | | 11km |
| 5 | Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs | * | | | Three springs |
| 6 | Construction of Water Reservoirs | * | | | 1000m ³ |
| 7 | Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network | * | | | 15km |
| 8 | Construction of a New Electricity Network | | * | | 2km |
| 9 | Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection | * | | | 100 containers |
| 10 | Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste | * | | | 1 |
| 11 | Providing a Sanitary Landfill | * | | | |
| Health Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres | * | | | one clinic |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres | | * | | one clinic |
| 3 | Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools | | * | | |
| Educational Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Schools | * | | | elementary & secondary |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Schools | * | | | elementary & secondary |
| 3 | Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools | * | | | elementary & secondary schools |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands | * | | | 3,000 dunum |
| 2 | Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns | * | | | 150 cisterns |
| 3 | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | | | * | |
| 4 | Veterinary Services | * | | | |
| 5 | Seeds and Hay for Animals | * | | | |
| 6 | Construction of New Greenhouses | * | | | 100 greenhouse |
| 7 | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | * | | |
| 8 | Field Crops Seeds | | * | | |
| 9 | Plants And Agricultural Supplies | * | | | |

✕3km is a main road, 2.5km internal road and 4km agricultural road

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