Battir Village Profile



Prepared by



 $The \ Applied \ Research \ Institute-Jerusalem$

Funded by





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

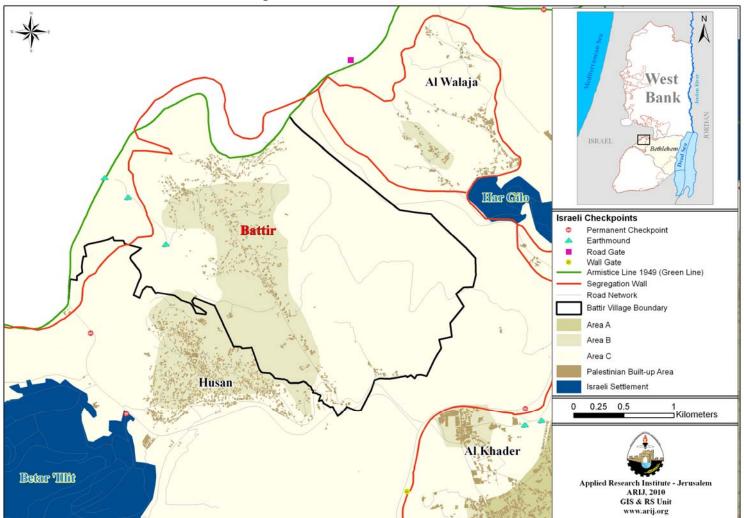
Table of Content

Location and Physical Characteristics	
History	
Religious and Archaeological Sites	
Population	
Education	
Health Status	
Economic Activities	
Agricultural Sector	1
Institutions and Services	1
Infrastructure and Natural Resources	1
Impact of the Israeli Occupation	1
Development Plans and Projects	2
Locality Development Priorities and Needs	2
Proposed Projects	2
References	2

Battir Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Battir is a Palestinian village in Bethlehem Governorate located 6.4km (horizontal distance) north-west of Bethlehem City. Battir is bordered by Beit Jala town and Al Walaja village to the east, Husan village to the west, Husan and Al Khader to the south, and the 1949 Armistice Line (the Green Line) to the north (See map 1).



Map 1: Battir location and borders

Battir is located at an altitude of 761m above sea level with mean annual rainfall of 653mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is about 61 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1980, Battir has been governed by a village council which is currently administrated by nine members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also

7 employees working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters, and a vehicle to collect solid waste.

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

- 1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity
- 2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.

History

The name Battir originates from the Phoenician word "Batara", which means sever and slash as it does in Arabic. Other narratives refer the name to Beit At tair (the house of a bird).

Battir village dates back to the Roman and Canaanite eras, and the residents originate from Iraq and Yemen.

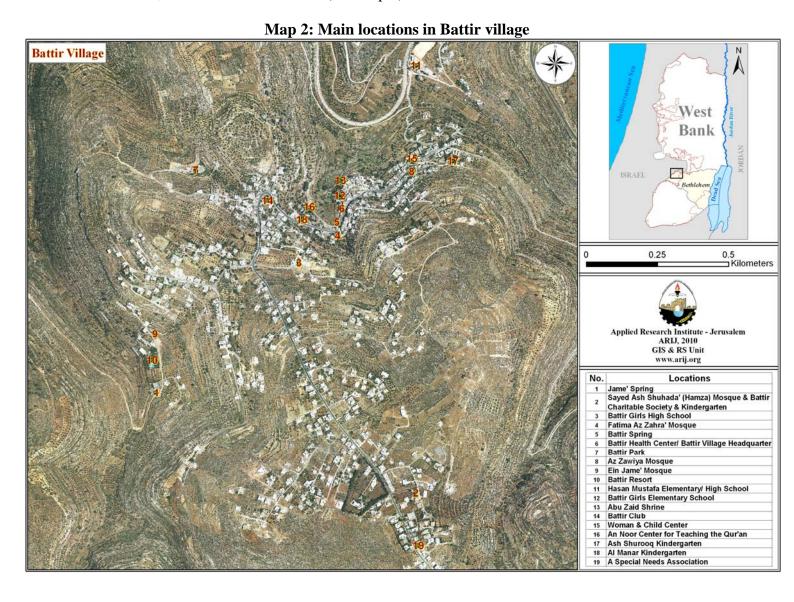
Photos of Battir



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are four mosques in Battir: Sayed Ash Shuhada' (Hamza) Mosque, Fatima Az Zahra' Mosque, Az Zawiya Mosque, and Ein Jame' Mosque.

As for the archaeological sites in the village there are two sites: Ein Al Balad and Ein Jame', and a Romanian bathtub (See map 2).



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Battir in 2007 was 3,967; of whom 1,992 are males and 1,975 are females. There are 798 households living in 981 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 Battir is as follows: 35.2 percent are less than 15 years, 59.8 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 4.4 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 100.9:100, meaning that males constitute 50.2 percent of the population, and females constitute 49.8 percent of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Battir village are composed of several families, mainly: 'Uweina, Batma. Batha, Kttoush, Mashni, Abu 'Ebeid Allah, Abu Ni'ma, and Mu'ammar.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the Percentage of illiteracy among Battir population is about 3.9 percent, of whom 88.5 percent are females. Of the literate population, 10.2 percent can read and write, 20.5 percent had elementary education, 31.7 percent had preparatory education, 19.5 percent had secondary education, and 18.1 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Battir, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Ta	Table 1: Battir population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment											
S E x	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total	
M	13	149	291	466	283	99	127	1	11	6	1446	
F	100	134	278	413	255	98	147	7	4	1	1437	
T	113	283	659	879	538	197	274	8	15	7	2883	

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

In regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Battir in the academic year 2008/2009, there are three public schools in the village, two for boys (an elementary and secondary school) and one secondary school for girls, in addition to one elementary school for girls run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). See Table 2.

In the village there are 885 students, 47 teachers, and 35 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 19, while the average number of students per class is approximately 25.

Table 2: The Schools in Battir by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority								
School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex						
Hasan Mustafa Boys High School Governmental Male								
Battir Boys High School								
Battir Girls High School	Governmental	Female						
Battir Girls Elementary School UNRWA								
Source: Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009								

Furthermore, there are three kindergartens in Battir; Battir Charitable Society Kindergarten run by a charitable society in Battir, which has 70 children, Ash Shurooq Kindergarten which is privately run and has 60 children, and Al Manar Kindergarten, which is also privately run and has 25 children (Battir Village Council, 2009).

Health Status

Battir has some health facilities; a physician's clinic run jointly by the government and Health Work Committees, three private dental clinics, and one pharmacy. In emergency cases, residents of Battir use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Al Hussein Hospital, about 10km from the village, and Rehabilitation Arab Society in Beit Jala, about 6km from the village.

The health sector in Battir faces several obstacles:

- 1- The absence of a permanent health center in Battir.
- 2- The long distance between Battir and Bethlehem city, and the suffering of patients in case of the existence of Israeli checkpoints.

Economic Activities

The economy in Battir is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 65 percent of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

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

- Israeli Labor Market (65%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (20%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Trade Sector (3%)
- Industry (2%)

Industrial Trade and the **Agriculture** Sector Commercial **Sector** 2% Sector 10% 3% The Israeli **Labor Market** Government 65% or Other **Employees** Sector 20%

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Battir Village

There are many economic and industrial activities in Battir, mainly: woodwork and agricultural production, ten different workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, and aluminum), four butcheries, one bakery, 10 different services stores, and 25 grocery stores.

As a result of the Israeli restrictions, the economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have been forced to work in the service sector and to return to agricultural activities and farming their lands, as a last resort for getting a minimum income.

The unemployment rate in Battir reached about 40 percent, and the economical groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions are:

- 1. Former workers in Israel.
- 2. Workers in agricultural activities.
- 3. Workers in the private sector.
- 4. Workers in industry.
- 5. Workers in the trade sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 35 percent of the Battir population was economically active, of whom 75.4 percent were employed, 65 percent was not economically active, 54.3 percent were students, and 31.9 percent were housekeepers (See table 3).

Ta	ble 3: Battiı	r population (10	years and abov	ve) by sex	and employ	ment statu	s-2007				
S E X		Economica	lly Active				Total				
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	Students House- keeping to work Via Potential Working & Not looking for work Total					
M	582	154	56	792	494	-	105	31	24	654	1,446
F	F 179 9 29 217 524 598 90 1 7 1								1,220	1,437	
Т	7 761 163 85 1,009 1,018 598 195 32 31 1,874									2,883	

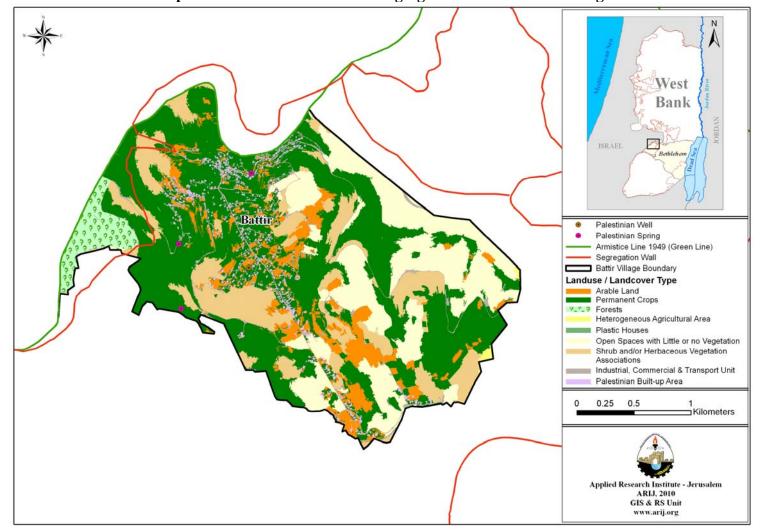
Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

Agricultural Sector

Battir lies on a total area of about 6,795 dunums, of which 6,435 dunums are considered arable land, and 159 dunums are residential land (See table 4 and map 3).

Table 4	Table 4: Land Use in Wadi Rahhal village (dunum)											
	Built			Arable Land (6,435)			Area of Industrial,	Area of Settlements				
Total Area	up Area	Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands	Commercial & Transport Unit	and Military Bases				
6,795	159	642	3,107	3	239	2,444	201	0				

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008



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

Agriculture activities in Battir depend mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields they depend on water springs and domestic harvesting cisterns.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Battir. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

	Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Battir village (dunum)											
Fruity Leafy Green Bulbs Other vegetables Total area								al area				
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	
34 90.5 0 15				0	8	0	10	0	8	34	131.5	

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

Also, there are about 3 dunums of greenhouses in the village, planted with different types of vegetables, most importantly cucumber.

There are three types of aromatic medical plants in the village, thyme, sage and mint, with a total area of 8 rain-fed dunums.

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Battir is known for olive harvesting as about 3,640 dunums are planted with olive trees.

Table	Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Battir Village (dunum)												
Olives	}	Stone-		Pome 1		Nuts		Other		Total area			
				fruits		fruits				fruits			
Rf Irr. Rf Irr.		Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	
3,640	0	0	0	73	0	0	0	8	0	157	0	3,878	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Battir, cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 31 dunums. In addition to forage crops, such as bitter vetch and common vetch (See table 7).

Tabl	Table 7: Total area of field crops in Battir village (dunum)														
Cereals Bulbs			bs	Dry		Oil	Oil		age	Stimula	ating	Other		Total	
				legumes		crops		crops		crops		crops		area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
31	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	53	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that some of the residents in Battir are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler and layer chickens, and bees (See Table 8).

Table 8	Table 8: Livestock in Battir village											
Cows*	Cows* Sheep Goats Camels Horses Donkeys Mules Broilers Layers Bee											
	_								Hives			
0	242	500	0	2	14	10	2000	1200	800			

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls **Source**: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There is about 30 kilometers of agricultural road in the village: 10km are suitable for vehicles, 5km are suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery, and 15km are suitable for animals only.

Institutions and Services

Battir has a number of local institutions dealing with social matters in the village (See Map 2), they are: (Battir Village Council, 2009)

• **Battir Charitable Society**: a non-profit NGO founded in 1972, and it has a kindergarten. The society is also interested in cultural activities and programs.

- **Battir Sport Club**: Founded in 1973 to develop sport activities in Battir. It has more than 200 members.
- Woman and Child Center: founded in 2000, its interest is women and children's issues in the village.
- **Battir Women's club**: Founded in 2003 to provide educational and technical courses for Battir young women.
- Health Work Committees Center
- Palestinian Woman Committee: its interests are women's issues and affairs.
- **Agricultural Committee**: Founded in 1997 in order to assist and serve the farmers in Battir.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Battir has been connected to a public electricity network since 1972; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 98.1 percent of the housing units in the village are connected to the network, 1.6 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, and 0.3 percent have no source of electricity, while it is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Battir is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 58.7 percent of the housing units outside the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Transportation Services:

Taxis are considered the main means of transportation in Battir, as there are 20 taxies in the village, in addition to two buses (Battir Village Council, 2009). As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 9km of paved roads, and 8km of unpaved roads (Battir village council, 2009). However, the majority of paved roads in the village lacks the basic requirements of public safety, and needs rehabilitation.

Water Resources:

Battir is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1980, and about 96.8 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, 2.9 percent are dependent on water harvesting cisterns, and 0.1 percent are dependent on water springs, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.3%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). The quantity of water supplied to Battir in 2008 is about 141,520 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 107 liters/day (Palestinian Water Authority, 2008).

Here it should be noted that many Battir citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water because of water losses, which are about 30 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level, thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Battir is 75 liters per day (Battir Village Council, 2009). 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 Battir is characterized by the presence of four water springs, which are Ein El Balad, Ein Jame', Ein Al Baseen, and Ein 'Amdan springs. See the following photos.



Roman Pool (Irrigation water)



Sanitation:

Battir lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a means for wastewater disposal. Based on the results of the communities' survey carried out by the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics in 2007, most of the housing units in the village of Battir (97.1%) use cesspits, 2.7 percent of the housing units have no means for wastewater disposal, while it is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007). Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 238 cubic meters, or 87 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the

village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 60 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 for the Western Countryside is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, generated from the citizens and establishments in the village, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. The council spends about 3500 NIS/month to collect solid waste and transfer it to the dumping site. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population served for domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 15 NIS/month. However, no more than 40 percent of the village population are committed to paying their fees (Battir Village Council, 2009).

Most of the population in Battir benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to containers, with a capacity of 800 -1,000 liter each, spread in the neighborhoods. The joint council collects the solid waste from the containers two days a week and transports it to Yatta dumping site in Hebron governorate (Battir Village Council, 2009), 30.75km (vertical distance) from Battir. The common method for solid waste treatment in Yatta dumping site is burial. It should be mentioned here that household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same landfill, in the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection. Household waste makes the largest amount of total solid waste, contributing around 45 - 50 percent of total volume of solid waste.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Battir is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Battir residents is nearly 2.7 tons, or 985.5 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard, and then by plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

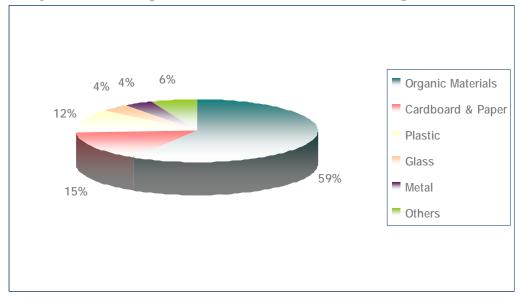


Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced

Environmental Conditions:

Like other villages in the governorate, Battir 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 in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- 1) Israeli domination of 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. In addition, the practices of citizens, like creating illegal connections, water theft, and damaging water meters, increase the proportion of water losses.

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 and health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The use of cesspits causes pollution threats to the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns). This is due to the fact

that most of the cesspits are built without lining therefore allowing the entry of wastewater into the ground thus avoiding the need to use sewage tankers from time to time (See figure 4) Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers are disposed of in open areas without taking into account any environmental and/or health damages.

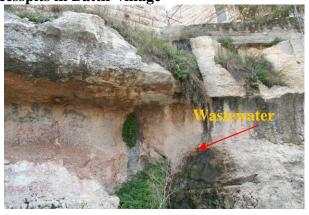
The use of these cesspits has already caused pollution of water springs in the village, according to the results of regular biological tests analysis carried out by the Palestinian Ministry of Health. The tests show that the water of these springs is contaminated with fecal coli-form bacteria as a result of water mixing with wastewater, which is leaking from cesspits into the groundwater basin, making it unfit for domestic use. The concentration of fecal coli-form bacteria in water samples from several locations in Ein El Balad spring analyzed in July 2006 is as follows: (Ministry of Health, 2006)

- Ein El Balad Spring 1: Concentration of fecal coli-form bacteria 230 colonies/100ml
- Ein El Balad Spring 2: Concentration of fecal coli-form bacteria 240 colonies/100ml
- Ein El Balad Spring 3: Concentration of fecal coli-form bacteria too many to count.

Taking a stand, the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) targeted Battir to build small scale wastewater treatment units at the household level in order to replace the cesspits with these units. 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 Battir. This project will contribute to the reduction of pollution resulting from the use of cesspits, provide a source of water that can be used in irrigation, and contribute to the provision of better health and environmental conditions.

Figure 4: Leakage of wastewater from the cesspits in Battir village





Solid Waste Management:

 An insufficient and inefficient solid waste collection arrangement, since the village council depends on one vehicle, to collect solid waste and transfer it to Yatta landfill,causes the buildup of solid waste in streets and around containers

- The existence of private landfills to discard Israeli waste in Battir's land. For example, some Battir residents are paid by Israelis to use fields in Battir as dumping sites for Israeli waste (See figure 5)
- Disposing of car parts and other scraps on roadsides leading to its accumulation.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Battir 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, because 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 fluid produced from the solid waste, and it produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.
- There is an absence of a system that separates hazardous waste in the village and the governorate in general, consequently hazardous solid waste are collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Yatta's landfill, in Hebron governorate, for disposal by burial.

Figure 5: the illegal disposal of Israeli waste in private lands inside Battir village





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.
- The haphazard disposal of car bodies.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, signed in September 1995, between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli government, Battir lands were classified into areas B and C; 1610 dunums of which (23.7 percent of the total area of the village) 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 Battir lands, 5185 dunums (76.3%) were classified as area C, an area that is under full control of the Israeli government. Since Israeli has control of this land, Palestinians are prevented from construction or benefiting from this land in any way possible, unless they get permission, which is extremely difficult, from the Israeli civilian administration in Bethlehem. Moreover, area C includes agricultural land, open areas, and small urban areas (Table 9).

Table 9: Land classification in Battir according to Oslo II Agreement in 1995								
Land Classification	Area (dunums)	% of the Total Area						
Area A	0	0						
Area B	1610	23.7						
Area C	5185	76.3						
Nature Reserves	0	0						
Total Area	6795	100						

Source: GIS unit -ARIJ 2009

The Segregation Wall

The Israeli racist discrimination plan, represented mainly by the construction of the Segregation Wall, put Battir and the rest of the villages west of Bethlehem city (Husan, Al Walaja, Nahhalin, Wadi Fukin, Al Jab'a, Khallet 'Afana, Khallet Al Balluta, and Beit Sakariya) in isolation form the big cities and centers in Bethlehem governorate (Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Al Khadr, and Ad Doha). Thus, the citizens are deprived from accessing many services that exist only in city centers like police, fire stations, ambulance, hospitals, health centers, and universities, etc. According to the updated Segregation Wall plan published on the web page of the Israeli Ministry of Defense on April 30, 2007; the Segregation Wall will extend for 2km on Battir lands; thus isolating 6683 dunums of the village agricultural lands, forests and open spaces.

Previous Israeli Military Orders in Battir

Battir residents received many Israeli Military orders aimed at seizing Battir's lands for various Israeli purposes. The orders are:

- 1. On 24/04/2004, Battir and Husan villages received order number 31/04/T which confiscates 4.6 dunum to build the Segregation Wall in the east side of both villages.
- 2. On 1/05/2005, Battir, Husan, Wadi Fukin, and Al Walaja villages received order number 86/05/T which confiscates 766.6 dunums to build the Segregation Wall in the villages.

- 3. On 21/10/2005, Battir, Al Kader, and Beit Jala received order number 210/05/T which confiscates 85 dunums to build Al Khadr crossing.
- 4. On 7/02/2007, Battir received order number 69-06 which confiscates 22 dunums to build the Segregation Wall in Battir.

The village is also constantly exposed to the establishment of mobile checkpoints and earth mounds around it (Battir Village Council, 2009).

Israeli Bypass Roads in Battir

The two Israeli bypass roads no. 375 and no. 436 cut through Battir village lands by 0.5km length.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

In 2002, Battir village council prepared a development plan for development projects in Battir. The council has implemented many development projects as shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Development Projects in B	Table 10: Development Projects in Battir										
Name of the Project	Year	Type	Donor								
Construction of Battir Girls High	2008	Educational	Local Civil Society								
School and the Council											
Separating the boys school into	2006	Educational	Local Civil Society								
elementary and high school			and the Council								
Establishment of a public park	2006	Recreational	Several Donors								
Pavement of Battir Streets	2007	Infrastructure	PECDAR & USAID								
Source: Battir Village Council, 2009											

Proposed Projects

Battir 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. Establishment of a sewage network or a wastewater treatment plant.
- 2. Construction of public water reservoirs.
- 3. Rehabilitation of water springs.
- 4. Construction of agricultural roads.
- 5. Development of solid waste management, increasing the number of collection times, and using the recycling process for getting organic fertilizers.
- 6. Establishment of cooperative agricultural societies and an agricultural inclusion company.
- 7. Increasing financial support by donor institutions
- 8. Providing fertilizers and good drugs.
- 9. Linking the researches that are done in specific locations with different institutions.
- 10. Developing and promoting household food industries of local products.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Battir village council, the village suffers from a significant infrastructure and services shortage. Table 11 shows the development priorities and needs in the village from the village council's point of view (Battir Village Council, 2009).

Table	e 11: Development Priorities and Needs in Battir				
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
	Infrastruct	ural Needs			
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			22km ×
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*	*	2km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		4km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs		*		3 springs
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			4.000m^3
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			8km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			30 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		*		1
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		1
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools		*		
	Education	nal Needs			
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*		elementary & secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools		*		elementary & secondary schools
	Agricultu	re Needs			
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands		*		1.500 dunum
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns		*		150 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	<u> </u>	*		10 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		*		

[★]5km is a main road, 7km interne road and 10km agricultural road.

References:

- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ). (2008 2009). Bethlehem, Palestine: Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing unit Database, 2009.
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2009. Bethlehem, Palestine: Urbanization Unit Database, 2009.
- Battir Village Council. 2009.
- *Directorate of Education Bethlehem*. 2008/2009. Bethlehem, Palestine: A database of schools.
- Ministry of Health Central Public Health Laboratory. 2006. Ramallah, Palestine: Report of the analysis of water samples – Bethlehem Governorate, 2006.
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). 2007/2008. Bethlehem, Palestine: Directorate of Agriculture data.
- *Palestinian Water Authority*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: Quantities of Water Supply in the West Bank Governorates, 2008.