

# Za'tara Town 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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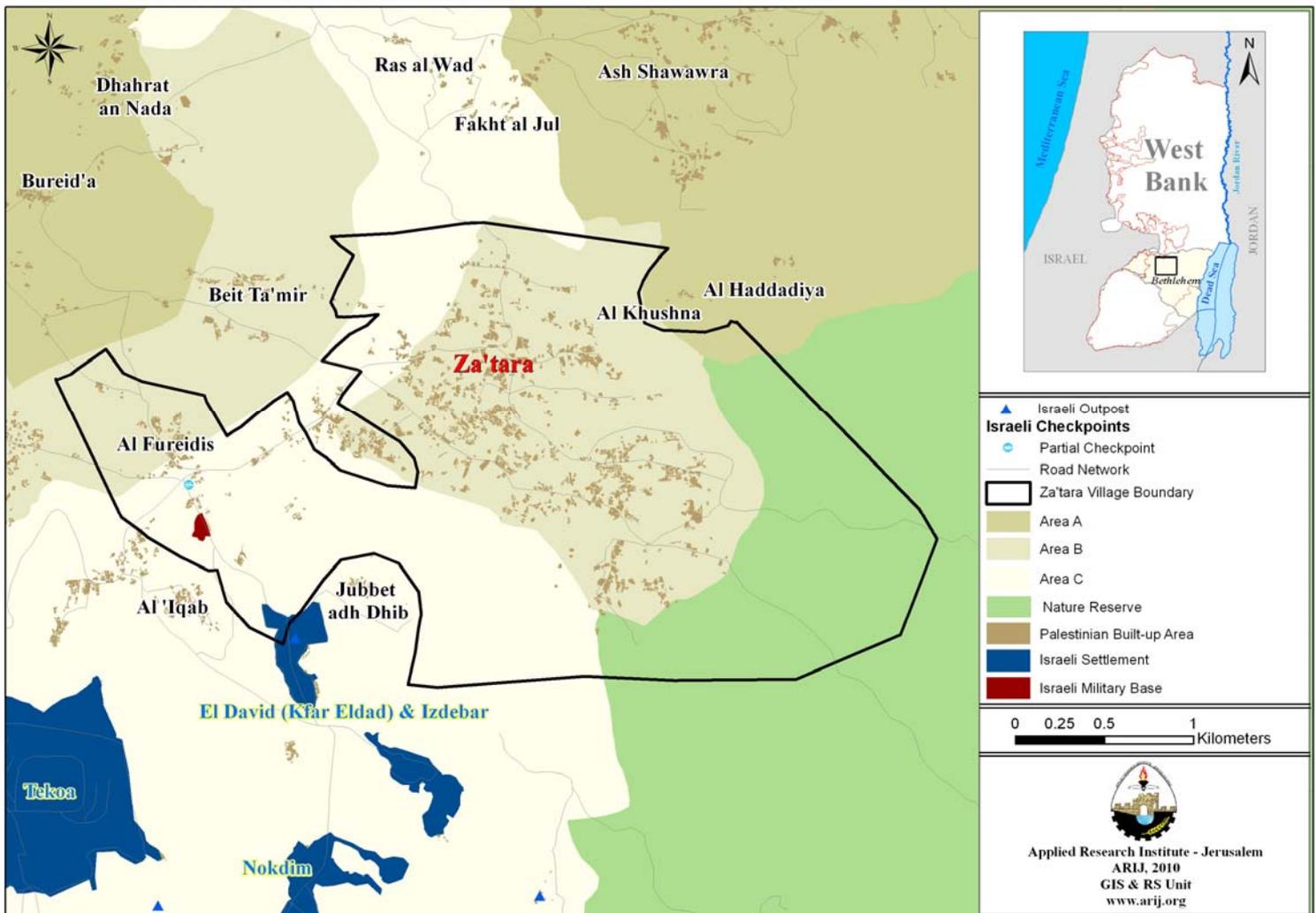
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# Za'tara Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Za'tara is a Palestinian town in Bethlehem Governorate located 6km (horizontal distance) south-east of Bethlehem City. Za'tara is bordered by open spaces and nature reserves to the east, Ash Shawawra village to the north, Beit Ta'mir village and bypass road no. 356 to the west, and Jubbet adh Dhib village to the south (See map 1).

**Map 1: Za'tara location and borders**



Za'tara is located at an altitude of 577m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 324mm. The average annual temperature is 18° C, and the average annual humidity is about 60 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1997, Za'tara has been governed by a municipal council which is currently administrated by nine members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also 12 employees working in the council. The municipality owns a permanent headquarters, a vehicle to collect solid waste and a private car.

It is the responsibility of the municipality to provide a number of services to the residents of Za'tara, including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Organization of the construction and licensing processes.

## History

Za'tara town got its name from the wild plant of thyme, which exist with large numbers on the slopes of eastern mountains. There is also a story which says that the town was named after a cemetery, where the town residents used to bury their dead, located 4km from the town, named Z'eiter, after a good man.

Za'tara town dates back to 1966, and its residents originate from At Ta'amreh. Moreover, Za'tara locality includes another locality called Ras El Wad area, which was annexed to the council in 2005 by a decision of the Ministry of Local Government.

### Photos of Za'tara



**Za'tara Town**

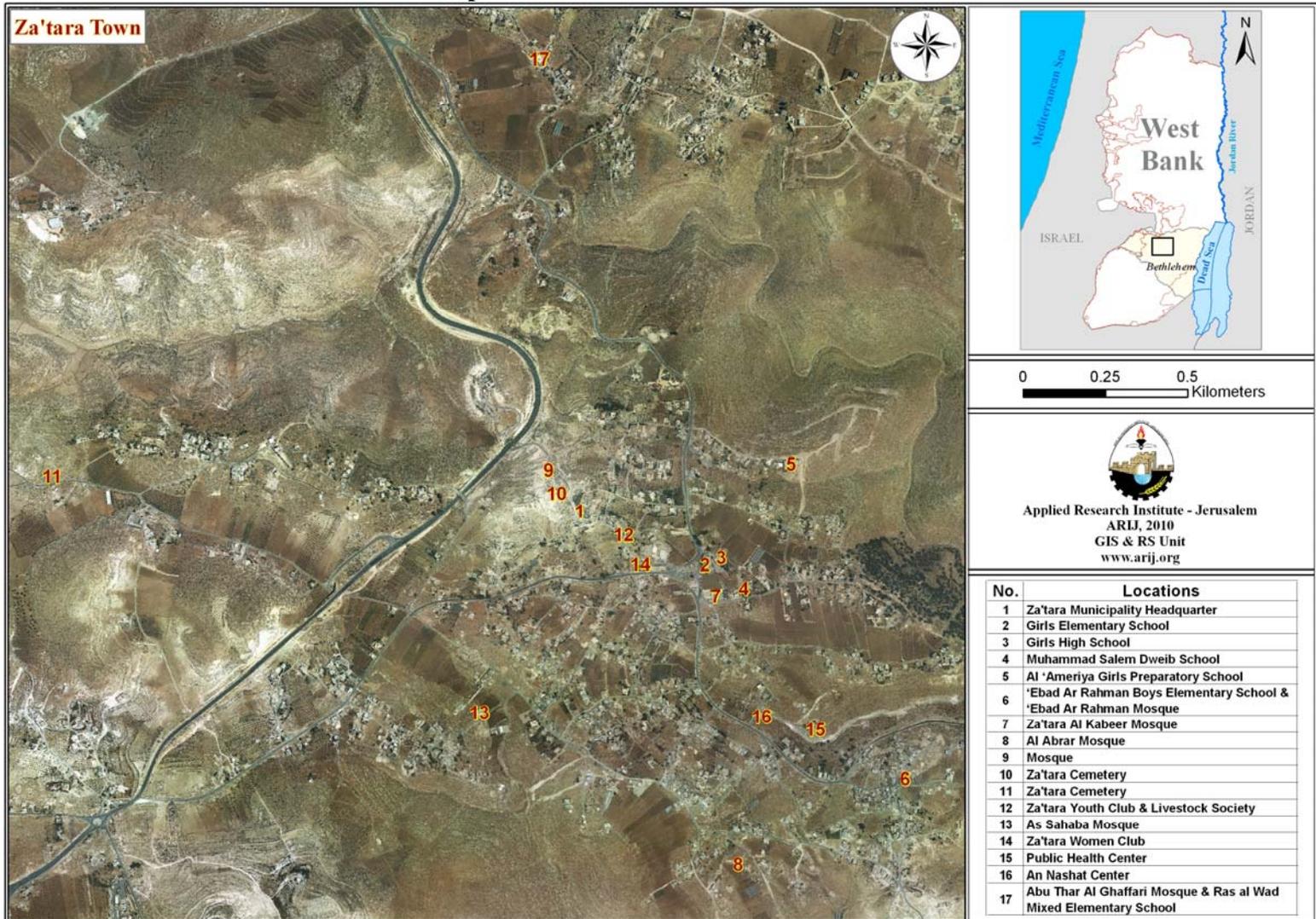
**Ras al Wad Area**

## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are six mosques in Za'tara: Za'tara Al Kabeer Mosque, 'Ebad ar Rahman Mosque, Abi Thar El Ghafari Mosque, As Sahaba Mosque, Al Abrar Mosque, and Al Ansar Mosque.

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

**Map 2: Main locations in Za'tara town**



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Za'tara in 2007 was 6,280; of whom 3,215 are males and 3,074 are females. There are 1,046 households living in 1,080 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 Za'tara is as follows: 43.5 percent are less than 15 years, 52.6 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 3.4 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 104.6:100, meaning that males constitute 51.1 percent of the population, and females constitute 48.9 percent of the population.

### Families

The inhabitants of Za'tara town are composed of several families, mainly: Al Masa'da, Al Wahsh, Abu 'Amreiyah, Al Baw, Ath Thweib, and Az Zwateen.

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Za'tara population is about 7.7 percent, of whom 70 percent are females. Of the literate population, 16.8 percent can read and write, 25.6 percent had elementary education, 28.1 percent had preparatory education, 17.6 percent had secondary education, and 11.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Za'tara, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	98	313	544	569	348	84	145	6	15	5	<b>2128</b>
F	227	339	449	521	336	42	160	3	2	-	<b>2081</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>993</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4209</b>

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

In regards to the basic and secondary educational institutions and schools in Za'tara in the academic year 2008/2009, there are six public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (See Table 2).

In the village there is a total number of 1916 students, 84 teachers, and 61 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 23, while the average number of students per class is approximately 31.

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Supervising Authority</b>	<b>Sex</b>
'Ebad ar Rahman Boys Elementary School	Government	Male
Muhammad Salem ath Thweib Boys High School		
Za'tara Girls Elementary School	Government	Female
Al 'Amreiyah Girls Elementary School		
At Ta'amra Girls High School		
Ras El Wad Mixed Elementary School	Government	Mixed

**Source:** Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009

Furthermore, there is one kindergarten in Za'tara; Za'tara Charitable Society Kindergarten, which is run by a charitable society in the town and has a total number of 129 children (Za'tara municipality, 2010).

## Health Status

There are some health facilities available in Za'tara town; there is a Governmental Health Center which has a physician's clinic. There is also a private physician's clinic in the town, two private specialized doctors' clinics, and 3 private dental clinics, in addition to two private physiotherapy centers, two pharmacies, and one ambulance for emergencies which belong to the municipality.

## Economic Activities

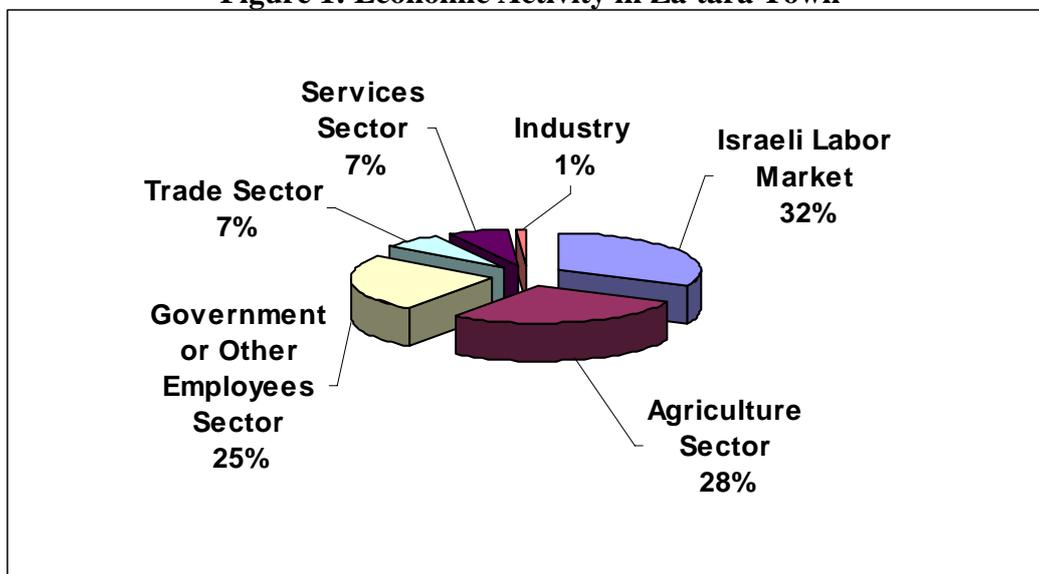
The economy in Za'tara is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 32 percent of the town workforce (See Figure1).

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

- Israeli Labor Market (32%)
- Agriculture Sector (28%)

- Government or Other Employees Sector (25%)
- Services Sector (7%)
- Trade Sector (7%)
- Industry (1%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Za'tara Town**



Za'tara is considered an agricultural town that is characterized by rearing livestock and olive tree planting. There is also one bakery in the town, two butcheries, several stores to sell chicken, 16 different service stores, 10 different workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc.), and 4 grocery stores.

The unemployment rate in Za'tara has reached about 35 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, are:

1. Workers in the agricultural sector.
2. Former workers in Israel.

**Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.3 percent of Za'tara population was economically active, of whom 72.9 percent were employed, 68.5 percent were not economically active, 54.9 percent were students, and 33.1 percent were housekeepers (See table 3).

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	837	224	86	<b>1,147</b>	772	1	144	16	40	<b>973</b>	<b>2,128</b>
F	123	12	34	<b>169</b>	810	955	126	1	19	<b>1,911</b>	<b>2,081</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2,884</b>	<b>4,209</b>

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

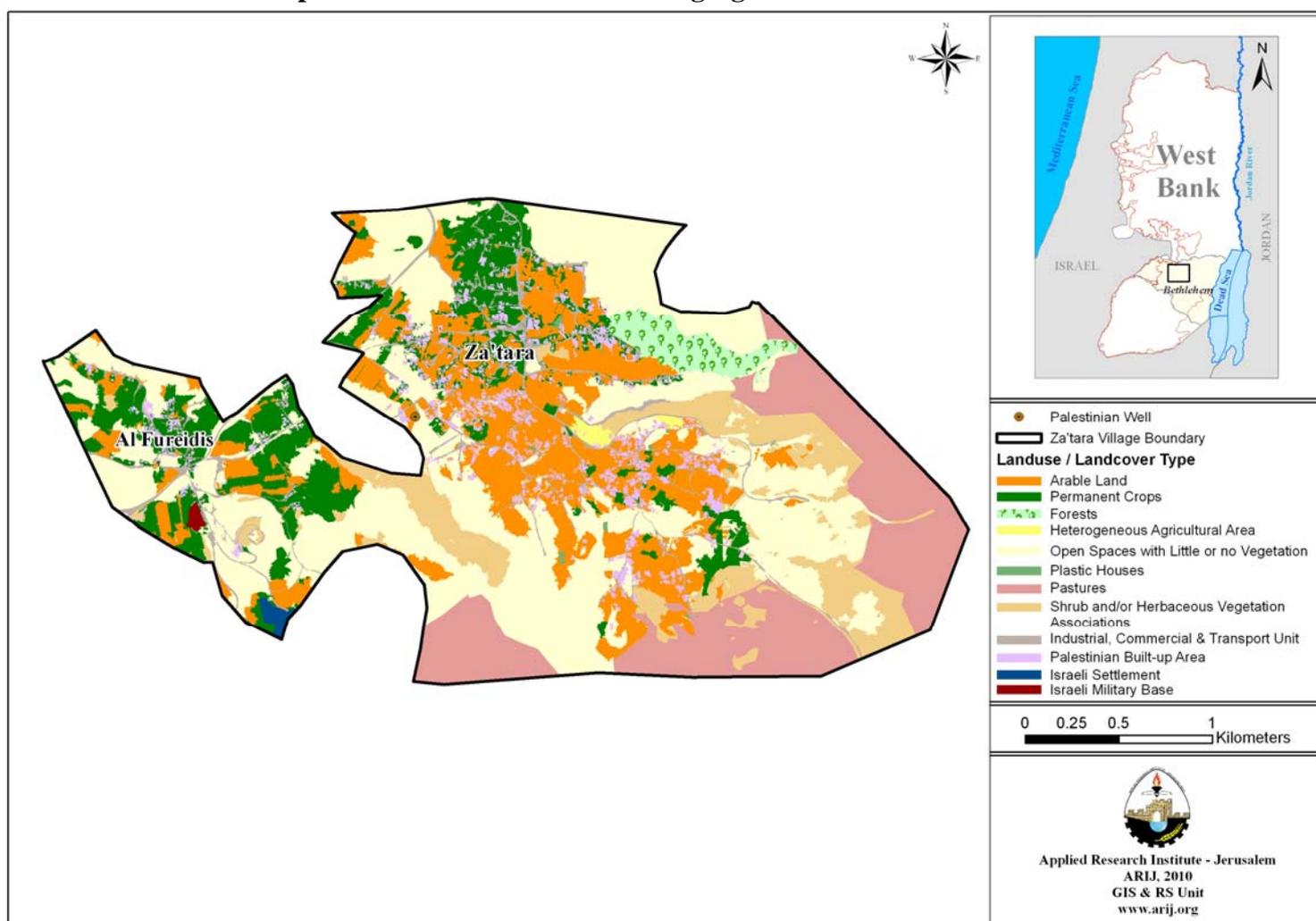
## Agricultural Sector

Za'tara lies on a total area of about 7,748 dunums of which 7,110 dunums are considered arable land, and 320 dunums are residential land. It should be mentioned here that Za'tara municipality has prepared a structural scheme for the town for a total area of 6,000 dunums (See table 4 and map 3).

Total Area	Built up Area	Arable Land (7,110)					Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements and Military Bases
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Greenhouses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
7,748	320	1,416	913	10	165	4,606	298	20

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Za'tara Town**



Agricultural production in Za'tara depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on domestic harvesting cisterns and the public water network.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Za'tara. 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.
15	21	0	11	0	1	0	0	0	6	15	39

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

There are also 10 dunums of land on which there are greenhouses planted with different vegetables, mainly: cucumber.

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Za'tara town is characterized with olive harvesting; there is a total area of 225 dunums in the town planted with olive trees.

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.
225	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	50	0	6	0	283	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

As for the field crops and forage in Za'tara, cereals, in particular, wheat and barley are the most cultivated covering an area of about 315 dunums, while forage crops, such as common vetch and bitter vetch are the second most cultivated crops (See table 7).

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
315	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	361	0

*Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated*

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

The field survey shows that 29 percent of the residents in Za'tara are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as cows, sheep, goats, broiler and layer chicken, and bees (See Table 8).

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
3	4,021	5,394	0	8	33	23	98,000	10,000	30

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

*Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007*

There are about 12 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery.

## Institutions and Services

Za'tara has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society: children, youth, elderly, and women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including (Za'tara Municipality, 2010):

- **Za'tara Charitable Society:** A community association founded in 1974. It includes a kindergarten which has 129 children in preliminary phases, supervised by 5 female teachers. The association also has a center for people with special needs which was closed due to economic conditions; it included 120 special needs people from the town and surrounding villages.
- **Za'tara Youth Club:** A cultural, social and sport club founded in 1972, where some sports are practiced such as football, table tennis, and running.
- **Za'tara Women Club:** Established recently and it cares for women's issues and affairs through providing health, economical and cultural courses.
- **Social Activity Center:** Founded in 2004 in a private two storey building with an area of 300 m<sup>2</sup>.
- **Livestock Development Society:** Founded in 1983 and it deals with livestock matters.
- **The Women Center:** Founded in 2004, and it deals with cultural and economic issues for women.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Za'tara has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 97.2 percent of the housing units in the town are connected to the network, 0.9 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, and 1.8 percent have no source for electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%).

According to the data provided by Za'tara Municipality, Za'tara has a street light network composed of 450 lighting units. Moreover, the municipality looks forward to establishing a lighting network in Ras El Wad, in the near future. Furthermore, Za'tara is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 50 percent of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Za'tara Municipality, 2010).

### Transportation Services:

Taxis are considered the main means of transportation in Za'tara; there are 45 taxis in the town. As for the road network in the town; there are a total of 22km of roads; of

which 7km are main paved and in good condition, except for 2km which are in need of rehabilitation, and a total of 15km of secondary roads; of which 4km are paved and in good condition, 4km are paved but in bad condition, and 7km are unpaved (Za'tara municipality, 2010).

### **Water Resources:**

Za'tara is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department, through the public water network established in 1972, which is 12km long. About 97.1 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, 1.3 percent are dependent on rainwater harvesting cisterns, and 0.7 percent are dependent on the purchase of water tanks, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%). The quantity of water supplied to Za'tara in 2009 was about 159,615 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 70 liters/day (Za'tara municipality, 2010).

Here it should be noted that many Za'tara citizens do not in fact consume this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 28 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Za'tara municipality, 2010), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Za'tara is 50 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.

It is worth mentioning that Za'tara municipality is responsible for the maintenance of water and collecting bills.

### **Sanitation:**

Za'tara lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a means for wastewater disposal; the majority of Za'tara's housing units (97.9%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal, 2 percent of the housing units have no means for wastewater collection and disposal, while the means for wastewater disposal is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 252 cubic meters, or 92 thousands cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 40 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys (At Ta'amrah Valley) 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:**

Za'tara Municipality is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Za'tara. 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 15 NIS/month.

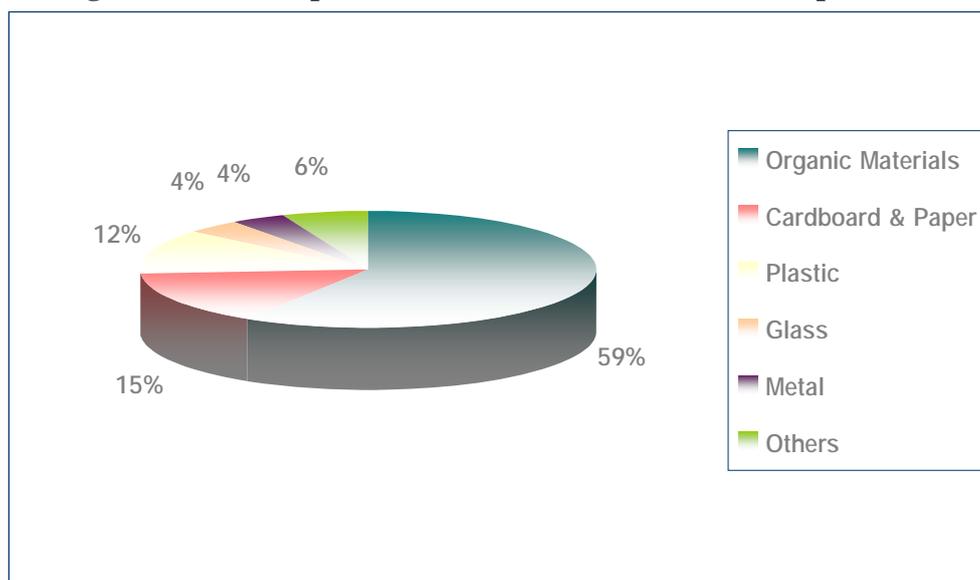
However, no more than 30 percent of the citizens are committed to paying their fees. It should be noted that the solid waste management contributes to 29 percent of the municipality total operating expenditures, where the costs of waste management is about 55 NIS per ton (Za'tara municipality, 2010).

Most of the population in Za'tara benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to containers, spread throughout the neighborhoods, with a capacity ranging between 800 to 1,000 cubic meters. The municipality collects the solid waste from the containers every day and transports it to Za'tara dumping site, 5km from the town. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is setting waste on fire in the open air, causing air pollution (Photo 2). Here it should be noted that Za'tara municipality spends 1,400 NIS per month for the rent and maintenance of the landfill as well as the maintenance of the solid waste vehicle (Za'tara Municipality, 2010). According to the data provided by Za'tara Municipality, there is only one private vehicle, owned by the municipality, for solid waste collection, and 118 containers spread throughout the town.

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 Za'tara is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Za'tara residents is nearly 7 tons or 2410 tons per year (Za'tara Municipality, 2010). 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 towns and villages in the governorate, Za'tara 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 and winter in several neighborhoods of the town 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. Moreover, 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 damages, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. Moreover, the use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater, 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.

Furthermore, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas, such as At Ta'amrah valley, without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the residents' health.

### **Solid Waste Management:**

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Za'tara 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, Za'tara town is currently using an unhealthy landfill for the disposal of waste, where solid waste is burned in order to reduce its size. 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 contaminates the air with smoke and harmful gases, and results in 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.

### **Desertification and degradation of biodiversity**

The degradation of agricultural land due to the current geopolitical division, where agricultural lands are located outside Za'tara's municipal boundaries leads to the inability of its owners to take care of it and cultivate it. Moreover, the Israeli authorities' refusal to construct underground wells in order to irrigate these lands has increased the degradation, and thus has contributed to the desertification and degradation of the biodiversity in the area.

## **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

According to the Oslo Interim Agreement, 68 dunums (0.9 percent of the total area of the town) were classified as area A, and 3410 dunums (44 percent of the total area of the town) were classified as area B. As for the remaining part of Za'tara lands, 2524 dunums (32.6 percent of the total area of the town) were classified as area C. It is worth mentioning that most of the agricultural lands and open spaces are located in B and C areas (Table 9).

<b>Land Classification</b>	<b>Area (dunums)</b>	<b>% of the Total Area</b>
<b>Area A</b>	68	0.9
<b>Area B</b>	3410	44
<b>Area C</b>	2524	32.6
<b>Nature Reserves</b>	1746	22.5
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>7748</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

### Israeli settlement activities in Za'tara town

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, the Israeli authorities confiscated large areas of Palestinian lands for the construction of Israeli settlements, bypass roads and military bases. Za'tara town, like many other Palestinian towns and villages, was exposed to Israeli illegal procedures of violation and expansion, where 20 dunums of the town land were confiscated for the construction of El David settlement, and another 10 dunums for the construction of an Israeli military base, to protect the settlement and other nearby settlements (Table 10).

Settlement	Year of establishment	Settlers (2008)	Total Area of settlement	Total area confiscated of the town territory
<b>El David</b>	1982	851	409	20
<b>Israeli Military Base</b>	Not available	-----	Not available	10
<b>Total area</b>			<b>409</b>	<b>30</b>

Source: GIS & Urbanization units - ARIJ 2009

A few years ago, the Israeli occupation authorities constructed the Israeli bypass road number 356 which confiscates a part of Za'tara town western territories, in order to connect a number of Israeli settlements to each other. The bypass road No. 356, which was constructed in order to serve the Israeli settlements located east of the governorate, extends from (Har Homa) Abu Ghneim settlement, north of Bethlehem, towards the east, linking both settlements of El David and Tekoa, and the Israeli military base, with Gush Etzion settlements, west of Bethlehem city, to the Israeli settlements inside the Green Line. The Israeli bypass road number 356, which cuts through Za'tara town territories, is 2.7km long (out of 19km of the total length of the bypass road).

Furthermore, on May 20, 2004, the Israeli occupation authorities issued an Israeli military order No. 04/02/5, which is the first of its kind to be issued in the occupied Palestinian territories, and gives the Israeli army the right to confiscate lands through declaring the confiscated lands "lands for public use," which have been used for the construction of an extensive bypass road network in the Palestinian territories. This order, which comes within a series of Israeli military orders issued between the years 1967 and 1969, and the law No. 321<sup>1</sup>, which also came in order to complete what was stated by the Israeli military order no. 02/02/C, gives the right to confiscate Palestinian lands, south-east of Bethlehem, "for military purposes", for the establishment of a new bypass road (Za'tara bypass road number 3157). Both orders came in order to create a kind of territorial contiguity between the Israeli settlements south-east of Bethlehem with the settlements located in the western area of the governorate, and Jerusalem city. It is worth mentioning that Za'tara bypass road extends by 8km on the territories of Beit Sahour and Bethlehem cities, Za'tara, Ras El Wad, Tuqu', As Sawahra and Al Furdeis villages.

<sup>1</sup> Acquisition through declaring the lands 'for Public Use' by military order no. 321

An acquisition through declaring the lands 'for Public Use' by military order no. 321:

**Military orders authorizing the Government to confiscate land and private property**

**Military order No. 321 of the year 1969**

Giving the Israeli military the authority to confiscate private land for public use (the meaning of public use is not defined) without providing any compensations to the affected party.

The Israeli army used the above law, mainly, to establish a road network, for the army, inside the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as providing alternative roads for the Israeli settlers, away from Palestinian localities in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, the Israeli army has adopted, although altered, the acquisition law for public uses from the Jordanian law: Law no. 2 of the year 1953. This law gave the government the right of acquisition of private land for the public good, but the government was obligated to declare its intentions prior to the acquisition, by publishing the specific details of the confiscation in official newspapers, and providing 15 days to the landowners to object against the acquisition order, before re-applying the acquisition request to the Council of Ministers and the King for final approval. After the final approval, the landowners are fully compensated depending on the value of property / land confiscated on the date of the first announcement.

Israel has manipulated the laws for its own purposes by introducing some amendments to the Jordanian acquisition law, where the law enforcement has become subjected to the approval of the Israeli military only. The amendments also intended to isolate the powers of civil courts from reviewing any decision related to acquisition or the right of compensation for the affected party. However, the Objections Committee, which is composed of only two Israeli soldiers, is considered the only official and authorized body to consider any objections, about the acquisition law, submitted by the owners of targeted lands. The following items explain the most notable amendments introduced to the Jordanian law of acquisition:

1. The implementation of the acquisition law was assigned to the government, according to the Jordanian law; however, the Israelis have introduced an amendment to the law where its enforcement came under the authority of the occupied territories' military commander, who is responsible for appointing a military body for its implementation. Therefore, the body who implements this law is only accountable to itself.
2. According to the Israeli amendment of the law; the Israeli military order no. 569 allows the military party, designated by the Israeli military commander of the occupied territories for implementing the law of public acquisition, to take acquisition procedures without announcement and without the approval of any official body, besides the Israeli military commander of the occupied territories.

**Military decision no. 569 of the year 1979: Exclusive to the state territories**

The establishment of a special section for the transfer of lands that are declared as state land or land owned for security reasons.

The announcement of land ownership transfer is only implemented in the section instead of official newspapers.

3. The objection committee, composed of two Israeli soldiers, is the only body authorized to consider the requests for compensation (if applicable) or objections submitted by the landowners.
4. The Israelis added a new section which allows the army to use force against those objecting to the acquisition order, in addition to imposing a 5 years prison punishment, an expensive fine, or both.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Za'tara municipality has implemented several development projects in Za'tara, during the years 2003 to 2009, as shown in Table 11.

Name of the Project	Cost (\$)	Year	Donor
Social Activity Center	98,000	2003	United Nations Development Program
Completing the Lighting Project	75,000	2005/2004	Development and Lending Municipal Fund
Rehabilitation of the Water Network (8km)	70,000	2004	Palestinian Hydrology Group
Installation of sidewalks	14,500	2005	Development and Lending Municipal Fund
Rainwater Drainage and Tunnels Projects	65,000	2005	United Nations Development Program
Construction of Al 'Amreiyah School	135,000	2004	United Nations Development Program
Pavement of the Main Street	70,000	2006	Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR)
Construction of Heavy Machinery Barracks		2004	United Nations Development Program

**Source: Za'tara Municipality, 2009**

## Proposed Projects

Za'tara municipality, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishment of a sewage network in the town.
2. Supporting livestock.
3. Awareness and education campaigns for the town residents.
4. Establishment of associations to support the agricultural sector.
5. Construction of agricultural roads.
6. Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns.
7. Construction of new school and the addition of new classrooms to existing schools.
8. Rehabilitation of some internal roads and the construction of retaining walls and sidewalks.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Za'tara suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the municipality's point of view:

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			20.5km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			3km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			2.5km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			3km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			2,000 m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			22km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			125 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary & secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			elementary & secondary schools
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			120 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			75 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			31 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		17 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*		3 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

\*2km is a main road, 9km internal road and 9.5km agricultural road

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