

# Tarusa 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 Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron 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'; a 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 Hebron 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 Hebron 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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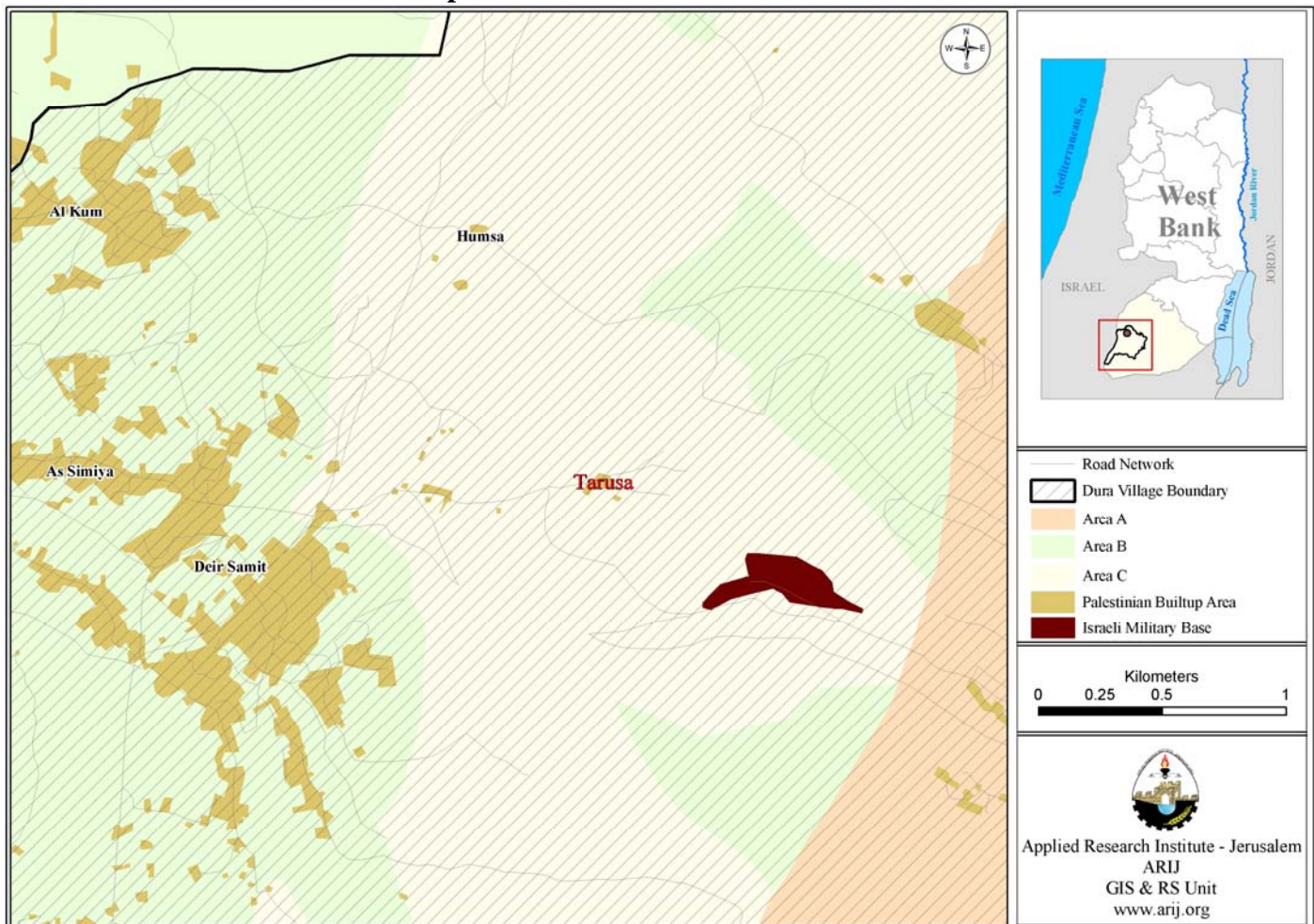
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## Tarusa Village Profile

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Tarusa is a village located in Dura village boundary. The village is located about four kilometres west of Dura City in the southern part of West Bank. It is bordered by Dura City to the east, Humsa to the north, Deir Samit to the west and Wad Qura village to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Tarusa location and borders



The total area of Tarusa village is estimated to be approximately 900 dunums, of which 50 dunums are Palestinian built-up area, 500 dunums are agricultural land, 250 dunums are forests or open space. There are also about 100 dunums of land that have been confiscated by the Israeli Forces to construct settlements, military bases or bypass road.

Tarusa is considered to be a rural area. Tarusa village has no village council or project committee. It also lacks any substantial infrastructure and social services.



Tarusa village lies at an elevation of 662 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the village is 436 mm, the average annual temperature is about 15.7 °C, and the average annual humidity is 60.6%. (ARIJ GIS, 2006)

## **History**

The history of Tarusa village dates back to Canaanite and Roman time (as revealed by residents). The name of Tarusa is an old name from the Tarusa Spring that was found in the area (though now dry). Some of the families in Tarusa are originally indigenous and the other families are refugee from 1948.

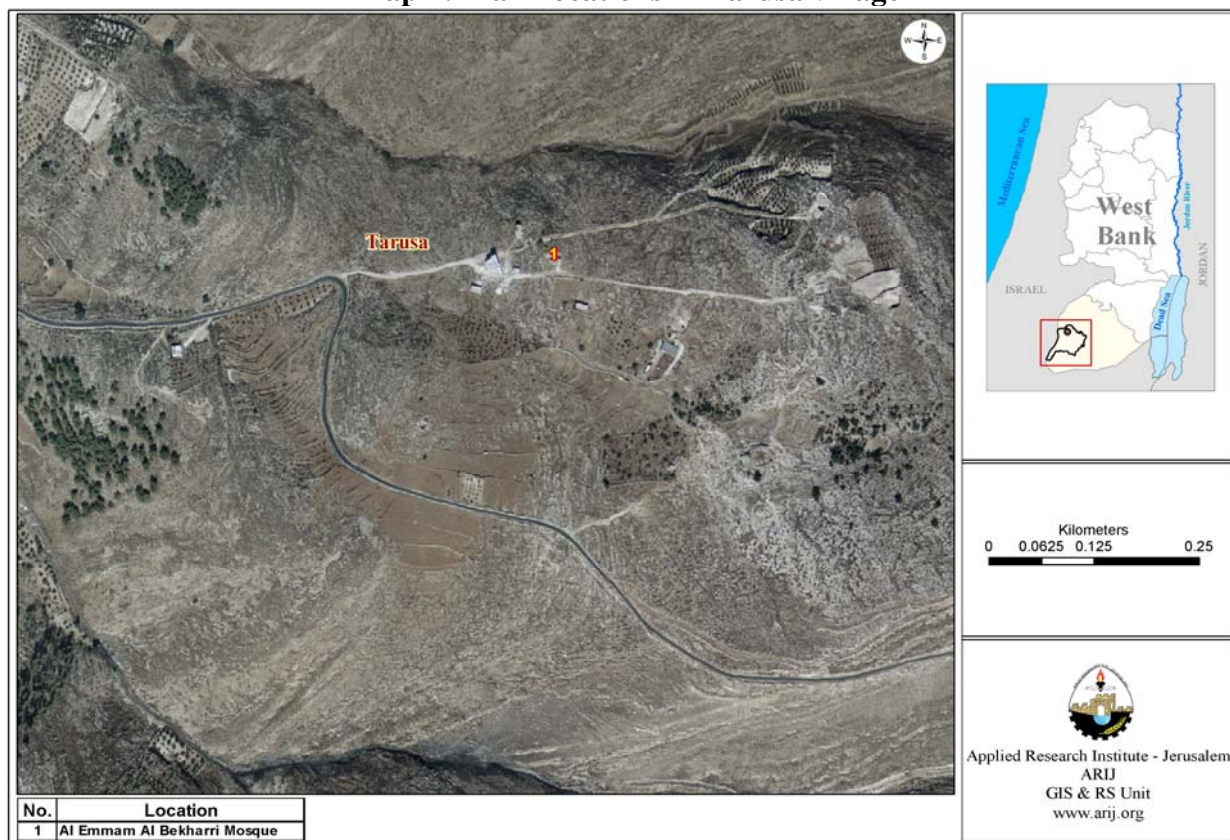
### **Photos of Tarusa**



## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There is one mosque in the village serving the residents “Al Emam Al Boukhary Mosque”. And there is one archaeological site from the Roman era.

Map 2: Main locations in Tarusa village



## Demography and Population

In 1997 the total population of Tarusa was about 39 people, of whom 16 inhabitants were males and 23 inhabitants were females. There were five households living in five housing units.

### Age groups and gender

The 1997 Census data shows the distribution of Tarusa population by age group and sex (see table 1). The table shows that the residents aged between 0-14 years old are largest age group, constituting 51.3%. The 15-64 age groups constitute the remaining 48.7%.

Sex	Age			Total	percent
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +		
Male	7	9	0	16	41%
Female	13	10	0	23	59%
<b>Total</b>	20	19	0	39	100%

Source: PCBS, 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

The sex ratio in the village was 69.6 males for every 100 females, in terms of percentage, the males consists 41% of the total population and the female consists 59% of the total population.

## Population Growth

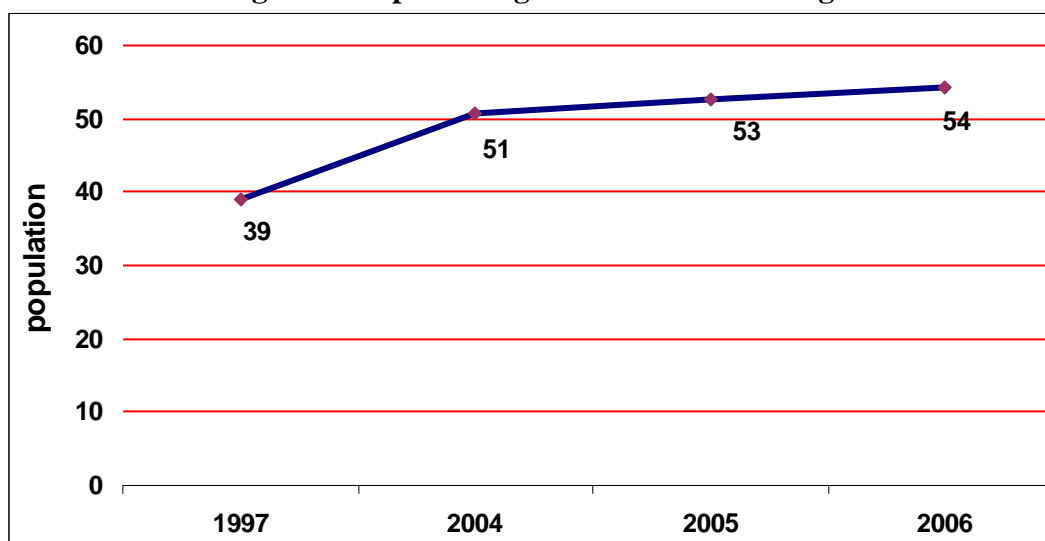
According to PCBS projection, the projected mid-year population of Tarusa village for years 2004, 2005, and 2006 was estimated at 51, 53, and 54 inhabitants respectively. The increased in population from year 1997 to mid-years 2004, 2005, and 2006 was about 30.2%, 34.7%, and 39.2% respectively (See table 2).

According to village officials, the total population of Tarusa village as in year 2007 is about 200 inhabitants (ARIJ database, 2007).

	1997 Census	Mid-year population in		
		2004	2005	2006
Tarusa	39	51	53	54
Percentage of increase (%)	-	30.2%	34.7%	39.2%

Source: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/populati/pop10.aspx>

**Figure 1: Population growth in Tarusa village**



## Families

There are four main families in Tarusa village, these families are: Al Houroub, Amareen, Masalm'a and Sharawna

## Migration

According to the village officials, there were 15 residents that left the village due to the political and economic situation.



## Education

Table 3 shows educational attainment by sex in Tarusa village as in 1997, the table shows that 25.9% of the population (aged 10 years and above) were illiterate of whom 28.6% were males and 71.4% were females. 22.2% of the people could read and write, but had no formal education. The table also shows that 25.9% had completed elementary school, 18.5% had finished preparatory school. Only 7.4% of residents had completed associate diploma.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	2	3	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	11
F	5	3	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
T	7	6	7	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	27

Source: PCBS, 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

According to field survey data, there are no schools or kindergartens in the village. Tarusa's students are forced to travel four kilometers to reach Deir Samit schools to finish their elementary education or alternatively to travel four kilometers to reach Dura schools to finish their secondary education. But reports suggest that students are suffering from the difficulty of transportation.

## Health Status

According to village officials, the village lacks health institutions; there is no health clinic, or private physician in the village. The village does not have a maternity & paediatric centre, ambulances, or pharmacies.

Residents have to travel to Dura or Deir Samit's health centers and hospitals to receive treatment. These villages are about four kilometers away from Tarusa.

## Economic Activities

According to the village profile questionnaire in 2007, all the population in Tarusa village is depending on agriculture activities for their livelihood. Village officials indicated that the unemployment rate in the village reached 90% in year 2007. The village officials also indicated that the social groups in the village most affected by Israeli activities since the Second Intifada are: 1) Housewives and children, 2) Small-holder farmers.

## Labour Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census- 1997, about 22.2% of the populations in the working age were economically active, of whom 50% are employed. 77.8% of the populations were non-economically active persons. The largest groups of non-economically active were students which formed 47.6%, the housewives form 28.6% of the non-economically active and 23.8% were unable to work, or not working and not looking for work, or other groups.

**Table 4: Tarusa population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-1997**

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Students	House wives	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	1	3	0	4	3	0	1	3	0	7	11
F	2	0	0	2	7	6	1	0	0	14	16
<b>T</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, results

## Agricultural Sector

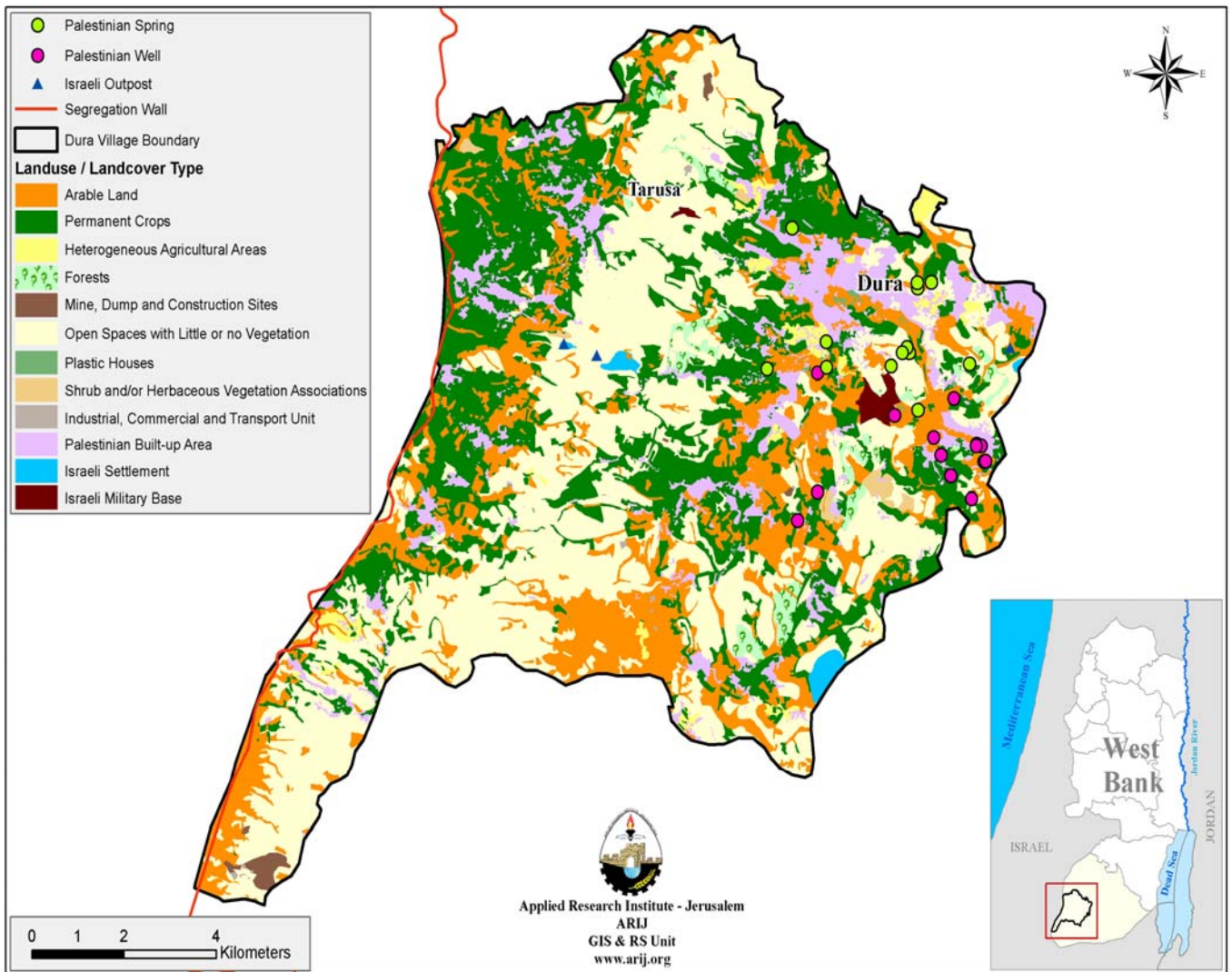
According to the data collected from the village council in December 2007, the agricultural land forms more than the half of the village lands (about 500 dunums), 200 dunums are arable but uncultivated due to the lack of water. The reclamation land in the village is estimated to be 250 dunums. The village is famous for planting barley, olive trees and almond trees.

In Tarusa village, the total length of agricultural roads is 1 km, these roads are suitable for animals only and it is insufficient.

The data also indicated that in Tarusa village, the residents also depending on rearing livestock. About 70% of the households keep livestock. Most people rear sheep and goats (300 head and 100 head respectively), in addition there are 10 cows.

The agricultural sector in the village is suffering from the Israeli activities, where the Israeli forces confiscated and destroyed about 100 dunums of the agricultural lands; in addition the village suffers from lacks of water and agricultural and veterinary services

**Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Tarusa village.**



### Institutions and Services

There are no institutions in Tarusa village. Recently, there is a project council but it is under construction, where the village was governed by Deir Samit village council.

### Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** There is a telecommunications network in Tarusa village, and 50% of the housing units are connected with the network.

- **Water Services:** Tarusa village is currently not connected to a water network. The alternative water resources that the households depend on are cisterns and water tankers. The water sector in the village is suffering from the following problems:
  1. An ineffectual water network system.
  2. Lack of cisterns.
- **Electricity Services:** The village of Tarusa has been connected to electricity network since 1998. The electricity for Deir Samit village council is from the Israeli National Electric Company (Qutria). 100% of the housing units are connected to the network. The electricity services in the village is suffering from the following obstacles:
  1. The weak of current electricity.
  2. Lack of electricity generators.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Tarusa village lacks to a sewage network. The residents in the village depend on cesspits or open channel for sewage and wastewater disposal. Tarusa village generates 0.0003 MCM of wastewater per year, most of which is disposed of in open channels, or in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** In Tarusa village, there is no solid waste management system, each residents or household must dispose of solid waste individually usually by burning. It is estimated that 10.8 tons of solid waste are generated annually.
- **Transportation Services:** Tarusa village is served by four formal taxies belonging to Deir Samit village. In alternative method for transportation is by walking. The transportation sector in the village is suffering from a scarcity of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, there are two kilometres of main roads which unpaved; in addition there is one kilometre of internal roads that unpaved. There is a further one kilometre of agricultural roads but these are unpaved.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Tarusa village is affected by one Israeli settlement called “Ghal doum”, the settlement is uninhabited but the construction is ongoing. The settlement occupies 200 dunums. The village also is subjected to flying checkpoints. The Israeli forces have destroyed one housing unit in Tarusa village.

## Development Plans and Projects

Village officials' state that the project committee has not implemented any projects due to a shortage of financial resources.



## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Tarusa village council the village suffers from a shortage of many infrastructural and services needs. Table 5 shows the development priorities in the village.

<b>Table 5: Development priorities and needs for Tarusa village</b>						
<b>No.</b>	<b>Sector</b>	<b>Strongly Needed</b>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Moderately Needed</b>	<b>Not Needed</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				4 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				2 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				1,000 m <sup>3</sup>
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network	*				
<b>Health Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres				*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools				*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Elementary & Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				250 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				12 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				12 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 2 km main roads, 1 km internal roads, and 1 km agricultural roads

**References:**

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