

Al Baqa 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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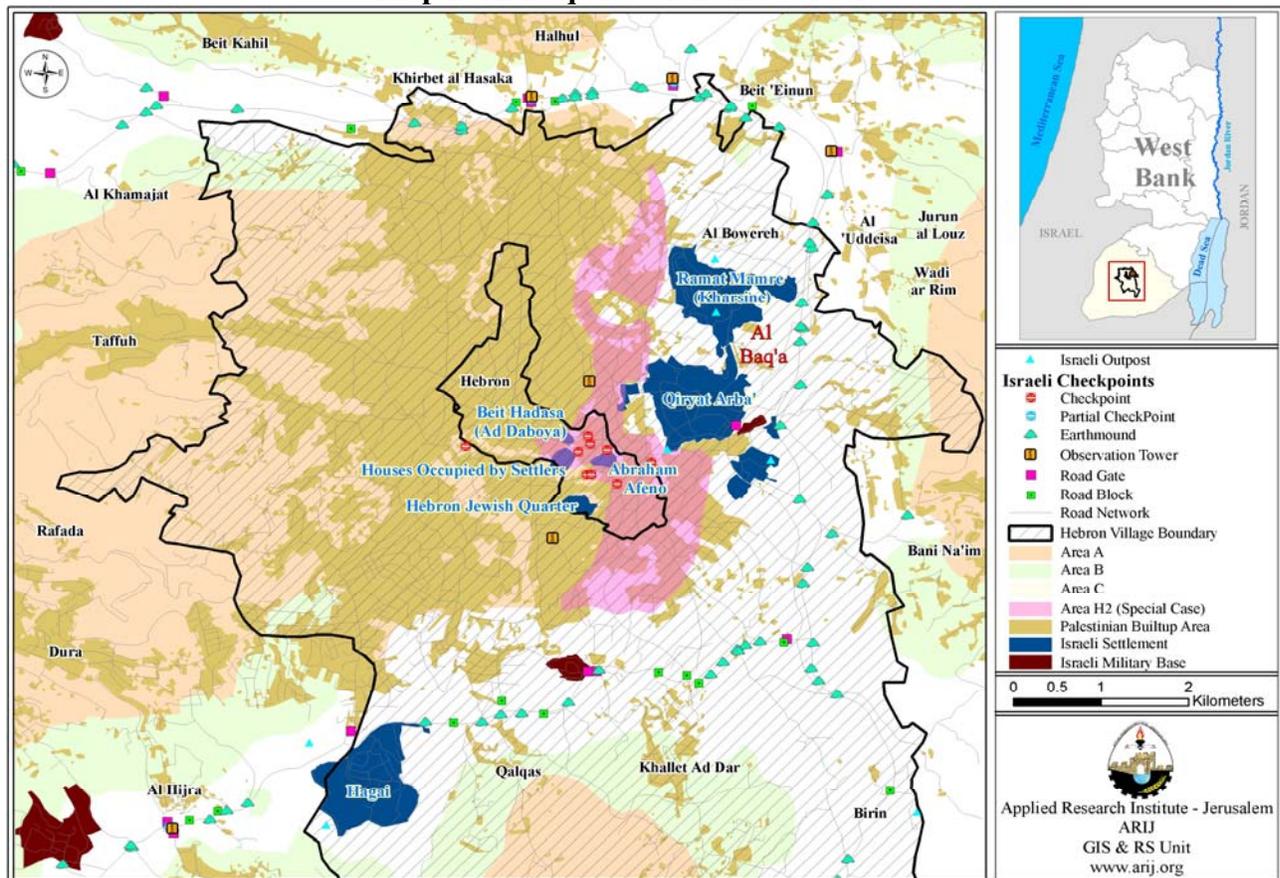
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Al Baqa Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Baqa is a village in the Hebron city village boundary, which is located 3.5 km east of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Sa'ir area to the east, Al Bowereh village to the north, Qiryat Arba' settlement to the south and Hebron city to the west, (See map 1).

Map 1: Al Baqa location and borders



The total area of Al Baqa village is 1,500 dunums; 150 dunums are classified as 'Palestinian built up' area; whilst 600 dunums are for agricultural use, 450 dunums are classified as forests and open areas and 300 dunums have been confiscated by the Israeli forces.

Al Baqa village is located on a mountainous area south of Hebron with an elevation of 915 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Al Baqa village is 434 mm; the average annual temperature is 15.5 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Al Baqa village is considered to be a rural area. The village is governed by a project committee of five members. The committee was established in 2008. The project committee provides services to the village, and initiates many of the village's projects

History

Called the village of that name in relation to its geographical position, where the village is located between the mountain range surrounded by all sides. Date back to the assembly of three hundred and back out of a population of Hebron governorate.

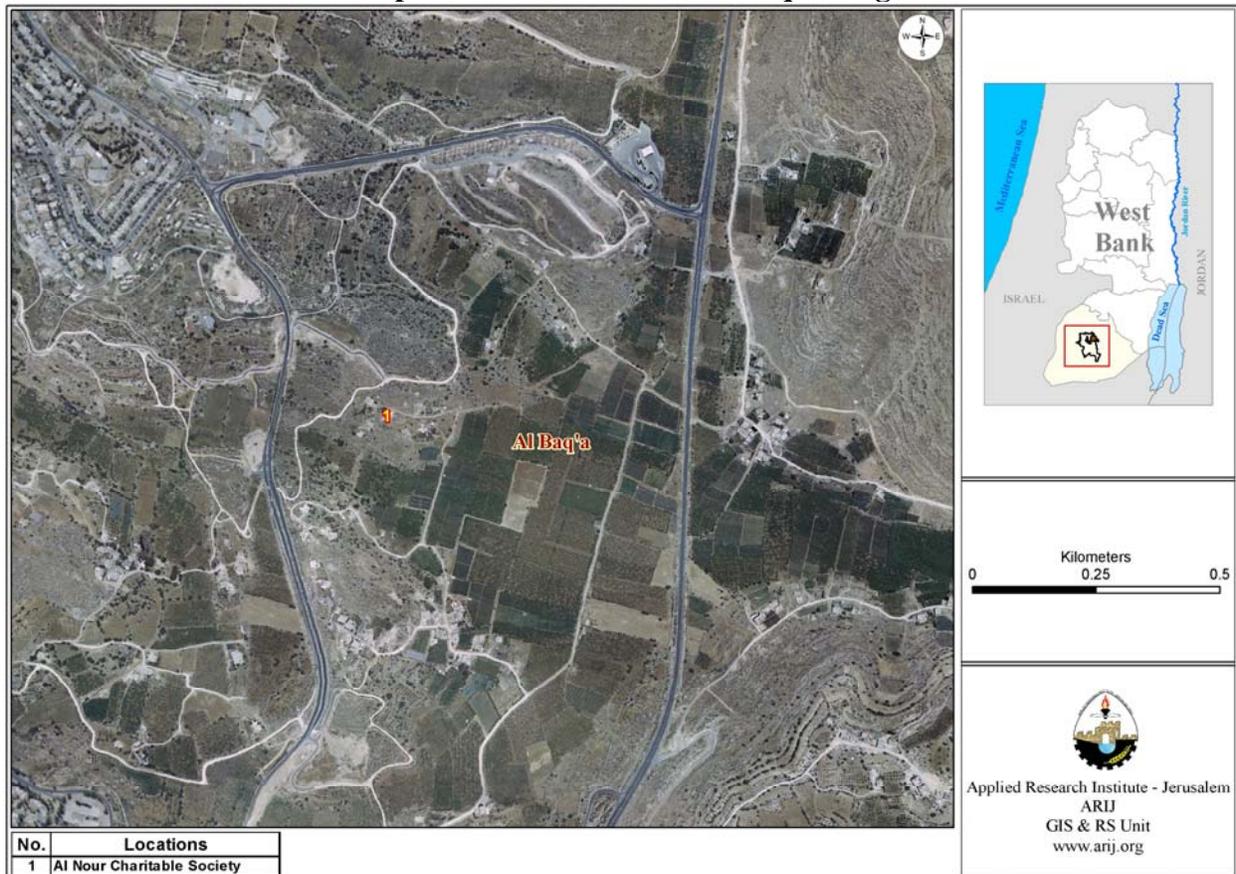
Photo of Al Baqa



Religious and Archeological Sites

There is one mosque in Al Baqa village, In terms of historical sites, there are many historical sites in Al Baqa village.

Map 2: Main locations in Al Baqa village



Demography and Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Al Baqa in 2007 was approximately 1,218 people, of which 612 were males and 606 were females. There were 193 households residing in 244 housing units

Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census data showed the distribution of the population of Al Baqa village by age group and sex. The Census data showed that 40.7% of the population is less than 15 years old, 50.3% is between 15 and 64 years old and 3.1% are 65 years and older. The sex ratio in the village was 101 males for every 100 females, with males constituting 50.3% of the population and females constituting 49.7%.

Families

The populations of Al Baqa are mainly comprised from six families which are: Jaber family , Sultan family , Qamery family Talhamey family , Al Natsha family and Da'na family .

Education

According to the 2007 census, the education status in Al Baqa village indicated that about 9.3% of the residents were illiterate. Women (65.3%) comprised a greater percentage of illiterates than men (34.7%). Of the literate population, 18.6% of residents could read and write, 31.1% completed elementary education, 24.2% completed preparatory education and 16.8% completed their secondary and higher education. Table 1 shows the education status in Al Baqa by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	25	89	126	93	42	10	6	-	2	1	394
F	47	55	115	95	56	5	8	-	1	-	382
T	72	144	241	188	98	15	14	-	3	1	776

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

Data of field survey reveals that Al Baqa has no schools or any educational institutions. The village students go to Hebron city schools to obtain their primary and secondary education. Hebron city village is far away about 3.5 km.

Health Status

There are no any health centers or clinics in Al Baqa, the residents have to travel to Hebron city to get their health services which is 3.5 km away. The village lacks a pharmacy, and an ambulance to provide health services to the residents. The obstacles and problems faces the health sector in Al Baqa is:

1. A shortage of health centers providing health services to the residents.
2. There is no Pharmacy in the village.
3. There are no ambulances in the village.

Economic Activities

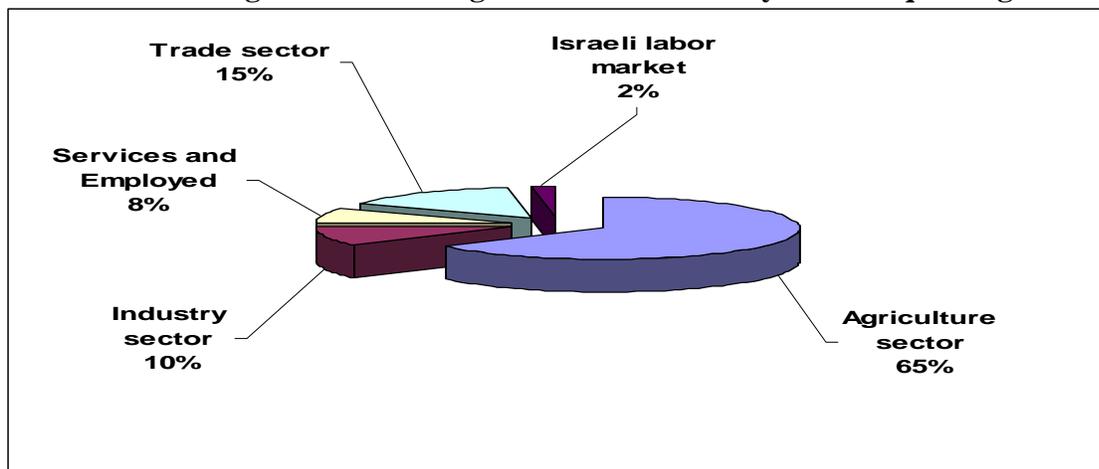
Al Baqa is a small village south of Hebron city, where most of its residents engaged in agriculture sector. Nearly 65% of the labor force in the village is engaged in agriculture activities, 15% work in trade sector, 10% work in industrial sector, 8% are engaged in services sector and 2% are employed in Israeli labor market. The economic base of the village also depends on industrial and trade institutions, there are 12 groceries only.

The data of field survey conducted in the village indicated that the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 65%,
- The industrial sector 10%,

- The trade sector 15 %,
- The services and employed sector 8%,
- Israeli labor market 2%.

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Al Baqa village



Based on the survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate localities, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families maintaining 6 individuals or more, 3) small trader, 4) Small-holder farmers, 5) Housekeeping and children.

Labor Force

The 2007 census reveals the labor force status in Al Baqa, the data showed that the participation in labor force was 65.3% of the total population of the village. The participation of women was assessed to be 49.2% (382 women in total). The labor force in Al Baqa village was 776 people in total; of which 30.3% are economically active people and 69.7% are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people, 77.4% were employed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people were the students and housekeeping, who constitute 38.1% and 46% respectively. Table 2 shows the labor force status in Al Baqa village.

Table 2: Al Baqa population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status

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	174	19	34	227	103	2	41	6	15	167	394
F	8	-	-	8	103	247	9	-	15	374	382
T	182	19	34	235	206	249	50	6	30	541	776

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

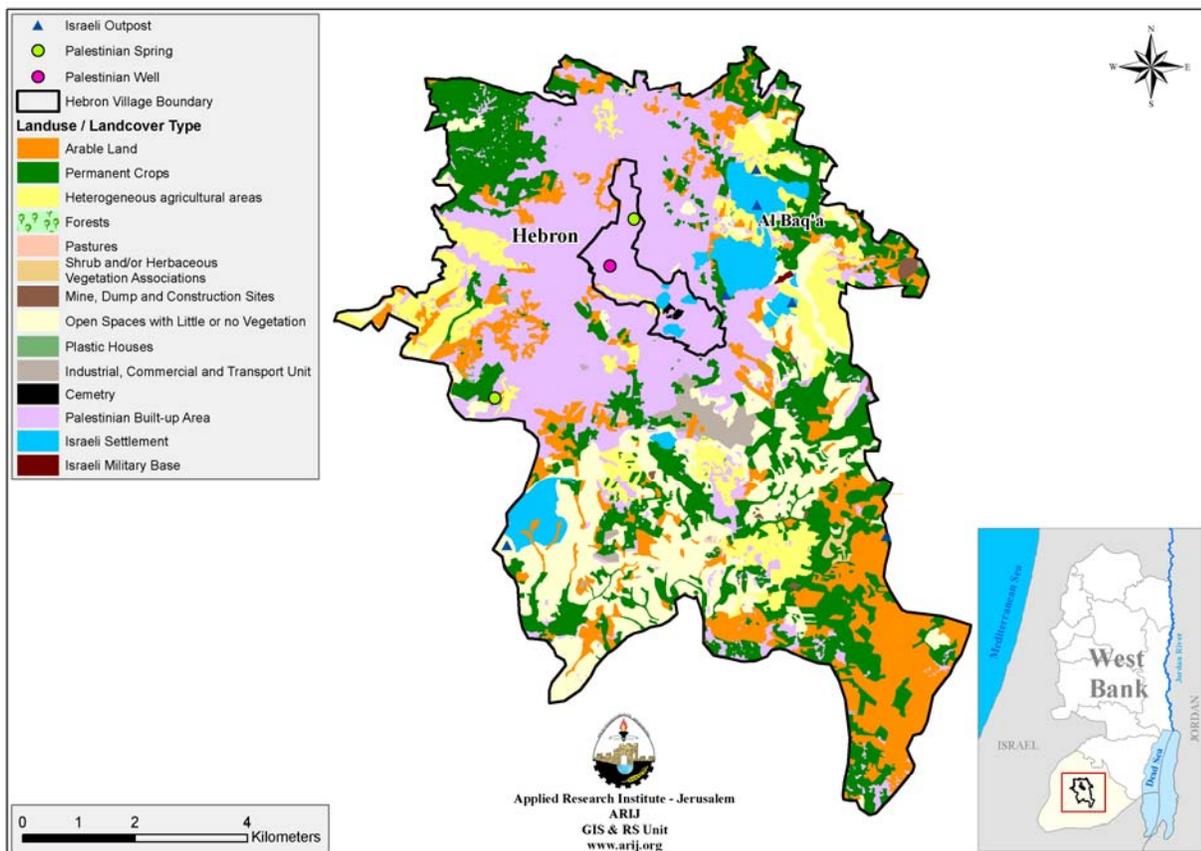
Agricultural Sector

Al Baqa village lies on a total area of 1,500 dunums. 600 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 100 dunums are cultivated, whereas another 500 dunums arable land but not cultivated. The main crops cultivated in the village are grape trees, and vegetables.

There are about 30 km of agriculture roads in the village, providing facilities to the farmers to access their lands and crops, these roads are suitable for animals and agriculture machines.

The data indicated that village residents are rearing and keeping livestock. About 20% of the households in the village breed domestic animals. There are 200 sheep and 150 goats.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Al Baqa village



Institutions and Services

Al Baqa has no national institutions or ministry offices to provide governmental services to the people; the residents get their most services from Hebron city. The only local institution in the village is Al Baqa project committee.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Al Baqa village is not connected to any telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** Al Baqa is not connected to a water network. The cisterns are the alternative resources to water network.
- **Electricity Services:** Al Baqa is connected to electricity network. Hebron municipality is the main provider of electricity in the village. Approximately all the households in the village are connected to the local electricity network.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste management system in Al Baqa, and each family disposes of its own wastes by either throwing it out or burning it.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Al Baqa is not connected with any sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater.
- **Transportation Services:** Al Baqa village severely lacks an official and legal transportation services. The village now is served by illegal vehicles which, transport people to Hebron city.

Impact of Israeli Occupation

Al Baqa village has suffered considerably from the Israeli occupation, particularly as a result of the construction of the segregation wall. According to project committee, some 1,000 dunums of village lands were confiscated during the Second Intifada. Furthermore, Al Baqa village is surrounded by the Israeli settlements of Qiryat Arba' to the south, Ramat Mamre (Kharsine) to the west and Qiryat Five to northwest; a bypass road that runs through the northern parts of the city, and the segregation wall that borders Al Baqa village to the east and the north.

There are four permanent military checkpoints to the west, as well as numerous and unpredictable flying checkpoints elsewhere. A series of metal gates in the segregation wall allow Israeli military access to the area but prohibit Palestinian access to the lands beyond. As a result, access to health centers has been impeded, and ambulances routinely experience delays in transport.

Project committee attest that ten houses were demolished during the Second Intifada.. In terms of agriculture, the occupation has taken a heavy toll; a number of agricultural roads have been closed or destroyed making the harvest of crops difficult. Olive trees have been uprooted, and various field crops and grazing lands have been destroyed.

Approximately 41 kilometers of the segregation wall have been constructed on Al Baqa land since 2004. While completed sections consist of austere grey 8m concrete slabs, unfinished sections incorporate vast lengths of razor wire.

Two historical sites have been isolated behind the wall. 15 houses have had demolition orders placed on them, and ten have been destroyed because of the wall. Additionally, approximately 20 kilometers of roads have been obstructed and/or destroyed by the wall and 15 families isolated by the wall.

In terms of land and vegetation, project committee attest that 600 dunums of land have been confiscated for the construction of the Wall itself, and an additional 100 dunums have been isolated by the wall. Furthermore, the construction of the Wall resulted in the destruction of 2,000 trees

Development Plans and Projects

The project committee in Al Baqa has a simple plan for the development of the village. The project committee has implemented four projects in the village as shown in table 3

Table 3: Development plans and projects in Al Baqa village			
No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Building Cisterns	Agriculture	PHG
2	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	Agriculture	PARC
3	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	Agriculture	Directorate of Hebron Agriculture
4	Construction of Greenhouses	Agriculture	Charitable Society

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al Baqa Project committee has prepared a study for the development priorities in the village; table 4 shows the ranks of these priorities.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				23 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				20 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				10,000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	3 Km
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network			*		
Health Needs						
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				*	
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				500 dunum
2	Building Cisterns	*				
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*				50 Greenhouses
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 23 km: 3 km main roads, 10 km internal roads and 10 km agriculture roads

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