

Al Heila 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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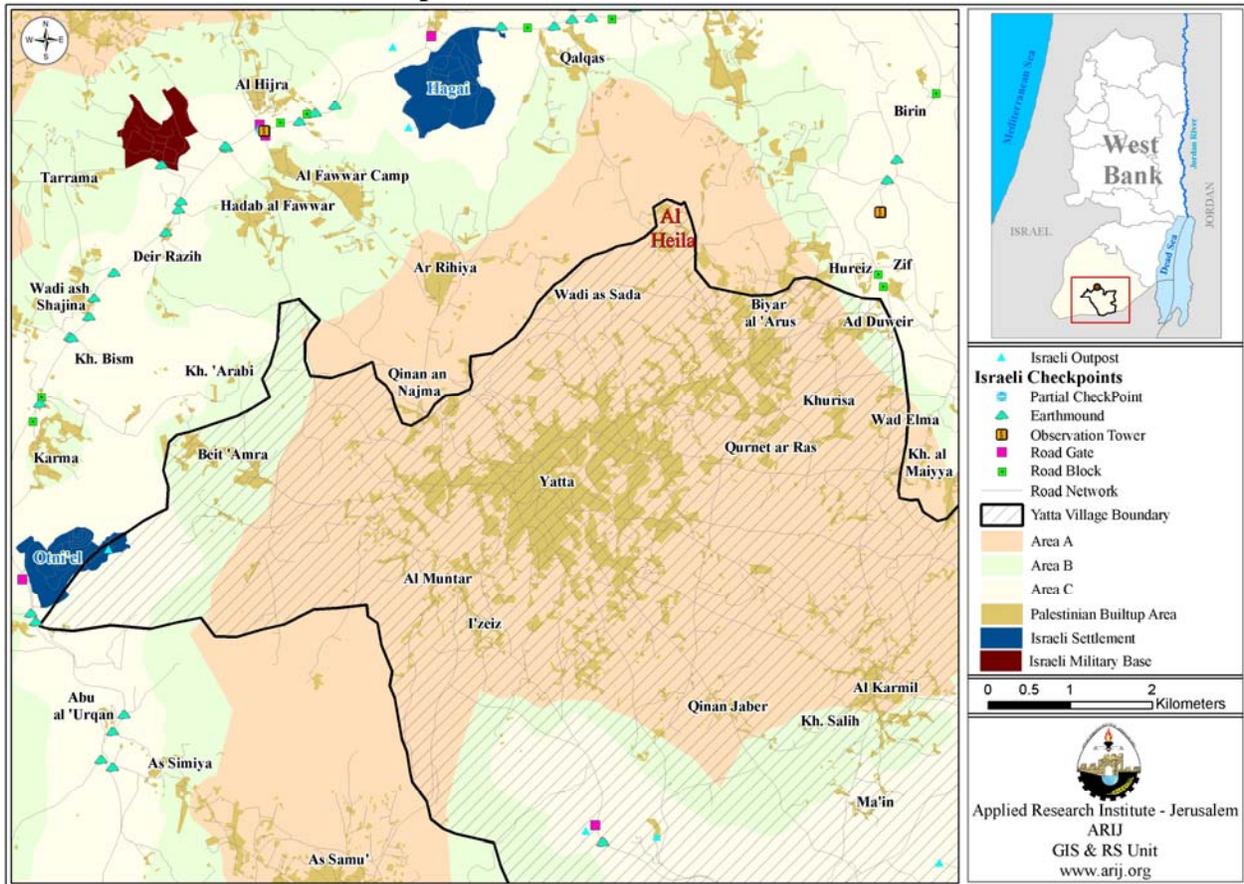
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Al Heila Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Heila is a village to the East of the Yatta area located 6 km southeast of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. Al Heila village is bordered by Raq'a village to the East, Hebron city to the North, Qalqas village to the West, and Yatta city to the South (See map 1).

Map 1: Al Heila location and borders



The total area of Al Heila village is around 6,000 dunums, of which 3,500 are built-up area, 3,400 are agricultural land and 100 dunums are uncultivated or open land.

Al Heila village is located on low altitude hills east of Yatta city at 741 meters above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Al Heila is 369 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is about 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Al Heila village has been governed by a Project Committee since 1997; the committee is appointed with five members and has a permanent building for management of village services which provides a number of services to the residents, including social development services.

History

Al Heila village is a very old locality dating back to the Canaanite period. The village is also called She'b Al Musmar (nail) due to the discovery of an archeological nail in the area. The residents of Al Heila are original inhabitants of the village whose families have been living in the area for a very long time.

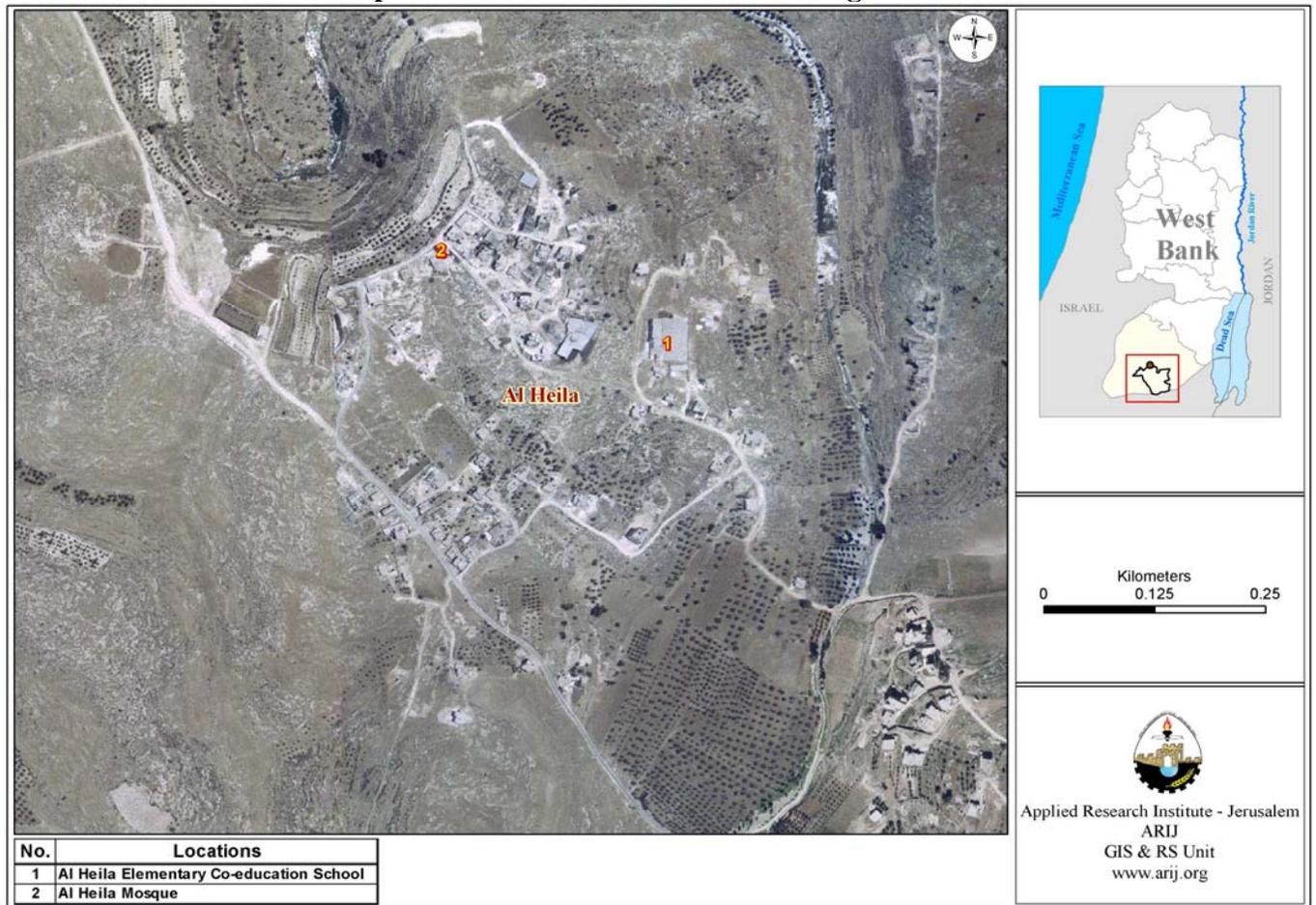
Photo of Al Heila



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village, Belal Ibn Rabah Mosque and Al Heila New Mosque. Regarding archaeological places there are no sites in the village.

Map 2: Main locations in Al Heila Village



Demography and Population

According to the 2007 Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Heila was 1,277 people, of which 641 were males and 636 were females. There were 169 households in Al Heila village residing in 173 housing units and the average household size was 7.6 people.

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census results about Al Heila village showed the distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex. The data showed that 50.1% were less than 15 years, 48% were in the 15-64 age group and 1.8% were 65 years and above. The table above reveals that the sex ratio in the village in 2007 was 101 males for every 100 females. In terms of percentages, the males in Al Heila constituted 50.2% of the population and female constitute 49.8%.

Families

The residents of Al Heila belong to three main families. These are A'wad, Hamamdeh and Shtat .

Education

According to (PCBS), Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 results, about 18.8% of Al Heila residents were illiterate, of whom women (61.2%) comprised a greater percentage of the illiterate population than men (38.8%). Of the literate population, 16% of residents could read and write although having received no formal education, 36% had completed elementary education, 16.4% had completed preparatory education and 12.7% had completed both secondary and higher education. Table 1 shows the education status in Al Heila by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	59	77	157	65	42	3	11	-	-	-	414
F	93	53	135	68	44	-	3	-	-	-	396
T	152	130	292	133	86	3	14	-	-	-	810

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

According to the field survey and Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data there is one co-education governmental school in Al Heila village, which is Al Heila Elementary Co-education School. The school provides elementary education to the students.

According to (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there were 229 students (124 males and 105 females), 11 teachers (males), and 8 classes.

Field survey data indicated that there is no kindergarten in Al Heila village and as there is no secondary school for students in Al Heila village, most of the students go to complete their school education in Raq'a village, which is about 2.5 km away.

Health Status

Al Heila village lacks health institutions, according to the field survey data conducted in the village; there is a simple maternity & pediatric center, otherwise there is no health clinic or private physician in the village. Al Heila residents get their health services mainly from Yatta city (5 km) and neighboring localities like Raq'a.

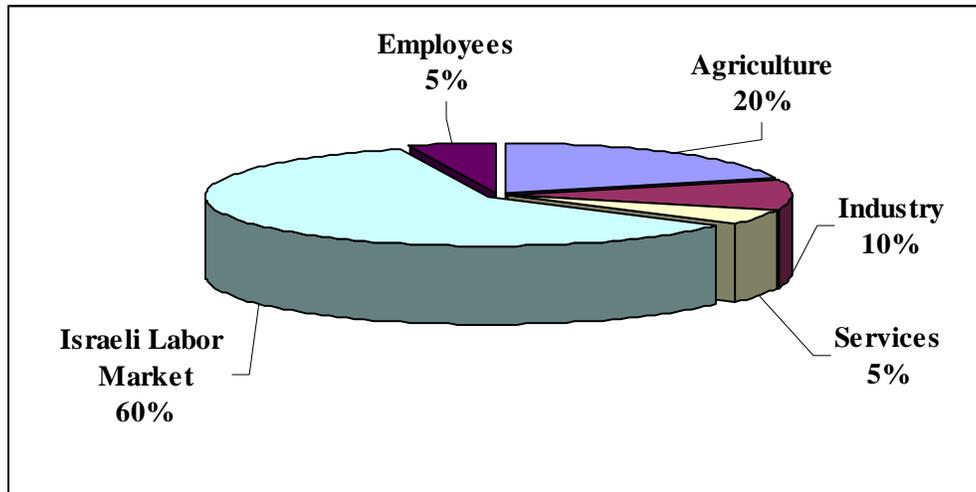
Economic Activities

Al Heila village is mainly dependent on the Israeli labor market; nearly 60% of the residents depend on this sector. The second sector which the residents depend on is the agricultural sector, then the industrial and services sectors. The data collected from the village showed that there are not any economic institutions in the village, there are just two groceries and one services shop.

The survey indicated that the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is as follows:

- Agricultural sector, 20%,
- Industrial sector, 10%,
- Services sector, 5%,
- Israeli labor market 60%,
- Employees, 5%

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Al Heila village



Based on a survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron localities, the social groups most affected in the village due to Israeli measures were:

1. Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market.
2. Families with six individuals and more.
3. Small-holder farmers.
4. Small traders.

Labor Force

According to PCPS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007 results, 65.7% of the population of Al Heila were of working age (i.e. 10 years and above). Of 810 people above the minimum working age, 245 people (30.2%) were economically active people – in the labor force- of which 57.6% were employed, 13.9% were unemployed, and 28.6% unemployed had never worked. The total number of economically non-active persons (i.e. those out of the labor force) stood at 565, 48% of whom were students, 43.7% were housekeeping, and 6.9% are unable or unwilling to work (See table 2):

Table 2: Al Heila population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Students	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	141	34	66	241	138	1	26	7	1	173	414
F	-	-	4	4	133	246	13	-	-	392	396
T	141	34	70	245	271	247	39	7	1	565	810

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

Agricultural Sector

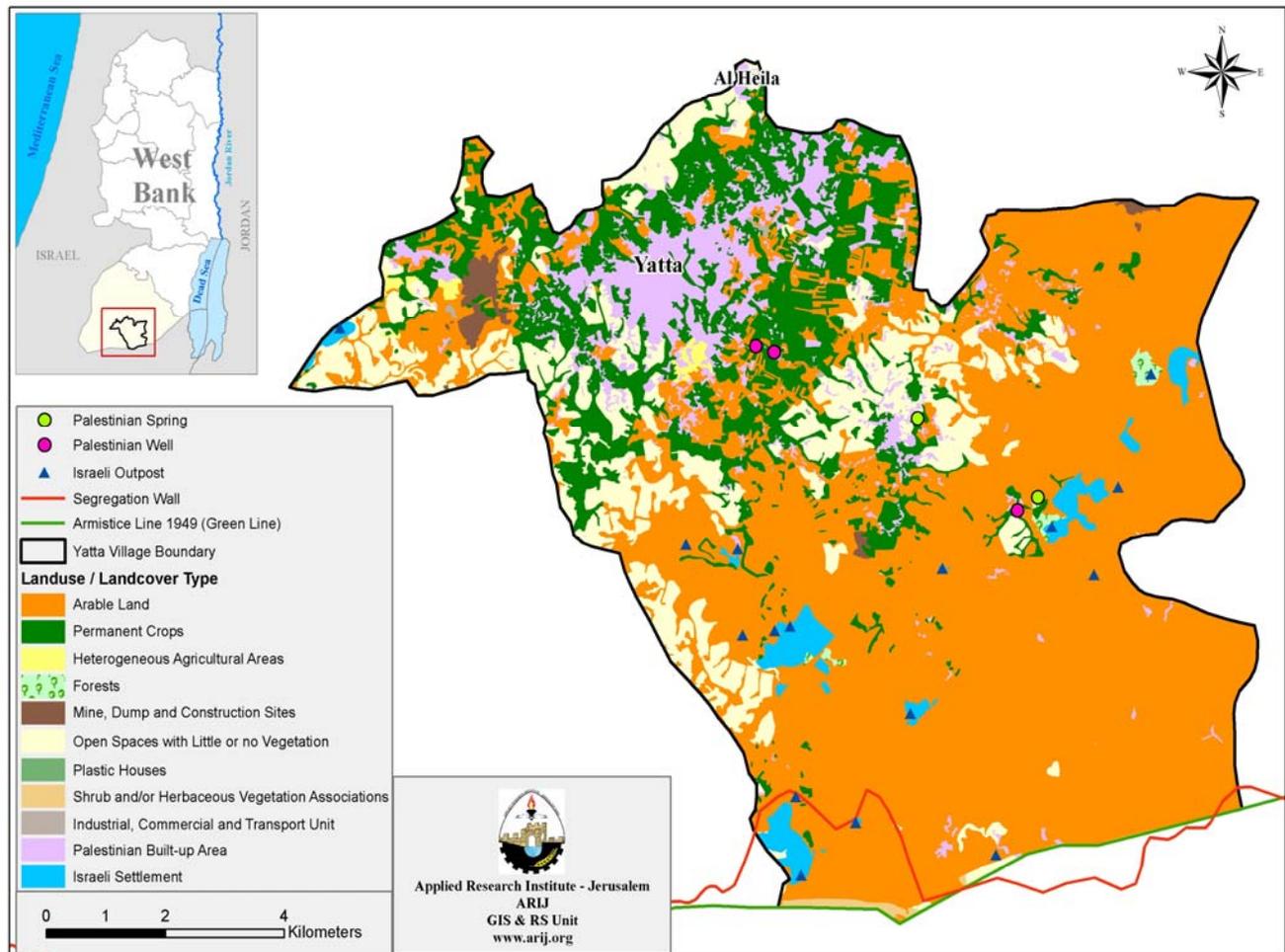
As mentioned above Al Heila has 6,000 dunums of lands, of which 3,400 dunums are agricultural land, 3,000 dunums are cultivated land and 300 dunums are unutilized due to a shortage of water and investment capital for rehabilitation of land. In Al Heila village there are about 200 dunums needing rehabilitation. The main crops cultivated in the village are olive trees, almond trees and field crops.

Data collected from Al Heila village indicates that the residents depend on the rearing of livestock and dairy production. The data indicates that around 10% of the households rear and keep domestic animals. In total there are about 80 cows, 100 goats and 100 sheep.

There are about 3,000 meters of agricultural roads in Al Heila that are suitable for tractors and agricultural hardware but it is considered to be insufficient.

The agricultural sector in Al Heila village suffers from many problems. Lack of water and capital are the main obstacles standing in the way of agricultural development.

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Al Heila village



Institutions and Services

Al Heila is a small rural village; it lacks public institutions, and residents receive most of their services from Yatta city. However, there is a village project committee that was established in 1997, of five members, there are two mosques and one school.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Al Heila village is connected to the telecommunication network. About 20% of the housing units are connected to the network.
- **Water Services:** The village has not been connected to a water network. Cisterns and water tanks provide alternative water resources. The village has a well with a capacity of 500 cubic meters. However, the village faces several problems regarding water sufficiency. These include unavailable water network and the high expense of water tanks.

- **Electricity Networks:** Al Heila village has been connected to an electricity network since 1992; today the electricity is supplied by the South Electricity Company. However, the electricity suffers from a weak electrical current.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage network in the village. All housing units in Al Heila rely on cesspits. This is a problem facing the village that is causing a canal of sewage to pass from the village which has destroyed most of the village land and is causing acute health problems.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** Al Heila village is a member in the Yatta Joint Services Council and it has a system to manage the solid waste. Al Heila generates one ton of solid waste daily which is collected by the council vehicle and sent to Yatta dumping site which is managed by the council and lies about 15 km from the village.
- **Transportation Facilities:** Most of the roads in Al Heila village are not paved, out of 5 km of the main roads in the village, 3 km are paved and in bad condition, 2 km are not paved at all. All the internal roads and agriculture roads are not paved at all. Mainly the residents of Al Heila depend on private cars for transportation, about 50 private cars in the village are used to transport people out of the village, and sometimes residents are forced to walk to reach some places.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Al Heila is affected directly by one Israeli military base, Sendas Military base, which is located west of the village on 10 dunums of land; otherwise there are no Israeli procedures directly impacting on the village.

Development Plans and Projects

Village officials note that Al Heila project committee has not implemented any projects in the village for two years due to shortage of financial resources.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al Heila village project committee, the village has suffered from shortages in many infrastructural and service requirements. Table 3 below summarizes development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				8,000 m
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				5 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*		
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*		
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				1000 m ³
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network			*		1.5 km
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
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				1000 dun
2	Building Cisterns	*				15
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			5
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

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