

Al Karmil 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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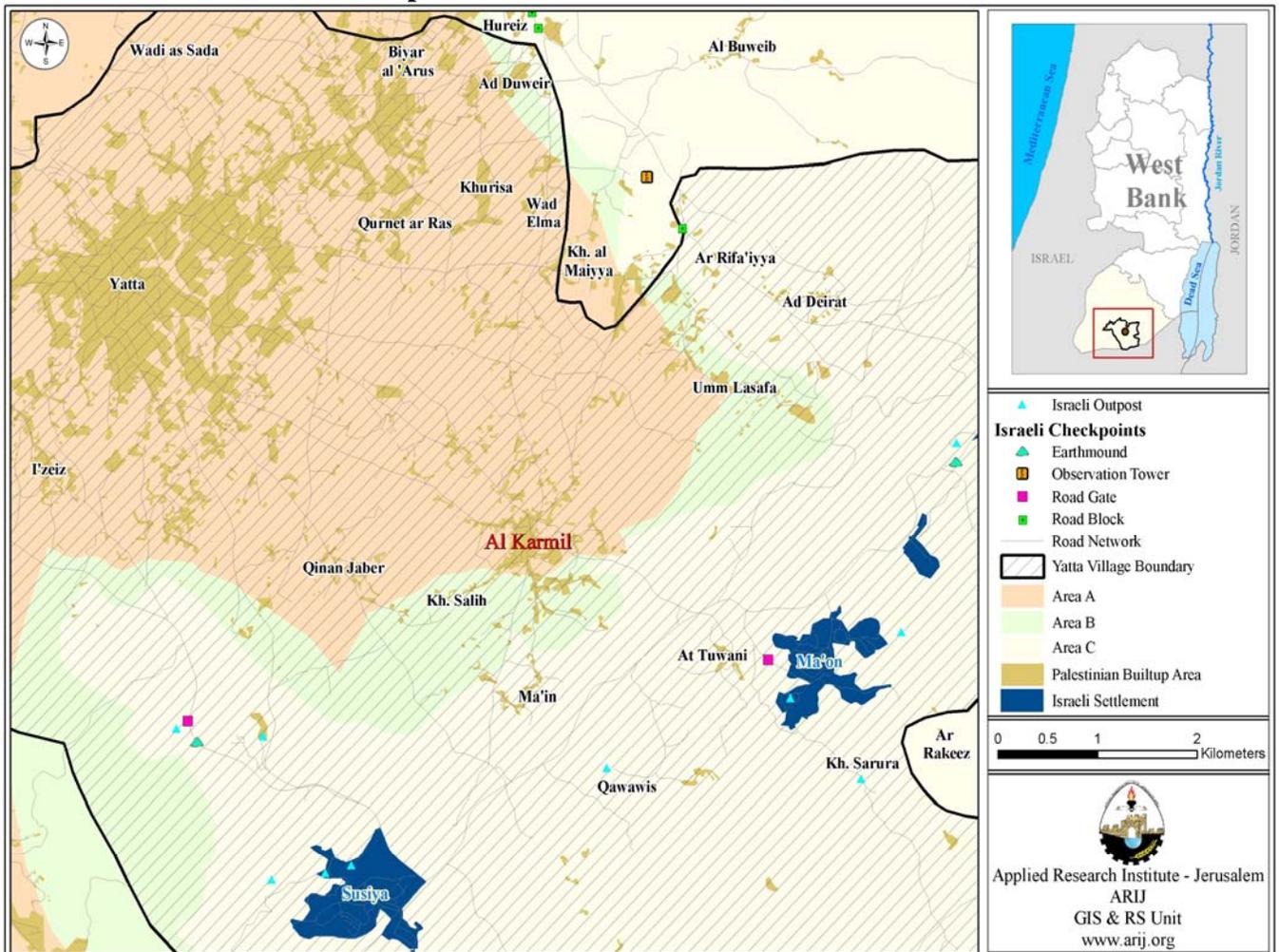
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Al Karmil Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Karmil is a village to the East of Yatta village boundary. Al Karmil is located 18 km South of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by At Tuwani village to the East, Al Hadadiya village to the North, Yatta city to the West the Ma'in, village to the South (See map 1).

Map 1: Al Karmil location and borders



The total area of Al Karmil village is estimated are around 16,000 dunums, of which about 7,500 dunums are considered to be Palestinian built-up areas and 8,500 dunums of agricultural lands.

Al Karmil village located East Yatta city at an elevation of 807 m above sea level. Mean annual rainfall in Al Karmil village is 303 mm, the average annual temperature is about 18 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2006).

Al Karmil is considered a rural area as it meets the demographic and institutional criteria relevant to rural areas. Since 1996, Al Karmil village governed by the village council appointed by Ministry of Local Authorities, currently the council comprising nine members. The council has no paid employees or building. It provides infrastructural services to the residents including electricity and solid waste collection in addition to social and humanitarian services.

History

Al Karmil village has a long history dating back to the Canaanite period. Also, the name of Al Karmil is derived from a Canaanite word, which means “God’s Blessing”, and the village keeps its name until today. The residents of the village are original in the area.

Photo of Al Karmil

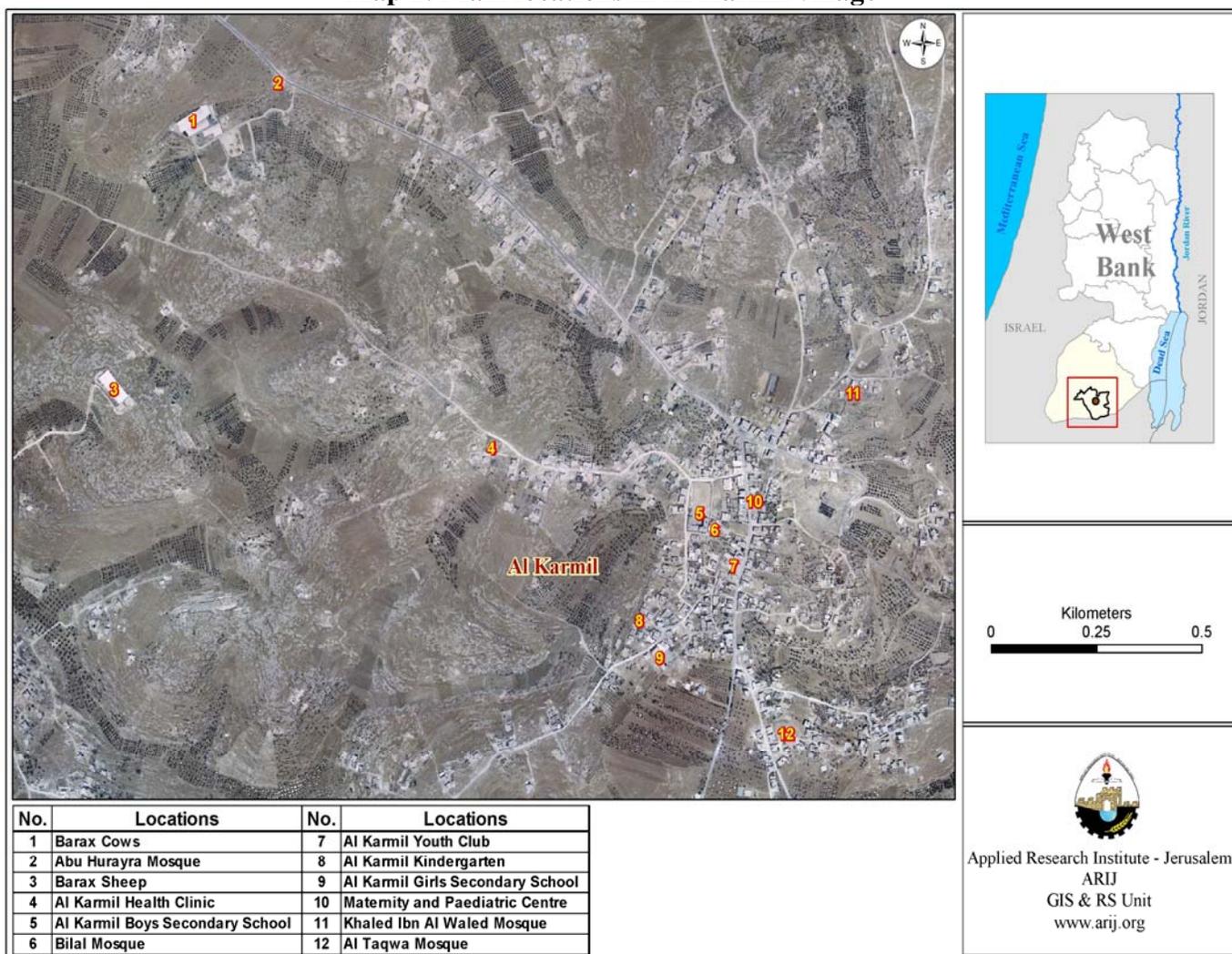


Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village serving the residents, these mosques are: Bilal Mosque and Al Taqwa Mosque.

Additionally, there are three historical and archaeological sites of interest in the village, including: Al Karmil Palace, Water Pool and the old Town.

Map 2: Main locations in Al Karmil village



Demography and Population

According to the 2007 Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Karmil was about 3,741 people, of whom 1,897 inhabitants were males and 1,844 inhabitants were females. There were 552 households living in 673 housing units. The average household size was 6.8 people.

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census data shows the distribution of Al Karmil population by age group and sex, the largest age group, constituting 50.8% of the total population, which is less than 15 years. 46.8% of the population in the age group 15-64 and just 2.4% of the total population are 65 years and over.

The sex ratio in the village was 102.8 males for every 100 females, in terms of percentage, the males consists 50.7% of the total population and the female consists 49.3% of the total population.

Families

There are seven main families in Al Karmil village, these families are: Abu 'Aram (Nou'man), Al Dababsa, Jabareen, Haroush, Abu Tbakh, and other families.

Education

Table 1 shows educational attainment by sex in Al Karmil village as in 2007, the table shows that 15% of the population 10 years and above were illiterate of whom 27.9% were males and 72.1% were female, 24% of the people could read and write, but had no formal education.. The table also shows that 29.2% had completed elementary school, 22.3% had finished preparatory school. Only 7.2% of residents had completed secondary school and 2.3% continued their higher education (associate diploma and above).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PHD	Total
M	100	295	388	290	104	6	26	-	1	-	1,210
F	259	278	310	243	67	2	20	-	-	-	1,179
T	359	573	698	533	171	8	46	-	1	-	2,389

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

According to field survey data, there are three schools in Al Karmil village. All the schools are supervised by the Government sector. Two schools provide secondary education and one provides elementary education. Table 2 below shows the number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority.

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Al Karmil Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2.	Al Karmil Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
3.	Al Karmil Elementary Co-Education School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental

Source: ARIJ Survey, 2007

The data of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) reveals that at the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007, there were 1,429 students (755 male and 674 female), 46 classes, and 55 teachers in Al Karmil village, (See table 3).

		Government	Total
Male	No. of Schools	1	1
	No. of class	22	22
	No. of Teachers	28	28
	No. of Students	715	715
Female	No. of Schools	1	1
	No. of class	19	19
	No. of Teachers	21	21
	No. of Students	636	636
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	1
	No. of class	5	5
	No. of Teachers	6	6
	No. of Students	78	78

As of 2007, there is one kindergarten in Al Karmil village “Rwad Al Ghad Kindergarten”. This kindergarten provides pre-education services to 30 children. It supervised by charity association “Al Karmil Youth Club”.

Due to there being no provision for a scientific stream in the village, the students in Al Karmil village are forced to travel six kilometres to reach Yatta schools so as to complete the scientific secondary education.

The education sector in Al Karmil is suffering from many obstacles including:

1. The overcrowding of the classes in all schools.
2. Lack of computer labs.
3. Lack of classes for special needs students.

Health Status

There are two health institutions in Al Karmil village which are supervised by the Governmental sector. One is a health centre, and one maternity and paediatric centre, in addition to there being one pharmacy.

The village officials state that the residents in the village are suffering from a lack of health services where the residents are forced to travel about 6 or 18 km to reach Yatta or Hebron hospitals and health centers.

However, the village still suffers from the lack of primary health care, and there is a need for a full-time doctor and specialist doctors, in addition to there being no ambulance.

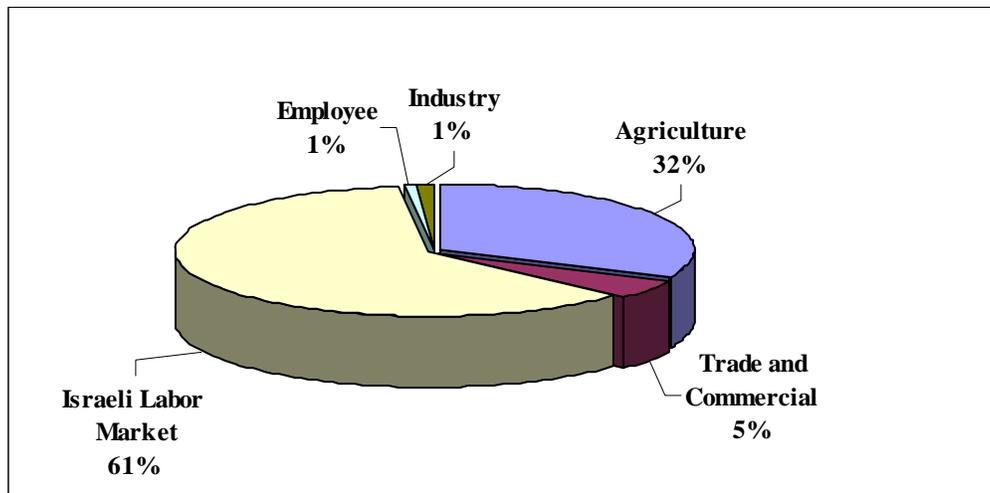
Economic Activities

According to the village profile questionnaire in 2007, about 61% of the population, in the working age, in the village were working in the Israeli labor market. The economic base in Al Karmil indicated that 32% of the residents depended on agricultural activities. Village residents also depended on the trade sector which constituted 5% of employment. The economic base of the village also depended on local economic establishments including: a building bricks factory, ten groceries, a blacksmith shop, a carpenter and two service shops.

According to village survey indicated that the share of population working in the various sectors of the economy of the village as follows:

- The Israeli Labor Market (61%).
- The Agricultural Sector (32%).
- The Trade and Commercial Sector (5%).
- Employees (government or private institutions) (1%).
- Industrial Sector (1%).

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Al Karmil village



The village officials indicated that the social groups in the village most affected by Israeli activities since the Second Intifada are: 1) Previous workers in the Israeli labor market, 2) Small-holder farmers, 3) Families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 4) Small-holder traders.

Labour Force

According to the PCBS, Population, housing and Establishment Census- 2007, there were 650 economically active persons and 1,739 non-economically active persons. Of the economically active, 81.2% were employed persons and 18.8% were currently unemployed or had never worked. The percentage of males employed was higher than females with 95.5% for males and 4.5% for females. The largest group of non-economically active was the students which forms

49.6%, the housekeeping form 37.8% of the non-economically active and 12.7% were unable to work or not working and not looking for work or other groups.

Table 4: Al Karmil 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	504	68	51	623	455	2	85	-	45	587	1,210
F	24	-	3	27	407	655	56	-	34	1,152	1,179
T	528	68	54	650	862	657	141	-	79	1,739	2,389

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

Agricultural Sector

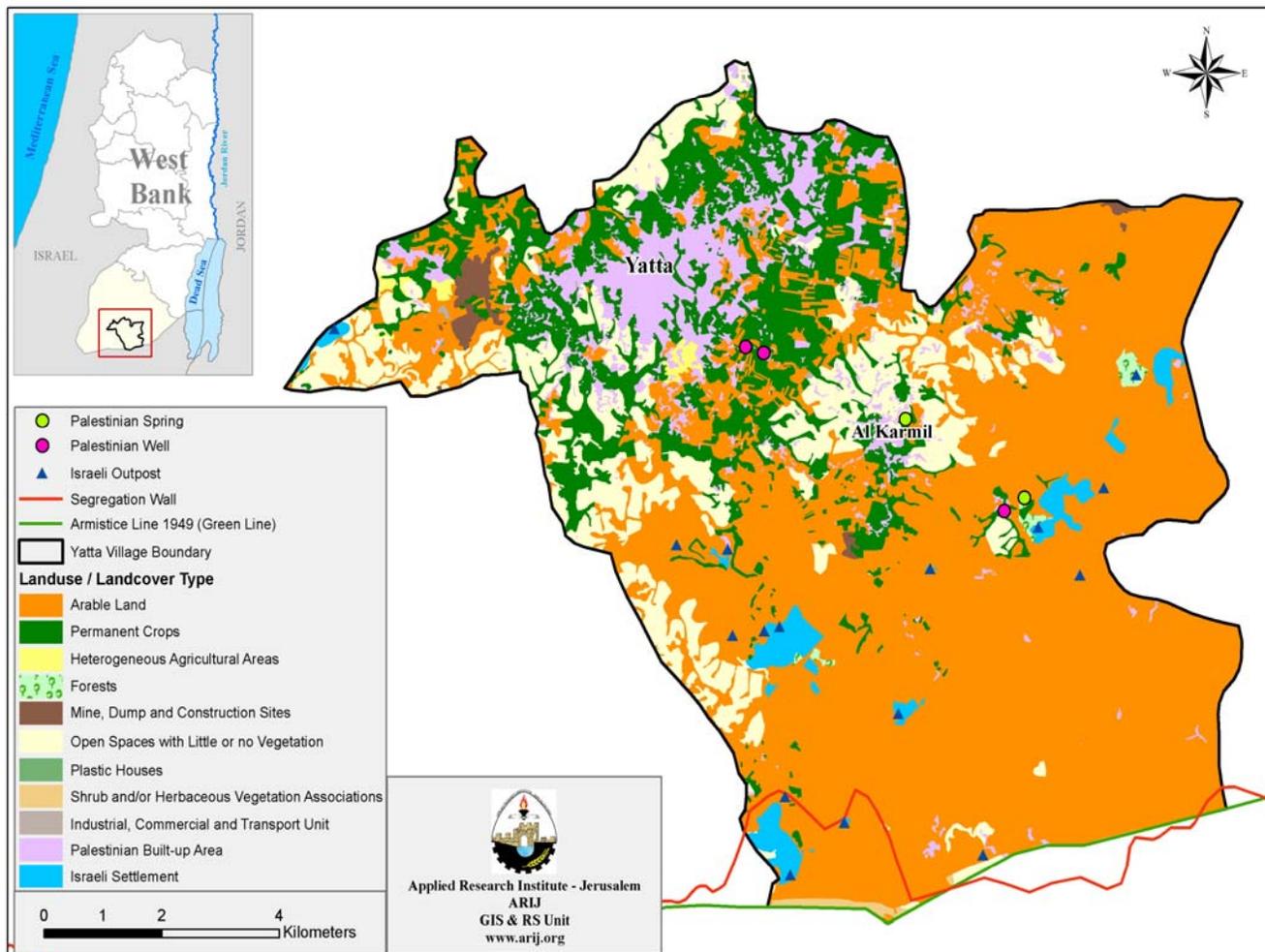
According to the data collected from the village council in December 2007, the agricultural land forms half of the village lands (about 8,500 dunums), there are about 150 dunums which are arable land but uncultivated due to the lack of water, capital and the unfeasibility for agriculture. The reclaimed land in the village is estimated to be 1,000 dunums. Al Karmil village is known for its olive trees, grapes, almonds trees in addition to the field crops.

The total length of agricultural roads in Al Karmil is 11 km; these roads are suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines and are therefore insufficient.

The data also indicates that the residents of Al Karmil village are also dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock. About 40% of the households rear and keep livestock. Most people rear sheep and goats numbers being 2,000 and 600 respectively, in addition to there being 150 cattle.

The village officials state that the agricultural sector in the village is suffering from the lack of capital and water, in addition to the lack of feeds and pastures.

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



Institutions and Services

The preeminent institution in Al Karmil village is the village council, founded in 1996, which provides essential services. In addition, there is also the Al Karmil Youth Club.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Al Karmil village is connected to a telecommunication network, and just 2% of the housing units are connected to the network.
- **Water Services:** Al Karmil village is not connected to a water network. The alternative water sources in the village are cisterns. The village also depends on a water pipe line supplying the water to Al Karmil and Al Masfer residents. The main problem of the water services in the village is the lack of internal and external networks.

- **Electricity Services:** The village of Al Karmil has been connected to an electricity network since 2000. The electricity provided by the Southern Electric Company. 100% of the housing units are connected to the network. The electricity services in the village are suffering from the lack of electricity generators which causes a weak current.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Al Karmil village lacks a sewage network. The residents in the village depend on cesspits or open channels for sewage and wastewater disposal.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** In Al Karmil village, there is a solid waste management system operated by the village council. The solid waste is collected by one special vehicle in cooperation with neighbour villages (Joint Services Council) and transported from the residential areas to special dumping site (Al Deirat) which is 12 km from the built-up area, where they burn or bury it. Nevertheless, about 2 tons of solid waste is generated daily in Al Karmil daily.
- **Transportation Services:** Al Karmil village is served by seven informal taxis. Village officials state that the people travel by using their private cars that are unsuitable for use in the main road. The transportation sector in the village is suffering from several primary obstacles including the lack of main paved roads, and a scarcity of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, there are 5 kilometres of main roads which paved but in poor condition, and 6 kilometres of main roads which are unpaved. In addition there are 15 kilometres of internal roads that are unpaved. There are about 3 kilometres of agricultural roads which are paved and in good condition and 8 kilometres are unpaved.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

There are two Israeli settlements to the East of Al Karmil village, “Karmae’l” and Ma’een” settlements. Karmae’l settlement occupies 1,500 dunums and Ma’een settlement occupies 2,000 dunums. In addition to that, the village is surrounded to the East site by bypass "Route 60" which occupies 80 dunums. The Israeli Forces destroyed four housing units and /or institution that belong to Al Karmil’s residents.

Development Plans and Projects

The village officials cite that since 2004, three projects have been implemented in the village, which are:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by	Year
1.	Construction Al Karmil Secondary School	Educational	German Development Bank	2004
2.	Telecommunication Network	Infrastructure		2006
3.	Paved agricultural road	Infrastructure	Catholic Relief	2007

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al Karmil village council the village has been suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural and services needs. Table 6 shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

Table 6: Development priorities and needs for Al Karmil village						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				34 m ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				20 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				1,500 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				5 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
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				Elementary & Secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns	*				150
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				50
4.	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 11 km main roads, 15 km internal roads, and 8 km agricultural roads.

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- Ministry of Agriculture. *Agricultural Status Database in Hebron Governorate*. 2006.
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