

An Najada 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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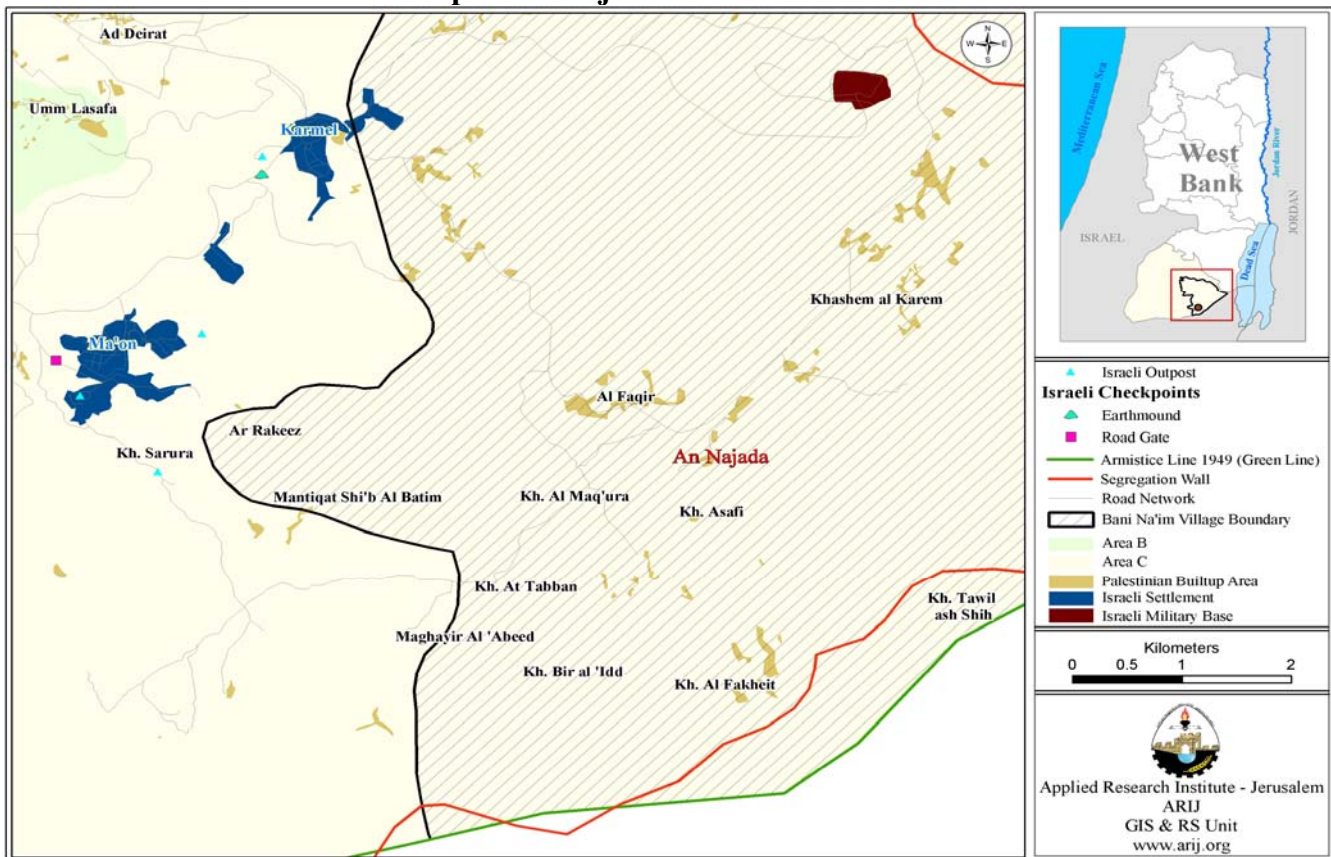
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An Najada Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

An Najada is a small village in the Yatta area. It is located 19 km southeast of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. An Najada is bordered by the Dead Sea to the East, Arab As Saryea' (Bedouins) to the North, Yatta city lands to the West, and 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line) to the South (See map 1).

Map 1: An Najada location and borders



The total area of An Najada village is 15,000 dunums, of which 4,000 dunums are classified as 'built up' area, 5,000 dunums as agricultural, 4,000 dunums open space and forests and a vast of area has been confiscated by Israeli forces since 1948.

The village is located on a moderate hill to the east of Yatta city, at an elevation of 530 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 369 mm and the average annual temperature is 16 °C. The average annual humidity in the village is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

An Najada is considered a rural area as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas. According to the village data, An Najada included Khirbet Tawil ash Shih and Al Daqeqa. The village is

governed by village council established in 1997; currently the council consists of seven members with only one paid worker.

The services provided by the village council are:

1. Infrastructure services: providing the people with electricity and water
2. Social and human services.

History

The history of An Najada village dates back to the Ottoman and British periods of rule, the village is related to a tribe which migrated from Najed Area in the Arabian Peninsula to Palestine and settled in the Yatta area. The village name is derived from the name of a tribe name "An Najada". For a long time two tribes were included in the locality, Al Baraqa (البراقية) and Al Qureb (القرب).

Photos of An Najada Village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious institutions, there is only one mosque in the village, “Al Qaqa' Iben Amro Mosque” and there are some old wells considered as archaeological sites in the area.

Demography and Population

According to the second census implemented in Palestine in 2007 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of An Najada village was 413 people, of which 217 were males and 196 were females. There were 51 households resident in 104 housing units (2007 Census).

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census data reveals the classification of population of An Najada village by age group and sex. Census data showed that 52.9% were less than 15 years, 45.4% were in the age group 15-64 years and 1.5% were 65 years and above .

The sex ratio in the village was 111 males for every 100 females. Males constituted 52.6% of the population (females constituted 47.4 %).

Families

The population of An Najada is comprised of the three main families: An Najada, Al Qureb , and Al Baraqa .

Migration

According to field survey data, there have been 30 people migrate from An Najada due to Israeli procedures during the second Intifada.

Education

According to the (PCBS), Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 results, about 12.2% of An Najada residents were illiterate, of whom women comprised 80% of the total illiterate population in the village. Of the literate population, 27.6% of the residents could read and write although they had not received formal education, 36.2% had completed elementary education, 10.2% had completed preparatory and 7.7% had completed secondary education. Table 1 shows the education status in An Najada by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	6	35	44	18	10	-	12	2	-	-	127
F	24	33	45	7	9	-	1	-	-	-	119
T	30	68	89	25	19	-	13	2	-	-	246

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

The field survey data indicated that the elementary education is the only level of education provided in the village. There is one governmental school in the village, “Al Ka'bna' Elementary Co-education School”.

According to the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there were 146 students (80 males and 66 females), 12 teachers, and 10 co-educational classes in Al Ka'bna' Elementary Co-education School.

As there are no preparatory and secondary schools in An Najada village, most of the students are required to complete their school education in As Saryea', which is about 8 km away.

The education status in the village suffers from many problems such as: distance from As Saryea' village for the students and lack of suitable transportation, shortage in class rooms, lack of a lab and library and unpaved playfield.

Health Status

An Najada is very poor village regarding health services, there is only one governmental health clinic in the village which is visited by a physician for about one hour, once a week to provide vaccines for the children, and another health service provided by a women's center supervised by Union of Agriculture Working Committees. This, combined with the distance of medical facilities in neighbouring villages' makes medical treatment inconvenient and difficult. In emergency cases, patients have to travel to Yatta city or Hebron city for health services.

The main problem of health status in An Najada is that the non-availability of health centres in the village with a full time physician.

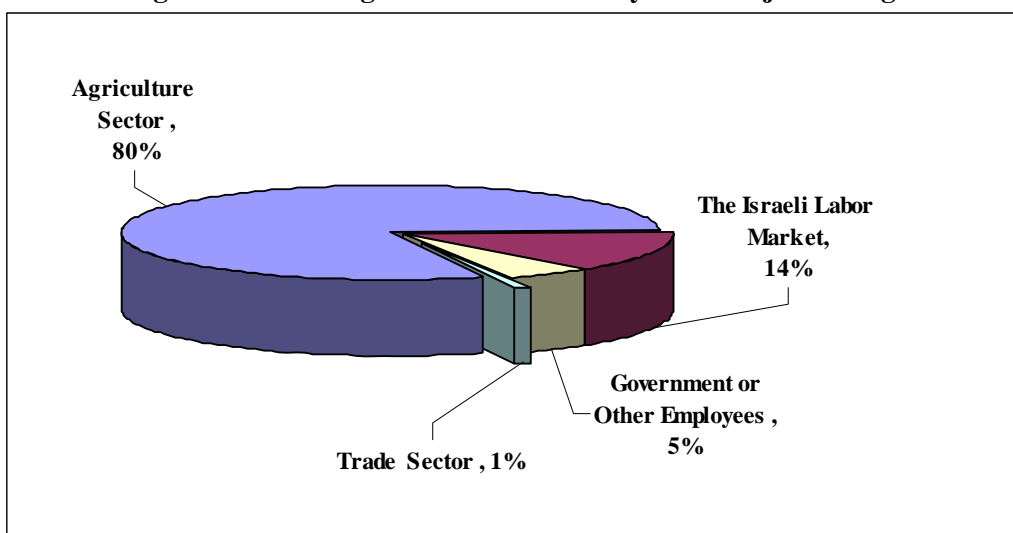
Economic Activities

The economic base of An Najada village is mainly dependant on the agricultural sector especially on livestock; nearly 80% of the total population in the working age is engaged in agricultural activities. 14% of the population works in the Israeli labor market and 5% is employed in the public and private sector. An Najada village lacks economic institutions or commerce, there being only one small grocery in the village for retailing foodstuffs and various household supplies to the residents.

The data collected from the Village Council revealed that the shares of the population working in various sectors of economy in the village were as listed below:

- The agricultural sector (80%),
- Israeli labour market (14%).
- Employees in governmental or private institutions (5%),
- Trade sector (1%).

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in An Najada village



Based on the ARIJ survey conducted in 2007 in Hebron Governorate localities, the survey data indicated that the social groups most affected in the village by Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Workers previously employed in the Israeli market, 2) Families maintaining 6 or more individuals, 3) Small farmers 4) Small traders.

Labour Force

According to PCPS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007 results, 61% of the total population of An Najada were of working age (i.e. 10 years and above); 73 people (29.7%) were economically active (in the labour force), and 173 people (70.3%) were economically inactive (outside the labour force). The economically active people were 100% males. Of the economically inactive, 45.7% were students and 43.4% were housekeeping (See Table 2).

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	66	5	1	72	41	-	7	1	6	55	127
F	1	-	-	1	38	75	5	-	-	118	119
T	67	5	1	73	79	75	12	1	6	173	246

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

Agricultural Sector

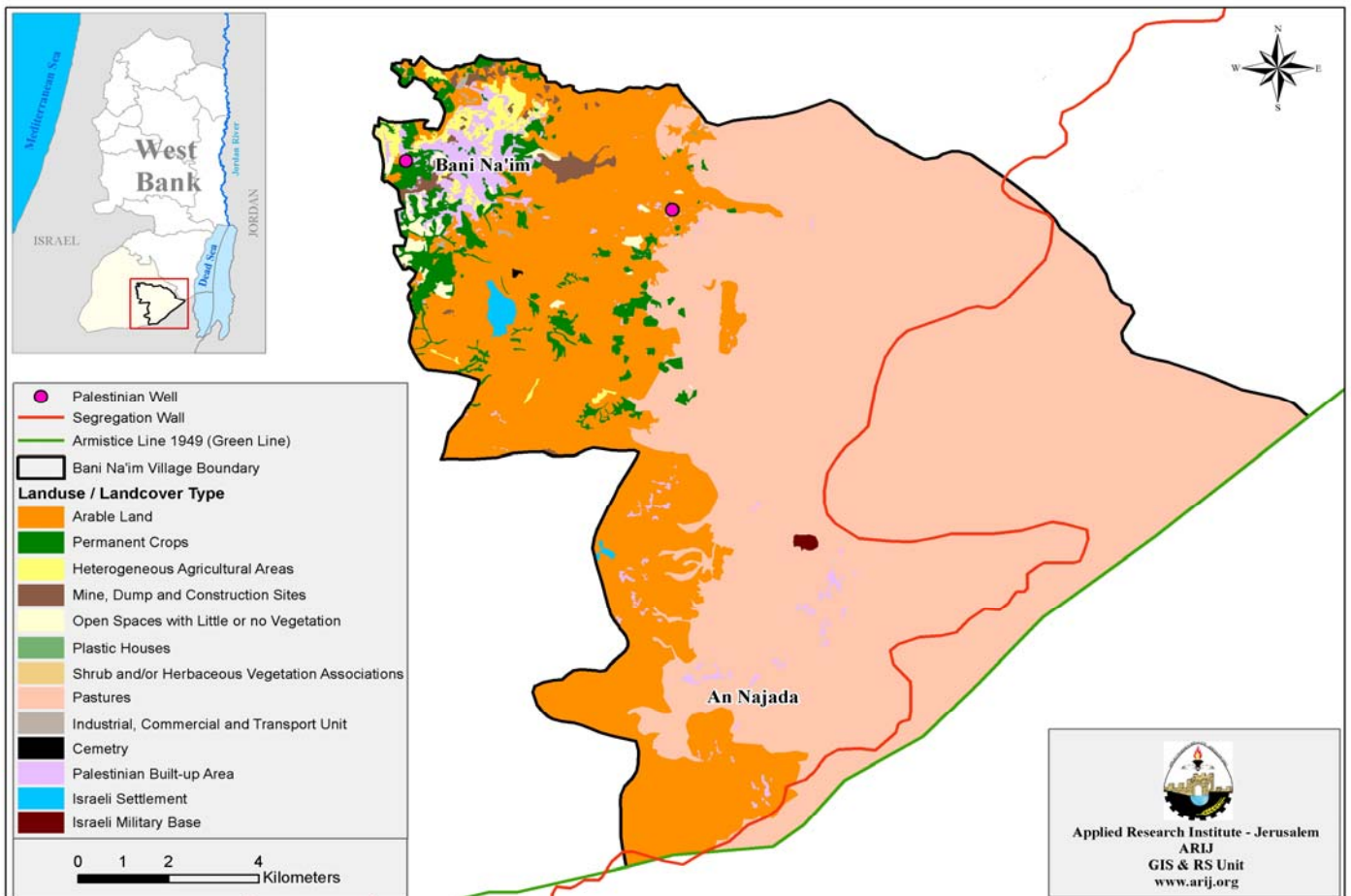
An Najada is a small agricultural village and the bulk of residents depend on agricultural activities (80%). The total agricultural area in the village extends to 5,000 dunums, 3,000 dunums mainly used for cultivated field crops, and there are about 2,000 dunums uncultivated due to a shortage of water and unfeasibility of the land for agriculture. In addition to plant production

approximately all of the households in the village rear and keep local animals and depend on their dairy production. In An Najada village there are about 3,000 sheep, 2,000 goats and two cows.

In spite of there being about 7 km of agricultural roads in An Najada suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery, they are insufficient and the village is in need of the construction of new roads to cover the vast agricultural area in the village.

According to survey data the main agricultural problems facing An Najada farmers that are lack of agricultural roads, lack of capital investments, lack of water and increased prices of livestock feeds.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in An Najada village.



Institutions and Services

In addition to educational, health and religious institutions, there are two main institutions in An Najada village:

1. An Najada Village Council: Established in 1994, to take over local oversight of social welfare and public services in the village.

2. Arab Al Ka'bna' and As Saryea' Woman Center: established in 2007, by support from UAWC to provide services to the women in the village and surrounding villages.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** An Najada village has not yet been connected to a telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** An Najada has been connected to the water network since 2003, almost 85% of the households are connected to the network. The main source of water to the village is supplied by the Israeli Water Company (MEKOROT). Cisterns provide alternative resources to the network.
- **Electricity Services:** An Najada village is not connected to an electricity network, only part of the village uses electricity by relying on a private generator owned by village residents. Regarding the problems facing the village, the electricity and high operation costs of the generator, inability of residents to paying their commitments and Israeli forces rejecting the village demand to construct electricity network.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** An Najada village is not connected to the sewage network and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** there is no solid waste management system and each household disposes its generated solid waste individually.
- **Transportation Facilities:** There is no formal transportation system in An Najada village. The people there use animals or travel by foot to access nearby villages. Regarding the roads network, there are about 13 km of roads in the village, 6 km main roads and 7 km are agricultural roads.

Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, the village council in An Najada had conducted one project, which is extended the water network to cover new built up areas, the project funded by ERM.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to An Najada village council, the village suffers from shortages in many infrastructural and service requirements. Table 3 shows the 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	*				17 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				8 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*				1 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				8 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	*				secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				1000 duns
2	Building Cisterns	*				20 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 17 km (3 km main roads, 4km internal roads and 10 km agriculture roads)

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