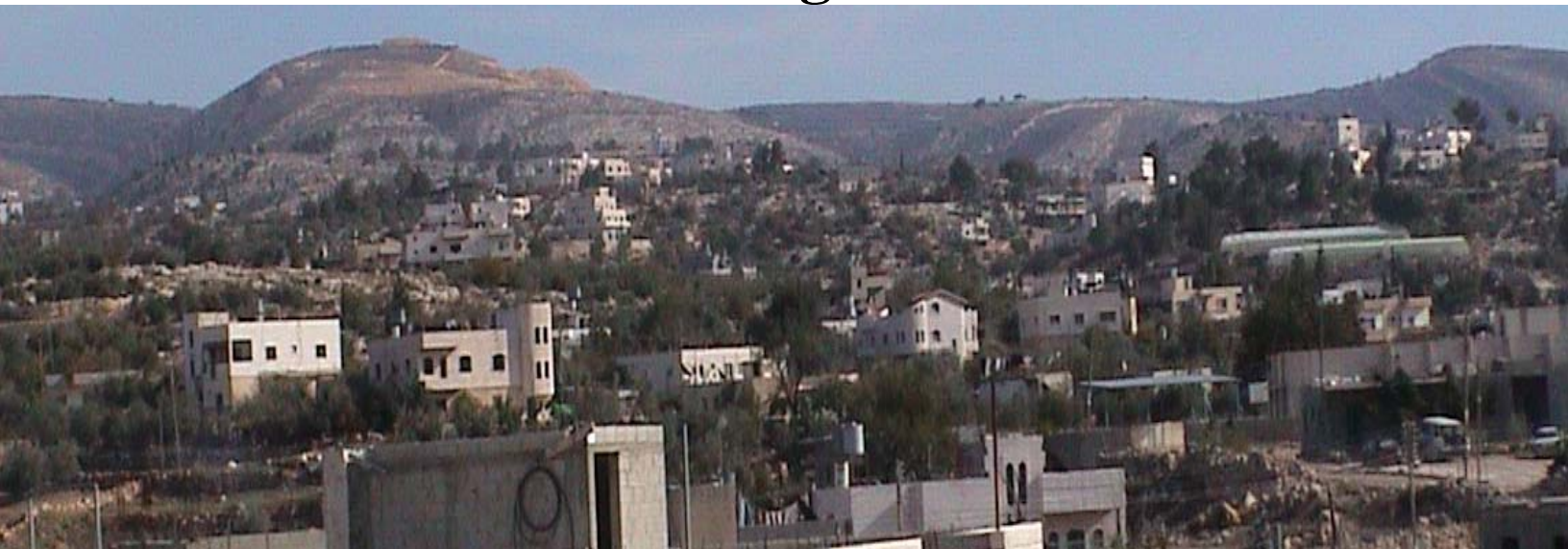


# Hitta Village Profile



**Prepared by**



**The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem**

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## Acknowledgments

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*ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.*

## *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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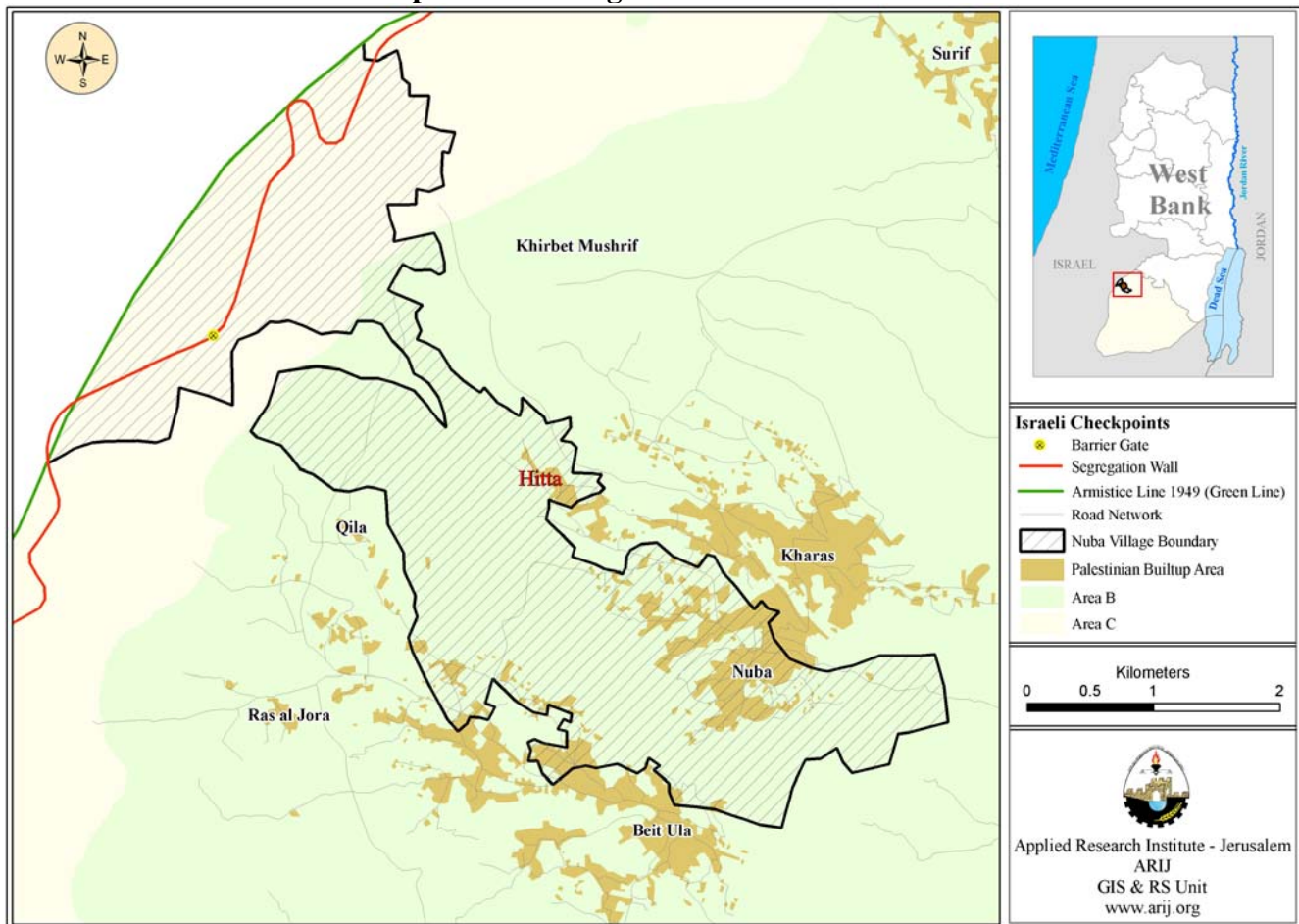
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## Hitta Village Profile

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Hitta is a village in the Hebron Governorate located 13 km northwest of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Nuba village to the east, Kharas to the north, Beit Ula to the south and the Green Line to the west. (See map 1)

Map 1: Hitta village location and boundaries



Hitta village is located on the western mountains of Halhul on a hill west of Nuba village at an elevation of 405 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Hitta is 481 mm, the average annual temperature is 17° C, and the average annual humidity is 60% (ARIJ GIS).

A Project Committee governed Hitta village from 1991 until 1996. In 1996, the Palestinian Authority appointed a new committee of five members, though this committee does not have a formal headquarters.

The main operations and responsibilities of the Hitta Project Committee include social and humanitarian services, infrastructural maintenance of water networks, pavement and maintenance of roads, and restoration and construction of schools.

## **History**

Hitta is a relatively new locality, as mentioned previously, and was established in 1955. During the 1948 war, the Palestinian family called Al Amarein migrated from Beer Sheva' to Khirbet Hitta after the Israeli Military Forces occupied the area. Hitta village is named after Khirbet Hitta.

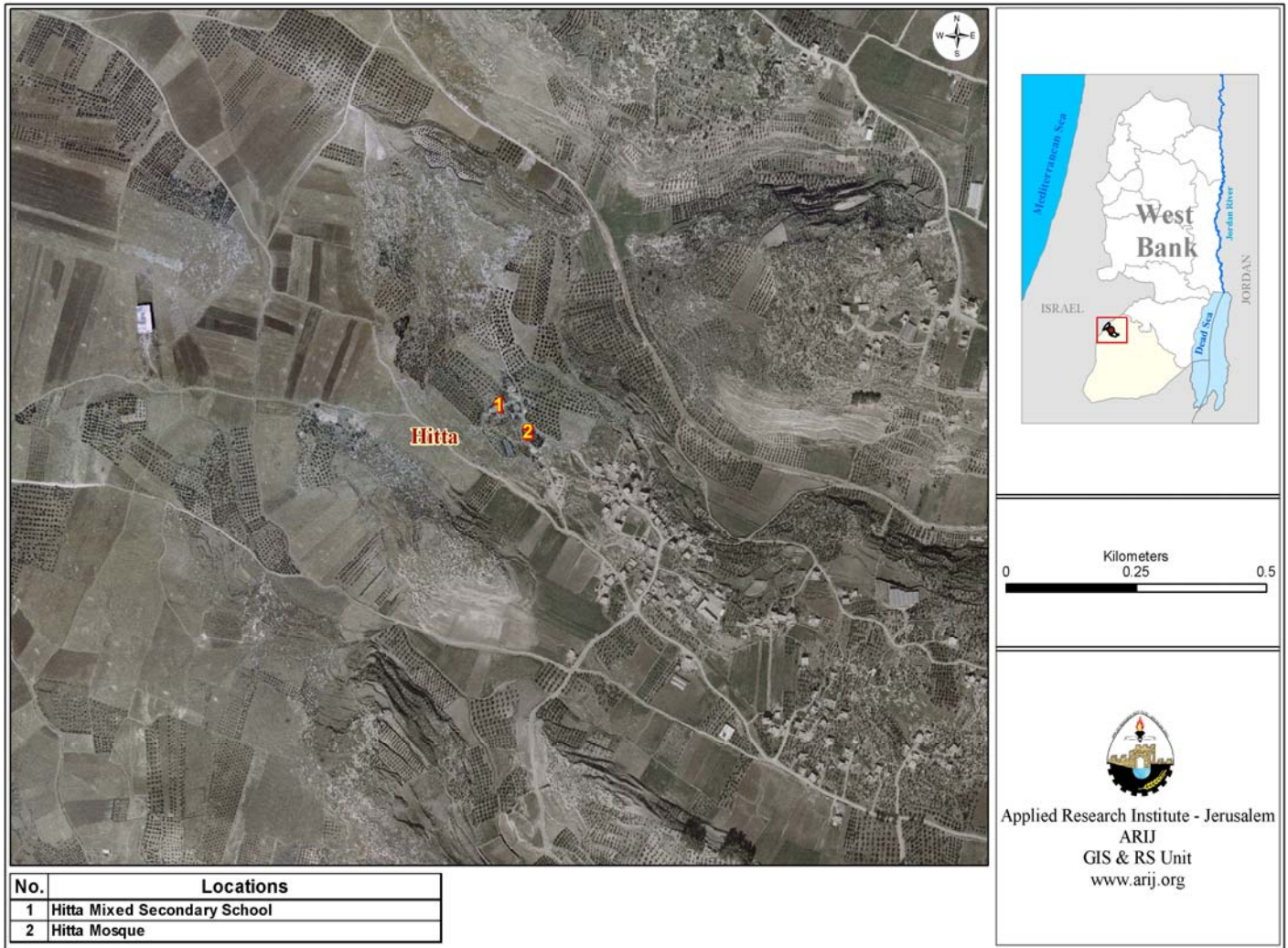
### **Photos of Hitta**



## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There is one main mosque in Hitta, though the Hitta area itself is considered of archaeological and historical significance. The area has many archeological caves, ruins, and old drawings and inscriptions.

Map 2: Main locations in Hitta village



## Population

According to the Population Census conducted in Palestine in 2007 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Hitta village was 891, of which 441 were males and 450 females. There were 114 households resident in 121 housing units.

## Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Population Census shows the distribution of Hitta population by age groups and sex. The data showed that 52.6 % were less than 15 years old, 45.7 % were in the 15-64 age group and 1.7 % were 65 years old and above . The sex ratio in the village was 98 males for every 100 females. Males constituted about 49.5% of the population in Hitta.

## Families

All the residents of Hitta belong to one main family; Al Amarein, which includes a number of sub-families including Al Sakharneh, Al Samaheen, Al Khusah and Al Sha'afeen.

## Education

According to the 2007 Population Census, about 10.5% of the residents were illiterate. Women comprised a greater percentage of the illiterate population than men, with a ratio of 70.2% to 29.8%. Of the literate population, 26.3% of the residents could read and write although had received no formal education, 37.8% had completed elementary education, 12.9% had completed preparatory education and 12.5% had completed both secondary and higher education. Table 1 shows the education status in Hitta by sex and educational achievement in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	17	79	106	35	22	8	7	—	1	1	276
F	40	64	99	35	16	4	9	—	-	-	267
<b>T</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>543</b>

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

ARIJ field survey data indicates there is one basic school in Hitta village, funded by the public sector, called Hitta Elementary Coeducation School. Students undertaking higher levels of education attend Nuba schools, traveling a distance of 2.5 km to reach to school and other services in Nuba.

The data of the Ministry of Higher Education shows that in the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 6 classes, 7 teachers and 165 students in Hitta village.

There is no kindergarten in Hitta village; however, some families send their children to Nuba kindergartens.

The main problems facing the educational system in Hitta include:

1. Small/narrow classroom area; and
2. Lack of secondary level schools/classrooms.

## Health Status

Hitta village lacks health institutions. Until the end of 2006, there were no public or private health clinics in the village. The main providers of health services in the village are UNRWA and the Red Crescent Society, which provide health services to residents once a week. In emergency cases, residents of Hitta must travel to neighboring villages including Nuba and Tarqumia, as well as Hebron city to receive health services. The lack of a suitable building and the lack of land to build a health clinic are the main obstacles facing the Hitta Village Committee.



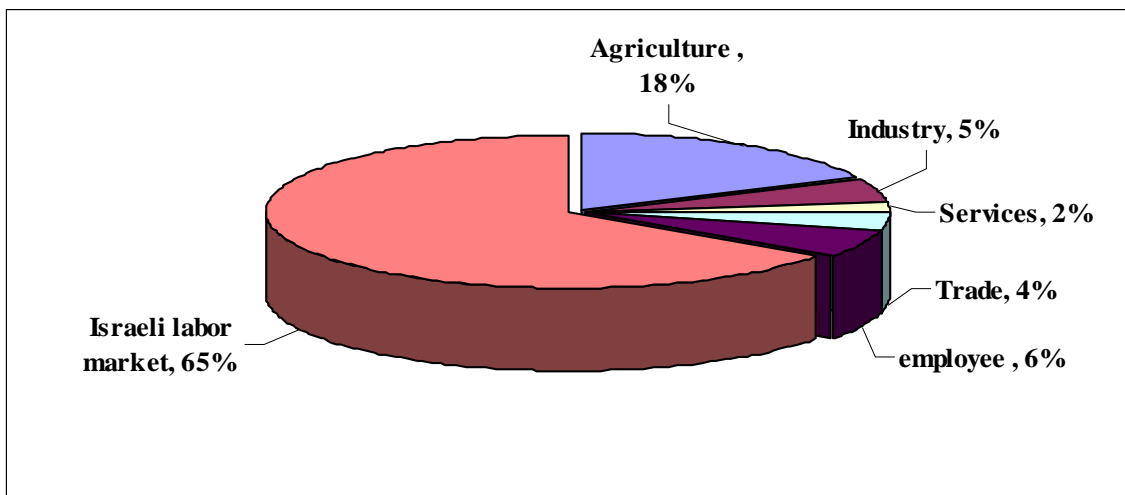
## Economic Activities

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, and due to the fact that Hitta is close to the Green Line and lacks agricultural lands, the residents of Hitta became mainly dependent on working inside Israel. As of 2007, more than 65 % of Hitta's labor force depended on Israel's labor market.

The survey also showed the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy, indicated below by percentage, and represented graphically in figure 1.

- Israeli Labor Market 65 %,
- The Agricultural Sector 18 %,
- The Service Sector 2 %,
- The Industrial Sector 5 %,
- The Trade Sector 4 %,
- The Employee (private & public) Sector 6 %.

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Hitta village**



Hitta village lacks economic institutions and villagers depend mostly on Nuba's markets. There are only four small grocery stores and one general store that provide food and consumer products.

Based on ARIJ survey, the mostly affected social groups in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were 1) Workers previously employed in the Israeli labor market; and 2) Families with six individuals and more.

## Labor Force

In 2007, about 62.5% of the total population of Hitta was within the working age group, defined as 10 years and above. Out of 543 people of the working age, 161 people (30%) were economically active, and 382 people (70%) were economically inactive. 97.5% of the economically active were males. The largest groups of economically inactive are housekeepers

and students, who constitute 43.7% and 45.8% respectively. Table 2 shows the labor force status in Hitta village in 2007.

**Table 2: Hitta 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	
<i>M</i>	66	6	85	157	90	2	21	1	5	119	<b>276</b>
<i>F</i>	4	-	-	4	85	165	13	-	-	263	<b>267</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>543</b>

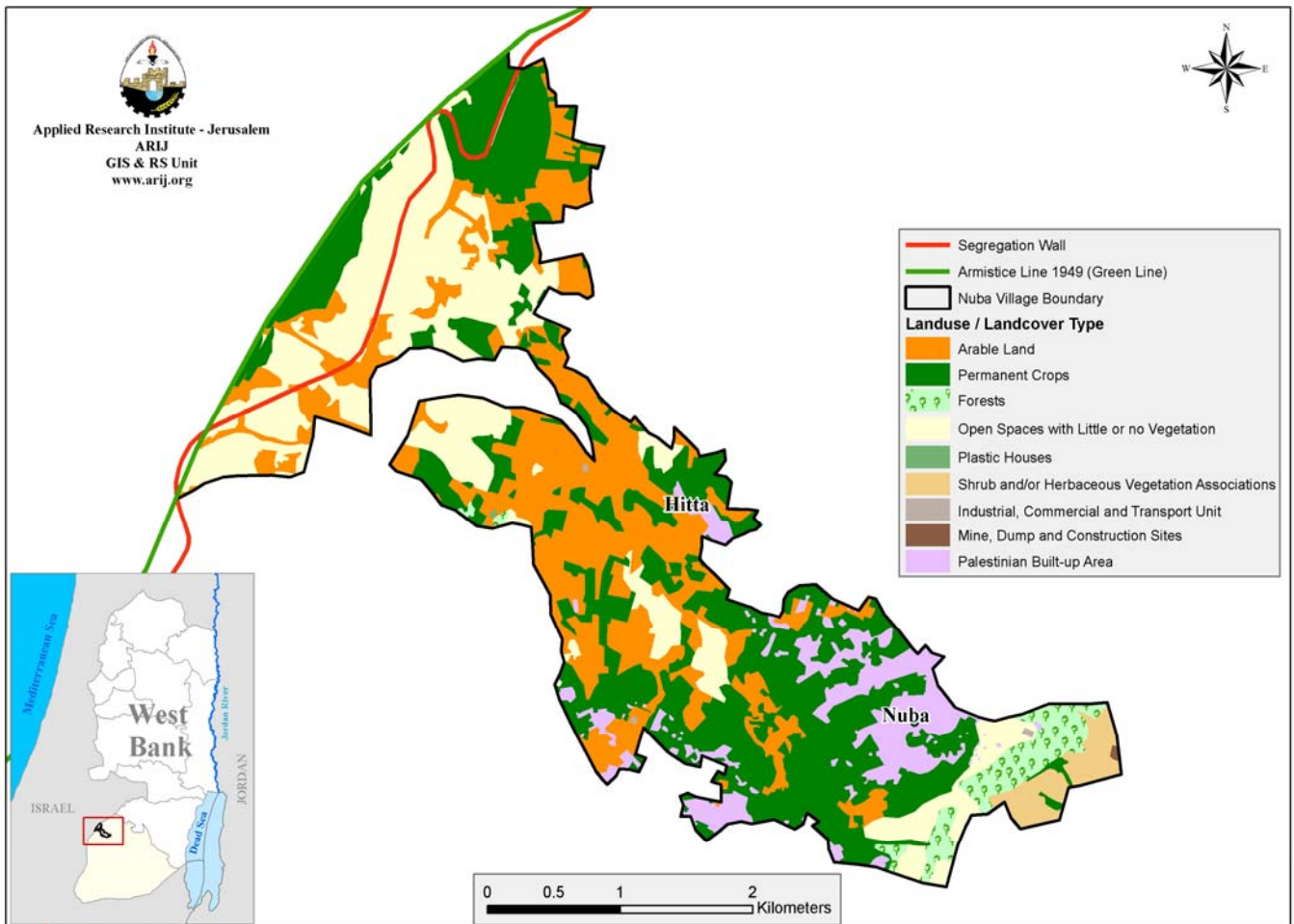
Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, final results

### Agricultural Sector

Hitta has no agricultural land; all the residents are refugees and do not possess land of their own. Small areas of land serve as home gardens, some of which are cultivated with olive trees, vegetables and field crops. Residents of Hitta lease land for cultivation from neighboring villages including Nuba and Beit Ula.

The residents of Hitta also keep livestock. According to village survey data, approximately 60% of Hitta's households breed local animals. There are approximately 800 goat and 300 sheep.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation Wall route in Hitta village



## Institutions and Services

Hitta is a small rural village and as a result, residents receive most of their services from Hebron City and nearby villages. In addition to one school, there are three institutions in the village:

1. Hitta Project Committee: Established in 1991, the Committee organizes and provides services in the village.
2. Hitta Merchandise Institution: An institution established by the efforts of youth for profitable ends.
3. Hitta Mosque Building Committee: Established to build the mosque and other religious institutions.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Approximately 10% of Hitta's households are connected to a telephone network.
- **Water Services:** Hitta has been connected to the water network since 1995 and nearly 100% of the households are connected. The main source of water to the village is supplied by the Israeli Water Company (MEKOROT). Cisterns and water tanks provide alternative resources; there are about 40 cisterns in village.
- **Electricity Services:** Hitta connected to the electricity network in 1997 and approximately 100% of households in the village are now connected. Hitta Project Committee manages the distribution of electricity, which is supplied by Israeli Electric Cooperation through Nuba village council.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** There is no solid waste management in Hitta. Residents dispose of solid waste on random burning sites.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage network in Hitta village. All housing units in the village rely on cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** There are about 3.5 km of roads in Hitta village: 1.65 km are main roads of which 0.5 km are surfaced and in a good condition; 0.6 km are internal and 1.2 km are agricultural roads. There is no public transportation in Hitta and residents use taxies and buses on Beit Ula - Nuba – Kharas junction.

The main obstacles facing transportation of passengers in the village include:

1. Israeli checkpoints and barriers,
2. Deterioration of roads, and
3. Shortage of vehicles and transportation services.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

In August 2006, Israeli authorities began the construction of the Segregation Wall on the west side of Hitta. The Segregation Wall, constructed of wire in this section, passes through the border of the village for a total of 10 km in the Hitta area. There are no settlements or military bases constructed near the village.

## Implemented Development Plans and Projects

The Project Committee in Hitta created a development plan for the village, and has implemented two projects in the village over the past two years (see Table 4).

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1.	Open and paved the main road between Nuba and Hitta	Infrastructure	UNDP
2.	Rehabilitation of roads and school	Infrastructure	UNRWA

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Hitta Committee, the village is suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural services. Table five shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			1,8 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*		
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>Agricultural Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			20 dunums
2	Building Cisterns		*			
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			45
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			8
7	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

**Reference:**

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing and Establishment Census- Final Results*. Ramallah, Palestine. 1997 -2007.
- Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ). *GIS Database*. 2006-2009.
- Ministry of Higher Education. *Educational Status Database*. 2006-2007.