

Nuba 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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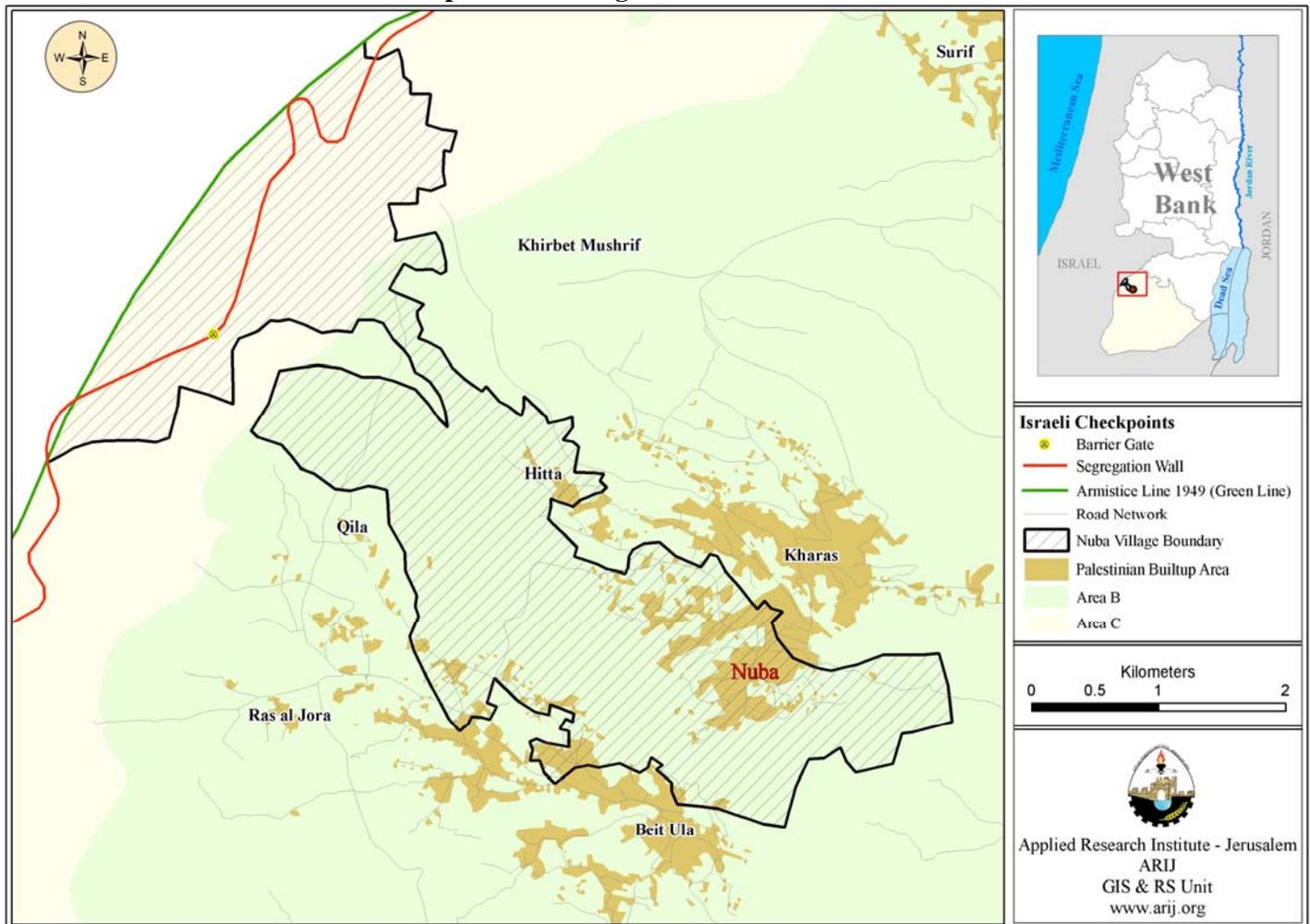
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Nuba Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Nuba is a village in Hebron Governorate, located 12 km northwest Hebron city, in the south of the West Bank. The village is located within the southern Palestinian mountains, upon an east to west sloping plain. It is bordered by Halhul to the east, Kharas to the north, Beit Ula to the south and the Green Line to the west. (See map 1)

Map 1: Nuba village location and borders



Nuba village is located on Halhul's western mountains at a moderate elevation of 550 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the village is 484 mm, the average annual temperature is 17° C, and the average annual humidity is 60 % (ARIJ GIS).

Nuba has been governed by a Village Council since 1973. However, in 2005, a new council was elected, consisting of 9 members and 12 employees. The Village Council operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development,
2. Social welfare services,
3. Infrastructure maintenance of schools, water, electricity and solid waste.

History

Nuba is an old village that dates back to the Canaanite Period, deriving its name from the word "Nabo" (نبو), which means 'height'. (Ad Dabbagh, 1991) During the Islamic Expansion, Umar Ibn Al Khattab designated the village as a religious site. An engraved in stone in the village, dating to the period of Islamic Expansion, mentions Nuba and the adjacent villages as Islamic waqf.

Photos of Nuba



Religious and Archaeological Sites

Nuba's importance as a religious site derives from the presence of Al Omary Mosque, which includes the engraved script by Umar Ibn al Khattab, assigning the village as a holy site related to Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The village also contains four places of religious commemoration: Sheikh Isma'il Shrine, Abu Raghif Shrine, Sheikh Jarrah Shrine and Sheikh Youssef Shrine.

Other religious places in the village include Al Zawiyah Ash Sharqiyah Mosque, Al Zawayyah Al Gharbiyah Mosque, Al Baq'ah Mosque and Al Shuhada Mosque.

Nuba has also gained a general historical and archeological importance. There are a number of historical and archeological sites in Nuba, for example, several ancient wells, in addition to many water springs.

Be'ir el Maleh is a well with a 25 m underground tunnel that reaches a water spring, which people use to heal skin diseases.

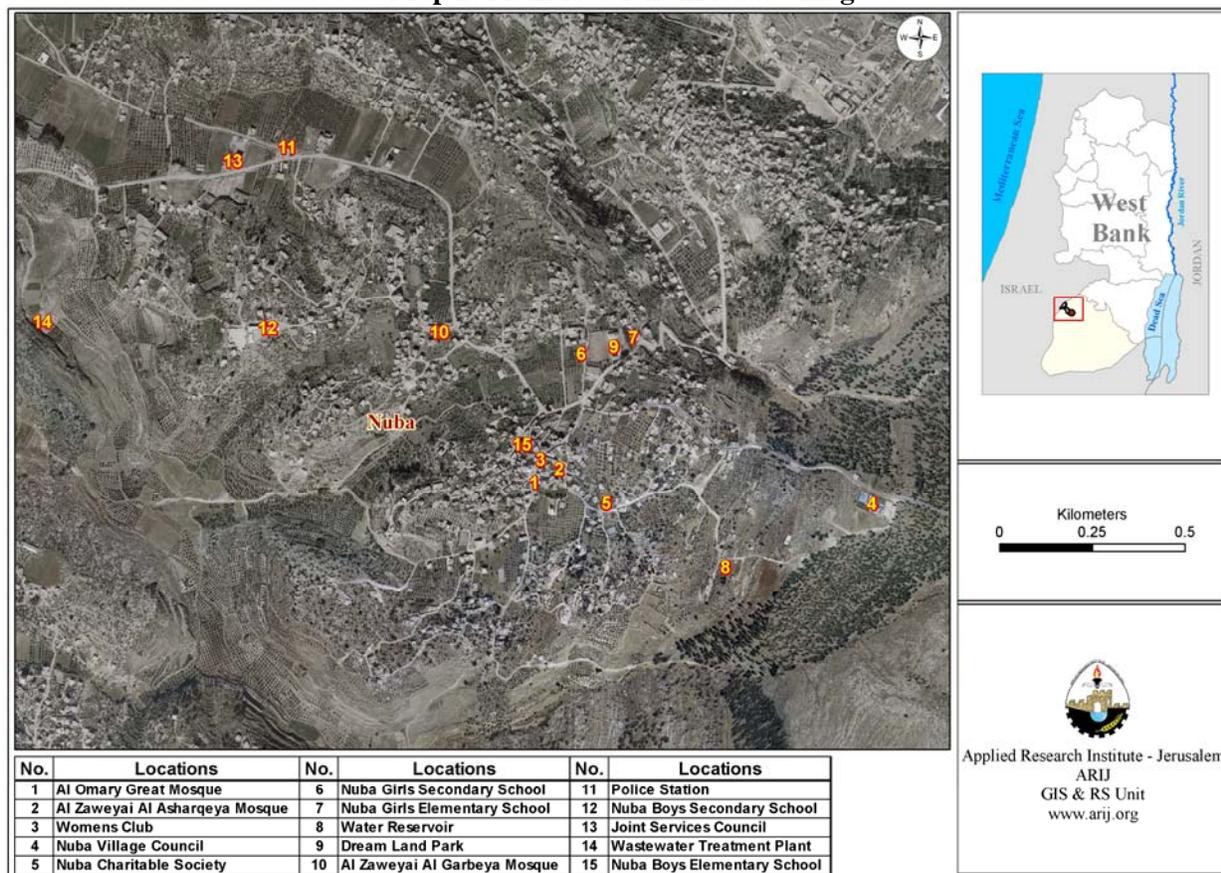
Be'ir Al Qaws, named for the arrows that are engraved on the stone edges, is another ancient well that provides a continuous discharge of groundwater.

Other historically significant water springs in the village include Be'ir Al Suweida and Be'ir Khalal. There are also three ancient ruined sites in the village:

- **Khirbet Hitta** is an area of 30 dunums, populated with Bedouins, located in western Nuba, and about 1 km away from the village center. The site has many archeological caves, ruins, and old drawings and inscriptions.
- **Khirbet Al Ahmar** is an area of 20 dunums, located northern Nuba. It is populated and has many archeological caves.
- **Khirbet Baten Al Asfar** is an area of 15 dunums to the south of Nuba. The site has many ancient ruins related to the Roman and Canaanite periods.

Although there are many archeological and historical sites in the village, none is currently utilized for recreational or tourist use.

Map 2: Main locations in Nuba village



Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Nuba in 2007 was approximately 4,336, of which 2,218 were males and 2,118 were females. There were 730 households resident in 817 housing units (2007 census).

At that time, the population of Nuba village constituted 0.78% of the total population of Hebron Governorate.

Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census data shows the population of Nuba village by age groups and sex. Data shows that 44.1 % are less than 15 years old, 52.8 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.6 % are 65 year and above. In 2007, the sex ratio in the village was 104.7 males for every 100 females, males constituted 51.1 % of the population and females constituted 48.9 %.

Families

The residents of Nuba are comprised of three main clans; Al Dababsa, Ash Shuroof, and At Tarman, and other families some of them are Palestinian refugees of 1948.

Education

According to the 2007 Census, about 4.2% of the residents were illiterate. Women comprised a larger percentage than men, 80.3% of the total illiterate population. Of the literate population, 10.5% of residents could read and write, 22.5% completed elementary education, 34.7% completed preparatory education and 28.1% completed their secondary and higher education. Table 1 shows the education status in Nuba by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Master	PhD	Total
M	25	157	354	562	297	57	101	16	3	1,572
F	102	161	324	485	262	41	70	3	-	1,448
T	127	318	678	1,047	559	98	171	19	3	3,020

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

Field survey data indicated that there were three levels of education in Nuba village, preschool (kindergartens), elementary, and secondary education. There are four schools in the village, two boys' schools, and two were girls' schools. All the schools in Nuba are run by the Ministry of Higher Education. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 2.

School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1. Nuba /Kharas Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2. Nuba/Kharas Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3. Nuba Gils Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
4. Nuba Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental

The data of Ministry of Higher Education show that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 54 classes, 73 teachers and 1,706 Students in Nuba (See table 3).

Gender	Schools	Class	Teachers	Students
Male	2	28	38	898
Female	2	26	35	808
Total	4	54	73	1,706

Source: Ministry of Higher Education –Hebron Directorate -2006/2007

In 2006, there were three kindergartens in Nuba. These kindergartens provided pre-school education services to 255 children. Table 4 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Classes	Children	Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Nuba Charitable Society Kindergarten	4	140	4	Charitable Society
2.	Al Huda Al Namuthajiyah Kindergarten	2	40	3	Private
3.	As Safriya Kindergarten	2	45	2	Private

The main educational obstacles in Nuba are:

1. Shortage of classrooms due to increases in student enrolment,
2. Shortage of services and equipments, and
3. Lack of services to meet school activities, such as the poor condition of the schools' playgrounds.

Health Status

Historically, herbal medicine was considered the primary form of medicine in Nuba until the British Mandate of Palestine, when residents began utilizing formal medical practices and clinics available in Beit Al Jammal village, or the Al Baraka Health care centre in Al Arroub.

During the Jordanian rule of the West Bank, residents of Nuba went to Tarqumia for treatment and medication, and they kept doing so until 1956, when the first health care clinic, governed by the health department of Hebron Governorate, was established midway between Nuba and Kharas. The clinic provided primary health care to patients, in addition vaccination and rapid treatment to victims of sudden illness or trauma.

In 1995, a governmental clinic was opened within Nuba boundaries. The clinic was located in the Charitable Society building until 1997, and then moved to a new building, also related to the Charitable Society, in Skeikh Isma'il area. The clinic includes a medical lab and provides many health services such as illness treatments, vaccination, and mother and childcare. Nowadays, there are many private, governmental and charitable health facilities in the village as shown in table 5.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	-	3	1	-
Dental Clinic	1	-	-	1
Health Clinic	1	-	-	-
X- Ray Centre	-	-	-	-
Medical Lab	1	1	-	-
Maternity & Pediatric Center	-	-	-	-
Pharmacy	-	1	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total	3	5	1	1

In case of emergencies or urgent needs unavailable within the village boundaries, the residents travel to Hebron city (20 km) or Halhul (7km) to receive health services and treatment.

In spite of the functional health facilities in the village, the health sector still suffers from obstacles to provide sufficient medical care. For example, the village lacks a complete medical treatment facility capable of providing inpatient care; in addition, the village lacks an ambulance for emergency cases and the closest hospital is at a considerable distance.

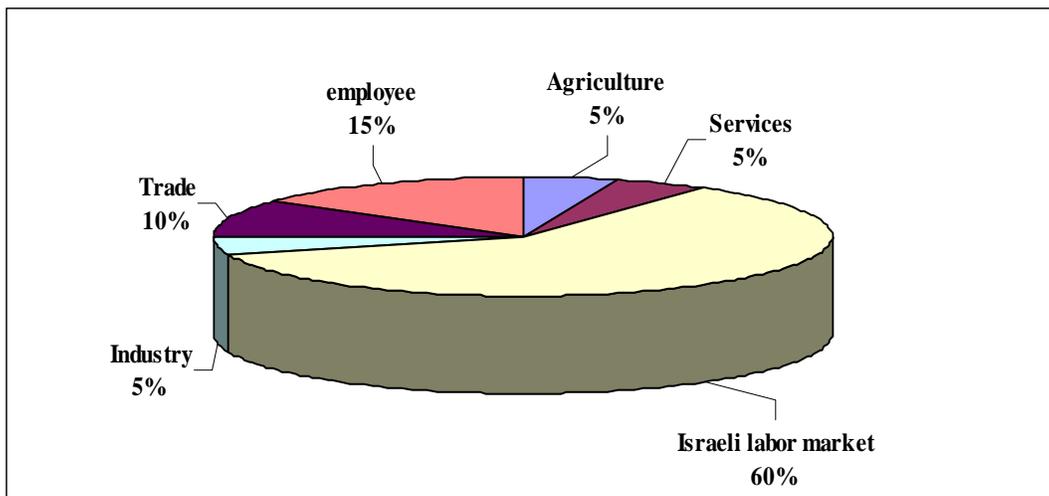
Economic Activities

Nuba's residents dependent on the Israeli labour market as their main source of income; about 60% of Nuba labour force work in the Israeli labour market.

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

- The agriculture sector 5%
- The service sector 5%
- Israeli labour market 60%
- The industrial sector 5%
- The trade sector 10%
- The employee sector 15%

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Nuba village



There are approximately 20 groceries, 10 service shops, a butcher and a clothing shop in the village. There is also an automobile repair shop, several garages, five carpentry workshops, four blacksmith workshops, a stone cutting factory and a rubber processing plant.

Based on ARIJ survey, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were:

- 1) Families maintaining six individuals and more,
- 2) Previous workers in the Israeli labour market,
- 3) Small- holder traders,
- 4) Small- holder farmers, and
- 5) Housekeepers and children.

Labor Force

The 2007 Census labor force statistics for Nuba village show approximately 71.4% of the total population of the village within the working age group 10 years and above. The percentage of women in the age of 10 years and above was assessed at 48% (1,448 women in total). Of the working age, 28% were economically active and 72% were non-economically active. Of the economically active, 91% were males and 9% were females, and 94% were employed. The largest groups of non-economically active were students and housekeepers, constituting 64.6% and 28.2%, respectively. Table 6 shows the labor force statistics in Nuba village in 2007.

Table 6: Nuba 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	722	8	36	766	735	2	46	9	14	806	1,572
F	69	1	7	77	667	612	70	10	12	1,371	1,448
T	791	9	43	843	1,402	614	116	19	26	2,177	3,020

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

Agriculture Sector

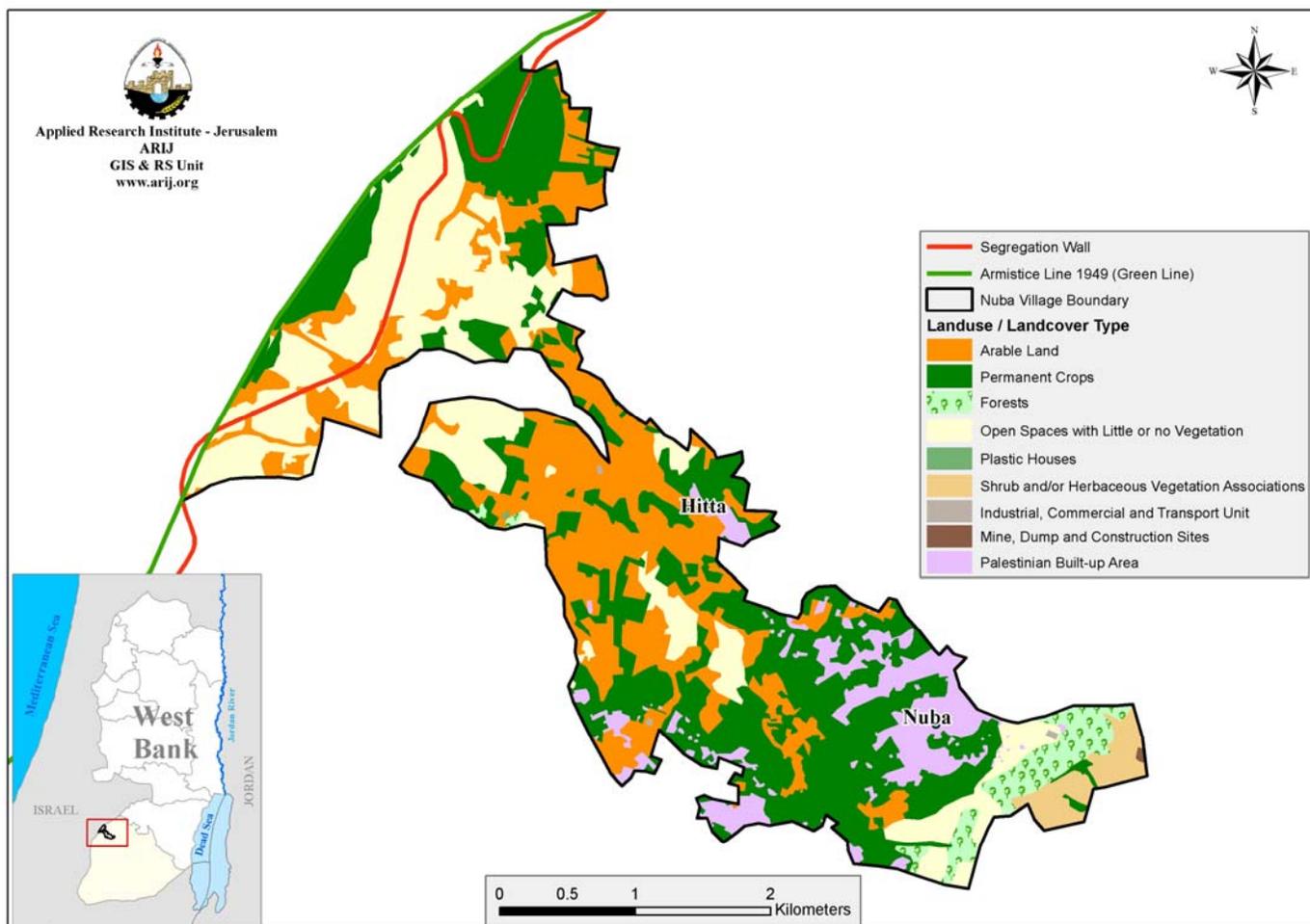
Nuba village lies on a total area of 15,460 dunums. 8,200 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 4,856 dunums are cultivated. (See table 7 and map 3)

Table 7: Land Use in Nuba Village (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
15,460	4,856	3,344	700	700	5,860

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

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



There are about 5 dunums of greenhouses, but no tunnels in Nuba village. 3 dunums are used for growing cucumber and 2 dunums are used for growing tomatoes.

Most agricultural activities in Nuba are dependant on rain, but farmers also use the water network and the storage cisterns for further irrigation. The main crops cultivated in the village include olives, grapes, field crops and vegetables.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Nuba. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 117 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are gumbo and squash.

Table 8: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Nuba Village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
117	12	5	12	15	3	0	6	0	20	137	53

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are two types of aromatic medical plants in the village of Nuba, thyme and mint, which spread over a total area of four dunums.

In the village of Nuba, there is a total area of 3,820 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are mostly grape vines trees, apricot trees and fig trees.

Table 9: Total area of horticulture and olive tree in Nuba Village (dunum)

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
3,820	0	0	0	28	0	3	0	84	0	124	0	4,059	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Nuba. Cereals, in particular wheat, white corn and barley, are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 960 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops is common in the village of Nuba.

Table 10: Total area of field crops in Nuba Village (dunum)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Seeds		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
960	0	12	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	42	0	5	0	0	0	1089	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data from the Village Council indicates that some families in Nuba depend on livestock rearing and dairy production.

Table 11: Livestock in Nuba Village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
80	1,800	700	0	5	25	15	30,000	2,000	114

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

There are approximately 5 km of agricultural roads in Nuba. According to the Village Council, these roads are insufficient as the available roads are suitable only for tractors and other agricultural machines.

Institutions and Services

Nuba is a small rural village, so the residents get most of their services from Hebron city, as it is the main city in the Governorate. However, the village has three main institutes: a small post office, police station and security office. Nuba also has five organizations, which are:

1. Nuba Village Council: Established in 1973, it is the supreme institution in the village and provides many services for the village.
2. Nuba Charitable Society: a charitable institution which provides services to the residents.
3. Nuba Sport Club: a social and cultural institution which provides services for youth.

4. Women Club: a social institution for children and women.
5. Dar Al Qur'an Al Kareem: provides cultural and religious education.

Infrastructure and Natural resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Approximately 55% of Nuba's housing units are connected to the telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** Nuba has been connected to the water network since 1975; almost 90% of the housing units are connected. The domestic water supply per capita is 81.0 (L/day), and currently, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) is the main provider for water resources. Cisterns are alternative resources to water networks. The village also owns a water reservoir with a 500 cubic meter capacity. The main problem that faces water services in the village is that the network is old and needs reconstruction.
- **Electricity Services:** Nuba has been connected to the electricity network since 1999 and approximately 90% of the housing units in the village are connected. The Village Council of Nuba manages the distribution of electricity, which is supplied by the Israeli Electric Company.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Solid waste management in Nuba is operated by the Joint Services Council of the north and west localities of the Hebron Governorate. Solid waste is collected from residential areas and sent to a dumping site owned by the Joint Services Council, which is located approximately 6km away from Nuba. Dumping is the main method used to dispose the collected solid waste.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Nuba Municipality had constructed a new sewage network in 2005. The new network covered less than 50% of the village housing units, and the rest rely on cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** There are about 40 km internal roads in Nuba village, 20 km are paved and in a good condition, 5 km are paved but in a bad condition and 15 km are not paved at all. There are five buses and ten taxis for transportation in Nuba. The main obstacles in front of passengers and transportation system in Nuba include:
 1. Israeli checkpoints and barriers;
 2. Poor road condition; and
 3. The transportation system is poorly developed and lacks sufficient vehicles.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

There are no settlements or Israeli military bases on Nuba village's land. The main confiscation of village land was in 1948. Sometimes the Israeli military forces construct a flying checkpoint on the main roads leading to Nuba. This checkpoint places restrictions on resident's movements, causing difficulties to access health services in other localities, and making it difficult for teachers and students to access schools and universities, and farmers to access their lands.

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

In the past two years, Nuba Village Council has implemented many projects to serve the village, funded by various donors. These projects include:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Building the first and second floors of Nuba Secondary Girls School	Educational	Hebron Municipality and Village Council.
2	Opening and rehabilitation of the main and link Roads (5 km)	Infrastructure	Village Council
3	Connecting new housing units with sewage network.	Infrastructure	Village Council
4	Extending electricity network	Infrastructure	Village Council

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Nuba Village Council the village is in need of much development. Table 13 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	*				5 km new roads
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
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 school
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools		*			
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands			*		1500 dunums
2	Building Cisterns		*			10 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			12 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*		
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		6 greenhouses
7	Field Crops Seeds			*		
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		

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