

Tarqumiya Town 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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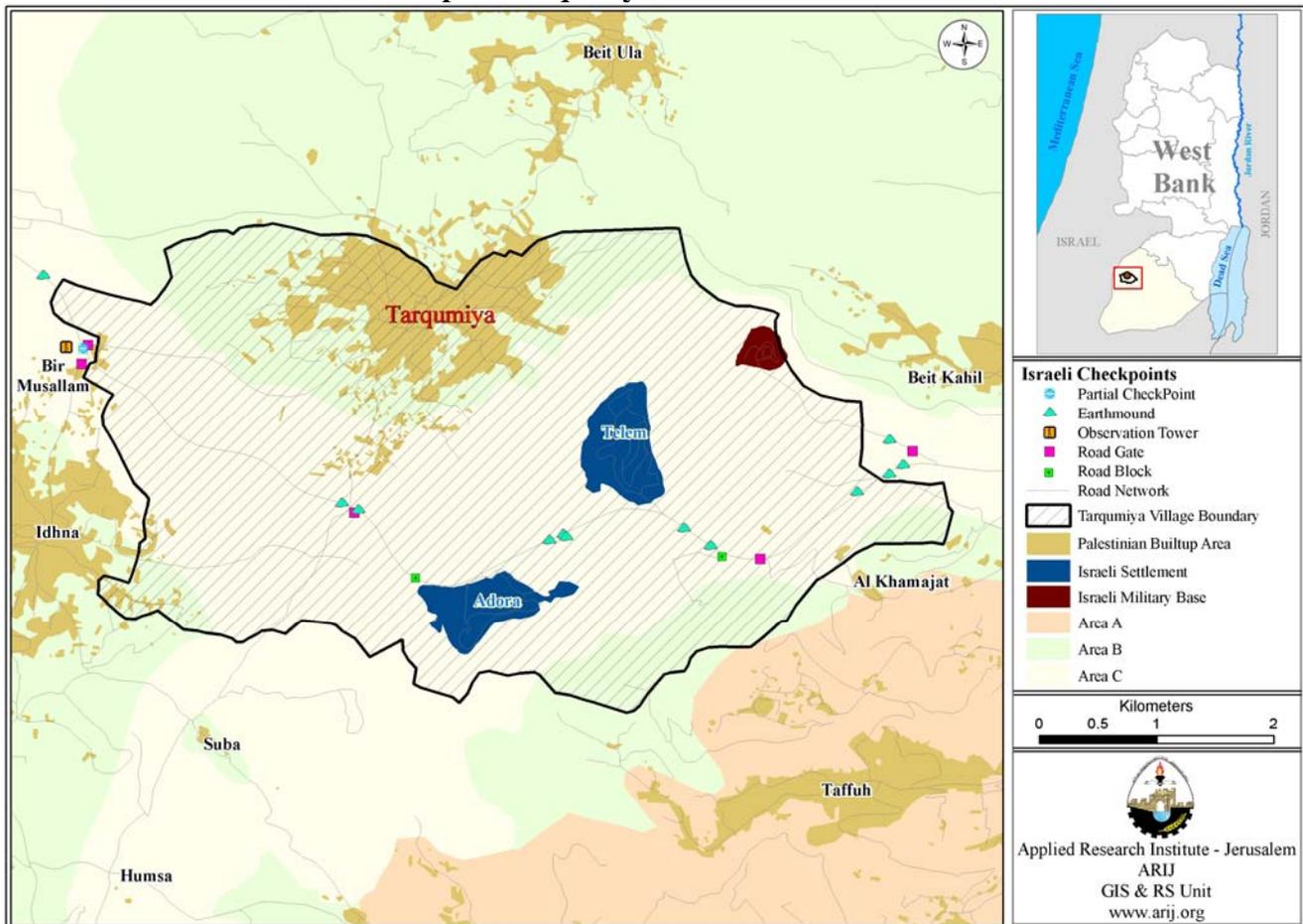
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Tarqumiya Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Tarqumiya is a town located 9 km northwest of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Hebron city, Taffuh and Beit Kahil to the east, by Beit Ula to the north, by Idhna to the south and by Green Line (1949 Armistice Line) to the west (See map 1).

Map 1: Tarqumiya location and borders



Tarqumiya town lies on a low hill at an elevation of 490 meters above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Tarqumiya town is 419 mm, the average annual temperature is 19° C, and the average annual humidity is 60 % (ARIJ GIS, 2006).

Tarqumiya is considered an urban area as it complies with the demographic and institutional criteria relevant to urban areas. From 1973 to 1997, a Village Council governed Tarqumiya, it provided infrastructure services to the residents such as water, telephone connection and

electricity. In mid 1997, the Palestinian Authority appointed a municipal council to govern the town, and in 2005, a new council was elected comprised of 13 members with 23 full-time employees. The municipal council provides services to Tarqumiya residents, which include:

- Administration, planning and development, organizing and issuing building licenses;
- Infrastructural maintenance of water, electricity, solid waste collection, open and paved roads and the distribution of social services;
- Social and human services; and
- Health services.

History

Tarqumiya town was erected on the ruins of a Canaanite village called "Neftah" (نفتاح), which means "to open" (In Arabic: يفتح). This village was known as "Tricomias" in the Roman period, which might be a misinterpretation of the word "Tetracomias" meaning 'the land of the four villages' (Ad Dabbagh, 1991): 1) Kfar 'Ata – which is known now as Far'a, 2) Nahal Telem– which is known now as Al Tayba 3) Kfar Heref– Khirbet Seif, and 4) Khirbet Beit Nasib.

Photos of Tarqumiya town



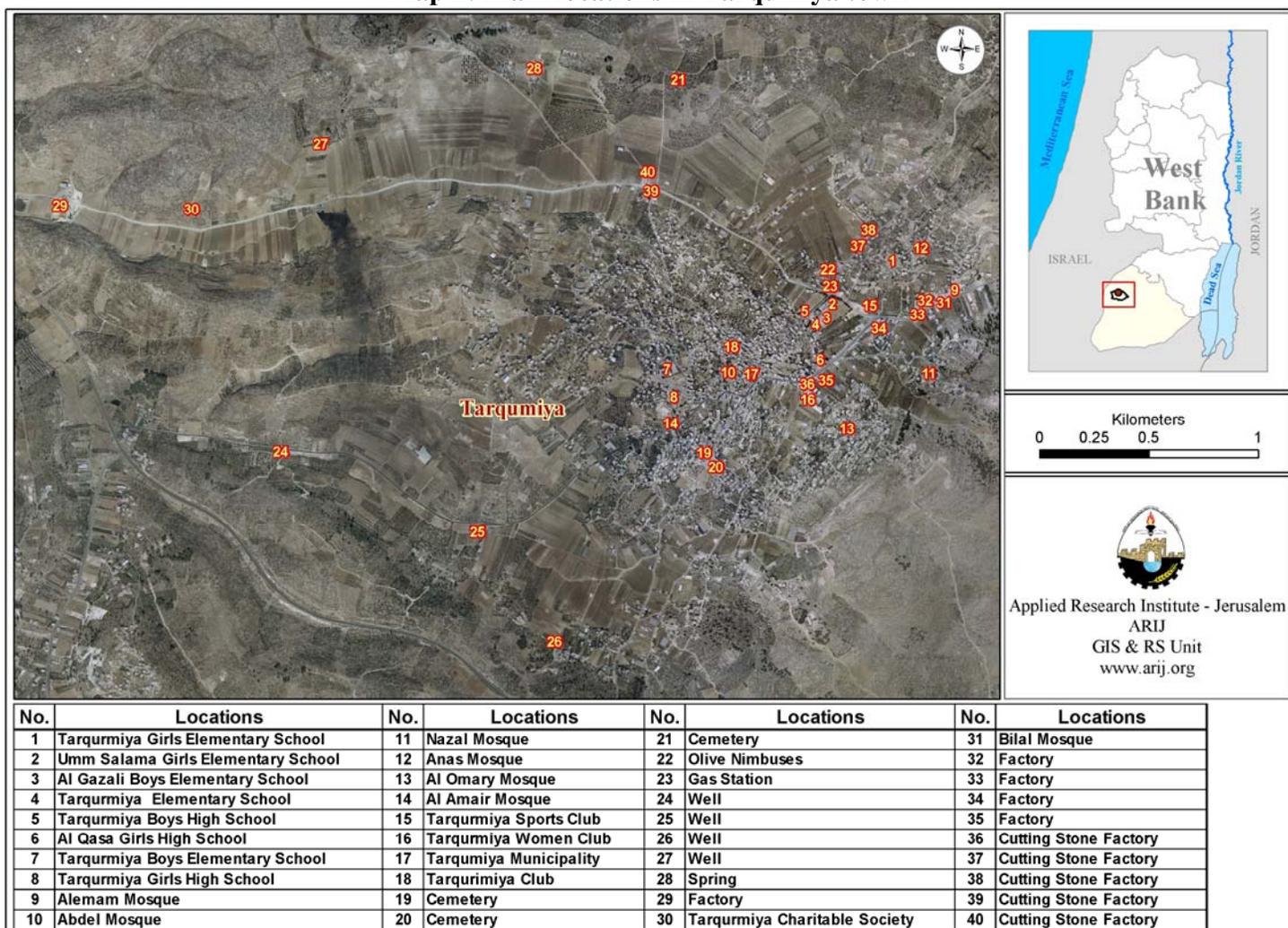
Religious and Archeological Sites

There are five mosques in the town: Al Umari Mosque, Al Amer Qais Mosque, Al Kholafa' al Rashedeen Mosque, Al Atqeya' Mosque and Alshafiy Mosque.

Archeological and historical sites of importance in Tarqumiya are listed below (see map 2):

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ▪ The shrine of Ques Prince | ▪ Khirbet Beit Nasieb |
| ▪ Khirbet Umm Al Sharayet | ▪ Al Kefrain well |
| ▪ The Place of Saleh Prophet | ▪ Khirbet Al Tayba |
| ▪ Khirbet Seif | ▪ Khirbet Al Batem |

Map 2: Main locations in Tarqumiya town



Population

According to the 2007 population Census implemented in Palestine by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), there were 14,357 inhabitants in Tarqumiya, of whom 7,398 were males and 6,959 were females. There were 2,284 households in the town living in 2,492 housing units. The population of Tarqumiya town constituted 2.6 % of the total population of Hebron Governorate.

Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Population Census showed the distribution of the Tarqumiya population by age group and sex, demonstrating that 43.7% of the populations were less than 15 years old, and 53.6% were in the age group of 15-64 years while only 2.6% were 65 years and above. The sex ratio in the town was 106 males for every 100 females. In other terms, the percentage of males in the town was 51.5% and the percentage of females was 48.5%.

Families

The population of Tarqumiya is comprised of many main families including: Al Fatafta, Al Ja'afra, Taneneh, Qabaja, Eghrayeb, Abu Haltam, Shalalfa, Al Dababsa and other small families.

Education

According to the PCBS Population Census of 2007, 6% of the town population aged ten and older were illiterate of whom 32.2% were males and 67.8% were females. Of the literate population, 14.7% could read and write, 25.6% completed elementary education, 28% completed preparatory education and 15.5% completed their secondary education. In Tarqumiya town, 1,009 people finished their higher education, in which 314 had associate diplomas, 651 had bachelor degrees, four had higher diplomas, 31 persons had masters' degrees and nine persons had a PhD degree. These results indicate that Tarqumiya residents are quite educated (See table 1).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	193	787	1,425	1,434	774	199	339	3	28	9	5,191
F	406	684	1,129	1,363	774	115	312	1	3	-	4,787
T	599	1,471	2,554	2,797	1,548	314	651	4	31	9	9,978

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

In Tarqumiya town, there are three levels of education: pre-school (kindergarten), elementary and secondary education. The data collected from Tarqumiya municipality indicates that there are ten schools in the town supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), of these five schools are for females and five are for males. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority are shown in table 2.

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Tarqumiya Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2.	Tarqumiya Boys Elementary School A	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3.	Tarqumiya Boys Elementary School B	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4.	Shouhada' Al Aqsa Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
5.	Al Ghazali Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
6.	Tarqumiya Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
7.	Al Aqsa Girls Elementary School A	Elementary	Female	Governmental
8.	Al Aqsa Girls Elementary School B	Elementary	Female	Governmental
9.	Umm Salma Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
10.	Tarqumiya Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental

Source: ARIJ Survey, 2006

* These schools provide evening and morning education for students in the Tarqumiya town

Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data collected at the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 indicated there were 4,664 students, 128 classes and 170 teachers in Tarqumiya town (See table 3).

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	5	0	5
	No. of class	66	0	66
	No. of Teachers	88	0	88
	No. of Students	2369	0	2369
Female	No. of Schools	5	0	3
	No. of class	62	0	62
	No. of Teachers	82	0	82
	No. of Students	2295	0	2295

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

The data collected from the municipality shows that there are also three kindergartens in the town, which provided pre-education for 400 children. Table 4 below shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Tarqumiya Charitable society Kindergarten	6	195	7	Charitable
2.	Al Awda Kindergarten	3	55	4	Private
3.	Al Najda Kindergarten	4	100	5	Private

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006 and Ministry of Higher Education –Hebron Directorate -2006/2007

Educational services in Tarqumiya lacks agricultural and Industrial schools, therefore, the students are forced to travel 14 km to reach Hebron city to finish the Industrial education, and 30 km to reach Al 'Arrub agricultural school. The education sector in Tarqumiya town is suffering from many obstacles including:

- The lack of schools and classes, creating the need for morning and evening classes;
- Lack of computer and science labs in schools and
- Lack of books in public libraries.

Health Status

The data collected from Tarqumiya municipality as in November 2006 indicates that Tarqumiya residents are served by two health centers; the first is Tarqumiya Health Center, which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Health; the second is Tarqumiya Charitable Society Health Center, under the supervision of the Society of the same name. In addition to the health centers, there are four clinics, of which two are private clinics and two are supervised by charitable societies. There is also a Red Crescent X-Ray center, two medical labs, one governmental

maternity and child center and one physiotherapy center. Table 5 below shows the number of health insinuations in Tarqumiya town.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	-	2	2	-
Dental Clinic	-	2	-	-
Health Clinic	1	-	1	-
X-Ray Centre	-	-	-	1
Medical Lab	-	2	-	-
Maternity and Pediatric Centre	1	-	-	-
Pharmacy	-	3	-	-
Ambulance	-	-	-	-
Other (Physiotherapy)	-	-	-	1
Total	2	9	4	1

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

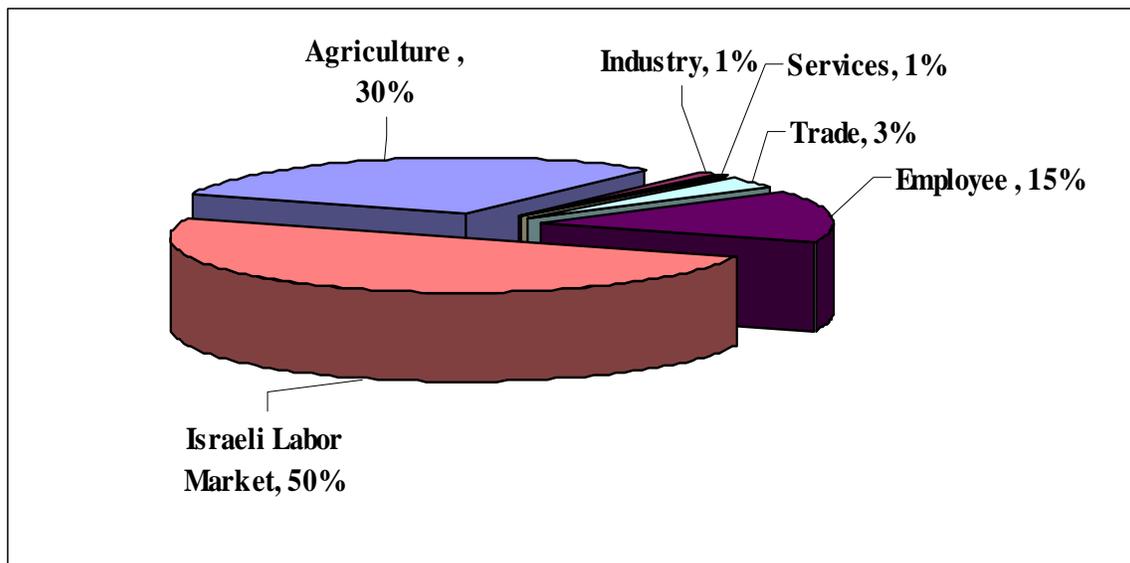
In case of emergency, residents of Tarqumiya must travel to hospitals and health centers in Hebron City. The municipal officials noted that one clinic was affected by the Israeli activity in the town. In addition, the health sector in the town suffers from a lack of medicines, ambulances and hospitals.

Economic Activities

The economic base indicates that most Tarqumiya residents depend on the Israeli labor market for their livelihoods, with 50% of residents in the working age range working inside Israel. Many residents also depend on agricultural activities.

According to the data collected from the municipality, the share of population working in the economic sector in 2007 was as follows:

- Israeli Labor Market: 50%
- Agricultural Sector: 30%
- Employee in the Governmental or the private sector: 15%
- Trade and Commercial Sector: 3%
- Industrial Sector: 1%
- Services Sector: 1%

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Tarqumiya town

The main establishments in the town include: Al Dababsa for Rubber and Plastic Factory, Tarqumiya Olive Press Association, and a brick and stone cutting factory. There are nine clothing shops, two butcher shops, four blacksmith workshops, four carpenters' workshops, fourteen service shops, more than fifty groceries and fifty other shops.

The data collected from the Tarqumiya municipality indicates that the groups most affected by the Israeli activities since the beginning of the Second Intifada are:

1. The pervious workers in the Israeli labor market;
2. Families consisting of six individuals and more;
3. Small- scale farmers;
4. Small- scale traders; and
5. Housekeepers and children.

Labor Force

The 2007 Population Census shows that approximately 69.5% of the population are within the working age range of 10 years and above, constituting a relatively high labor force percentage. Of the 9,978 people within the working age, 3,089 people (31%) were economically active, and 6,889 people (69%) were not economically active. Of the economically active people, 85.5% were employed of whom 89.3% were males and 10.7% were females. The largest groups of non-economically active people are students and housekeeping, who constitute 59% and 30.6% respectively. Table 6 shows the labor force status in Tarqumiya Town.

Table 6: Tarqumiya 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	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	2,359	179	183	2,721	2,031	7	310	45	77	2,470	5,191
F	282	14	72	368	2,034	2,099	232	13	41	4,419	4,787
T	2,641	193	255	3,089	4,065	2,106	542	58	118	6,889	9,978

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

Agricultural Sector

Tarqumiya town lies on a total area of 21,000 dunums. Of this, 12,000 dunums are considered arable land, though only 9,344 dunums are cultivated. Although the town is considered an urban area, residents are largely dependent on agricultural activities. (See table 7 and map 3)

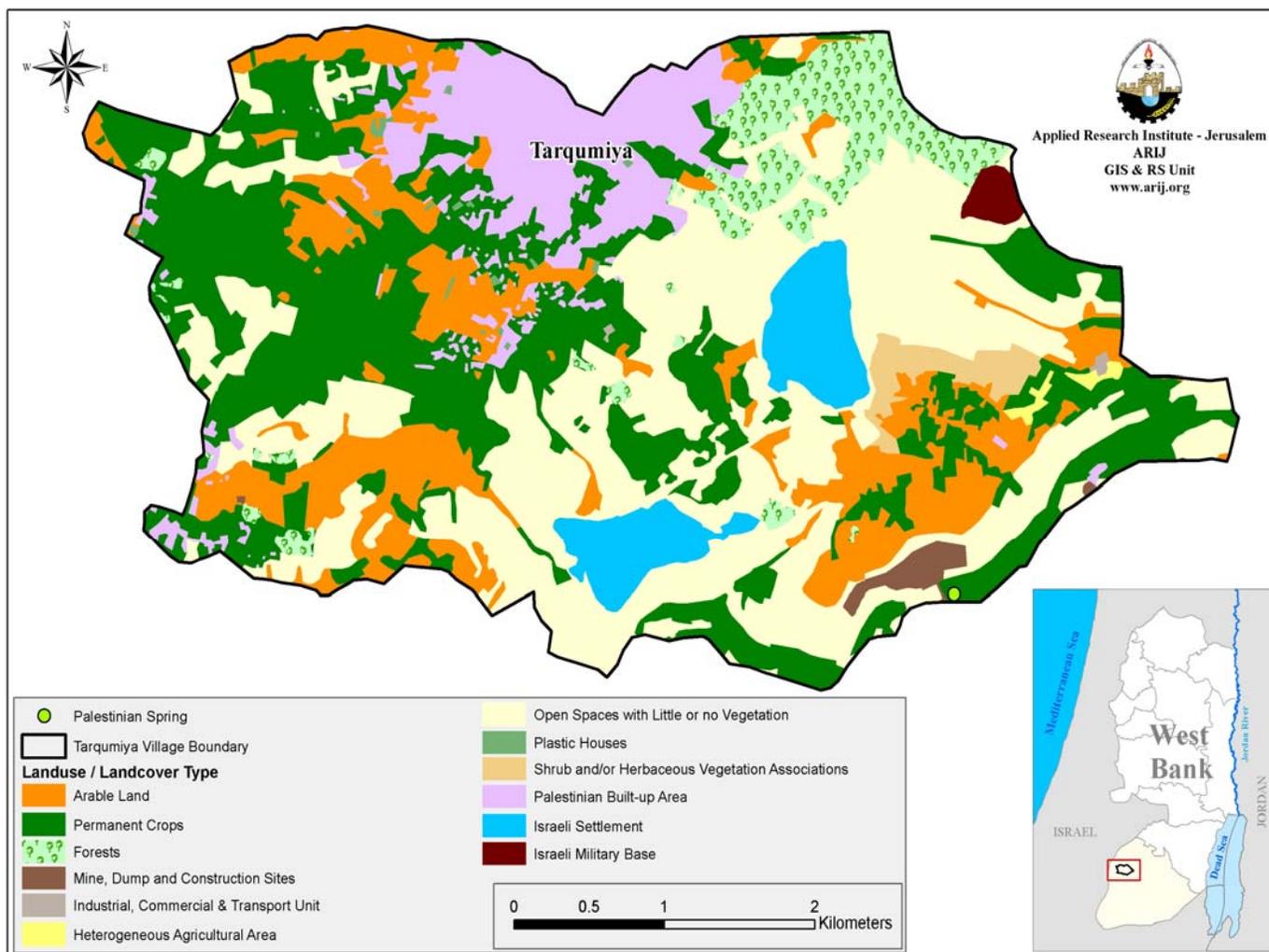
Table 7: Land use in Tarqumiya town (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
21,000	9,344	2,656	2,200	2,200	4,600

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

There are 4,000 dunums of cultivable lands not currently in use for three reasons. First, the Israeli forces confiscated a portion of this land. Secondly, there is a shortage of water in the area, and finally, the economics of utilizing the land for agriculture is unfeasible. 4,000 additional dunums of agriculture lands are reclamation lands.

Map 3: Land use / land cover for Tarqumiya town



There are about 20 dunums of greenhouses, but no tunnels in Tarqumiya town. 15 dunums are used for growing cucumbers and 4 dunums are used for growing tomatoes.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of Tarqumiya. Rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated covering an area of about 350 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within the area are snake cucumber and squash.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
350	57	5	33	35	23	0	15	5	50	395	178

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Mint is the only type of aromatic medical plant in the town of Tarqumiya, covering a total area of about one dunum.

In the town of Tarqumiya, there is a total area of 5,530 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are mostly grape vines, apricot trees and fig trees. There is one agricultural association in the town, “Tarqumiya Olive Press Association”.

Table 9: Total area of horticulture and olive tree in Tarqumiya town (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
5,530	0	0	0	237	0	14	0	108	0	1,227	0	7,116	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the town of Tarqumiya. Cereals, in particular wheat, white corn and barley, are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 1,615 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops, such as bitter vetch is common in the town of Tarqumiya.

Table 10: Total area of field crops in Tarqumiya town (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
1,615	0	20	0	155	0	0	0	0	0	52	0	60	0	0	0	1,902	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data also indicates that residents of Tarqumiya town are dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock, such as cows, sheep, goats and chickens, in addition to about 86 beehives.

Table 11: Livestock in Tarqumiya town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
323	4,500	1,000	0	5	45	10	100,000	32,000	8

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

In Tarqumiya, the total length of agricultural roads is 28,000 meters; these roads are suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery and are utilized by animals, though remain insufficient.

Resulting from Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories, 2,000 dunums of Tarqumiya's lands have been confiscated to establish Israeli settlements and military bases. In addition, Israeli Forces uprooted 1,000 olive trees, 5,000 grape trees, 1,000 almond trees and 500 forest trees. Municipal officials note that the agricultural development (planting and livestock) has struggled due to a shortage in water for irrigation and lack of funded projects for the agriculture sector.

Institutions and Services

Tarqumiya has many public institutions and ministry offices; these include:

- Office for Ministry of Labor
- Office for Ministry of Agriculture
- Office for Ministry of Social Affairs
- Post Office
- Security Office

In addition to these public institutions, Tarqumiya has seven societies and clubs:

1. Municipality: Established in 1973 as a village council, in 1997, the municipality took over governance of the town.
2. Tarqumiya Charitable Society: Established in 1964
3. Health Work Committees: Established in 2006
4. Higher Education Society: Established in 2001
5. Social Help Society: Established in 2005
6. Sport Club: Provides sports activities for youths
7. Tarqumiya Women Club: Provides educational and training services for women
8. Tarqumiya Zakat Committee

Type of institution						
Governmental	Charitable	Women	NGO	Agriculture	Sports	Religious
7	3	1	1	0	1	5

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Tarqumiya is connected to the telecommunication network and approximately 65% of housing units have a telephone line.

Water Services: In 1973, the town connected to the water network supplied by the Israeli Water Company (MECORIT). Currently, nearly 80% of the housing units are connected to the network. Alternative sources utilized during water shortages include cisterns, water tanks and springs. There are two wells in the town used for domestic use, Al Soufla and Al Najed. Recently, the municipality built a new water reservoir with a capacity of 1,000 cubic meters. Municipal officials noted several obstacles to a sustainable water supply in Tarqumiya including the old and deteriorating water network and a general reduction in water supply.

Electricity Services: From 1975 to 1993, the Tarqumiya Society for Electric Clarification, administrated by Tarqumiya residents, owned the electricity network in town. In 1993, administration of the association was transferred to the village council, then later to the municipality, which has since established a high current electricity network that is connected to the Israeli National Electricity Company, which still provides electricity to this day.

Approximately 90% of the housing units are currently connected to the network. Municipal officials cite the need for continuing expansion of the network to meet growing demand and the weakness in the current as electricity services obstacles.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: Tarqumiya is not connected to a sewage disposal network; wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: The Tarqumiya Municipality administers solid waste management in cooperation with the Joint Services Council, which is collected from residential areas and sent to Tuba dumping site, 15 kilometers from town. The primary means of solid waste disposal is burial.

Transportation Facilities: Tarqumiya's transportation network consists largely of a taxi office, which can dispatch up to 24 taxis. In terms of road quality, 20 km are paved and in good condition, of which 5,000 m are main roads, 12,000 m are internal roads, and 3,000 m are agricultural roads. There are an additional 10,000 m of paved roads in poor condition, 55,000 m of unpaved roads of which 5,000 m are main roads, 25,000 m are internal roads, and 25,000 m are agricultural roads.

Numerous obstacles present challenges in the transportation sector, such as:

- The presence of roadblocks and earth mounds erected by the Israeli Occupation Forces;
- The lack of suitable and well-maintained roads; and
- The scarcity of vehicles and automotive services.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

There are two settlements located on the east of Tarqumiya town, "Telem" and "Adora". Telem settlement occupies 1,000 dunums of Tarqumiya land, and Adora settlement occupies another 1,000 dunums. In addition, the Israeli "Route 60", occupying an additional 2,400 dunums of Tarqumiya's total area, surrounds the town from the southwest; the Israeli forces have destroyed approximately 1,000 olive trees, 5,000 grapes trees, 1,000 stone fruits and 500 other trees.

There are several checkpoints surrounding the town, with one permanent checkpoint, "Tarqumiya checkpoint". Checkpoints have limited access to health centers and ambulances are routinely delayed.

Development Plans and Projects

Tarqumiya municipality is looking forward to implementing the following projects:

- * Maintenance of Tarqumiya entrance to Hebron city
- * Completion of the secondary level of the Al Ghazali Elementary School for Boys
- * Establish an elementary school for girls in the western part of the town
- * Establish a 2 km electricity network with high pressure and install three additional generators
- * Establish assembler for governmental directorates

- * Open offices branches for Ministry of Interior
- * Construct playground
- * Pave main internal roads
- * Open an agriculture college as part of Hebron University

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Tarqumiya Municipality, the town has suffered from a shortage of many services and infrastructural works. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the town:

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructure Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				20,000 m ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*		20 km
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 & Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*		Elementary & Secondary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands			*		5,000 dunums
2	Building Cisterns			*		100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			5 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*				100 greenhouse
7	Field Crops Seeds			*		
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		

^ 20,000 m total: 5,000 m main roads, 10,000 internal roads, and 15,000 agriculture roads

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