

# Zif Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem  
ARIJ

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar program

2009

## Acknowledgments

*ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.*

*ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.*

*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/>

## *Table of Contents*

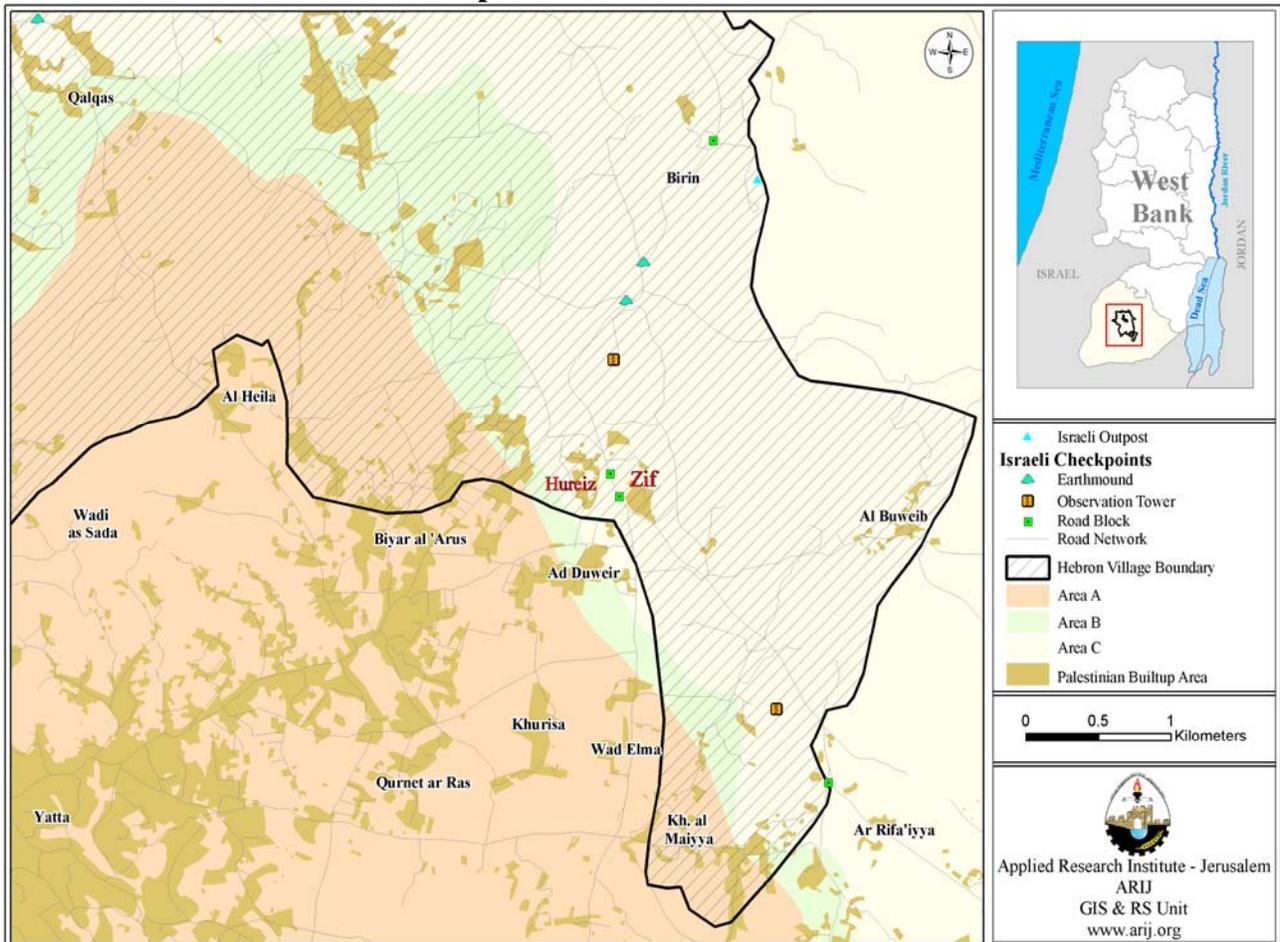
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>History</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Religious and Archeological Sites</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Demography and Population</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Education</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Health Status</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Economic Activities</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>References</i>	<i>13</i>

## Zif Village Profile

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Zif is a village in the Yatta area. Zif is located 7 km south-east of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by 'Al Buweib village to the East, Um Zetona village to the North, Marij Al Dwera to the West and Ad Duweir village to the South, (See map 1)

Map 1: Zif location and borders



The total area of Zif village is 10,000 dunums, of which 200 dunums are classified as 'built up' area; whilst 5,000 dunums are for agricultural use and the remaining are forests and open area.

Zif village is located on a hill to the East of Yatta city with a moderate elevation of 830 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Zif village is 369 mm; the average annual temperature is 16°C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS). Zif village comprises of Zif, Hureiz, and Al Fahja villages.

Since 1998, Zif has been governed by a village council appointed by the Palestinian Authority. The village council currently comprises 7 elected members, with no paid employees. The village council operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning, development and issuing building licenses;
2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructural maintenance of water, electricity, solid waste collection, open and paved roads, sewage and the distribution of social services.

## **History**

The history of Zif dates back to Canaanite period, and the name of the village "Zif" is derived from a Canaanite word which means "Wolves", the area was forests filled with wolves, for that it was called Zif. The residents of the village are original in the village, which lived in the area since a long time.

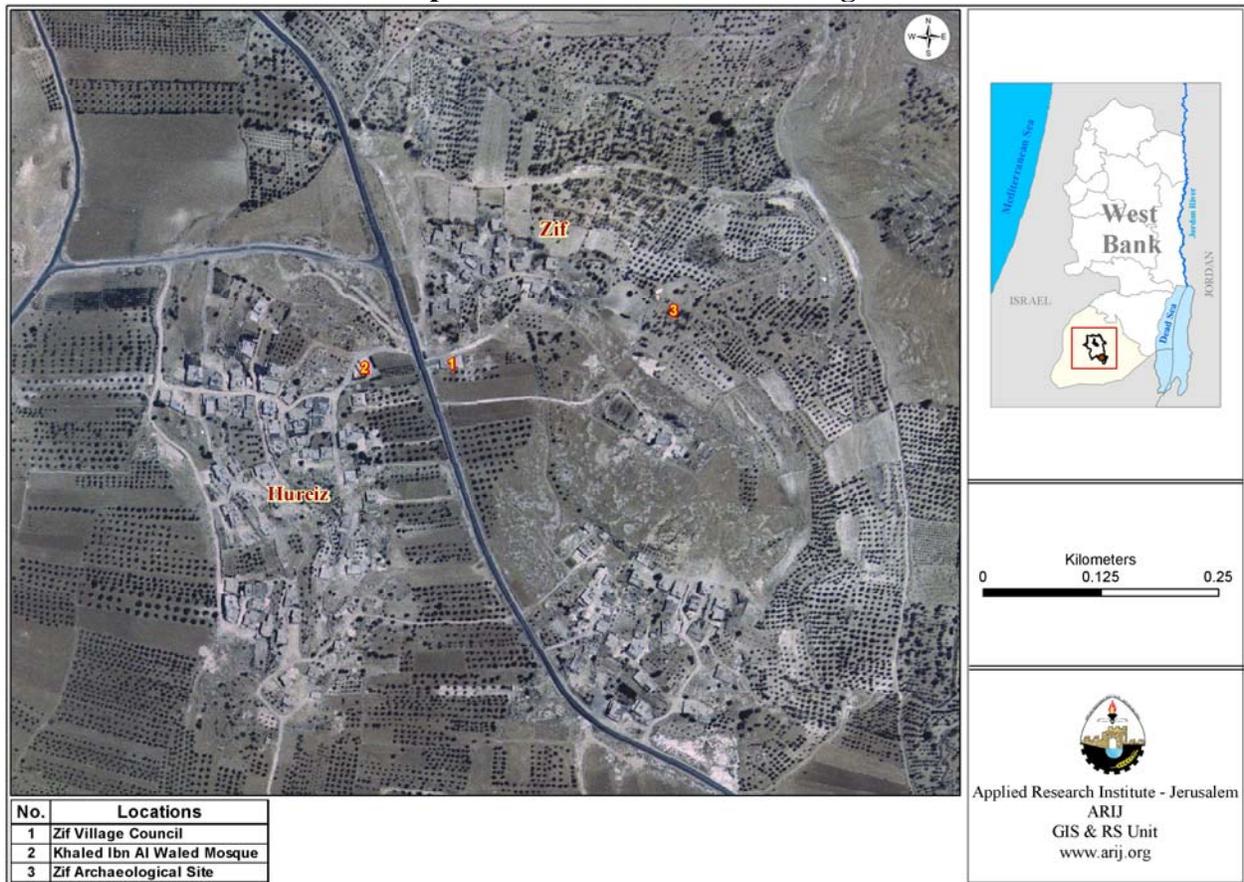
### **Photos of Zif**



## **Religious and Archeological Sites**

In terms of religious establishments, there is one mosque in the village, "Khalid bin Al Walid Mosque". In terms of historical sites, there are two holy sites in the village Tal Zif and Khirbet Istanbul.

Map 2: Main locations in Zif village



### Demography and Population

The total population of Zif, in 2007, is estimated to be 1,897. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of which 946 were males and 951 were females, of whom 848 people were lived in ‘Zif and 1,048 people were living in Hureiz.

Village	Male	Female	Total
<b>Zif</b>	425	423	848
<b>Hureiz</b>	521	528	1,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>1,897</b>

### Age groups and gender

The 2007 census data reveals the classification of population of Zif village by age groups and sex. The census data showed that 45% are less than 15 years, 52.9% are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.1% is 65 year and above .

The sex ratio in the village was 100.5 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 50.1% of the population and females constitute 49.9%.

### Families

The population of Zif is comprised of six main families and others small families: Shatat, Abu Arram, Jibrin, Abu Rajab, Hoosheh, Qarghesh, and others small families.

### Education

According to the 2007 census, the education status in Zif village indicated that about 12.7% of the residents did illiterate, with women (76.7%) constituting a greater percentage of illiterates than men (23.3%). Of the literate population, 17.7% of residents could read and write, 32% completed elementary education, 21.5% completed preparatory education and 16.1% completed their secondary and higher education. Table 2 shows the education status in Zif by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	17	52	87	73	40	5	16	1	-	-	291
F	56	50	97	51	24	1	6	-	-	-	285
<b>T</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	-	-	<b>576</b>

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

The data of field survey indicated that there is one school in Zif village: Zif Elementary Co-education School supervised by the governmental sector.

The data of Ministry of Higher Education reveals that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 442 students, 15 classes and 18 teachers in Zif School.

As there are no preparatory and secondary schools in Zif village, most of students are forced to go to complete their school education in Raqa, which is about 2 km away, and to Yatta schools, which are about 5 km away. The education system in the village suffers from the lack of funds to develop the school in the village.

### Health Status

The village lacks health services, there being only one simple governmental Maternity & Pediatric Center in the village. Otherwise, there are no clinics, physicians or pharmacies. The village officials cite obstacles facing the health status in the villages as being the lack of specialized clinics, the lack of doctors in the village, and the absence of a close hospital to the village. In emergency cases, patients have to travel a distance of 5 km to reach Yatta city for medical treatment.

The obstacles and problems faces the health sector in Zif is:

1. Shortage of modern health center providing health services to the residents.
2. Shortage of X-Ray clinic and Medical Lab.
3. There is no Pharmacy in this village.
4. There is no ambulance to provide services in the village.

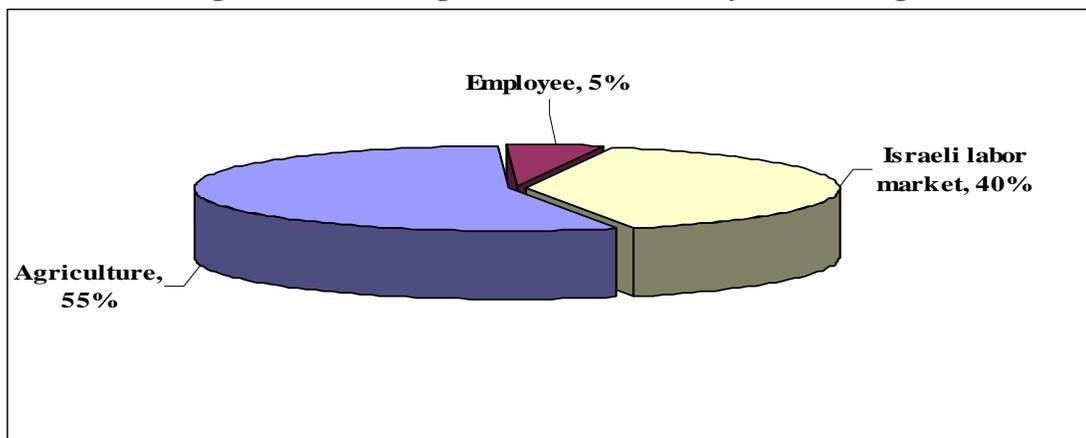
**Economic Activities**

Zif village is mainly depending on agriculture sector; about 55% of the total population in the village are engaged in agricultural activities. In addition, the residents also depend on the Israeli labour market with a percentage equal to 40% and with a percentage equal to 5% in the employment sector.

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

- The agriculture sector 55%,
- Israeli labor market 40 %.
- Employees in governmental or private institutions (5%),

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



The village lacks any economic institutions. However, there are only four small groceries for retailing foodstuffs and various household supplies to the residents.

Based on the ARIJ survey conducted in December 2007 in Hebron Governorate localities, the unemployment rate in Zif village stood at 25%. The survey data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village by Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Previous workers in Israeli labor market, 2) Small-holding farmers, 3) Families maintaining 6 individuals and more and 4) Small traders.

## Labor Force

The 2007 census reveals the labor force status in Zif, out of 576 people of the working age (10 years and above), 163 people (28.3%) were economically active people –in the labor force- and 413 people (71.7%) were not economically active people – outside the labor force. Of the economically active people 90.8% were males and 9.2% were females. By labor force status 70% were employed. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housekeeping, who constitute 53.5% and 34.4% respectively. Table 3 shows the labor force status in Zif village in 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	108	1	39	148	115	3	15	3	7	143	<b>291</b>
F	6	-	9	15	106	139	22	1	2	270	<b>285</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>576</b>

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

## Agricultural Sector

Zif is mainly dependent on the agricultural sector. It has about 5,000 dunums of arable land and 55% of the residents are engaged in agriculture activities. The main crops cultivated in the village are field crops, olive trees and vegetables. According to survey data the cultivated area in Zif is 5,000 dunums, and there are about 500 dunums of arable land which are uncultivated due to Israeli procedures (confiscated and settlements), shortage of capital, shortage of water and unfeasible in agriculture.

Most of agriculture in Zif is rainfall fed, but the field survey data indicated that the farmers also depend on the water network and cisterns in order to irrigate their crops.

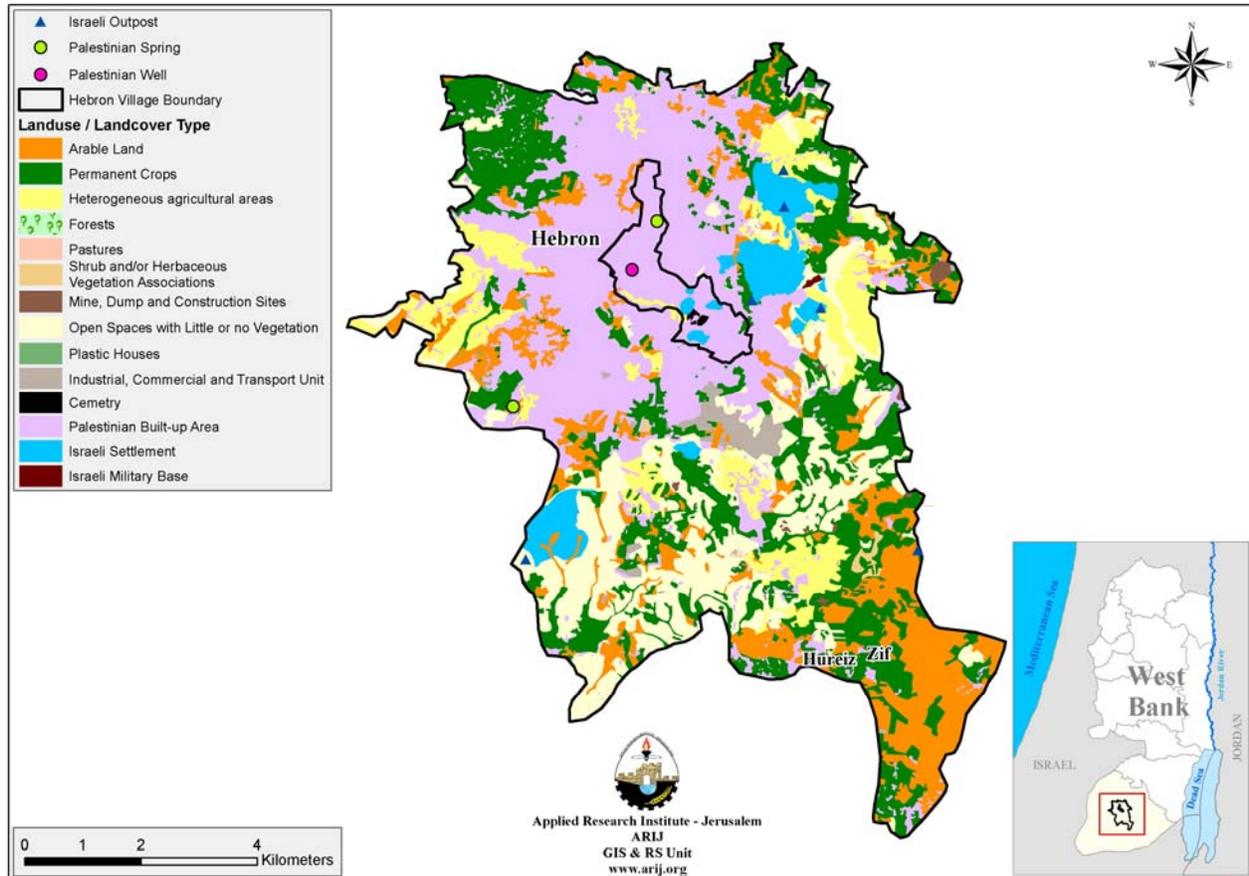
In spite of there being about 8 km of agricultural roads in Zif suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery but they are insufficient and the village is in need of construction of new roads to cover the agricultural area in the village.

Data collected from Zif Village Council indicates that the 40% of the village residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production. In total there are about 5 cattle, 700 sheep and 60 goats in the village. Therefore, the village is directly affected by the high price of livestock fodder.

The Israeli procedures against the agricultural sector in the village have been big, since the second Intifada Israeli forces have uprooted 500 olive trees, 300 vines, and 100 nuts trees, in addition to 10 dunums of field crops which have been destroyed.

The main problem facing the agriculture sector in Zif village is the shortage of water and Israeli procedures which make restrictions on the resident's access to their land.

**Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Zif village**



## Institutions and Services

The main institution in the village is the Zif Village Council, established in 1998. The Council oversees all social welfare and public services in the village.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Zif village is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 3% of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water Services:** Zif has been connected to water network since 1998, Yatta Municipality is mainly provided with water resources in the village by the Palestinian Water Authority. Almost 75% of the households are connected to the water network. The cisterns and springs are the alternative resources of water network. Zif village has three springs: Abu Al Hmam spring, Um Zetona spring and Um Al Fwaqess spring, none of the springs are utilized for

agricultural use. The problem which faces the village council is that the water supply to the village is weak especially in summer season.

- **Electricity Services:** Zif has been connected to electricity network since 1988; approximately 80% of households in the village are connected to the electricity network. Zif village council manages the distribution of electricity which is supplied by the South Electric Company.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Zif village is a member of the Yatta Joint Services Council, so the solid waste management is operated by the village council and Yatta Joint Services Council. The solid waste is collected by special vehicle owned by the Yatta Joint Services Council and transported from the residential areas in the village to special dumping site (Al Dyirat) which far 6 km from the built-up area. They dispose of solid waste by burning or burying it.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Zif is not connected with a sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater.
- **Transportation Services:** The road network in Zif is comprised of 3 Km internal roads and 8 km agricultural roads, all the internal network in Zif, is not paved at all. Regarding to the transportation system, Zif residents suffer in order to travel outside the village, all the vehicles operating in Zif are not registered, so that people are forced to travel by foot to reach the bypass road and then use Yatta transportation. The main obstacles facing transportation of passengers in the village are:
  1. Israeli check points and barriers.
  2. Shortage of public transportation.
  3. Deterioration of the roads.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Zif is subject to much Israeli aggression, it is surrounded by Pene Haver Israeli settlement to the East and Zif Israeli Military Base to the North, and the bypass road (Route 60) passes from the center of the village. Zif also suffers from closures restricting movement and the village is subject to one permanent Israeli checkpoint, an iron gate and an earth mound roadblock.

The village officials state that the land confiscated by the Israeli Forces from Zif village reached to about 100 dunums and seven of housing units and institutions destroyed by Israeli forces.

## Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, the village council of Zif has not implemented any projects in the village, due to the shortage of funds and absence of grants from donor institutions.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Zif village council has prepared a study for the development priorities and needs in the village; table 4 shows the ranks of these priorities.

<b>Table 4: Development Priorities and Needs in Zif</b>						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				11.2 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*		
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				500 cubic meter
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas			*		0.5 km
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
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*		Elementary
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				150 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				25 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*		10
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 3.2 km main roads, 5 km internal roads, 3 km agriculture roads

**References:**

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