

# Bir Nabala Town Profile



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## *Acknowledgments*

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## Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Jerusalem 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 Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

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 the Jerusalem 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 special emphasize on agriculture, environment and water.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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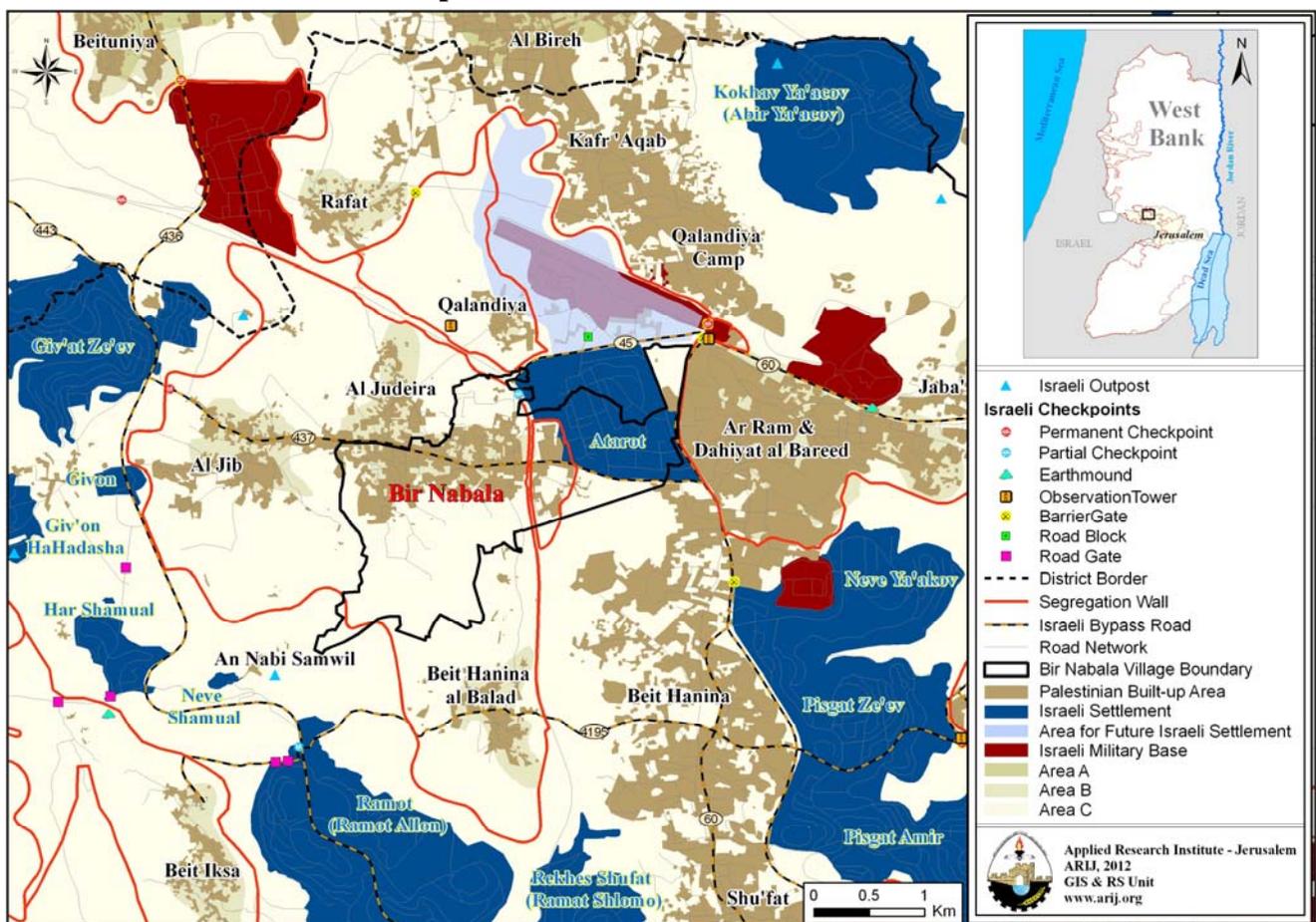
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# Bir Nabala Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Bir Nabala is a Palestinian town in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 8.7km north-west of Jerusalem City. Bir Nabala is bordered by Ar Ram to the east, Al Judeira to the north, Al Jib to the west, and Beit Hanina al Balad to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

**Map 1: Bir Nabala location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Bir Nabala is located at an altitude of 726m below sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 543.4mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60.4% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1960 Bir Nabala has been governed by a local council, which is currently administrated by 12 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in addition to 14 permanent employees. The Local Council owns a permanent headquarters, and two vehicles for the collection of

solid waste. It also owns a pick-up, a small hammer, a metal detector and devices for the maintenance of the sewage network (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the Local Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Bir Nabala, including (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010):

- Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement, and rehabilitation, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organizing the processes of construction and license issuing.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the town.
- Providing headquarters for governmental services (post office, etc.).
- Establishing a sewage network.

## History

Bir Nabala town was named in relation to a well located in the old city that used to feed the whole town residents with drinking water (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

The town was established in 1964; its residents are native inhabitants of the area (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010) (See photo below for Bir Nabala town).

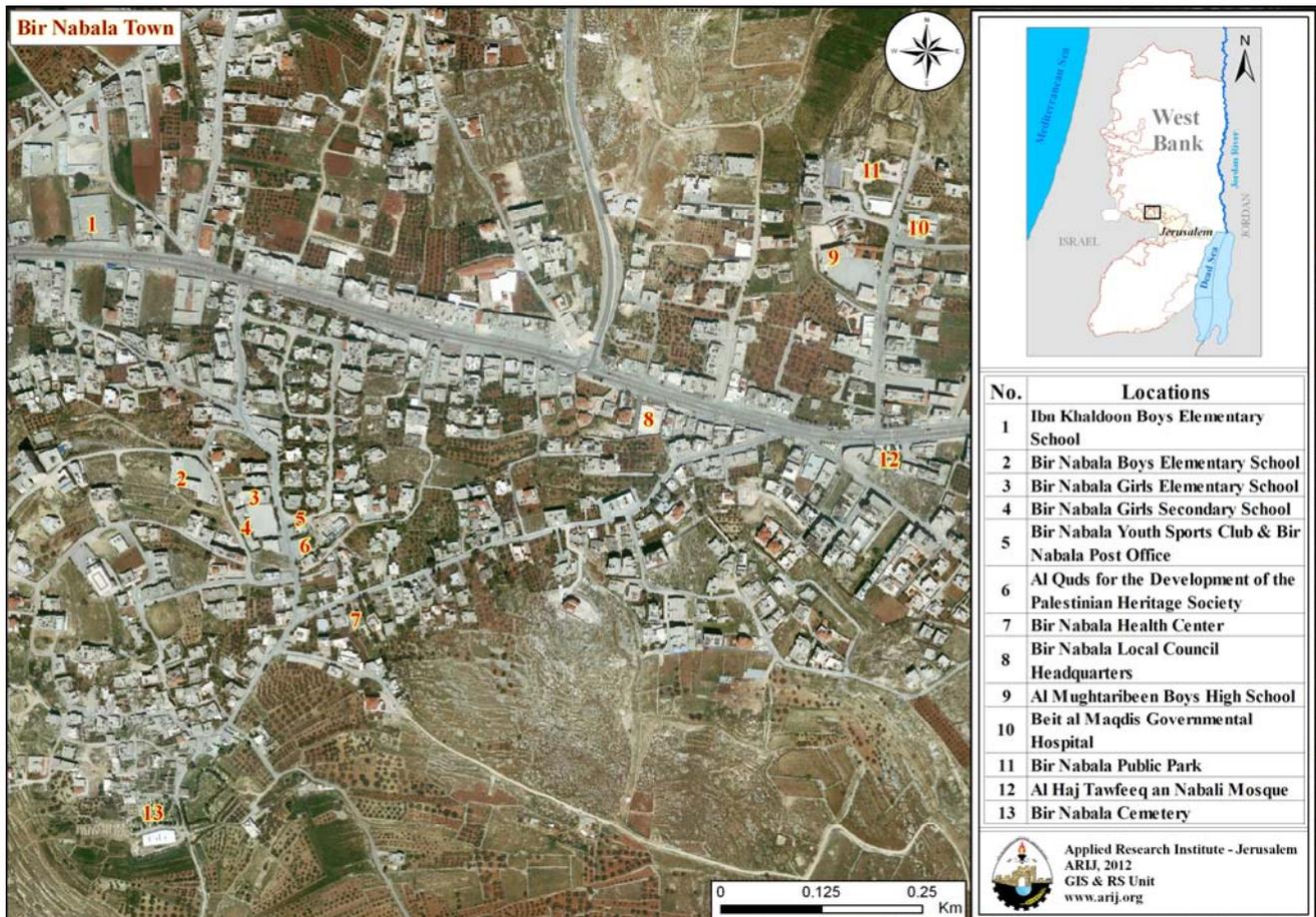
**Photo 1: General Landscape of Bir Nabala**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the town, Al Hajj Tawfiq an Nabali and Bir Nabala Old Mosques. There are a few sites of archeological interest in Bir Nabala: several old houses and the water spring the town was named after (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Bir Nabala Town**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Bir Nabala in 2007 was 4,343, of whom 2,166 were male and 2,177 female. There were 944 households living in 2,055 housing units.

## Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Bir Nabala was as follows: 33.9% were less than 15 years old, 42.3% between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.1% 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 99.5:100, meaning that males and females constituted 49.9% and 50.1% of the population respectively.

## Families

Bir Nabala residents are from several families, mainly the 'Aal al Hijja, Zeidan, Abd Allah and Issa families (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate among Bir Nabala population was approximately 6.6%, of whom 67.3% were females. Of the literate population, 15.5% could only read and write with no formal education, 28.1% had elementary education, 24.9% had preparatory education, 15.1% had secondary education, and 9.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town by sex and educational attainment (2007).

**Table 1: Bir Nabala population (10 years of age and older) by sex and educational attainment, 2007**

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Elem- entary	Prepa- ratory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bach- elor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	53	199	335	304	172	40	63	-	10	6	2	<b>1,184</b>
F	109	180	350	305	196	45	65	-	5	-	3	<b>1,258</b>
T	162	379	685	609	368	85	128	-	15	6	5	<b>2,442</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are three public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in addition to three schools run by private bodies (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

**Table 2: The Schools in Bir Nabala by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Bir Nabala Girls High School	Government	Female
Bir Nabala Boys Elementary School		Male
Bir Nabala Girls Elementary School		Female
Mughtaribi Bir Nabala Elementary School	Private	Mixed
Shatha al Ward School		Mixed
An Noor School		Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the town there are 1,358 students, 94 teachers, and 62 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 14, and the average number of students per class is approximately 22 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are two local kindergartens run by a private body, attended by 126 children in 2011. Table 3 shows these kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority.

**Table 3: The Kindergartens in Bir Nabala by name and supervising authority**

Kindergarten Name	No. of Children	Supervising Authority
An Noor Model Kindergarten	81	Private
Shatha al Ward Model Kindergarten	45	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

Due to the lack of provision for some levels of education in the town's schools, mainly Tawjihi standard scientific education, students attend neighboring villages' schools. These include Fatima az Zahra' Girls School in Al Jib village and King Ghazi Boys High School in Biddu town, 1km and 6km from the town respectively (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

The educational sector in the town faces some obstacles, primarily (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010):

- The difficulties in accessing schools for students and teachers.
- The existence of the Segregation Wall, which forces students and teachers to find alternative routes to access their schools.
- The lack of sufficient budget in schools for maintenance and renovation.

## Health Status

There are several health centers available in Bir Nabala town. These are Bir Nabala Health Center, a motherhood and childcare center, 5 physician's clinics (one governmental and four private), 3 governmental dental clinics, a private specialized doctor clinic, and 3 pharmacies. In the absence of any required health services or in emergencies patients are sent to health centers in neighboring localities, including Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city (3km from Bir Nabala) and Al Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem city (30km from Bir Nabala) (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

The health sector in the town faces some problems, primarily (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010):

1. The lack of an ambulance in the town.
2. The lack of specialized physicians.
3. The lack of a governmental health center providing all medical services.

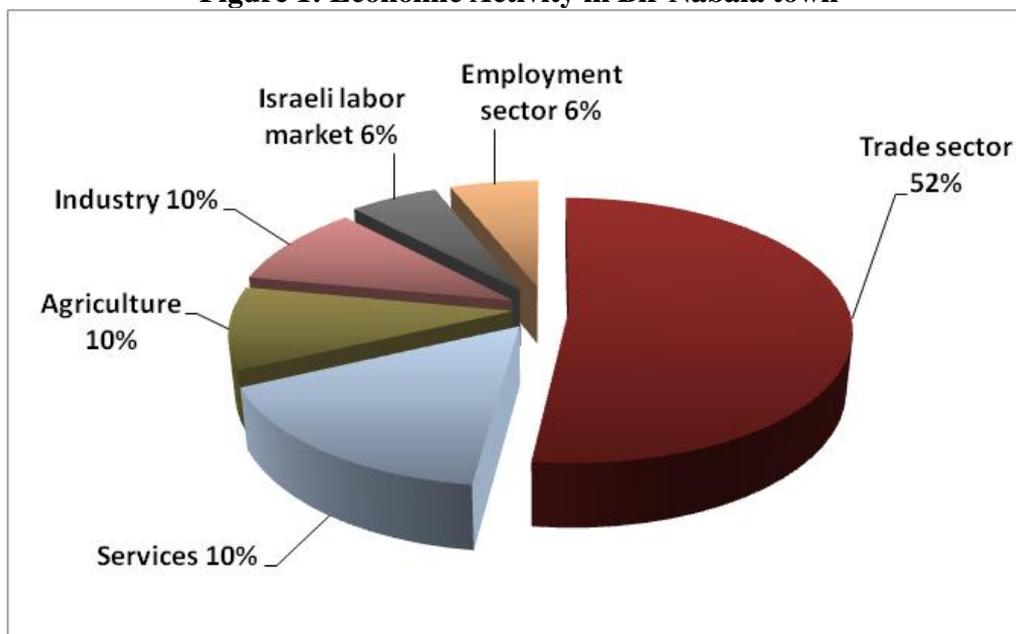
## Economic Activities

The economy in Bir Nabala is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the trade sector, which absorbs approximately 52% of the town's workforce (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010) (See Figure1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2010 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Bir Nabala is as follows:

- Trade Sector (52%)
- Services Sector (16%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Industry (10%)
- Israeli labor market (6%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (6%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Bir Nabala town**



Source: Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010

In terms of commercial, economic and industrial activities in Bir Nabala town, there are several factories manufacturing cleaning products. There are 15 grocery stores, 2 bakeries, 5 butcheries, 3 fruit and

vegetable stores, 18 different services stores and 25 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith etc.), in addition to 3 stone quarries, an olive oil-press, and an agricultural nursery (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Bir Nabala reached around 10% in 2011. It was found that the social groups most affected in the town as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures are (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010):

- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in industry.
- Workers in the agricultural sector.

## Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 30.1% of the Bir Nabala labor force were economically active, of whom 84.5% were employed, and 68.3% were not economically active, of whom 49.2% were students and 38.5% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

**Table 4: Bir Nabala population (10 years of age and older) by sex and employment status**

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	547	75	26	<b>648</b>	382	5	55	46	23	<b>511</b>	25	<b>1,184</b>
F	73	5	8	<b>86</b>	439	638	66	11	4	<b>1,158</b>	14	<b>1,258</b>
T	620	80	34	<b>734</b>	821	643	121	57	27	<b>1,669</b>	39	<b>2,442</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

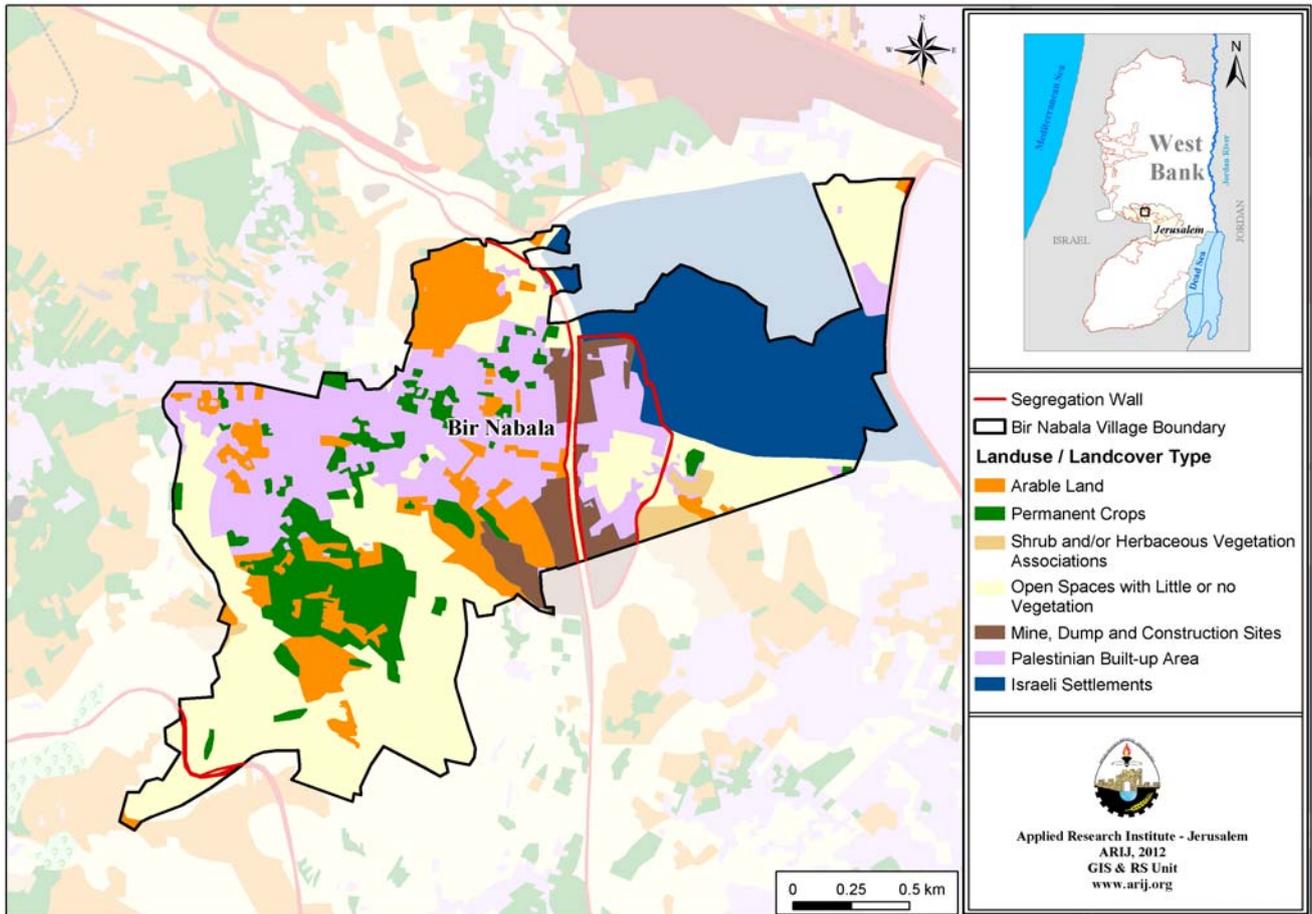
Bir Nabala has a total area of around 4,176 dunums, of which 956 dunums are considered 'arable' land and 937 are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Bir Nabala town in 2010 (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built-up Area	Agricultural area (956 dunums)				Inland water	Forests	Open Space	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
4,176	937	406	0	46	504	0	0	1,362	169	752

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Bir Nabala town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated vegetables cultivated in the area. The most common crop cultivated within this area is snakecucumber.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Bir Nabala town

Cultivated vegetables	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Fruity vegetables	12	2
Leafy vegetables	0	0
Green legumes	7	0
Bulbs	0	0
Other vegetables	2	3
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>5</b>

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Bir Nabala town is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 365 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

**Table 7: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Bir Nabala (dunum)**

Fruit trees	Rainfed	Irrigated
Olives	365	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	6	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	9	0
Other fruits	19	0
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>0</b>

**Source:** Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Bir Nabala, only forage crops are being cultivated in the area. They cover an area of about 2 dunums and common vetch and bitter vetch are the most cultivated.

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas instead of seasonal ones. The survey did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 3% of the residents in Bir Nabala rear and keep domestic animals such as goats, sheep, and bees (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010) (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Bir Nabala town**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	655	650	0	0	0	0	0	0	15

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

**Source:** Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are also around 2 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010), divided as follows:

**Table 9: Agricultural roads in Bir Nabala town and their lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1.5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	0.5
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	-

**Source:** Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems and obstacles, primarily (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010):

- The lack of water sources.
- The environment is unfavorable for agriculture.
- The lack of sufficient experience in agriculture.
- The growth of industry at the expense of the agricultural sector.
- The lack of labor.

## Institutions and Services

Bir Nabala town has very few governmental institutions, including a post office. It also has several local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These institutions include (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010):

- **Bir Nabala Local Council:** Founded in 1960 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of solving issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Bir Nabala Sports Club:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Sports & Youth, the Club is interested in sports, cultural, and educational activities.
- **Bir Nabala Charitable Society:** Founded in 1985 by the Union of Charitable Societies in order to provide assistance and embroidery and awareness courses for women.
- **Al Quds Society for Palestinian Heritage:** Founded in 2006, the Society provides sewing and embroidery courses.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Bir Nabala has been connected to a public electricity network since 1973. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 98% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

Bir Nabala is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 95% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

### Transportation Services

1 public taxi and about 100 unlicensed/illegal cars are the main means of transportation in Bir Nabala town (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010). There are 4km of designated 'main' roads and 4km of 'secondary' roads (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010) (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Bir Nabala town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	4	2
Paved but in poor condition	-	2
Unpaved	-	-

Source: Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010

## Water Resources

Bir Nabala is provided with water by Jerusalem Water Authority (for Ramallah and Al Bireh areas) through the public water network established in 1980. Approximately 98% of the housing units are connected to this network. Domestic harvesting cisterns in addition to water tanks costing 5 NIS for each cubic meter form alternative resources of water (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010). The quantity of water supplied to Bir Nabala through Jerusalem Water Authority is approximately 183,242 cubic meters/year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Bir Nabala is 104 liters per day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). However, no Bir Nabala citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 26.5%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010). Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Bir Nabala is 77 liters per day. The rate experienced by Bir Nabala residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate whereby the price of water increases in tandem with the increase in the amount of water consumption. Table 11 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

**Table 11: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012 (one month bill cycle)**

Consumption Category (m <sup>3</sup> )	Domestic (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Industrial (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Tourist (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Commercial (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Public Institutions (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )
0 – 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

## Sanitation

Bir Nabala has a public sewerage network established since 1978 (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2011). According to the results of Community Survey conducted by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) in 2010 within the project 'A Proposed Environmentally Sound Wastewater Management

System for the West Bank', the majority of Bir Nabala housing units (98%) use the sewage network as a primary means for wastewater disposal, while the rest of housing units (2%) use cesspits (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 295 cubic meters, or 107,746 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 61 liters per day depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected through the sewerage network and by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

## **Solid Waste Management**

Bir Nabala Local Council is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee (approx. 240 NIS/year) has been charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for good management of solid waste, as only 35% of these fees are collected from town citizens (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Bir Nabala benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 10 big-sized and 150 small-sized containers<sup>1</sup> spread throughout the locality. The local council collects the solid waste from the containers once a day and transports it through a waste vehicle to Ramallah Municipality dumping site, located 7km from the town center, where it is buried (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Bir Nabala is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Bir Nabala residents is nearly 5.1 tons, or 1,846 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

## **Environmental Conditions**

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Bir Nabala experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

### **Water Crisis**

- Water is cut off by Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the town.
- There is no public water reservoir in the town to cover the residents' water needs during water cut offs.

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<sup>1</sup> Each of the big and small-sized containers are with a capacity of 4 and 1.1 cups, respectively

## Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in some neighborhoods (2%) forces the town residents to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater or to discharge wastewater in the streets, especially in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. This causes environmental damage and health problems, and facilitates the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as the wastewater mixes with water and contaminates it, making it inappropriate for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding, on a sporadic basis, the need to use sewage tankers.
- The untreated wastewater collected by the public sewage network is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to both the environment and residents' health.

## Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Bir Nabala and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. Nevertheless, Ramallah Municipality in cooperation with Al Bireh and Beituniya Municipalities, is seeking to establish a regional landfill in accordance with approved international standards. However, the project faces many obstacles (Ramallah Municipality, 2011):
  1. Problems related to purchasing and acquisition of land because of ownership technicalities.
  2. Lack of availability of funding to purchase land, despite a formal commitment from the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance to cover the price of lands.
  3. Difficulties in the acquisition of approved lands due to their location in area C according to the Oslo agreement.
- 4. There is no system in the town and the governorate to separate hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, so hazardous and industrial solid waste are collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Ramallah Municipality Landfill for disposal by burial.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical Status of Bir Nabala Town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Bir Nabala town was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 602 dunums (14.4% of the total town area) were assigned as area 'B', where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area 'B' constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages, and some camps. Most of the town's population resides in area 'B' which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the town. Approximately 3,574 dunums (85.6% of the total town area) is classified as area 'C', where Israel retains full control over

security and administration related to the territory. In area 'C' Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area 'C' are agricultural and open spaces, Israeli settlements and others (Table 12).

**Table 12: The geopolitical divisions of Bir Nabala town according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	602	14.4
Area C	3,574	85.6
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

### **Bir Nabala Town and Israeli Occupation Policies**

Bir Nabala town has had land confiscated for various Israeli purposes, including the construction of Israeli settlements on the town's territories and the Racial Segregation plan, through which Israel seeks to control the northern region of Jerusalem Governorate containing Israeli settlements. Below is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of Bir Nabala town territories:

During the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government has confiscated 675 dunums in Bir Nabala town (16.2% of its total area) to establish Atarot, an Israeli industrial settlement. The settlement was established in 1970.

### **Bir Nabala Town and the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan**

The Israeli Segregation Wall has had a negative and destructive impact on Bir Nabala. According to the last amendment of the plan, published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007, the Wall extends 4km over Bir Nabala's lands and isolates 1121 dunums of the town, which comprises 26.9% of the town's total area. The isolated lands include Israeli settlements established on the town's lands, in addition to agricultural and open areas (Table 13).

**Table 13: The land classification of lands to be isolated by the Segregation Wall in Bir Nabala Town - Jerusalem Governorate**

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Israeli settlements	675
2	Agricultural areas	28
3	Open spaces	321
4	Herbaceous & shrubs	41
5	Palestinian residential areas	34
6	Wall zone	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>1121</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

### **Palestinian Suffering in Bir Nabala Caused by the Segregation Wall**

According to the most recent Segregation Wall plan, published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007, the urbanized areas of Bir Nabala and a number of neighboring Palestinian villages (Beit Hanina al Balad, Al Jib and Al Judeira) will become isolated from neighboring communities and from Jerusalem city, as they will be surrounded by the Wall from all four sides. .

The Segregation Wall has also prevented urbanization in Bir Nabala, mainly in the northern and eastern areas of the town. Israeli occupation authorities constructed the Wall close to urbanized areas in the town, increasing the total area of land confiscated from the town and minimizing the area available for future urban expansion. Such policies have created new socio-geopolitical realities that are difficult to reverse, as they have led to a high population density in the town (and across the West Bank) due to Israel's practice of permitting construction only within Area B. Further reducing Bir Nabala residents' quality of life, Israeli occupation authorities have constructed a flyover bridge above the urbanized area in Bir Nabala as part of Israeli bypass road 443. Bypass 443 is lined on both sides by the Segregation Wall, magnifying the road's impact through increased land confiscation.

### **Ramallah City as a Substitute for Jerusalem City**

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Palestinians living in Bir Nabala and other neighboring villages have lost their connection with Jerusalem City, previously their primary source of education, employment, and health services. Instead, residents now use Ramallah City to fulfill these needs. The construction of the Segregation Wall around the city of Jerusalem has excluded many Palestinian residential localities outside the holy city's borders in order to maintain a favorable Israeli demographic balance. The four-part community of Al Jib, Al Judeira, Beit Hanina al Balad and Bir Nabala villages is amongst the localities cut off from Jerusalem, and these villages are now linked to Ramallah via a tunnel that passes under Israeli bypass road 443. Since the Second Intifada, Israeli occupation authorities have prevented Palestinians from traveling on bypass road 443, which has greatly impacted the movement of Palestinians, especially in areas to the north and northwest of Jerusalem, including Bir Nabala town. In order to reach neighboring villages, citizens must travel through alternative roads with poor infrastructure, sometimes doubling the length of travel, and through tunnels.

This policy has seriously increased the suffering of the population and contributed to the slow erosion of Palestinian geographical and social interdependence.

### **Tunnel to connect the northern and north-western areas of Jerusalem**

After the construction of the Segregation Wall around the city of Jerusalem, many of the surrounding Palestinian communities were separated from the city itself. The Wall also separated Palestinian villages north of Jerusalem from those in the north-west through the annexation of the Giv'at Ze'ev bloc. Therefore, Israeli occupation authorities established a 1.5 kilometer underground tunnel linking the areas north of Jerusalem city with those to the north-west. This tunnel connects six villages north of Jerusalem through Al Jib village with nine villages north-west of Jerusalem through Biddu town. Palestinians must use this tunnel daily to reach the north of Jerusalem and Ramallah city.

### **Israeli Military Orders Issued in Bir Nabala Town**

The Israeli occupation authorities have issued military orders to confiscate lands in Bir Nabala town for various military purposes. These include:

1. Israeli military order 10/05/T: issued on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005 to confiscate 147 dunums in Bir Nabala for the Segregation Wall construction.
2. Israeli military order 52/05/T: issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2005 to confiscate 108 dunums of land from Bir Nabala, Rafat, Qalandiya and Al Judeira for the Segregation Wall construction.
3. Israeli military order 20/06/T: issued on 23<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to confiscate 29.5 dunums of land in Bir Nabala for the Segregation Wall construction.
4. Israeli military order 21/06/T: issued in January 2006 to confiscate 129 dunums in Bir Nabala and Beit Hanina al Balad for the Segregation Wall construction.
5. Israeli military order 27/06/T: issued on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006 to confiscate 41.3 dunums of land in Bir Nabala and Beit Hanina al Balad for the Segregation Wall construction.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Bir Nabala Local Council has implemented several development projects in Bir Nabala during the last five years (See Table 14).

**Table 14: Implemented development plans and projects in Bir Nabala during the last five years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Pavement of internal roads	Infrastructure	2004	European Union
Purchasing of a vehicle for the collection of solid waste	Public Services	2004	European Union
Construction of Bir Nabala Girls Elementary School	Educational	2005	Local Council, PECDAR & Citizens' Contributions
Implementing the first phase of Bir Nabala public park	Public Services	2006	Local Council & KFW
Implementing the second phase of Bir Nabala public park	Public Services	2009	Palestinian National Authority
Rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	2009	KFW through Municipal Fund
Rehabilitation of Palestine Street	Infrastructure	2010	Palestinian National Authority
Rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	2010	SIDA through Municipal Fund

Source: Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010

### Proposed Projects

Bir Nabala Local Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Providing a landfill for the region.
2. Constructing a public water reservoir.
3. Providing supervision over the housing project and providing police stations for the protection of citizens.
4. Establishing playgrounds for young people.
5. Establishing secondary scientific schools for males and females.
6. Supporting the sanitary slaughterhouse project.
7. Raising awareness among livestock owners.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Bir Nabala suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the local council's feedback (Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010).

**Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Bir Nabala**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			6km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			rehabilitating a well
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			1500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network		*		18km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			30 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools		*		elementary & secondary levels
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			constructing additional classrooms and a meeting room
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools		*		
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			100 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns			*	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

\*2km are sub roads and 4km are agricultural roads.

Source: Bir Nabala Local Council, 2010.

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