

Qatanna Town Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2012

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, town 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 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>.

Table of Content

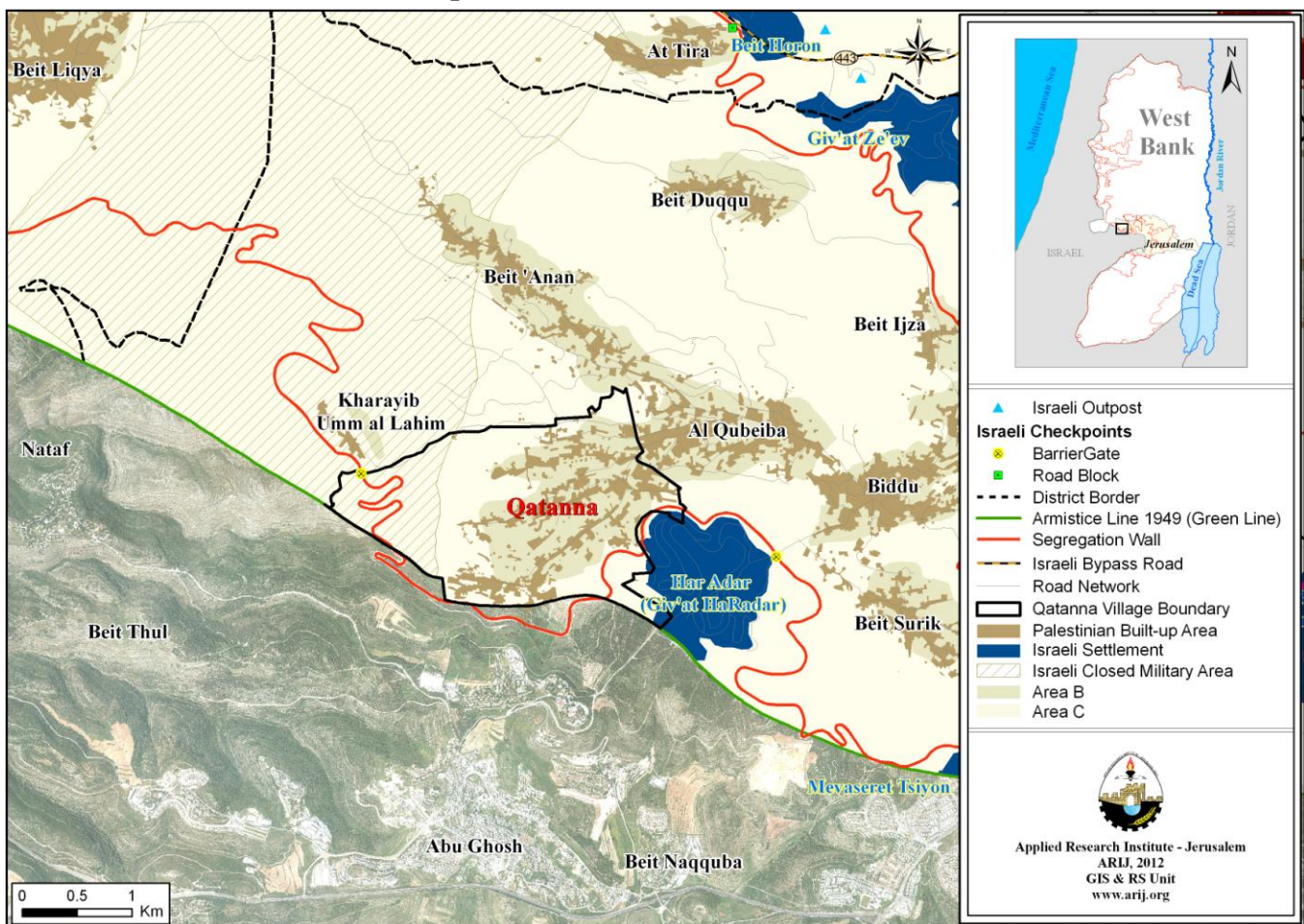
| | |
|---|-----------|
| Location and Physical Characteristics | 4 |
| History | 5 |
| Religious and Archaeological Sites | 6 |
| Population..... | 7 |
| Education..... | 8 |
| Health Status | 9 |
| Economic Activities | 9 |
| Agricultural Sector | 11 |
| Institutions and Services..... | 13 |
| Infrastructure and Natural Resources..... | 13 |
| Impact of the Israeli Occupation..... | 17 |
| Development Plans and Projects..... | 20 |
| Locality Development Priorities and Needs..... | 21 |
| References..... | 22 |

Qatanna Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Qatanna is a Palestinian town in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 12.4km north-west of Jerusalem City. Qatanna is bordered by Biddu town and Al Qubeiba village to the east, Beit 'Anan to the north, Kharayib Umm al Lahim to the west, and Al 'Annab village (the Green Line) to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Qatanna location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Qatanna is located at an altitude of 671m below sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 605.8mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1997, Qatanna has been governed by a local council, which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in addition to 13 permanent

employees. The local council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste. It also possesses a pick-up car and a tractor to serve a number of the community's needs in addition to water maintenance devices (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the local council to provide a number of services to the residents of Qatanna, including (Qatanna Local Council, 2010):

1. Establishing and maintaining the water network.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement and rehabilitation, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Providing an ambulance.
4. Implementing projects and case studies for the town.

History

Qatanna is believed to be an ancient city, Kefira, mentioned in the Old Testament. History books and archeological maps still use that name (Qatanna Local Council, 2010). The Franks called Qatanna 'Athakana' (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

However, there is no agreement regarding the origin of the name 'Qatanna'; some believe it is of Roman origin, and some that it derives from the Arabic word 'qatana' ('we resided'). According to some townspeople, when the oldest man of the tribe reached the area he said 'qatanna' and therefore the town was called Qatanna (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

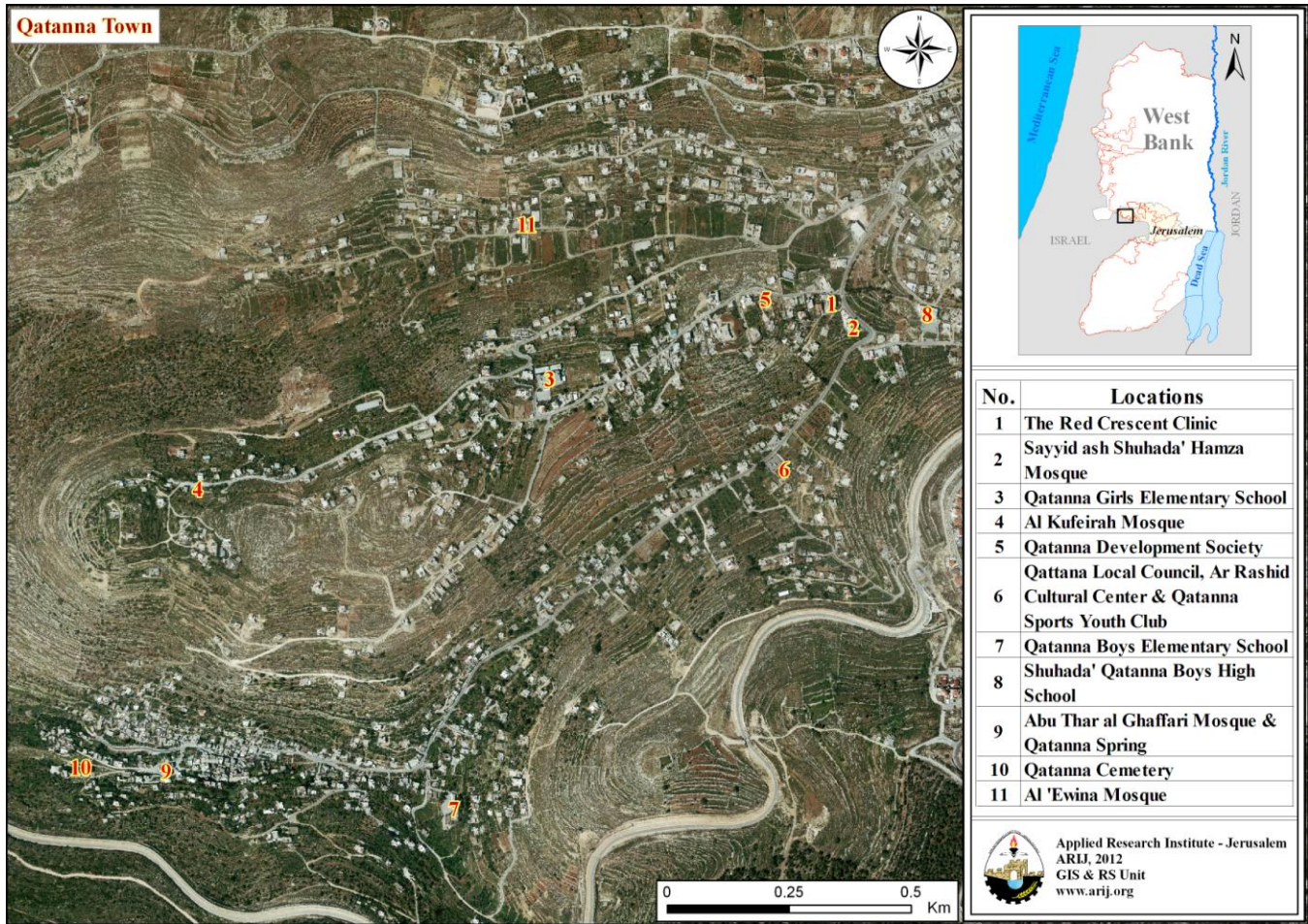
The town was established in 1931; its residents are descended from Al Huseiniyeen and migrated from the Arabian peninsula to the Valley of Moses and then to Qatanna (Qatanna Local Council, 2010) (See photo below for Qatanna town).

Photo 1: General landscape of Qatanna

Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are four mosques in the town, Abu Thorr al Ghaffari, Hamza ben Abd al Muttalib, Al Farooq and 'Amro ben al 'Aass Mosques. The town has several ruins of archaeological interest: Khirbet al Buweirah, Khirbet al Kafirah, Khirbet Rafidiya and Khirbet Umm al Lahim (Qatanna Local Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Qatanna Town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Qatanna in 2007 was 5,823, of whom 2,923 were male and 2,900 female. There were 1,069 households living in 1,157 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 Qatanna was as follows: 42.5% were less than 15 years old, 51.7% aged 15 - 64, and 2.3% aged 65 or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 100.8:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.2% and 49.8% of the population respectively.

Families

Qatanna residents are from several families, mainly the Shasnah, Al Faqih, Hushiyah and Taha families (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate amongst the Qatanna population was approximately 4%, of whom 73% were females. Of the literate population, 13.6% could only read and write with no formal education, 32.5% had elementary education, 32% had preparatory education, 12% had secondary education, and 5.7% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town by sex and educational attainment (2007).

Table 1: Qatanna population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Unknown | Total |
|----------|------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| M | 44 | 231 | 656 | 705 | 258 | 52 | 67 | - | 3 | 3 | 8 | 2,027 |
| F | 119 | 318 | 656 | 573 | 228 | 35 | 61 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 2,010 |
| T | 163 | 549 | 1,312 | 1,278 | 486 | 87 | 128 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 4,037 |

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in addition to a school run by a private body and another one run by UNRWA (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Qatanna by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority during the scholastic year 2010/2011

| School Name | Supervising Authority | Sex |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Qatanna Boys Elementary School | Government | Male |
| Qatanna Boys High School | | Male |
| 'Abna' al Majd School | Private | Mixed |
| Qatanna Girls Elementary School | UNRWA | Female |

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the town there are 1,690 students, 82 teachers, and 52 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 21, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 33 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are two local kindergartens run by a private body, with 196 children attending these in 2011. Table 3 shows these kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 3: The Kindergartens in Qatanna by name and supervising authority

| Kindergarten Name | No. of Children | Supervising Authority |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 'Abna' al Majd Kindergarten | 108 | Private |
| Zuhoor Qatafa Kindergarten | 88 | Private |

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

The educational sector in Qatanna faces some obstacles, primarily that the elementary school building is old and overcrowded.

Health Status

There are few health centers in Qatanna town. These are the Palestinian Red Crescent Center, a private motherhood and childcare center, a private physiotherapy center, a private physician clinic, a dental clinic run by an NGO, a private pediatrician clinic, a pharmacy, and an ambulance. In case of the absence of any required health services or emergencies, patients are sent to Carmel Center, Al Quds Center or the Medical Relief Center, each of which is located 5km away in Biddu, or patients are sent to the UNRWA Health Center in Beit Surik, 7km from the locality (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

The health sector in the town suffers numerous obstacles and problems, mainly the lack of medical centers operating throughout the week.

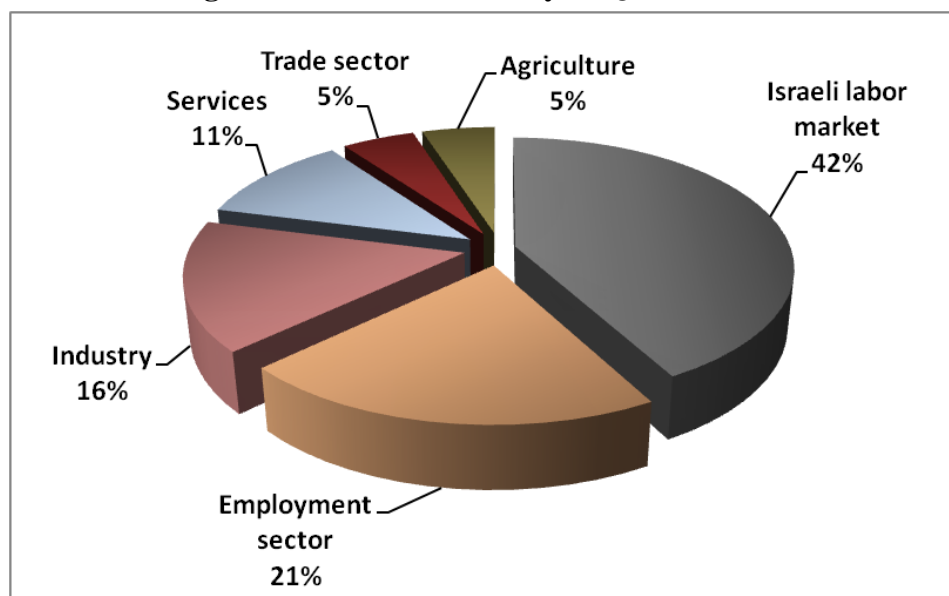
Economic Activities

The economy in Qatanna is dependent on several sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs approximately 42% of the town's workforce (Qatanna Local Council, 2010) (See Figure1).

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

- Israeli labor market (42%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (21%)
- Industry (16%)
- Services Sector (11%)
- Trade Sector (5%)
- Agriculture Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Qatanna town



Source: Qatanna Local Council, 2010

In terms of commercial and economic establishments in Qatanna town, there are 70 grocery stores, one butchery, 3 vegetable and fruit stores, 6 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith, etc.), 9 different services stores and a stone quarry(Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Qatanna reached 80% in 2010 (Qatanna Local Council, 2010), and it was found that the social group most affected in the town as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures was workers in the agricultural sector (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 31.3% of the Qatanna labor force were economically active, of whom 63.9% were employed, and 68.1% were not economically active, of whom 53.4% were students and 37.4% were housekeepers (See table 4).

Table 4: Qatanna population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status

| SEX | Economically Active | | | | Not Economically Active | | | | | | Un-known | Total |
|-----|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| | Emp-loyed | Current-ly Unemp-loyed | Unemp-loyed (Never worked) | Total | Stud-ents | House-keeping | Unable to work | Not working & Not looking for work | Other | Total | | |
| M | 712 | 288 | 159 | 1,159 | 695 | 13 | 100 | 12 | 36 | 856 | 12 | 2,027 |
| F | 94 | - | 9 | 103 | 775 | 1,016 | 86 | 7 | 11 | 1,895 | 12 | 2,010 |
| T | 806 | 288 | 168 | 1,262 | 1,470 | 1,029 | 186 | 19 | 47 | 2,751 | 24 | 4,037 |

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

Agricultural Sector

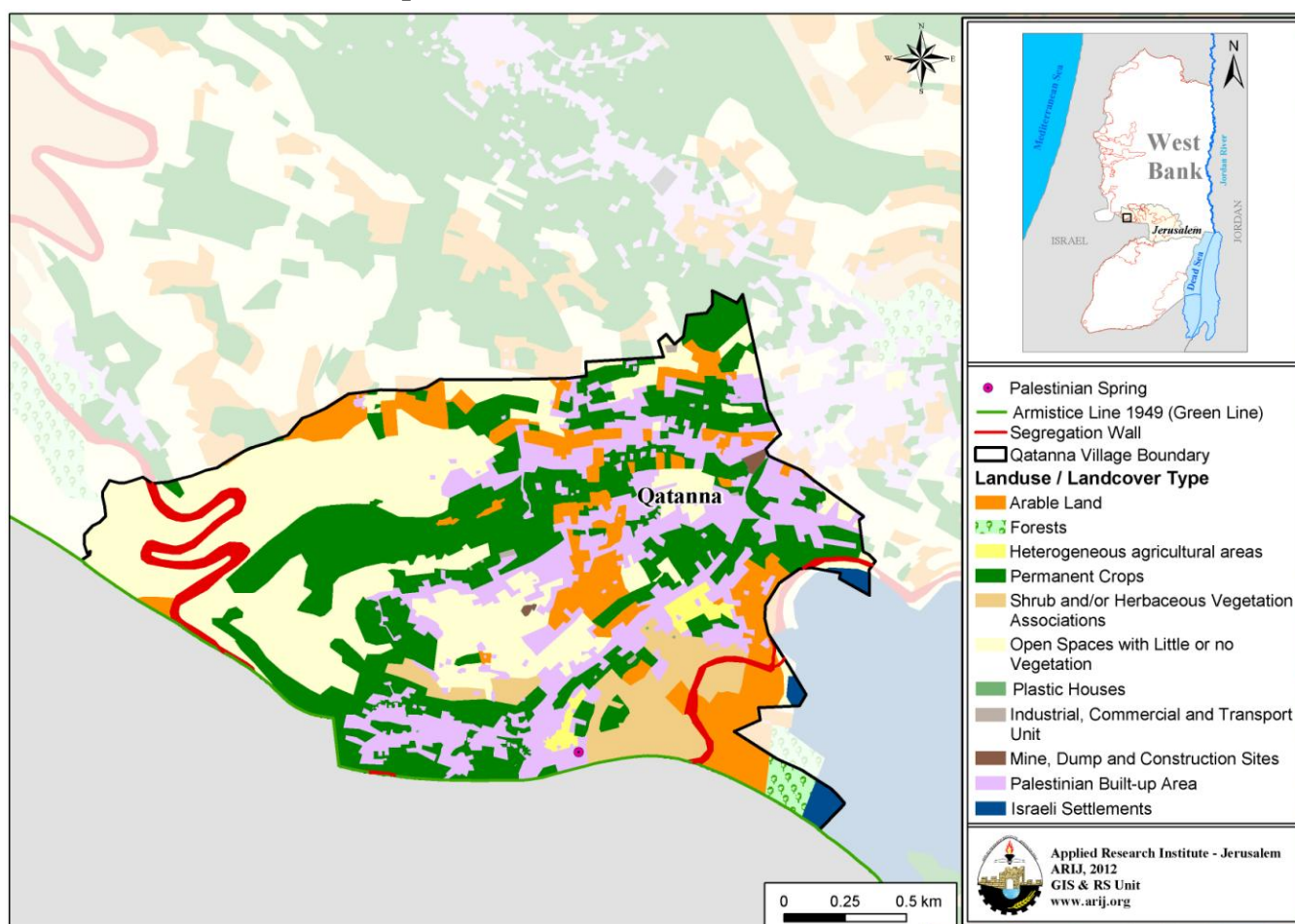
Qatanna has a total area of around 3,936 dunums, of which 1,857 dunums are considered 'arable' land, and 743 are registered as 'residential' (See table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Qatanna town in 2010 (area in dunum)

| Total Area | Built-up Area | Agricultural area (1,857 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 | | | | | |
| 3,936 | 743 | 1,187 | 0 | 228 | 442 | 0 | 31 | 1,148 | 11 | 145 |

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Qatanna town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Qatanna town is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 332 dunums of land cultivated with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Qatanna town (dunum)

| Fruit trees | Rainfed | Irrigated |
|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| Olives | 332 | 0 |
| Citrus | 0 | 0 |
| Stone-fruits | 215 | 0 |
| Pome fruits | 0 | 0 |
| Nuts | 5 | 0 |
| Other fruits | 309 | 0 |
| Total Area | 861 | 0 |

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

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 10% of the residents in Qatanna rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, goats, sheep, and chickens (Qatanna Local Council, 2010) (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Qatanna town

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 20 | 700 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,000 | 38,000 | 65 |

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are also around 7 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town (Qatanna Local Council, 2010), divided as follows:

Table 8: Agricultural roads in Qatanna town and their lengths

| Suitability of Agricultural Roads | Length (km) |
|--|-------------|
| For vehicles | - |
| For tractors and agricultural machinery only | - |
| For animals only | 5 |
| Unsuitable | 2 |

Source: Qatanna Local Council, 2010

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems, primarily (Qatanna Local Council, 2010):

- The lack of lands suitable for grazing.
- The rugged nature of the land.
- The confiscation of land.
- The difficult access to agricultural lands.
- The lack of labor.
- The lack of economic feasibility.
- The lack of capital.
- The lack of water sources.

Institutions and Services

Qatanna town has a few governmental institutions, including a post office, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These institutions include (Qatanna Local Council, 2010):

- **Qatanna Local Council:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of solving issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Qatanna Cooperative Society for Transportations:** Founded in 1952, and currently is registered in the Ministry of Transportation. It is a cooperative society providing residents with transportation through public buses.
- **Qatanna Sports Club:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The QSC provides sports including football, chess and kung fu, and coordinates tournaments.
- **Ar Rashed Cultural Center:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Culture to provide educational courses for Tawjihi students and a public library for all citizens.
- **Qatanna Development Society:** A charitable society founded in 2009.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Qatanna has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 90% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network. However, many residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily (Qatanna Local Council, 2010):

- The old electricity network, which is in need of renovation.
- The lack of proper planning in the installation of the network.

Qatanna is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 60% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Transportation Services

18 public taxis and 4 buses, in addition to a large number of unlicensed/illegal cars, are the main means of transportation in Qatanna town (Qatanna Local Council, 2010). There are 5km of designated ‘main’ roads and 17km of ‘secondary’ roads (Qatanna Local Council, 2010) (See Table 9).

Table 9: Roads in Qatanna town

| Status of Internal Roads | Road Length (km) | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----|
| | Main | Sub |
| Paved & in good condition | 5 | - |
| Paved but in poor condition | - | 7 |
| Unpaved | - | 10 |

Source: Qatanna Local Council, 2010

Water Resources

The West Bank Water Department provides Qatanna with water purchased from an Israeli company (Mekerot), supplied through the public water network established in 1995. Approximately 80% of the housing units are connected to this network (Qatanna Local Council, 2010). The quantity of water supplied to Qatanna is approximately 12,00 cubic meters per month; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Qatanna is 61 liters per day. However, no Qatanna citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 40%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the actual rate of water consumption per capita in Qatanna is 37 liters per day (Qatanna Local Council, 2010). Water consumption by Qatanna residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters a day proposed by the World Health Organization (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

The town has over 200 rainwater harvesting cisterns as an alternative resource of water. There are also two springs in the town, one of which (Qatanna spring) is owned by the municipality and provides drinking water. The daily rate of water pumping from this spring is 40 cubic meters (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

There is a water reservoir in the town with a capacity of 500 cubic meters, which is used to meet the residents' water needs during periods when water is cut off (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Sanitation

Qatanna lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits and endocrines as their main means of wastewater disposal (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 189 cubic meters, equating to 69,120 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 29 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and endocrines 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

Qatanna 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. 20 NIS/month) is 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 30% of these fees are collected from citizens (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Qatanna benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 15 containers¹ spread throughout the locality. The local council collects solid waste from the containers three times a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to Al Bireh dumping site, located 20km from the town center, where it is buried. There are two trucks for waste collection, one with a capacity of 7 tons and one with a 12 ton capacity (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Qatanna is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Qatanna residents is nearly 6.8 tons, or 2,475 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

Water is cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long periods of time in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes obstacles in the organization of water pumping and distribution. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to satisfy all residents' needs simultaneously. Consequently the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies to fulfill the residents' needs.
- (2) High rate of water losses because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network means that Qatanna residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly

¹ each with a 1m³ capacity

common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Qatanna 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. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.
- 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 Al Bireh landfill for disposal by burial.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Qatanna Town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Qatanna town was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,641 dunums (41.7% of the total town area) were assigned as area “B”, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a 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, towns and some camps. It is worth mentioning that 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. On the other hand, approximately 2,295 dunums (58.3% 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 (table 10).

Table 10: The geopolitical divisions of Qatanna 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 | 1,641 | 41.7 |
| Area C | 2,295 | 58.3 |
| Nature Reserve | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 3,936 | 100 |

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Qatanna Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, consecutive Israeli governments have followed a policy of confiscating Palestinian lands to build Israeli settlements, bypass roads to connect settlements, and military bases. Like many other Palestinian towns and villages, Qatanna has lost part of its lands to the practices associated with this policy.

Israel has confiscated approximately 36 dunums of Qatanna town in order to construct the Har Adar (Giv’at HaRadar) settlement. Har Adar was established in 1986 and is part of the Israeli settlement bloc Giv’at Ze’ev, which consists of 5 settlements. Har Adar currently has a population of approximately 4,300 Israeli settlers.

Qatanna Town and the Israeli Segregation Wall

Qatanna has also been subject to land confiscation for the construction of the Segregation Wall. According to the last amendment to the plan published by the Israeli Defense Ministry (30th April 2007), the Wall extends 3 km over Qatanna's lands and isolates 340 dunums (8.6% of the town's total area) to the south-west of the town. The isolated lands include open space and agricultural areas which are an important source of revenue for many families in Qatanna, in addition to the land upon which the settlement is built (see Table 11).

Table 11: Classification of lands to be isolated in Qatanna Town - Jerusalem Governorate

| No. | Land classification | Area (dunums) |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Agricultural areas | 55 |
| 2 | Open space | 180 |
| 3 | Israeli settlements | 36 |
| 4 | Wall zone | 69 |
| Total | | 340 |

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Farmers from Qatanna cannot access the land isolated behind the Wall without a permit issued by the Israeli Liaison Office allowing them to pass through gates in the Wall. Only those farmers who are able to prove their land ownership through property ownership documents are issued with permits². Permits are issued seasonally and must be renewed. Additionally, issued permits do not allow the necessary labor force or equipment to access the isolated lands, further restricting the ability of farmers from Qatanna to cultivate their land appropriately.

Ramallah City as a Substitute of Jerusalem City

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Palestinians living in Qatanna and other towns have lost their link to Jerusalem City, previously the primary source of employment, educational, and health services. Residents of Qatanna have therefore started to use Ramallah City to fulfill these needs. Until 2002, Palestinians living in Qatanna were able to use Israeli bypass road 443 to access Ramallah; they have now been prohibited from using this road by Israeli authorities and must travel using indirect roads with poor infrastructure to Ramallah and to other villages. This has caused many people from Qatanna to move to Ramallah to avoid delays and disruptions caused by Israeli obstacles to travel and routine mistreatment at Israeli checkpoints.

² Obtaining a permit is a difficult process; the owners of isolated lands are routinely denied permits.

Israeli Military Orders Issued in Qatanna Town

The Israeli authorities have issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Qatanna town for various military purposes. These orders include:

1. Israeli military order 84/03/T: issued on 9th December 2003 to confiscate 192.2 dunums of Qatanna's lands for construction of the Wall.
2. Amendment to military order 84/03/T: issued on 8th December 2011 to confiscate 22.5 dunums of Qatanna's lands for construction of the Wall. The amendment includes extending military order 84/03/T until 2014 to continue construction.
3. Israeli military order 107/03/T: issued on 31st December 2003 to confiscate 238.4 dunums from Qatanna, Biddu, Beir Surik, and al Qubeiba for construction of the Wall.
4. Israeli military order 37/04/T: issued on 10th April 2004 to confiscate 3.6 dunums of Qatanna's lands for construction of the Wall.
5. Israeli military order 75/04/T: issued on 25th October 2004 to confiscate 336.1 dunums of Qatanna, Biddu, and Beir Surik for construction of the Wall.
6. Amendment to military order 75/04/T: issued on 8th December 2011 to confiscate 214.5 dunums of lands in Qatanna, Beit Surik and Biddu lands for construction of the Wall. The amendment includes extending the validity of military order 75/04/T until 2014 to complete construction of the Wall.
7. Israeli military order 87/04/T: issued on 8th November 2004 to confiscate 351 dunums of Qatanna and Beit Anan for construction of the Wall.
8. Amendment to military order 92/04/T: issued on 8th December 2011 to confiscate 116 dunums of Qatanna and al Qubeiba for construction of the Wall. The amendment includes extending the validity of Israeli military order 92/04/T until 2014 to complete construction of the Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Qatanna Local Council has implemented several development projects in Qatanna, during the last five years (See Table 12).

Table 12: Implemented development plans and projects in Qatanna during the last five years

| Name of the Project | Type | Year | Donor |
|---|-----------------|-----------|--|
| Construction and completion of a floor in Shuhada' Qatanna School | Educational | 2005 | Islamic Development Bank through UNDP |
| Construction and completion of Qatanna services complex | Public Services | 2006 | UNDP & KFW |
| Construction of culverts | Infrastructure | 2006 | Red Cross |
| Establishment of a water reservoir | Infrastructure | 2006 | KFW |
| Rehabilitation of roads | Infrastructure | 2008 | EMSRPII |
| Establishment of a water reservoir on the spring | Infrastructure | 2008 | Palestinian Hydrology Group |
| Construction and rehabilitation of roads | Infrastructure | 2008-2009 | Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Local Government |
| Construction of a road in Al Mashamis neighborhood | Infrastructure | 2009 | Donations from Qatanna Residents & Local Council |

Source: Qatanna Local Council, 2010

Proposed Projects

Qatanna 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 that was 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 street lighting.
2. Constructing an elementary school for boys and secondary school for girls.
3. Establishing women's centers.
4. Establishing productive projects to eliminate unemployment.
5. Reclaiming lands surrounding the Wall.
6. Projects for paving and constructing roads.
7. Projects for people with special needs.
8. Constructing domestic and agricultural cisterns.
9. Establishing a children's park.
10. Establishing a waste landfill.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Qatanna 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 (Qatanna Local Council, 2010).

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Qatanna

| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Not a Priority | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------------------|
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | 12km* |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | * | | | 25km |
| 3 | Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas | * | | | 5km |
| 4 | Construction of New Water Networks | * | | | 30km |
| 5 | Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs | | | * | |
| 6 | Construction of Water Reservoirs | * | | | 500 cubic meters |
| 7 | Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network | * | | | 40km |
| 8 | Construction of a New Electricity Network | * | | | 2km |
| 9 | Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection | * | | | 200 containers |
| 10 | Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste | | | * | |
| 11 | Providing a Sanitary Landfill | * | | | |
| Health Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres | * | | | one health clinic |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres | | | * | |
| 3 | Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools | * | | | |
| Educational Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Schools | * | | | elementary level |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Schools | | | * | |
| 3 | Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools | | | * | |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands | * | | | 400 dunums |
| 2 | Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns | * | | | 40 cisterns |
| 3 | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | | | * | |
| 4 | Veterinary Services | * | | | |
| 5 | Seeds and Hay for Animals | * | | | 50 tons per year |
| 6 | Construction of New Greenhouses | | | * | |
| 7 | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | | * | |
| 8 | Field Crops Seeds | | | * | |
| 9 | Plants and Agricultural Supplies | * | | | |

*4km are main roads, 5km are sub roads and 3km are agricultural roads.

Source: Qatanna Local Council, 2010

References

- *Qatanna Local Council, 2010.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2012. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2010) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2012. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing unit Database. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2012. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Jerusalem, 2011. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2010/2011). Jerusalem – Palestine.*
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009. Jerusalem, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.*
- *Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2010. Directorate of Agriculture data (2009/2010). Jerusalem - Palestine.*