

Baqat al Hatab Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Qalqiliya Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Qalqiliya 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 "Village Profiles and 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 Qalqiliya Governorate.

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 Qalqiliya 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://vprofile.arij.org>.

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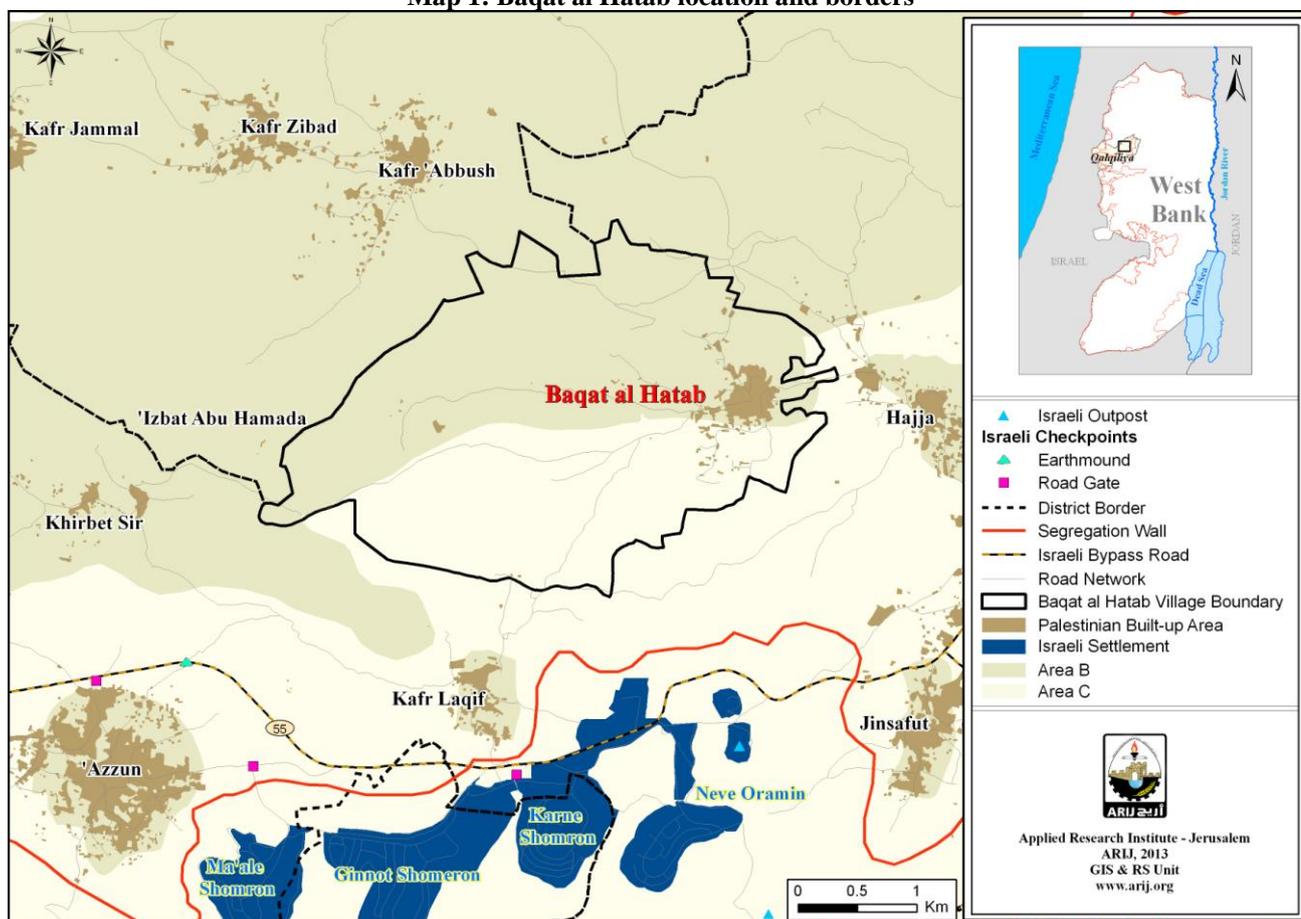
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Baqat al Hatab Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Baqat al Hatab is a Palestinian village in Qalqiliya Governorate, located 14.35km northwest of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Hajja to the east, Hajja, Kafr Laqif and Khirbet Sir villages to the south, 'Izbat Abu Hamada and Kafr 'Abbush (in Tulkarem Governorate) to the west, and Kafr 'Abbush (in Tulkarem Governorate) and Hajja to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Baqat al Hatab location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Baqat al Hatab is located at an altitude of 464m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 577.9mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

The classification of the residential areas borders has been adopted in this profile based on the administrative division of Palestinian communities, according to the Palestinian National Authority(PNA). This administrative division system has been developed by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics(PCBS), and the Central Election Commission (CEC).

Since 1996, Baqat al Hatab has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 3 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the First Council for Joint Services (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Baqat al Hatab, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity network and generators.
- Waste collection, street cleaning and public services.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Organization of license processes.
- Provision of transport services.

(Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012)

History

Baqat al Hatab village was so named for two reasons; first being known for the production of firewood ('Hatab' in Arabic), and second due to the harmony among its residents, as the word 'baqat' means bouquet.

The village was established around 2000 years ago with its residents descending from the Arabian Peninsula (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

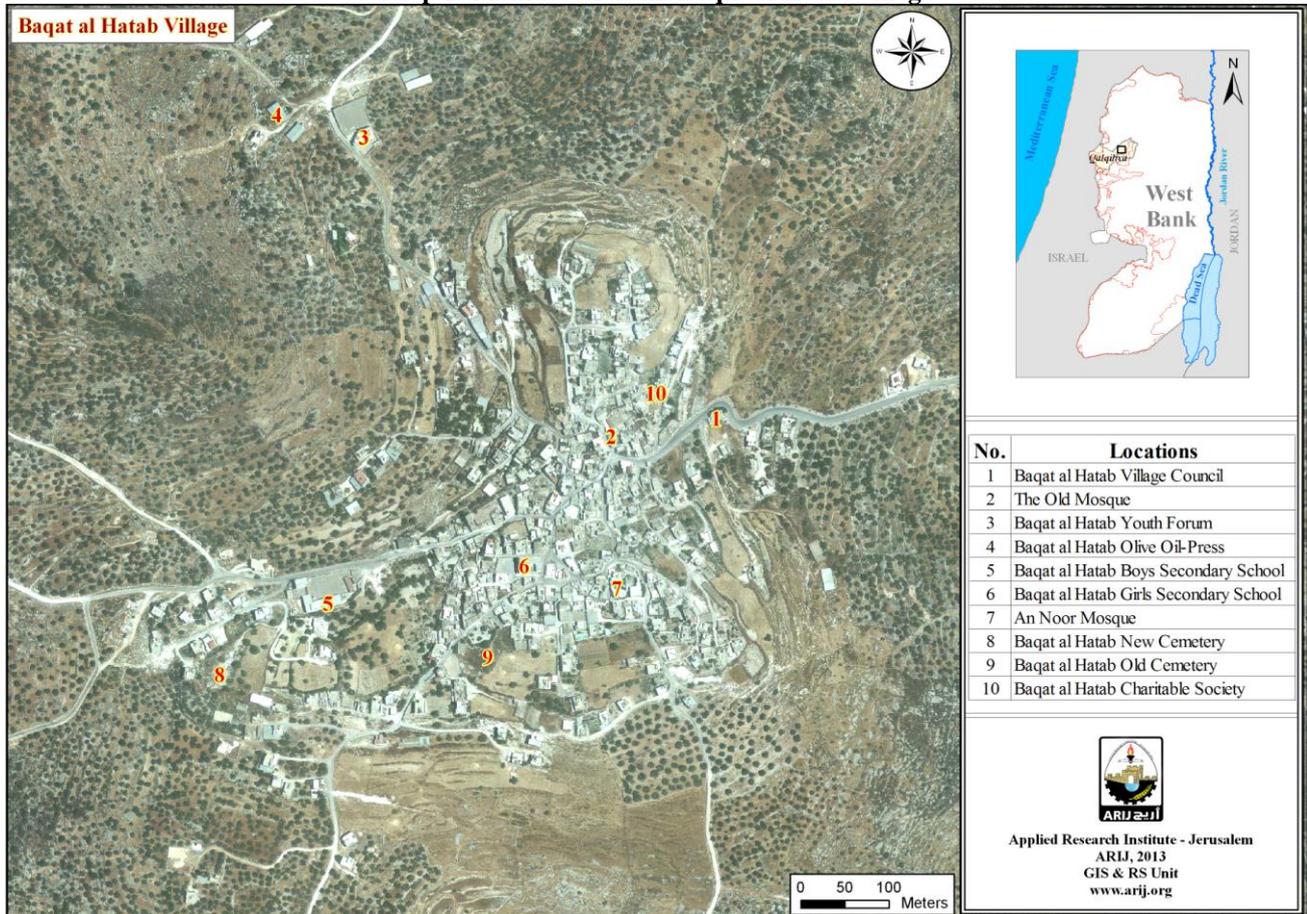
Photo of Baqat al Hatab



Religious and aarchaeological sites

There are two mosques in the village (An Noor and Omar ben al Khattab Mosques). The village has several sites of archaeological interest including the Old Mosque, the Pool, Ash Sheikh Hasan and Ash Sheikh Zreiq Areas and Sudah Grotto (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Baqat al Hatab village



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Baqat al Hatab in 2007 was 1,596, of whom 865 were male and 731 female. There were 297 households registered as living in 331 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Baqat al Hatab was as follows: 43.5% were less than 15 years of age, 52.3% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4.2% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 118.3:100, meaning that males and females constituted 54.2% and 45.8% of the population, respectively.

Families

Baqat al Hatab residents are from several families, including Odah, Hussein Ali, Hamdan, Zulof, Qarsh, Barghooth and Shihadah (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 50 people from different families have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among Baqat al Hatab population is approximately 8.2%, of whom 82.6% are females. Of the total population, 12.4% could only read and write with no formal education, 23.8% had elementary education, 27.6% had preparatory education, 15.3% had secondary education, and 12.8% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Baqat al Hatab by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Baqat al Hatab population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	16	66	129	174	108	33	53	0	14	1	0	594
F	76	73	138	135	63	12	29	0	1	0	0	527
T	92	139	267	309	171	45	82	0	15	1	0	1,121

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012) (see table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Baqat al Hatab by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Baqat al Hatab Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Baqat al Hatab Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 484 students, 39 teachers, and 24 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 20 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There is one kindergarten in Baqat al Hatab village (Al Mustaqbal Kindergarten) which is run by a private organization. The kindergarten consists of 1 class supervised by 1 teacher (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

The educational sector in Baqat al Hatab village faces a number of obstacles; mainly the overcrowded classrooms (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Health status

Baqat al Hatab has only one governmental health clinic. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital in Qalqiliya city (20km away) or to Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus city (20 kmaway) (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of a resident physician working on daily basis in the health center.
- The lack of an ambulance.

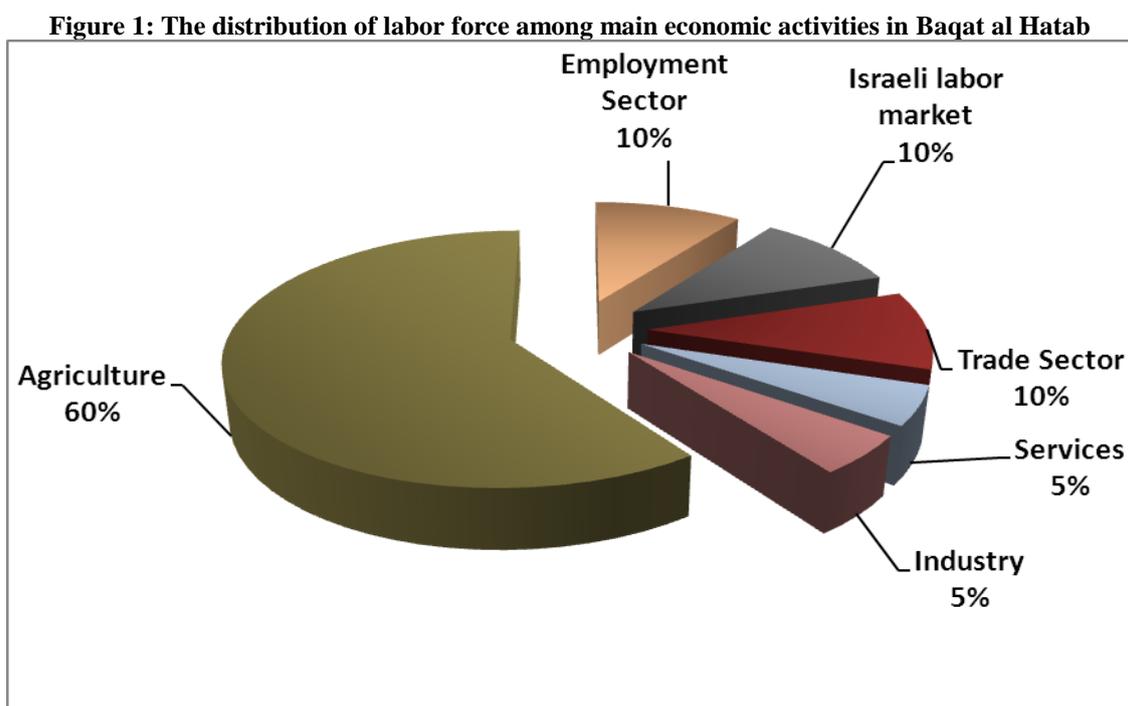
The lack of a health center equipped with all necessary medical services.(Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012)

Economic activities

The economy in Baqat al Hatab is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 60% of the village’s workforce (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Baqat al Hatab are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (60%)
- Israeli labor market (10%)
- Trade sector (10%)
- Government or other employees sector (10%)
- Services sector (5%)
- Industry (5%)



Source: Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012

Baqat al Hatab has 10 groceries, 4 fruit and vegetable stores, 3 butchers, 2 service stores, 5 different professional workshops and 1 olive oil press (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Baqat al Hatab reached 20% (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 32.3% of Baqat al Hatab's labor force was economically active, of whom 90.8% were employed, 67.7% were not economically active, 55.2% were students, and 33.3% were housekeepers (see table 3).

Table 3: Baqat al Hatab population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	16	66	129	174	108	33	53	0	14	1	0	594
F	76	73	138	135	63	12	29	0	1	0	0	527
T	92	139	267	309	171	45	82	0	15	1	0	1,121

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural Sector

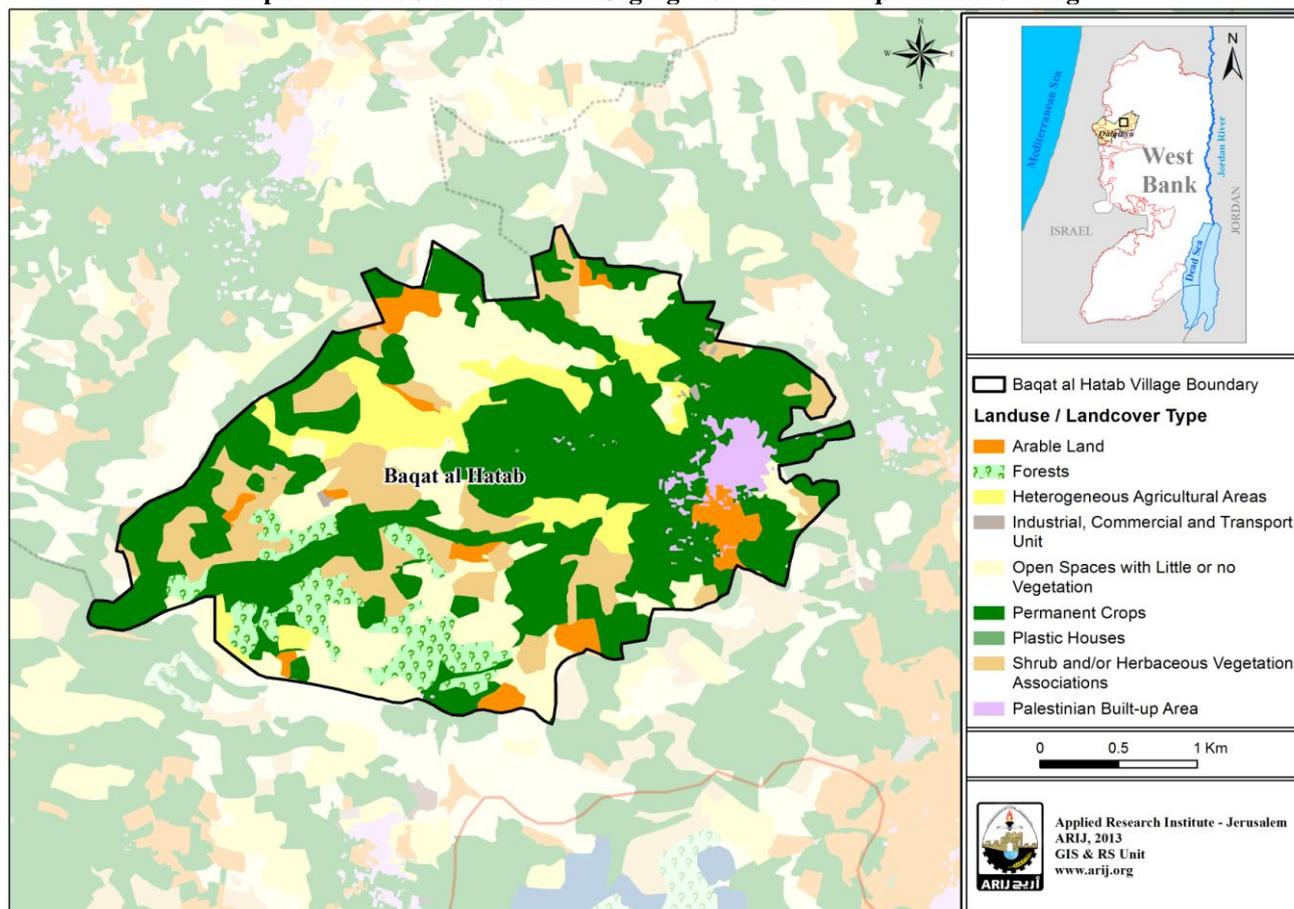
Baqat al Hatab has a total area of approximately 8,954 dunums of which 6,515 are arable land and 204 dunums are registered as residential (see table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Baqat al Hatab village (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (6,515)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
8,954	204	4,945	1	1,193	376	0	607	1,606	22	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Baqat al Hatab village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Baqat al Hatab. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are okra and snake cucumber.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Baqat al Hatab (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
15	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	37	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Baqat al Hatab is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2,040 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Baqat al Hatab (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2,040	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	28	0	32	0	2,120	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Baqat al Hatab, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 40 dunums (see table 7).

Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in Baqat al Hatab (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
40	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	5	5	55	5

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in size of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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 and they 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 20% of the residents in Baqat al Hatab rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Baqat al Hatab

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
22	261	91	0	0	0	0	144,000	0	199

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 58km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural roads in Baqat al Hatab village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	40
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	8
Unsuitable	-

Source: Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- The difficulty in marketing olive oil.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of water resources for agricultural production.

(Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

Baqat al Hatab village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Baqat al Hatab Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services and infrastructure for its population.
- **Baqat al Hatab Youth Forum:** Founded in 2000 by the Ministry of the Interior. The Society provides different cultural and sports activities and organizes summer camps.
- **The Cooperative Society for the Development of Livestock:** Founded in 2000 by the Ministry of the Interior. The Society aims to support farmers through the distribution of small agricultural projects and the establishment of agricultural barracks.
- **Baqat al Hatab Agricultural Development Society:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of the Interior. The Society aims to support farmers and provide them with small agricultural projects. (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Baqat al Hatab has been connected to a public electricity network since 2009. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company which is the main source of electricity in the village, and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Baqat al Hatab is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

There are 5 taxis in Baqat al Hatab used by the village residents in addition to their private cars. However, this is not considered to be enough to serve the residents (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012). There are 10km of main roads and 12km of secondary roads in Baqat al Hatab (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Baqat al Hatab village

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	4	5
2. Paved and in poor condition	2	2
3. Unpaved	4	5

Source: Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012

Water resources:

Baqat al Hatab is not connected to a water network, thus, the residents are forced to purchase expensive water tanks (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012). However the village has 350 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

Baqat al Hatab lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits as the main means of wastewater disposal (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Due to the fact that the village is not connected to a water network and receives no water services, there is no data available on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, or the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day. However, the wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. It is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat both to the environment and to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid Waste Management:

Baqat al Hatab Village Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 15 NIS per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Baqat al Hatab benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 40 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Village Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site located 3.5km from the village, where it is subsequently buried (Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Baqat al Hatab is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Baqat al Hatab residents is nearly 1.3 tons, or 473 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Baqat al Hatab experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water crisis

The lack of a water service forces residents to buy water tanks which are expensive.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Baqat al Hatab residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. 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

Zahrat al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate (approximately 27.5km from the center of Qalqiliya Governorate), is considered the central sanitary landfill which is supposed to serve Qalqiliya Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Qalqiliya Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout the Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. As a result, waste is being disposed randomly in these landfills causing damage to health, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects, and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which is emitted when the waste is burned. All of these have harmful effects on human as well as environmental health.

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Baqat al Hatab 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 is therefore 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, which produces bad odors and a distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Baqat al Hatab

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Baqat al Hatab was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 5,528 dunums (58.4% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel retains responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including the municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. The majority of the population of Baqat al Hatab resides in area B. While, the remaining village area, constituting 3,726 dunums (41.6% of the total), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited without the prior consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas and open spaces (see table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Baqat al Hatab according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	5,228	58.4
Area C	3,726	41.6
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	8,954	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The village of Baqat al Hatab continues to suffer from the ongoing attacks of the Israeli occupation army, who often enter the streets of the village. It is not uncommon for the Israeli occupation forces attack the houses and arrest the Palestinian citizens in the village.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Baqat al Hatab Village Council has implemented several development projects in Baqat al Hatab during the past five years (see table 12).

Table 12: Implemented development plans and projects in Baqat al Hatab during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Paving the main road	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Constructing and rehabilitating agricultural roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Establishing a water transmission line	Infrastructure	2012	GVC

Source: Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012

Proposed projects

Baqat al Hatab Village Council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a sewerage network (10km long).
2. Rehabilitating and paving approximately 10km of secondary and agricultural roads located within areas classified as C.
3. Constructing an elementary school for boys and girls on an area of 8km², and equipping the existing schools with computer suites, libraries and science laboratories.
4. Building and equipping a health center in the center of the village
5. Rehabilitating and restoring the existing youth forum building, and exploiting the outer area (more than 4 dunums).
6. Developing the agricultural sector in the village, through the following:
 - a. Constructing 100 agricultural water reservoirs to serve the village's lands.
 - b. Reclaiming more than 3,000 dunums of agricultural lands.
 - c. Rehabilitating more than 2,000 dunums of agricultural lands.
 - d. Constructing retaining walls (approximately 1km long).
 - e. Distributing agricultural equipment, pesticides, seedlings, and others.
 - f. Developing the livestock sector in the village.
7. Expanding the water network by approximately 6km, and the electricity network by 3km, and connecting them to houses.

8. Helping women to build their skills and encouraging their participation in the social work through workshops such as sewing, hand work food manufacturing etc.

Locality development priorities and needs

Baqat al Hatab suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 13: Development priorities and needs in Baqat al Hatab

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			9km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks	*			18km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs			*	10 groundwater wells
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500km
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			20km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection			*	
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools	*			A co-educational elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			200 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			50 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			13 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			100 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 5km main roads, 2km secondary roads and 2km agricultural roads

Source: Baqat al Hatab Village Council, 2012

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