

Bani Zeid 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, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

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

Table of Contents

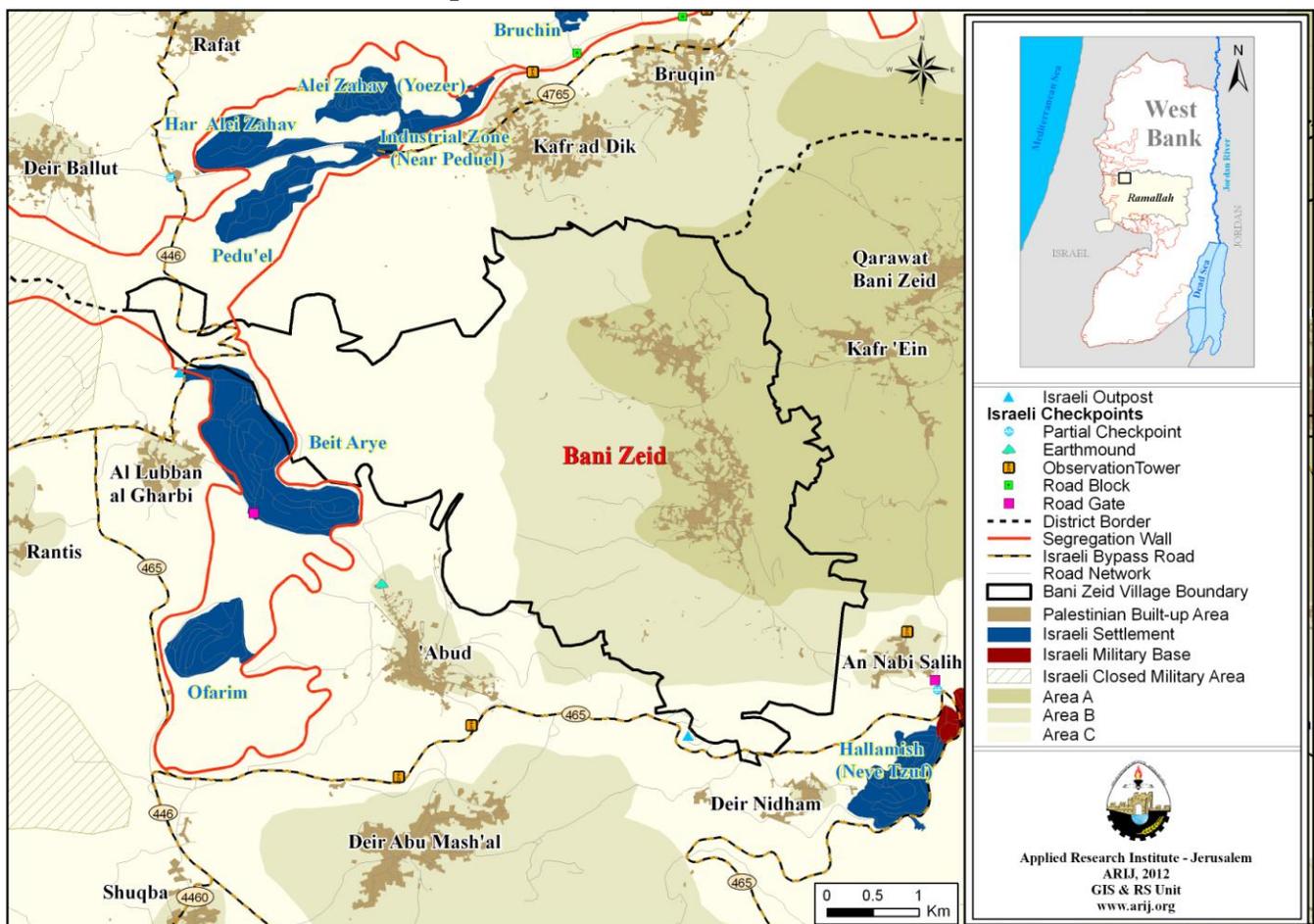
Location and physical characteristics	5
History	6
Religious and Archaeological Sites	7
Demography and Population.....	8
Education.....	9
Health Sector	10
Economic Activities	10
Agricultural Sector	11
Institutions and Services	14
Infrastructure and Natural Resources.....	14
Environmental Conditions	16
Impact of the Israeli Occupation	17
Development Plans and Projects.....	19
Proposed Projects	20
References	22

Bani Zeid Town Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Bani Zeid is a Palestinian town in the Ramallah Governorate located 17.5 km northwest of Ramallah City. The town is bordered by Kafr 'Ein and An Nabi Salih to the east, Bruqin town and Kafr ad Deik village to the north, Al Lubban al Gharbi village to the west, and 'Abud and Deir Nidham to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Bani Zeid location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Bani Zeid is located at an altitude of 500 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 592.9 mm. The average annual temperature is 17.4 ° C, and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

In 1965 a Municipality Council was established, which is currently administrated by 13 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. In addition, there are 28 employees working at the Council. Moreover, the municipal council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste. The Council provides a number of services, including (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011):

- Water network maintenance.
- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, and street cleaning.
- Organization of construction and license processes.
- Carrying out projects and needs assessments.
- Providing an ambulance.
- Protection of archaeological and historic sites.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Providing offices for governmental services.
- Providing markets.
- Providing butcheries and monitoring meat slaughtering.
- Providing sanitation services.

History

The town was named Bani Zeid in relation to the Arab tribe of Bani Zeid that came from the Arabian Peninsula to the area during the Islamic conquests. The town is a merger of Beit Rima and Deir Ghassana that both date back to the Roman and Canaanite periods (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

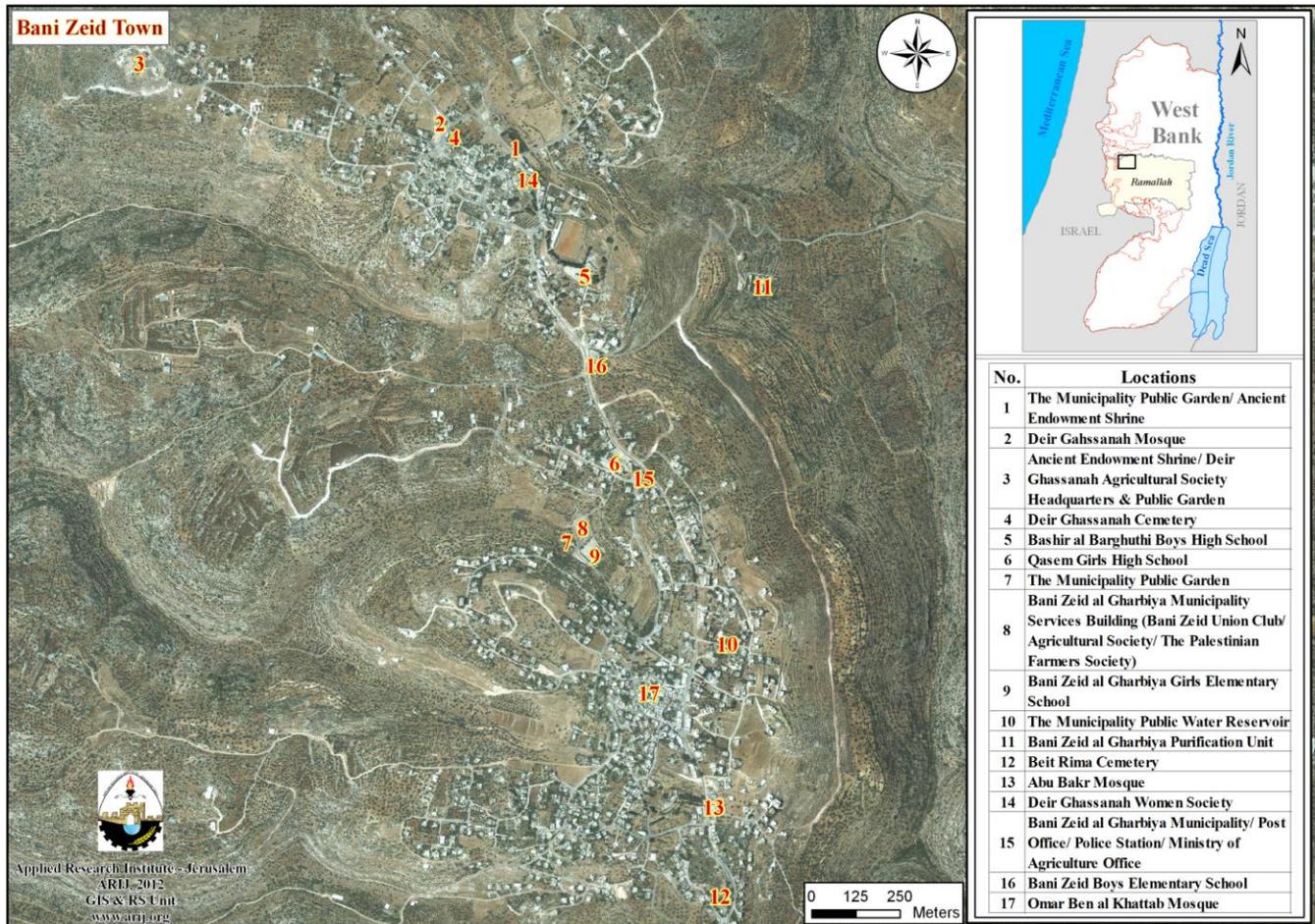
Photo: Bani Zeid



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are two mosques in the town; Abu Bakr as Siddiq, and Omar Bin al Khattab Mosques. As for the archaeological sites, there is the old town (Deir Ghassana), Al Khawas archaeological area, remains of a number of convents and roman remnants, shrines, and many caves and ruins that refer to old Islamic and roman Civilizations (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Bani Zeid town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Bani Zeid in 2007 was 5,184; of whom 2,642 were male and 2,542, females. Additionally, the census showed that there were 1,094 households living in 1,176 housing units.

Age Group and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Bani Zeid was as follows: 34.5% were less than 15 years old, 60.6% between 15 - 64 years old, while 4.9% fell into the 65 years and older category. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 104:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51% and 49% of the population, respectively.

Families

Prominent families from Bani Zeid include Al Rimawi, Al Barghouthi, Mas-hal, Al Ramahi, Al Shu'aiby among others (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Bani Zeid population was about 5.5%, of whom 77.2% were females. Of the literate population, 12.4% could only read and write, with no formal education, 21.7% had elementary education, 24.8% had preparatory education, 20.2% had secondary education, and 15.3% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the town of Bani Zeid, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Bani Zeid population (10 years and above) by sex and educational statement

Sex	Illite-rate	Can read and write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	Doctorate	Not stated	Total
M	51	240	472	561	435	96	161	6	25	2	2	2,051
F	173	260	403	442	380	152	163	3	9	-	3	1,988
T	224	500	875	1,003	815	248	324	9	34	2	5	4,039

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

As for educational institutions and schools, there are only two schools in the town; Bashir Al Barghouthi Secondary and Bani Zeid Elementary Schools. Both schools are governmental and for boys (Directorate of Education – Ramallah, 2011). It is noted that the infrastructure of the two schools is not good (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) revealed that for the scholastic year 2010/2011 there were 26 classes occupied by 691 male and female students, and 45 teachers (Directorate of Education – Ramallah, 2011). Classroom density was 27 students per class, and the average number of students per teacher was 15 students (Directorate of Education – Ramallah, 2011).

It should be noted that in the town there is no kindergarten for children (Directorate of Education – Ramallah, 2011).

Health Sector

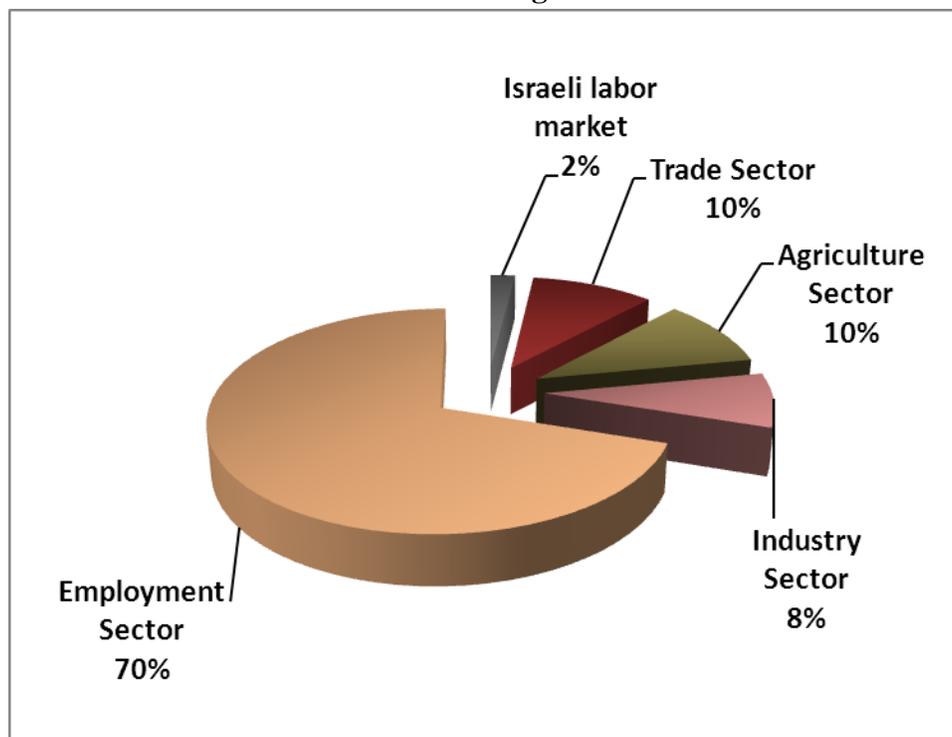
There is a governmental health center which includes a general governmental clinic and a child and mother care center, also there is a clinic supervised by a non-governmental body, 6 private medical clinics, a private medical laboratory, one private pharmacy, and an ambulance. In case of emergencies and the need of specific medical services patients travel for treatment to the Ramallah Governmental Hospital, in Ramallah City that is 27 km away, or they travel to Salfit Hospital in Salfit Governorate; 12 km away (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Main problems that patients in Bani Zeid suffer from are the closing of roads and the existence of checkpoints (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Economic Activities

According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ team in 2011, the economy of the town depends on many sectors, with the government and private employees sector being considered to be the most important, accounting for 70% of labor force. The second important sector is the agricultural, accounting for 10% of the labor force (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: the distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Bani Zeid



Source: Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011

There are industrial and commercial activities in the town, including 20 groceries, a vegetable and fruits store, 1 bakery, 1 butchery, 26 shops for public services, 11 occupational workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc.), two olive oil presses, and a shop for agricultural equipments (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Unemployment in Bani Zeid reached to 20% in 2011 (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, 35.1% of the population was considered economically active of which 88.7% were employed, and 64.7% of the population were non-economically active of which 55% were students and 29.6% were housekeepers (Table 2).

Table 2: Bani Zeid population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	944	61	47	1,052	723	-	135	42	94	994	5	2,051
F	313	25	27	365	714	774	111	4	15	1,618	5	1,988
T	11,257	86	74	1,417	1,437	774	246	46	109	2,612	10	4,039

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

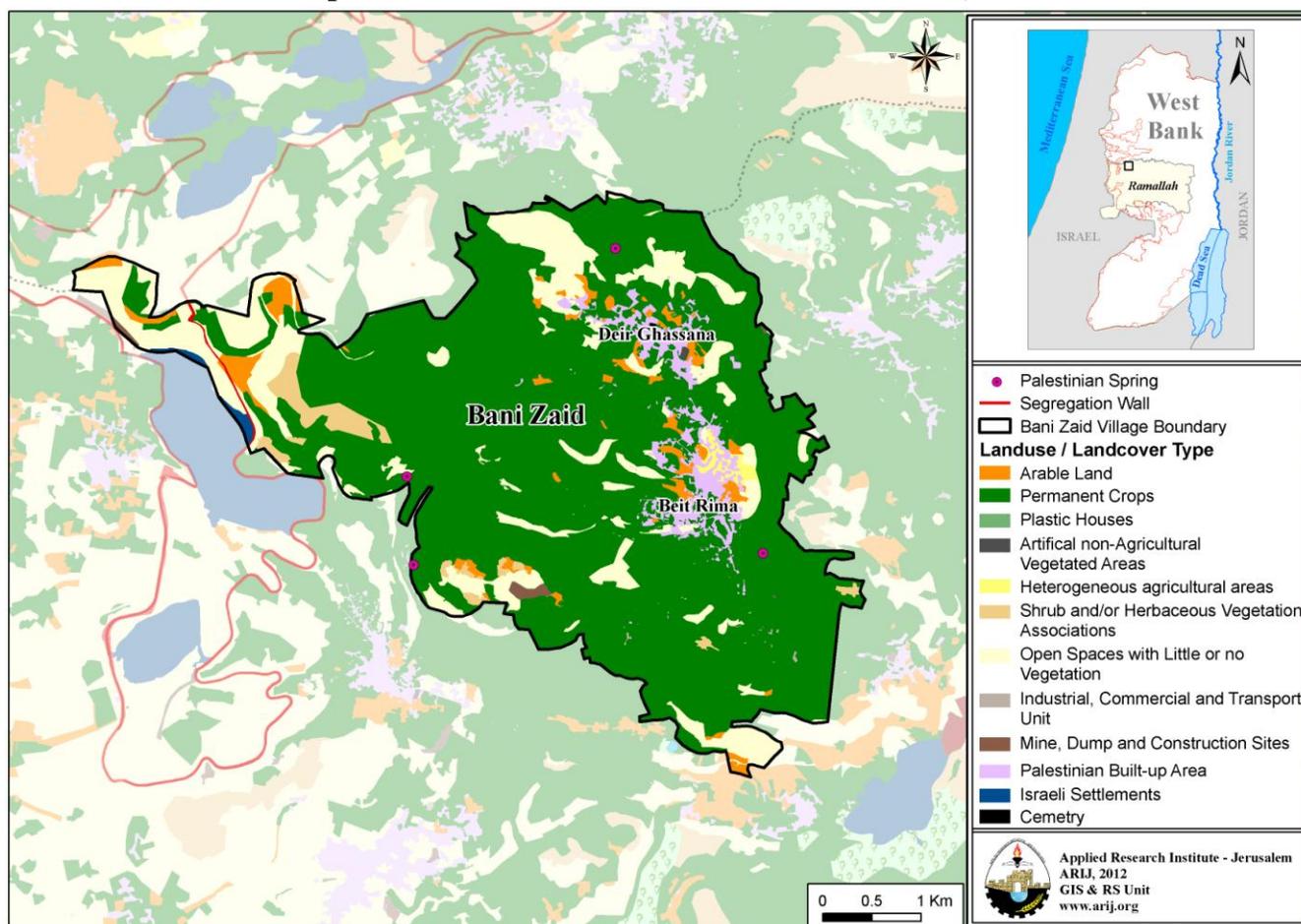
Bani Zeid town lies on an area of 21,979 dunams, of which 17,722 dunams are considered arable lands, and 832 dunams are dedicated to residential services (see table 3 and map 3).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Bani Zeid town in 2010 (area in dunam)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (17,722)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlement, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-land	Arable land					
21,979	832	16,566	2	448	706	0	0	3,233	86	106

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use and land cover of Bani Zeid town, 2010



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Bani Zeid. Squash is considered the main cultivated vegetable in the town.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Bani Zeid (area in dunams)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
75	7.5	0	0	25	0	16	0	6	1	122	8.5

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

As for cultivating fruits, Bani Zeid is famous for olive trees, where 14,505 dunams are planted with olive crops (table 5).

Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Bani Zeid (area in dunams)

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.
14,505	0	0	0	73.5	0	0	0	240	0	195	0	15,013.5	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the total area of field crops cultivated in town, being the area cultivated with cereals the largest, covering 135 dunams. The most important cultivated cereals include wheat.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Bani Zeid (area in dunams)

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.
135	0	35	0	92	0	7	0	80	0	0	0	0	0	349	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 1% of the residents in Bani Zeid rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats and others (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011) (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Bani Zeid

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
12	268	1,880	0	0	0	0	331,000	24,000	281

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are only around 50 km of agricultural roads in the town; 12 km are for vehicles, 20 km are only for agricultural tractors and agricultural mechanization, and 18 km are used only for animals (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

The agricultural sector in the town suffers from some obstacles and problems, including (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011):

- The lack of water sources.
- The lack of capital.
- The economic infeasibility.
- The problem of marketing local products.

Institutions and Services

There are many governmental offices, local institutions and associations that provide different types of services to the residents of Bani Zeid. Most important governmental offices include a post office, a representative office of the Ministry of Agriculture and a police station. Most important local institutions and associations include (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011):

- **Bani Zeid Municipality:** established in 1965 to take care of main town issues and to provide public services such as solid waste collection, license issuing, health sector, water, etc.
- **Union Club of Bani Zeid:** established 1972 by the general public of Bani Zeid. It sponsors different youth, cultural, social and sport activities.
- **Bani Zeid Women Association:** established in 2003 and it sponsors different women activities.
- **Deir Ghassana Women Association:** established in 2005 by women of Bani Zeid to take care of women issues, in addition to sponsoring various women activities and folkloric work.
- **Bait Rima Girls and Women Center:** established in 2007 and it sponsors different women activities.
- **Heritage Association:** founded in 2009 and it sponsors all activities related to heritage and folklore.
- **Beit Rima Agricultural Association.**
- **Deir Ghassana Agricultural Association.**
- **Palestinian Farmers Association/ Beit Rima.**
- **Palestinian Farmers Association/ Deir Ghassana.**
- **Organic Oil Society.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telephone Networks

Bani Zeid has been provided with electricity network since 1980; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. The network is connected to approximately 98% of the housing units in the town. However, Bani Zeid suffers some problems concerning the electricity sector, mainly: the weak electricity current and the many housing units not connected to the network (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

As for the telecommunication services, around 85% of housing units in the town are connected to a telephone network (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

There are 25 taxis in the town, in addition to private cars, which are the main forms of transportation for town residents. However, residents suffer from the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads in addition to the unqualified roads (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011). As for the road system in the town, there are around 35 km of main roads and 73 km of secondary road (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Table 8: Length, type and condition of road system in Bani Zeid town

No.	Condition of roads	Road length (m)	
		Main	Secondary
1	Good paved roads	10	30
2	Paved roads but in bad condition	15	25
3	Unpaved roads	10	18

Source: Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011

Water Resources:

The West Bank Water Department provides the town with water through a water network established since 1965. This network supplies water to almost 100% of the housing units in the town (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011). The quantity of water supplied to the town reaches in 2010 approximately 323,772 m³/ year, and thus the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 171 liter/capita/day. Nevertheless, residents of Bani Zeid do not actually consume this amount of water due to the water loss from transfer of water and distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units. The loss accounts for approximately 35.7%, and thus the average of water consumption per capita is 110 liter/capita/day (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011). This average is considered good compared to the recommended amount proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) which is 100 liter/capita/day. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 2.64 NIS (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

Bani Zeid has been connected to a public sewerage network. According to the results of a community survey conducted by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) in 2010 as part of the project "A Proposed Environmentally Sound Wastewater Management System for the West Bank", only 3% of Bani Zeid housing units use the sewage network as a means for wastewater disposal, while the rest of housing units (97%) use cesspits.

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 456 cubic meters, or 167 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 77 liters per day,

depending on the consumption rate. The estimated amount of wastewater collected through the sewerage network is approximately 5,000 cubic meters annually. Also, approximately 162 thousand cubic meters of wastewater is being collected by cesspits and discharged by wastewater tankers. The wastewater collected 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:

Bani Zeid Municipal Council is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in the town. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee which totals 180 NIS/year/citizen has been imposed on the population, serviced by domestic solid waste collection services (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

Solid waste is collected daily from 220 containers of 1 cup capacity each all around by the Municipal Council, and then transferred by a waste vehicle to a special landfill that is 2km from Bani Zeid. Waste is disposed by random burning and burying (Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Bani Zeid is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Bani Zeid residents is nearly 5.4 ton, or 1987 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, Bani Zeid 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.
 2. High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The lack of a public water reservoir in the town.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewerage network in many neighborhoods (97%) forces the town residents to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and to discharge wastewater in the streets. This

is particularly 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.

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Bani Zeid 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. It also produces bad odors and distorts the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Bani Zeid

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Bani Zeid was divided into areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 6,275 dunams (28.6% of the town’s total area) were assigned as area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and Public order, while 8,559 dunams (38.9% of the town’s total area) were classified as area B, where the 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, villages and some camps. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 7,144 dunams (32.5% of the total area), was 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 consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the land lying within area C holds agricultural areas and open spaces, in addition to land confiscated for settlement purposes which are isolated behind the Wall (table 9).

Table 9: The Geopolitical Divisions of Bani Zeid – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total town area
Area A	6,275	28.6
Area B	8,559	38.9
Area C	7,144	32.5
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	21,979	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Bani Zeid Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Thousands of dunams of areas have been lost in the town through Israeli confiscations of land for different Israeli interests, starting with the building of Israeli settlements on the town land, constructing Israeli bypass roads, the Segregation Wall, and isolating agricultural land. The following are details on the Israeli confiscation of the town's land:

Israel confiscated an area of 74 dunams from Bani Zeid town land for the construction of the Beit Arye settlement west of the town. Beit Arye was established in 1981 and is currently inhabited by around 4,000 Israeli settlers occupying a total area of 1,420 dunams of Palestinian land. While part of the settlement was built on the land of Bani Zeid; the rest of Beit Arye was built on neighboring villages land of Al Lubban al Gharbi and 'Abud.

The attacks of Israeli settlers' living in settlements established on land of Bani Zeid town have the greatest impact on Palestinians and their properties in Bani Zeid town. These attacks have contributed much to the further control Palestinian land adjacent to settlements by preventing land owners from accessing their lands, fencing them with barbed wires and planting them with trees. Israeli settlers also carried out a series of attacks against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate them and deter them from returning to their lands located in close proximity of the aforementioned settlements.

The Israeli Government confiscated thousands of dunams of agricultural and non-agricultural land to open several bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank, to link Israeli. This has effectively dismembered Palestinian land and enhanced security control over it. Israel has also confiscated more land of Bani Zeid and its neighboring villages for the construction of the Israeli bypass roads no. 465 and 446 near the town and to its southern and western sides. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Bani Zeid town

The settlement plan represented in the construction of the Segregation Wall had a negative impact on Bani Zeid town. The latest revised route of the Israeli segregation wall plan published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on April 30, 2007 shows that the wall built to the west of Bani Zeid causes the confiscation of 852 dunams (4%) of its total area. On top of this, it confiscates more land for different Israeli settlements purposes. The majority of the isolated land is open spaces and agricultural areas in addition to Israeli settlements built on the town's land (See Table 10).

Table 10: Land Classification of the Isolated land in Bani Zeid Town – Ramallah Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunams)
1	Israeli Settlements	74
2	Agricultural Land	187
3	Open Areas	557
4	Wall Zone	17
5	Construction Area	17
Total		852
The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2011		

Issued Military Orders in Bani Zeid Town

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued a serious of military orders to confiscate land in Bani Zeid for the construction of the Segregation Wall; following is one of these orders:

- Israeli Military Order No. (171/05/T): Issued on the 27th of September of 2005. It confiscates a total land area of 613 dunams of the land of Bani Zeid town (which includes Deir Ghassana village) for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented projects

The Municipal Council of Bani Zeid has implemented several development projects in the last 5 years. For more details please see table 11.

Table 11: Implemented development projects and plans in Bani Zeid, 2011

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction and finishing work of a health center	Public Services	2004	PECDAR
Rehabilitation of a secondary transportation system	Infrastructure	2008	Ministry of Finance
Rehabilitation of a football field	Public Services	2009	CHF
Finishing work of a building constructed as a Public Center	Public Services	2008	CHF

Source: Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011

Proposed Projects

Bani Zeid Municipal Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, looks forward to the implementation of 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. Activating the existing treatment unit in town and expanding the sewerage network to include all houses in the town.
2. Renewing the water network in the town due to the high percentage of water losses through the network.
3. Establishing an emergency center that operates 24 hours a day and providing specialists able to work on all devices available in the center.
4. Constructing new classrooms for schools and rehabilitating these schools in order to fit with students with special needs.
5. Linking farmers with output channels for marketing olive oil in affordable prices.
6. Rehabilitating agricultural land and constructing harvesting wells in them.
7. Constructing domestic harvesting wells to solve the problem of water crisis taking place, especially in the summer.
8. Reclaiming agricultural land suitable for cultivation and planting them with trees; this land constitutes approximately 6,280 dunams out of 37,000 dunams.
9. Providing awareness campaigns and projects to stimulate the citizens to maintain public property.
10. Establishing public gardens, parks and nature reserves to exploit existing shrubs.
11. Establishing livestock barracks (sheep, cows) to serve low-income and needy families in the town and to provide jobs for the unemployed.
12. Paving and rehabilitating main and sub streets and establishing units for containers.
13. Completing the work on the municipal stadium project which mainly needs to be planted with grass.
14. Constructing a wall around the current landfill and providing a recycling project for waste and a compost production factory for organic products.
15. Networking with relevant institutions of agriculture, veterinary, health, and municipal councils to eliminate wild animals that were released by the occupation such as pigs, poisonous snakes and dogs.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

The town suffers from a significant shortage in infrastructure and services. The following table shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the Bani Zeid Municipal Council's perspective and feedback from the ARIJ conducted workshop.

Table 12: Development Priorities and Needs in Bani Zeid

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			30 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		50 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			10 km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			50 km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			8000 m ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			20 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			200 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of new clinics or health care centres	*			1 center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 center
3	Purchasing of medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of new schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			all school stages
3	Purchasing of new equipment for schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural land			*	
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			800 cisterns
3	Construction of barracks for livestock			*	
4	Veterinary services			*	
5	Forage and hay for animals			*	
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Field crops seeds			*	
9	Plants and agricultural supplies		*		

[^] 10 km main roads, 15 km secondary roads, and 5 km agricultural roads.

Source: Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011

References

- *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.
- *Bani Zeid Municipal Council, 2011*
- Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Ramallah, 2011. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2010/2011). Ramallah – Palestine.
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2009. Directorate of Agriculture data (2008/2009). Ramallah - Palestine.