

Tuqu' Town Profile



Prepared by

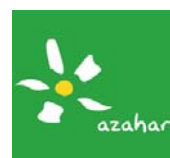


The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar Program

2010

Acknowledgments

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

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

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

Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Bethlehem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Bethlehem Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment," the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The "Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Bethlehem Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Bethlehem Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

Table of Content

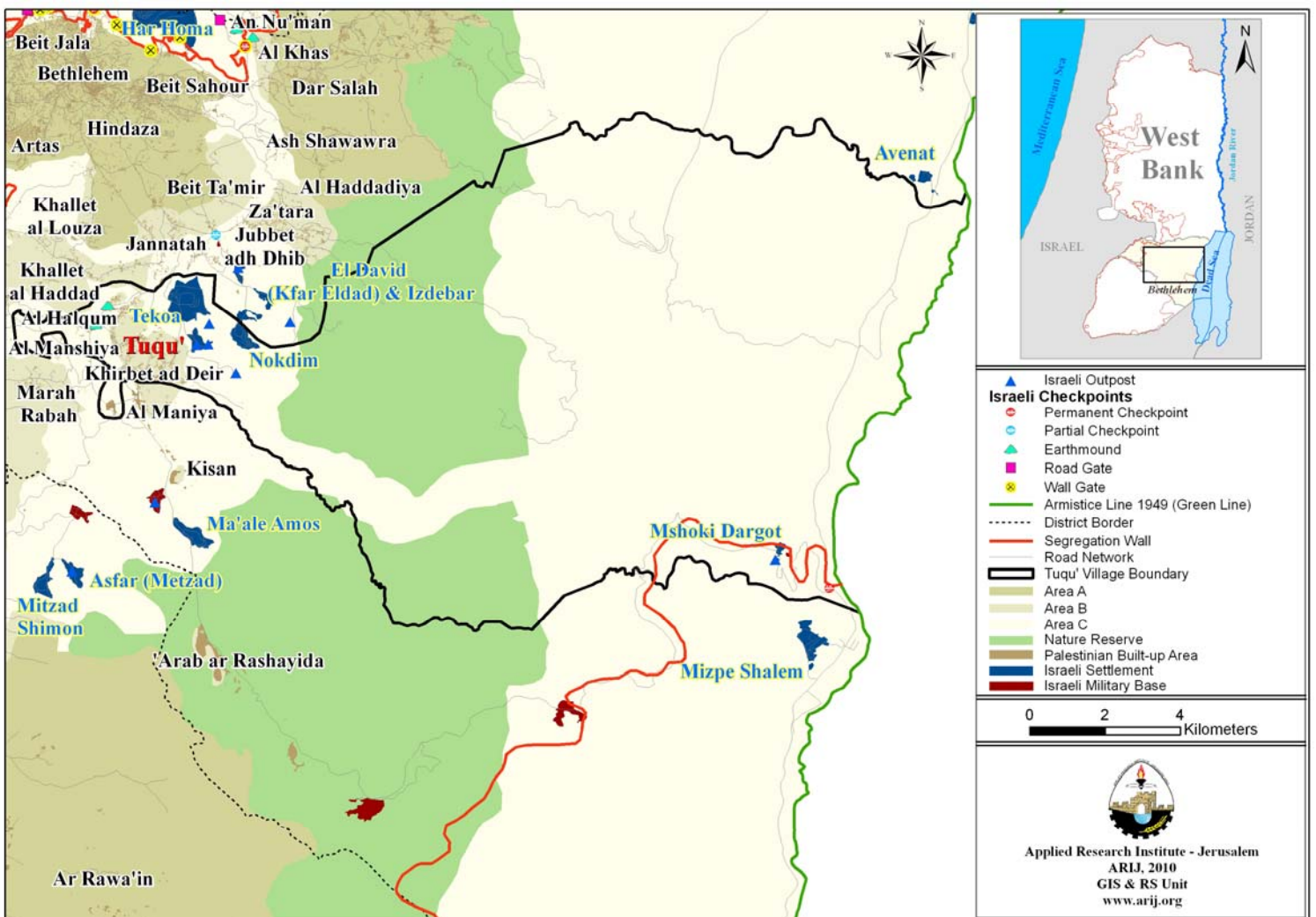
| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> | 4 |
| <i>History</i> | 5 |
| <i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> | 6 |
| <i>Population</i> | 7 |
| <i>Education</i> | 7 |
| <i>Health Status</i> | 8 |
| <i>Economic Activities</i> | 9 |
| <i>Agricultural Sector</i> | 10 |
| <i>Institutions and Services</i> | 13 |
| <i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> | 13 |
| <i>Environmental Conditions</i> | 16 |
| <i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i> | 17 |
| <i>Development Plans and Projects</i> | 21 |
| <i>Implemented Projects</i> | 21 |
| <i>Proposed Projects</i> | 22 |
| <i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> | 23 |
| <i>References:</i> | 24 |

Tuqu' Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Tuqu' is a Palestinian town in Bethlehem Governorate located 12km (horizontal distance) south-east of Bethlehem City. Tuqu' is bordered by Tuqu' wilds to the east, Jannatah town to the north, Al Manshiya and Marah Rabah villages to the west, and Al Maniya and Kisan villages to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Tuqu' location and borders



Tuqu' is located at an altitude of 695m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 410mm. The average annual temperature is 17° C and the average annual humidity is about 60 percent (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1997, Tuqu' has been governed by a municipal council which is currently administrated by 13 members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There are also 15 employees working in the council. The municipality owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle to collect solid waste.

It is the responsibility of the municipality to provide a number of services to the residents of Tuqu', including:

1. Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the town.
4. Organization of the licensing and construction processes.
5. Protection of religious and archaeological sites.

History

It is believed that the ancient Tuqu', which means setting up the tents, was replaced by the current town of Tuqu'.

Tuqu' town dates back to 1948 and its residents originate from 'Arab at Ta'amra. Moreover, Tuqu' town includes three other localities: Khirbet Ad Deir, Al Halkoom, and Khirbet Tuqu'.

Photo of Tuqu'

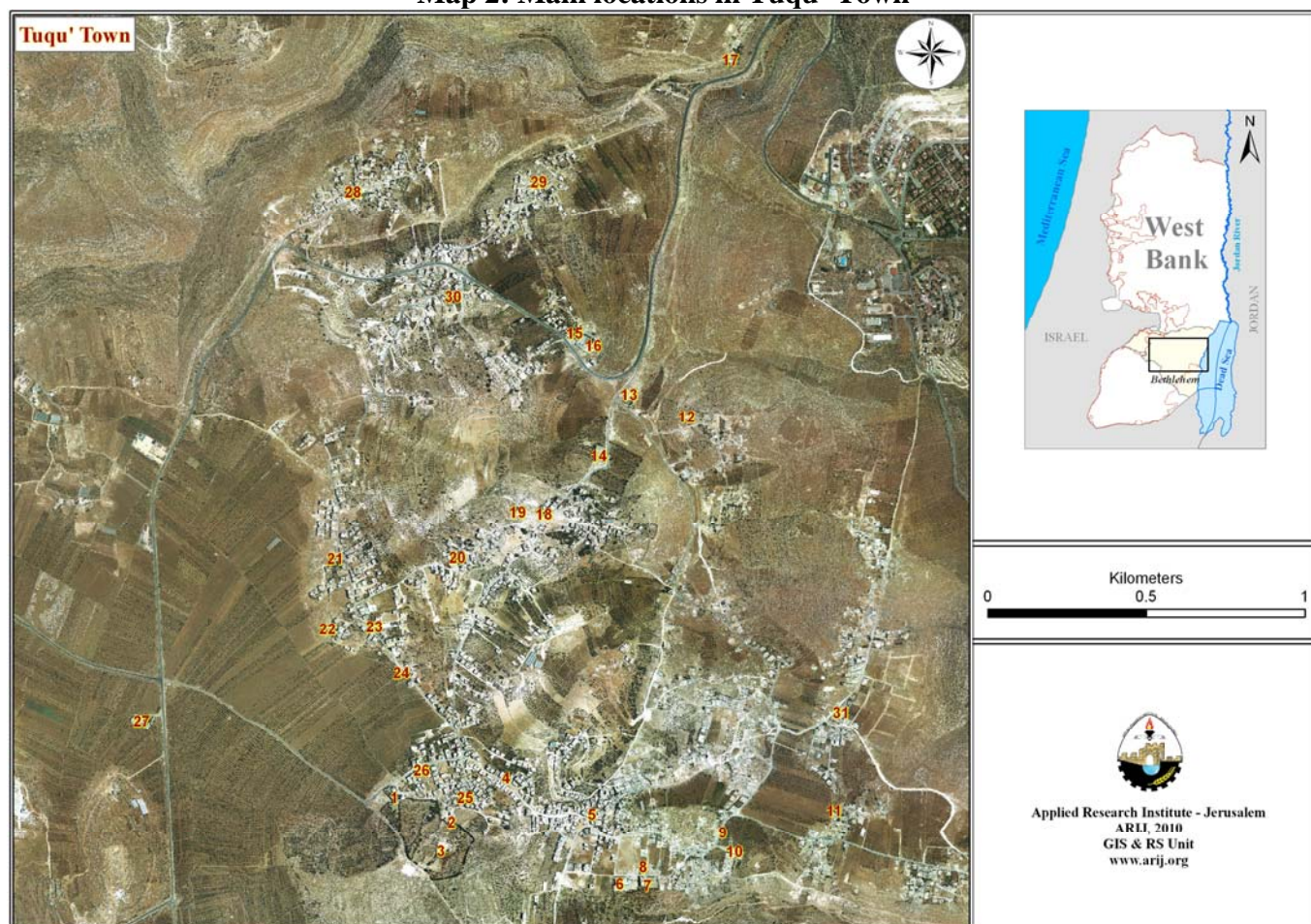


Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are ten mosques in Tuqu': Abu Bakr As Siddiq Mosque, Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque, As Sahaba Mosque, At Tawba Mosque, Abd Ar Rahman Ben 'Oof Mosque, Zaid Ben Haritha Mosque, Al 'Abbas Mosque, Salah Ad Deen Mosque, Al Ansar Mosque, and Ali Ben Abi Talib Mosque.

There are several archaeological sites, mainly: Khirbet Tuqu' archeological site which is qualified in term of tourism, and Khirbet Umm El 'Amd, which is not qualified (See map 2.)

Map 2: Main locations in Tuqu' Town



| No. | Locations | No. | Locations | No. | Locations |
|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1 | Tuqu' Municipality & Youth Sports Club & Women's Center | 12 | Beit Al Maqdis Kindergarten | 23 | Tuqu' Health Clinic/ Ministry of Health |
| 2 | Water Tank | 13 | Artesian Well (3) | 24 | At Tawba Mosque/ Ash Shurfah Area |
| 3 | The Archeological site of Khirbet Tuqu' | 14 | Tuqu' Boys High School | 25 | Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque/ Al 'Umoor |
| 4 | Tuqu' Charitable Association | 15 | Al Khansa' Elementary School | 26 | Tuqu' Agricultural Association |
| 5 | Abu Bakr As Siddiq Mosque (An Hajjar Sector) | 16 | Al Jurmoq Girls Elementary School | 27 | Artesian Well |
| 6 | The Charitable Medical Association | 17 | Batn El Ghool Well (1) | 28 | Zaid Ben Haritha Mosque |
| 7 | Tuqu' Girls High School | 18 | Ali Ben Abi Taleb Mosque/ Al Lawziya Neighborhood | 29 | Al 'Abbas Mosque |
| 8 | Al Hurriya Mixed Elementary School | 19 | Tuqu' Islamic Kindergarten | 30 | Khirbet ad Deir Mosque |
| 9 | Tuqu' Police Station | 20 | Abd Ar Rahman Mosque/ Al Jabal El Abiad | 31 | Al Arza Mixed Elementary School |
| 10 | Al Ansar Mosque | 21 | Salah Ed Deen Mosque/ Ash Shae'r | | |
| 11 | As Sahaba Mosque (Ras El Wad) | 22 | Tuqu' Girls Elementary School | | |

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) the total population of Tuqu' in 2007 was 8,881; of whom 4,555 are males and 4,326 are females. There are 1,368 households living in 1,444 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 Tuqu' is as follows: 44.3 percent are less than 15 years, 52.5 percent are between 15 - 64 years, and 2.9 percent are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 105.3:100, meaning that males constitute 51.3% of the population, and females constitute 48.7% of the population.

Families

The inhabitants of Tuqu' town are composed of several families, mainly: Al Badan, Jibreen, Ash Sha'er, Al 'Emoor, Nawawra, Al 'Erooj, Abu Mifrih, Az Zawahra, Sbeih, At Tnooh, Sleiman, and Sabbah.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Tuqu' population is about 9.9 percent, of whom 66.1 percent are females. Of the literate population, 18.5 percent can read and write, 28 percent had elementary education, 29.1 percent had preparatory education, 18.4 percent had secondary education, and 5.9 percent completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the town of Tuqu', by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

| Sex | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate Diploma | Bachelor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Total |
|----------|------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| M | 203 | 506 | 850 | 862 | 522 | 20 | 135 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 3111 |
| F | 397 | 501 | 675 | 727 | 479 | 25 | 132 | - | - | - | 2936 |
| T | 600 | 1007 | 1525 | 1589 | 1001 | 45 | 267 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 6047 |

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

In regard to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Tuqu' in the academic year 2008/2009, there are seven public schools in the town, one for boys, two

for girls, and four mixed, all run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no private schools in Tuqu'. See Table 2.

There is a total number of 3324 students, 95 teachers, and 95 classes (Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 26, while the average number of students per class is approximately 35.

| School Name | Supervising Authority | Sex |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Tuqu' Boys High School | Government | Male |
| Tuqu' Girls High School | Government | Female |
| Al Jurmok Elementary School | Government | Mixed |
| Tuqu' Mixed Elementary School | | |
| Al Arza Mixed Elementary School | | |
| Al Huriya Mixed Elementary School | | |
| Al Khansa' Mixed Elementary School | | |
| Source: Directorate of Education in Bethlehem, 2009 – Tuqu' Municipality, 2010 | | |

Furthermore, there are two kindergartens in Tuqu'; the first is run by a charitable society in the town and the second is privately run. The total number of children in both kindergartens is 180. Table 3 shows the kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority.

| Kindergarten Name | No. of Children | Supervising Authority |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Beit Al Maqdis Kindergarten | 80 | Charitable Society |
| Tuqu' Islamic Kindergarten | 100 | Private |
| Source: Tuqu' Municipality, 2010 | | |

Health Status

There are some health facilities available in Tuqu' town; a health center run by the government, one private physician clinic and one private dental clinic, two public physician clinics run by charitable societies, two public dental clinics also run by charitable societies, a laboratory for medical analysis inside the health center, and two other medical laboratories run by charitable societies. There are also two pharmacies in the town but there is no ambulance.

In emergency cases, residents of Tuqu' use Bethlehem hospitals and health centers, such as: Beit Jala Governmental Hospital (Al Hussein), about 13km from the town, the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem city, 13km from the town, the Rehabilitation Arab Society in Beit Jala, which is about 18km from the town, Al Yamamah Hospital in Al Khader city, which is about 17km from the town, and Beit Sahur clinic, which is about 12km from the town.

Despite the existence of a health center in Tuqu', the health sector in the town faces several obstacles, mainly:

- 1- The absence of an ambulance in the town.
- 2- Lack of many important medications in the health center.
- 3- The absence of specialized doctors and medical equipment in the center.

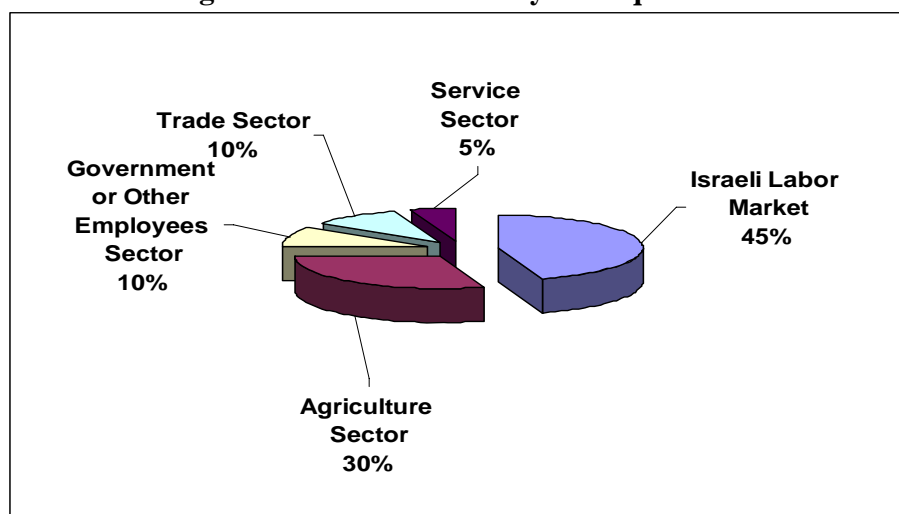
Economic Activities

The economy in Tuqu' is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 45 percent of the town workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Tuqu' are the following:

- Israeli Labor Market (45%)
- Agriculture Sector (30%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (10%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Service Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Tuqu' Town



Tuqu' is considered an agricultural town featured with livestock; hence it is characterized with the production and selling of dairy and cheese in the local market and Bethlehem market as well. In regard to economic and industrial activities in Tuqu', they are few and almost non existing, as there are a brick factory and a stone quarry, one bakery, four groceries, one butcher, five different service stores, 15 different workshops (blacksmith, carpentry...etc), and 74 grocery stores.

The unemployment rate in Tuqu' has reached about 50 percent. It was found that the most vulnerable social groups in the town, as a result of Israeli restrictions, are:

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the agricultural sector.
3. Workers in the trade sector.
4. Workers in the service sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 28.6 percent of Tuqu' population was economically active; of whom 65.5 percent were employed, 71.4 percent were not economically active, 56.9 percent were students, and 31.3 percent were housekeepers (See table 4).

| SEX | Economically Active | | | | Not Economically Active | | | | | | Total |
|-----|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| | Employed | Currently Unemployed | Unemployed (Never worked) | Total | Students | House-keeping | Unable to work | Not working & Not looking for work | Other | Total | |
| M | 1,038 | 409 | 155 | 1,602 | 1,219 | 1 | 222 | 11 | 54 | 1,507 | 3,111 |
| F | 94 | 7 | 24 | 125 | 1,237 | 1,351 | 199 | - | 22 | 2,809 | 2,936 |
| T | 1,132 | 416 | 179 | 1,727 | 2,456 | 1,352 | 421 | 11 | 76 | 4,316 | 6,047 |

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

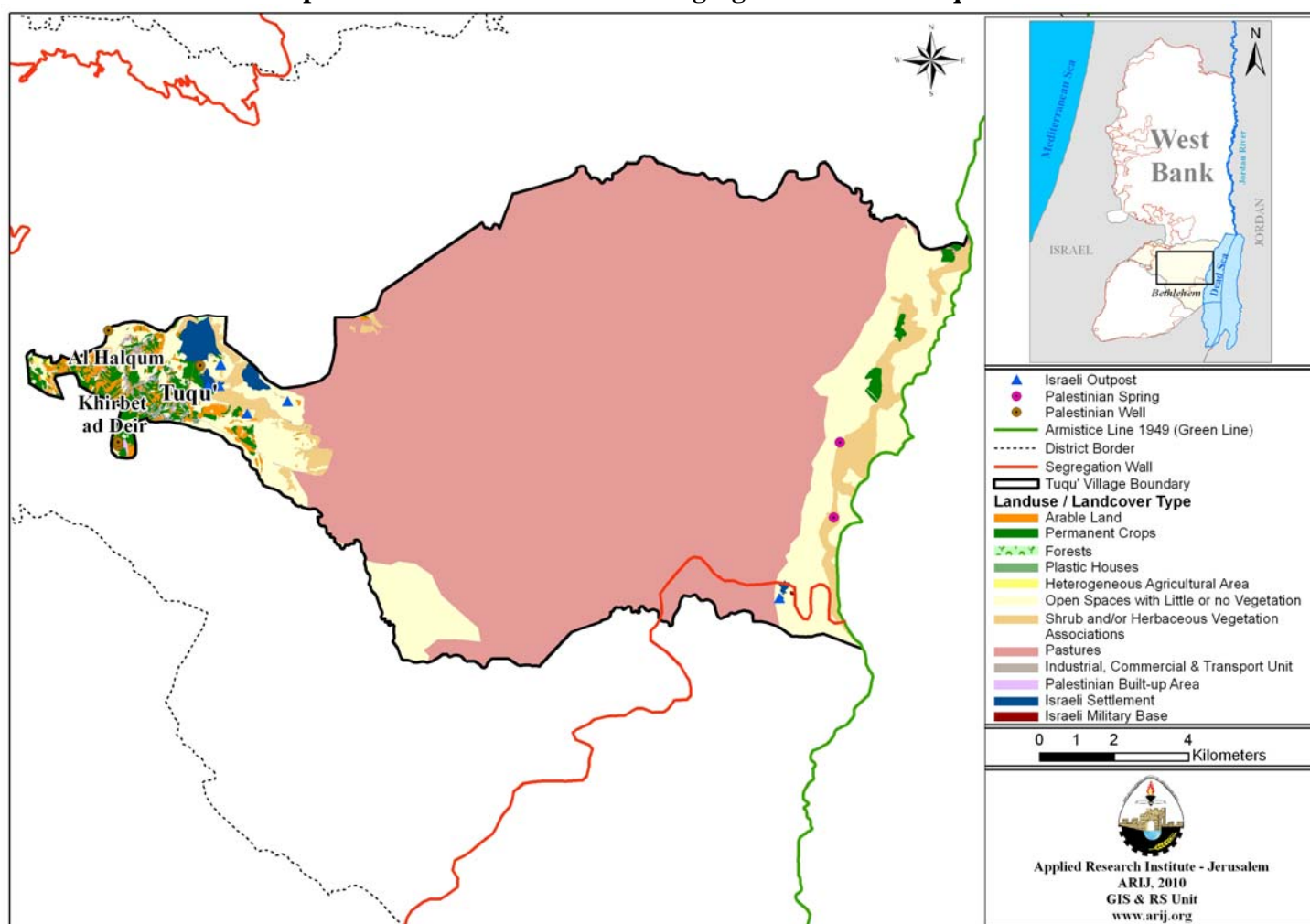
Agricultural Sector

Tuqu' lies on a total area of about 191,262 dunums of which 188,845 dunums are considered arable land, and 590 dunums are residential land (See table 5 and map 3).

| Total Area | Built up Area | Arable Land (188,845) | | | | | Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit | Area of Settlements and Military Bases |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------|----------------------------|---|--|
| | | Seasonal Crops | Permanent Crops | Greenhouses | Forests | Open Spaces and Rangelands | | |
| 191,262 | 590 | 2,362 | 3,877 | 11 | 39 | 182,556 | 378 | 1,449 |

Source: GIS unit – ARIJ, 2008

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Tuqu' Town



Agricultural production in Tuqu' depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, they depend on domestic harvesting cisterns and public water network.

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

| Fruity vegetables | | Leafy vegetable | | Green legumes | | Bulbs | | Other vegetables | | Total area | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------|------|-------|------|------------------|------|------------|------|
| RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. |
| 27 | 36.5 | 0 | 40.5 | 0.5 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 40 | 27.5 | 120 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are also 11 dunums of land on which there are greenhouses planted with vegetables, mainly: cucumber.

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area.

| 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. |
| 5,002 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 5,013 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

As for the field crops and forage in Tuqu', cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 1,141 dunums, while dry legumes, such as chickpeas and lentil, are the next most cultivated crops (See table 8).

| 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 |
| 1,141 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,241 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

The field survey shows that 15 percent of the residents in Tuqu' are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, broiler chicken, and bees (See Table 9).

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 0 | 8,974 | 4,397 | 0 | 37 | 130 | 57 | 11,300 | 0 | 20 |

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 20 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town suitable for agricultural machinery.

Institutions and Services

Tuqu' has a police office and an office for the Ministry of Agriculture, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society: children, youth and, women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including: (Tuqu' Municipality, 2010)

- **Tuqu' Municipality:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Tuqu' Sport Club:** Founded in 1997. It is interested in all sport, educational, and cultural activities of the youth in the town.
- **Woman Committee for Social Action:** Founded in 2006. It is concerned with the advancement of woman status and it provides awareness and social educational services for all women in town.
- **Charitable Medical Society:** Founded in 2000. It has many different medical sections in addition to a section for people with special needs.
- **Tuqu' Charitable Society:** Founded in 1983. It is a medical charitable society and its services cover the whole town residents in addition to some neighboring localities.
- **Tuqu' Agriculture Society:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to provide agricultural awareness and guidance to the town residents.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Tuqu' has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 99.8 percent of the housing units in the town are connected to the network, 0.1 percent are dependent on private generators for electricity, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (0.1%) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Furthermore, Tuqu' is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 16.1 percent of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2007).

Transportation Services:

Private cars and public vehicles (Taxis) are the two main means of transportation in Tuqu'; there are 40 public vehicles in the town (Tuqu' Municipality, 2010). As for the road network in the town; there is a total of 17km of roads; of which 6km are main roads and 11km are secondary roads. It should be mentioned here that 14km of these roads either need pavement or are in need of rehabilitation (Tuqu' municipality, 2010).

Water Resources:

Tuqu' is provided with water by the West Bank water Department, through the public water network established in 1983, and about 99.8 percent of the housing units are connected to the water network, while the source of water supply is unknown for the remaining units (0.2%) (PCBS, 2007).

The quantity of water supplied to Tuqu' in 2008 was about 143,730 cubic meters/year, therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 45 liters/day (PWA, 2008). Here it should be noted that no Tuqu' citizen in fact consumes this amount of water because of water losses, which is about 39 percent. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (PWA, 2008), thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Tuqu' is 27.5 liters per day. This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity proposed by the World Health Organization, which is 100 liters per capita per day.

Also, located in Tuqu' are 95 rainwater harvesting cisterns and 3 wells (Tuqu' Municipality, 2010).

Sanitation:

Tuqu' lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a means for wastewater disposal. According to PCBS's Population and Housing Census in 2007 and PWA data, the majority of Tuqu's housing units (99.8%) use cesspits for wastewater disposal, 0.1% of the housing units have no means for wastewater collection and disposal, while the means for wastewater disposal is unknown for the remaining units (0.2%).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 195 cubic meters or 72 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 22 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

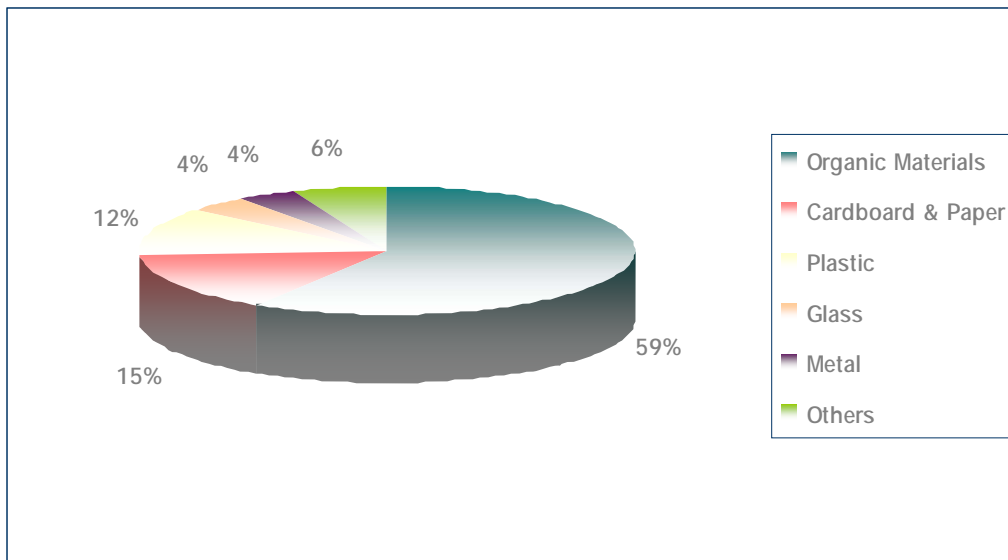
Solid Waste Management:

Tuqu’ Municipality is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, generated from the citizens and establishments in Tuqu’, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 15 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste.

Most of the population in Tuqu’ benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 75 containers, with a capacity of 1 cubic meters each, spread throughout the neighborhoods. The municipality collects the solid waste from the containers six days a week and transports it to Tuqu’ dumping site, 12km from the town. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is setting waste on fire or sometimes burying it. It should be mentioned here that household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same landfill, in the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection. The largest volume of solid waste is household waste which makes up around 45-50 percent of total capacity of solid waste.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Tuqu’ is 0.7kg. Thus, the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Tuqu’ residents is nearly 6216kg, or 2268 tons per year. The main component of household solid waste is composed of organic materials, followed by paper and cardboard and then by plastic, as shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: The components of the household solid waste produced



Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis:

Lack of drinking water available for the residents of Tuqu' town for several reasons, namely:

- (1) Israeli domination over Palestinian water resources; accordingly, supplying Palestinians communities with insufficient water quantities to cover their domestic needs.
- (2) High rate of water losses because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- (3) The water meters are old and some of them are broken.

Wastewater Management:

The absence of a public sewage network, thus the use of cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and the discharge of wastewater in the streets, especially in winter, because the citizens can not afford the high cost of sewage tankers, causes environmental and health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and water collected in domestic cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) as wastewater mixes with water, making it contaminated for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are built without lining, which allows wastewater to enter into the ground and avoids the need to use sewage tankers from time to time. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without taking into account the damage it causes to the environment and the resident's health.

Solid Waste Management:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Tuqu' and the other communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions, such as the difficulty to obtain licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C, under the Israeli control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. Thus, the lack of a sanitary landfill is a hazard risk for the health, and a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and it also produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape. It should be noted here that a sanitary landfill is currently under construction in Al Maniya area, south of Bethlehem governorate, to serve Bethlehem and Hebron governorates

Solid waste accumulates outside the containers and in the streets, due to the inefficiency

of the solid waste collection service, as one vehicle is not enough to collect and transfer all waste.

There is an absence of a system in the town and the governorate in general that separates hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Tuqu' landfill for disposal by burning.

Other problems:

- The limited role of the municipality, like other municipalities and councils, in providing only certain services, without considering other various aspects for development.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

According to Oslo Interim Agreement, 2991 dunums of Tuqu' lands (1.5% of the total area of the town) were classified as area B, 141,682 dunums (74.1% of the total area of the town) were classified as area C, while the rest of the town area, 46,589 dunums (24.4% of the total area of the town) was classified as nature reserves (Table 10).

| Land Classification | Area (dunums) | % of the Total Area |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Area A | 0 | 0 |
| Area B | 2991 | 1.5 |
| Area C | 141,682 | 74.1 |
| Nature Reserves | 46,589 | 24.4 |
| Total Area | 191262 | 100 |

Source: GIS unit –ARIJ 2009

After the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in June 1967, the Israeli authorities illegally confiscated large areas of the Palestinian lands in various parts of the occupied territory for the illegal construction of Israeli settlements, bypass roads and military bases. Tuqu' town, like many other Palestinian towns and villages, was exposed to Israeli illegal procedures of violation and expansion, where Israel has confiscated 1436 dunums of the citizens' lands in the town for the construction of three Israeli settlements (Table 11).

| Settlement | Year of establishment | Settlers (2008-2009) | Total Area of settlement | % of total area of the town |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tekoa | 1977 | 1455 | 1071 | 1071 |
| Mshoki Dargot (Resort) | 1991 | 0 | 77 | 77 |
| Mizpe Shalem | 1980 | 195 | 440 | 288 |
| Total area | | 1650 | 1588 | 1436 |

Source: ARIJ 2009

In addition to the establishment of Israeli settlements on Tuqu' town territories, the Israeli settlers established six settlement outposts on the town lands, in order to control more of the neighboring Palestinian lands (Table 12).

| Outpost | Mother Settlement | Settlers | No. of trailers |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Tekoa B & C | Jan, 2001 | | 44 caravans & 15 trailers |
| Tekoa D | Feb, 2001 – Nov, 2002 | 6 Jewish families and a number of bachelors | 26 |
| South-east of Tekoa | 1996 – Feb, 2001 | | 1 |
| South of Mshoki Dargot | 2002 – June, 2003 | | 7 |
| Total | | | 78 |

Source: ARIJ 2009

Furthermore, Tuqu' town residents suffer from the continued attacks of settlers who are staying in the region and attacking the citizens and their properties in an attempt to spread terror, fear, and anxiety among them. Many events were recorded, mainly:

1. On May 30, 2004, a number of Israeli settlers from Tekoa settlement attacked a Palestinian shepherd who was grazing his sheep near his home which is adjacent to the settlement. They beat him heavily with sticks, resulting in injuries and fractures in various parts of his body.
2. On June 23, 2007, Israeli settlers from Tekoa settlement set the olive trees in Tuqu' town on fire; about ten settlers participated in the process of burning which was carried out late at night after the petrol material were poured in the territories bordering the settlement in which they live. The fire spread in large areas of summer crops and burned about 400 olive trees that were planted 15 years ago. Their purpose of all of this was preparing themselves for seizing this land and annexing it to the existing settlement.

Bypass Roads in Tuqu'

During the years of occupation, the Israeli occupation forces have established a bypass road network in order to create a kind of territorial contiguity between the Israeli settlements, outposts, and military bases in the West Bank, whereas these roads have isolated the Palestinian communities from each other, and caused material and

agricultural losses. Tuqu' was also affected by the establishment of the bypass road network, as it lost part of its territories for the construction of a number of Israeli bypass roads: bypass road no. 90¹, bypass road no. 356², and bypass road no. 3698, which extend for 17.67km on Tuqu' town territories.

The Segregation Wall

According to the updated Segregation Wall plan published on the web page of the Israeli Ministry of Defense in April 30, 2007; the Segregation Wall will extend for 8.77km on Tuqu' lands, from the south-eastern area; thus isolating and confiscating 4843 dunums of the town territory (2.5 percent of the total area of the town). Table 13 shows the lands isolated behind the wall in Tuqu' town:

| Item | Total Area (in Dunums) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Arable Land | 2970 |
| Forests & Open spaces | 1798 |
| Israeli Settlements | 75 |
| Total | 4843 |

Source: ARIJ database- GIS, 2008

Israeli Military Orders in Tuqu' town

1. On July 24, 2005, the Israeli occupation forces issued military order # (T/05/126) to confiscate a total area of 1.5 dunums of Tuqu', Jubbet adh Dhib, and Al Furdeis territories for the establishment of surveillance cameras in the area for protection purposes.
2. On August 16, 2004, the Israeli occupation forces issued military order # 04/7549, which states that all trees in the area will be cut under the argument that they are government property.

Israeli demolition policy in Tuqu' town

Tuqu' town residents also suffer from the Israeli demolition policy under the pretext that their houses are not licensed, as their homes are located in areas classified as "C" which

¹ The main bypass road that links the West Bank north with its south and passes through the Dead Sea in Jordan valley

² The Israeli bypass road number 356 led to shortening the distance for the benefit of settlers heading to Jerusalem city and vice versa, as it extends from (Har Homa) Abu Ghneim settlement, north of Bethlehem, and continues toward the east, linking both settlements of Al David and Tekoa and the Israeli military base which is close to the settlement with Gush Etzion settlements, south-west of Bethlehem city, and the Israeli settlements inside the green line.

are subjected to Israeli sovereignty. Some of the events, in regard to the demolition of Palestinian homes, can be listed as follow:

- On the first of July, 2005, the Israeli occupation authorities handed Tuqu' town residents, military orders to demolish two houses under the pretext of unauthorized construction due to its location in areas classified as C, which is under Israeli full control, according to Oslo Interim Agreement in 1995. These houses are owned by Sami Ali Hassan El 'Erooj and 'Emad Ali Issa Jibrin.
- In June 23, 2006, the Palestinian residents of Tuqu' town were handed military orders to stop the construction of three Palestinian houses in the town. These houses are owned by 'Atiya 'Abid Subih, Ali Ahmad Hussein Suleiman, and Habis Ibrahim Suleiman.
- On the first of July, 2006, the Israeli occupation bulldozers demolished two barracks in Tuqu' town, south-east of Bethlehem, owned by Hamad Ahmad Hamad El Baden and Khalaf Ahmad Hamad El Baden, under the pretext of unauthorized construction as they are located in areas classified as "C", which is under Israeli full control.
- On September 12, 2006 the Israeli occupation bulldozers demolished animal barracks in Tuqu' town, under the pretext of unauthorized construction. These barracks are owned by Khalil Safi Ahmad Ta'amreh and Ibrahim Khalil Safi Ta'amreh. The Israeli occupation authorities also notified three other houses in the town and two animal barracks under the pretext of unauthorized construction. These properties are owned by 'Eyad Ibrahim Safi Jibreel, Dawood Mustafa Safi Jibreel, Yaser Khalil Mustafa Jibreel, Ali Khalaf Mohammad Jibreel, and Salim Rashid Awad Allah Abu Mifreh.
- On September 26, 2006, the Israeli occupation authorities handed Ali Ahmed Musallam Brijieh, from Tuqu' town, a military order to demolish his house under the pretext of unauthorized construction.
- On November 26, 2006, the Israeli occupation authorities handed Khader Abd Allah El 'Emoor a military order to demolish his house under the pretext of unauthorized construction.
- The Israeli occupation authorities notified Khalil Mousa Khalil El 'Emoor house, in Tuqu' town, south-east of Bethlehem, under the pretext of unauthorized construction.
- On January 2007, the Israeli occupation authorities handed Tuqu' town residents two military orders to demolish two houses in the town under the pretext of unauthorized construction. The two houses are owned by 'Adel Ahmad Suleiman Ash Sha'er and Ibrahim Suleiman Hamid Ash Sha'er.

According to Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Israel in 1995, the targeted Palestinian homes in Tuqu' town, are located in the Palestinian areas classified as 'C', under Israeli, security and administrative, control. However, the division was supposed to be temporary; according to the agreement the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces in areas C, and transferring the

responsibility over internal security, in areas B and C, to the Palestinian police should have been implemented in three phases, as long as each phase is implemented in six months, at maximum, and be completed within 18 months from the date of the investiture of the Palestinian Legislative Council. During this period, responsibilities and authorities, relating to lands, will be gradually transferred to the Palestinian Authority in order to include the West Bank and Gaza Strip, except for the issues that will be negotiated in the final status negotiations (borders, water, Jerusalem, settlements and refugees). Meaning that 95 percent of the West Bank and Gaza Strip should have been transferred under the Palestinian control, however, due to the intransigence of the Israeli government and not complying with their signed agreements, the implementation of these conventions was stopped and only a small portion of land was transferred under the Palestinian control.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Tuqu' municipality has implemented several development projects in Tuqu', during the years 2005 to 2008, as shown in Table 14:

| Name of the Project | Type | Year | Donor |
|---|----------------|-------------|--|
| Construction of Al Jurmok Elementary School | Educational | 2007 | Islamic Bank |
| Establishment of Public Water Reservoir | Infrastructure | 2005 | Red Cross International Committee |
| Pavement of 1.5km roads | Infrastructure | 2008 | Development and Lending Municipal Fund |
| Source: Tuqu' Municipality, 2010 | | | |

Proposed Projects

Tuqu' municipality, 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 viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishment of sewage network or wastewater treatment plant.
2. Supporting agricultural production inputs and reclamation of lands adjacent to settlements.
3. Establishment of a structural scheme for the town.
4. Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns
5. Construction of home gardens.
6. Supporting infrastructure projects.
7. Providing internal factories in order to reduce the unemployment rate.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Tuqu' suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the municipality's point of view (Tuqu' Municipality, 2010):

| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Not a Priority | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | 13km* |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | | * | | 4km |
| 3 | Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas | | * | | 2km |
| 4 | Construction of New Water Networks | | * | | 1km |
| 5 | Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs | | | * | |
| 6 | Construction of Water Reservoirs | | | * | |
| 7 | Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network | * | | | 15km |
| 8 | Construction of a New Electricity Network | | * | | 2km |
| 9 | Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection | | * | | 30 containers |
| 10 | Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste | | * | | 1 |
| 11 | Providing a Sanitary Landfill | | | * | |
| Health Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres | * | | | 1 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 & secondary |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Schools | * | | | elementary & secondary |
| 3 | Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools | * | | | elementary & secondary schools |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands | * | | | 1,500 dunums |
| 2 | Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns | * | | | 103 cistern |
| 3 | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | * | | | 20 barracks |
| 4 | Veterinary Services | * | | | |
| 5 | Seeds and Hay for Animals | * | | | |
| 6 | Construction of New Greenhouses | | * | | 30 greenhouses |
| 7 | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | * | | 15 greenhouses |
| 8 | Field Crops Seeds | * | | | |
| 9 | Plants and Agricultural Supplies | * | | | |

*5km is a main road, 6km internal road and 2km agricultural road.

References:

- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)*. (2008 - 2009). Bethlehem, Palestine: Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing unit Database, 2009.
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)*. 2009. Bethlehem, Palestine: Urbanization Unit Database, 2009.
- *Directorate of Education - Bethlehem*. 2008/2009. Bethlehem, Palestine: A database of schools.
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- *Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)*. 2007/2008. Bethlehem, Palestine: Directorate of Agriculture data.
- *Palestinian Water Authority*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: Quantities of Water Supply in the West Bank Governorates, 2008.
- *Tuqu' Municipality*. 2010.