

Qalqas Village Profile



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Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron 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'; a 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 Hebron 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 Hebron 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/>

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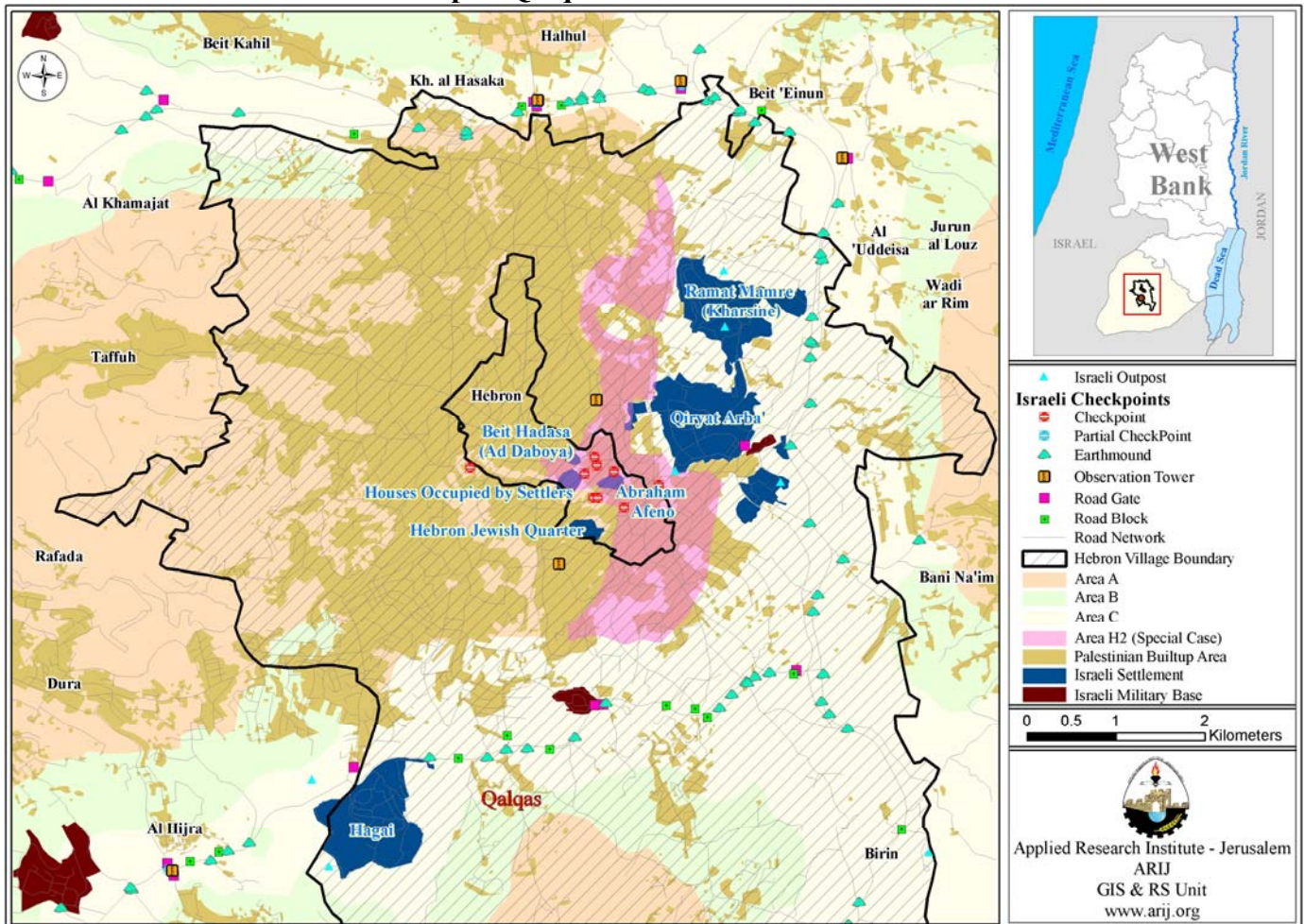
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Qalqas Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Qalqas is a village in the Hebron city village boundary, which is located 4 km south of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Khalet Al Dar village to the east, Hebron city to the north, Yatta city to the south and Dura city to the west, (See map 1).

Map 1: Qalqas location and borders



The total area of Qalqas village is 7,000 dunums; 300 dunums are classified as 'Palestinian built up' area; whilst 5,500 dunums are for agricultural use, 100 dunums are classified as forests and open areas and 1,000 dunums have been confiscated by the Israeli forces.

Qalqas village is located on a mountainous area south of Hebron with an elevation of 850 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Qalqas village is 370 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

Since 1999, Qalqas has been governed by a village council appointed by the Palestinian Authority. This council comprises of five members and no paid employees. The village council operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning, development and issuing building licenses;
2. Infrastructural maintenance of water, electricity, open and paved roads, the distribution of social services.

History

The history of Qalqas village dates back to the Canaanite period - the original residents of Qalqas came from Hebron City.

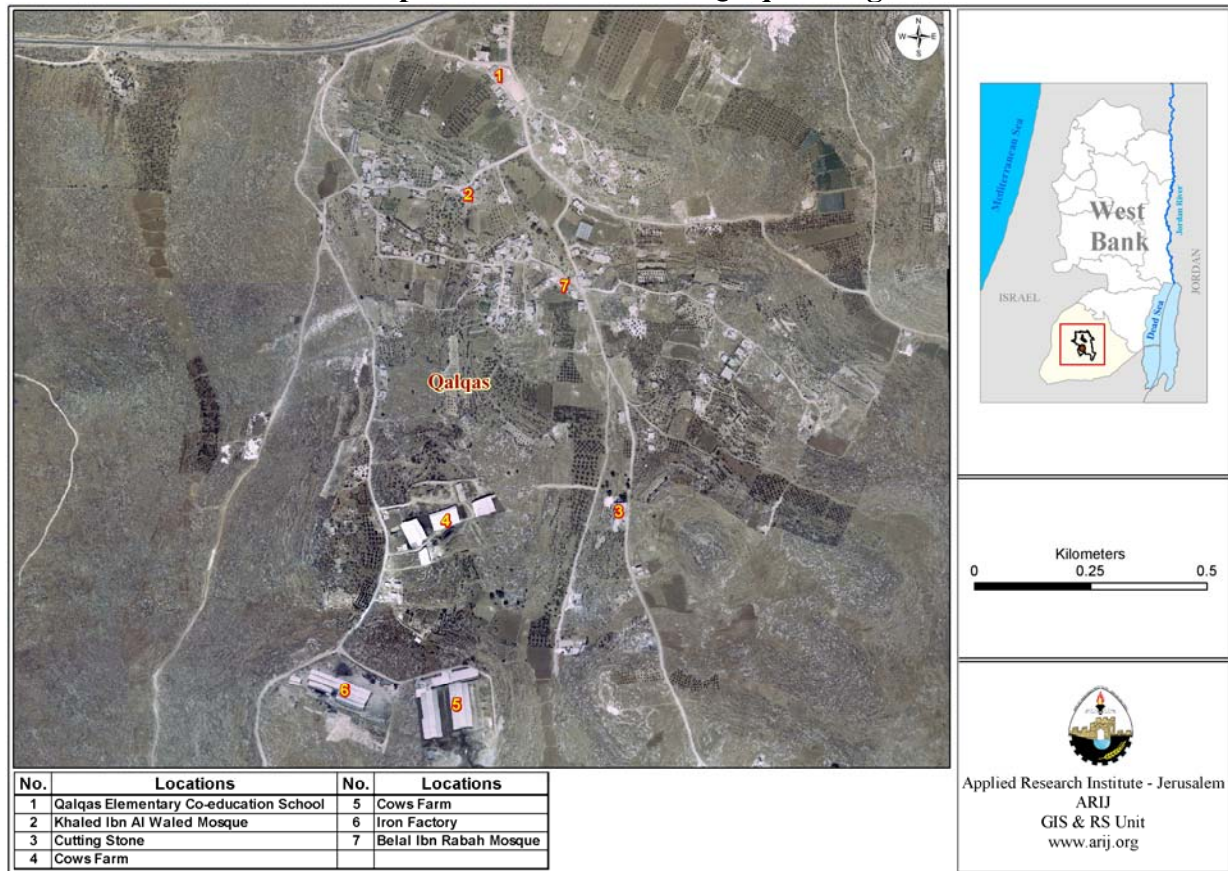
Photo of Qalqas



Religious and Archeological Sites

Mosques: There are two mosques in Qalqas village: Khaled Ibn Al Waled mosque and Belal Ibn Rabah mosque. Qalqas has no significant archeological sites.

Map 2: Main locations in Qalqas village



Demography and Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Qalqas in 2007 was approximately 1,149 people, of which 584 were males and 565 were females. There were 159 households residing in 172 housing units

Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census data showed the distribution of the population of Qalqas village by age group and sex. The Census data showed that 53.4% of the population is less than 15 years old, 43.8% is between 15 and 64 years old and 1.3% are 65 years and older. The sex ratio in the village was 103.3 males for every 100 females, with males constituting 50.8% of the population and females constituting 49.2%.

Families

The population of Qalqas is mainly comprised from the Abu Snih family which amounts to 99% of the total population; the remaining 1% is made up from other smaller families

Education

According to the 2007 census, the education status in Qalqas village indicated that about 12.4% of the residents were illiterate. Women (72.1%) comprised a greater percentage of illiterates than men (27.9%). Of the literate population, 28% of residents could read and write, 36.1% completed elementary education, 16.7% completed preparatory education and 6.9% completed their secondary and higher education. Table 1 shows the education status in Qalqas by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	24	105	141	55	20	8	5	-	-	-	358
F	62	90	110	61	9	1	5	-	-	-	338
T	84	195	251	116	29	9	10	-	-	-	696

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

The data of field survey indicated that there two elementary schools in Qalqas village: Qalqas Boys Elementary School and Qalqas Girls Elementary School. Both the schools are supervised by the governmental sector. Data reveals that at the end of the 2005/2006 scholastic year there were 160 students, 9 classes and 11 teachers in Qalqas village.

In 2006, there was one kindergarten in Qalqas village, this provided pre-school education services to 25 children and was supervised by private sector.

The main problem faces the educational status in Qalqas is absence of secondary schools in the village, students of secondary education are forced to travel to Hebron city, - 6 km away, to complete secondary education.

Health Status

There are no any health centers or clinics in Qalqas, the residents have to travel to Hebron city to get their health services which is 6 km away. The village lacks a pharmacy, and an ambulance to provide health services to the residents. The obstacles and problems faces the health sector in Qalqas is:

1. A shortage of health centers providing health services to the residents.
2. There is no Pharmacy in the village.
3. There are no ambulances in the village.

Economic Activities

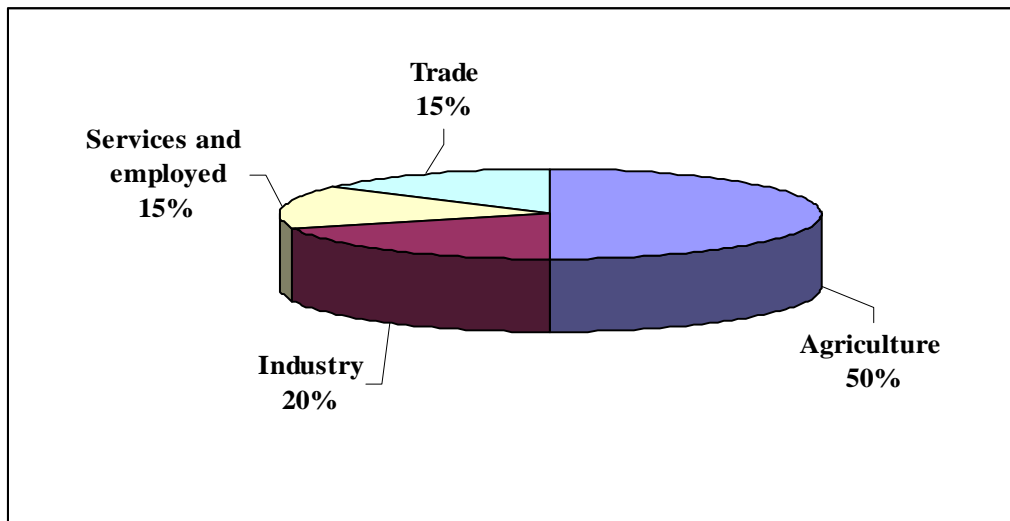
Qalqas is a small village south of Hebron city, where most of its residents engaged in agriculture sector. Nearly 50% of the labor force in the village is engaged in agriculture activities, 20% work in industrial sector, 15% work in trade sector, 10% are engaged in services sector and 5% are

employed in public and private sector. The economic base of the village also depends on industrial and trade institutions, there is one iron factory, two groceries, one blacksmith and one carpenter.

The data of field survey conducted in the village indicated that the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 50%,
- The industrial sector 20%,
- The trade sector 15 %,
- The services and employed sector 15%,

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Qalqas village



Based on the survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate localities, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Families maintaining 6 individuals or more, 2) Small-holder farmers, 3) Housekeeping and children, 4) small trader.

Labor Force

The 2007 census reveals the labor force status in Qalqas, the data showed that the participation in labor force was 62.1% of the total population of the village. The participation of women was assessed to be 48.5% (338 women in total). The labor force in Qalqas village was 696 people in total; of which 31% are economically active people and 69% are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people, 92.6% were employed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people were the students and housekeeping, who constitute 48.8% and 40.8% respectively. Table 2 shows the labor force status in Qalqas village.

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

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	193	3	12	208	124	1	21	2	2	150	358
F	7	1	-	8	110	195	20	-	5	330	338
T	200	4	12	216	234	196	41	2	7	480	696

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

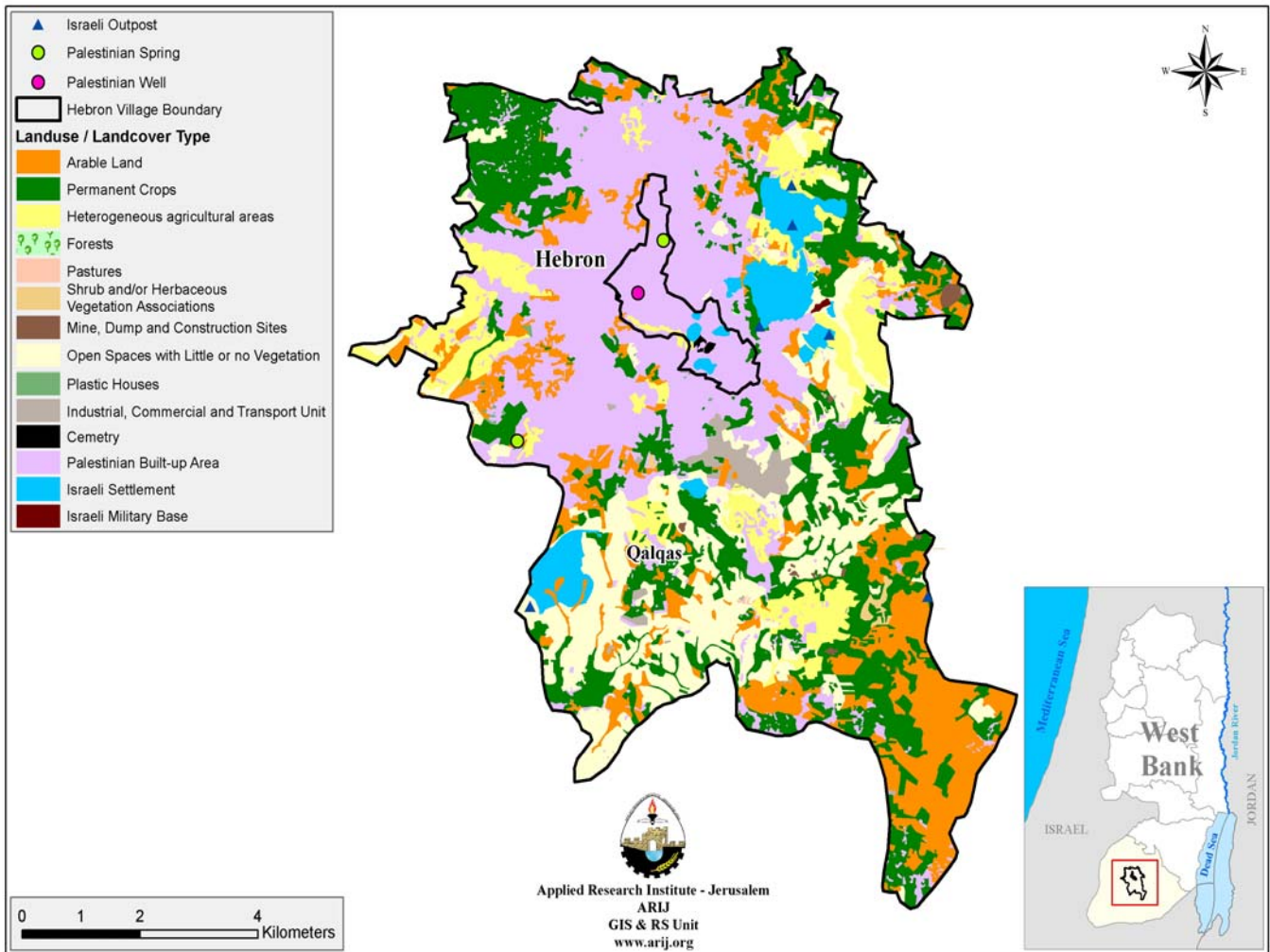
Agricultural Sector

Qalqas village lies on a total area of 7000 dunums. 5500 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 1000 dunums are cultivated, whereas another 500 dunums arable land but not cultivated. The main crops cultivated in the village are olive trees, vineyards and stone fruits.

There are about 20 km of agriculture roads in the village, providing facilities to the farmers to access their lands and crops, these roads are suitable for animals and agriculture machines.

The data indicated that village residents are rearing and keeping livestock. About 20% of the households in the village breed domestic animals. There are 2500 cows, 100 sheep and 50 goats. In addition there are 2 poultry farms with approximately 8000 birds.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Qalqas village



Institutions and Services

Qalqas has no national institutions or ministry offices to provide governmental services to the people; the residents get their most services from Hebron city or from Dura city. The only local institution in the village is Qalqas village council.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Qalqas village is not connected to any telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** Qalqas is connected to a water network, approximately 98% of the housing units are connected to the water network. The cisterns are the alternative resources to water network. The problem which faces the village in the water sector is that the water supply is weak - especially in summer.

- **Electricity Services:** Qalqas is connected to electricity network. Hebron and Yatta municipalities are the main provider of electricity in the village. Approximately all the households in the village are connected to the local electricity network.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** The solid waste in Qalqas is managed, with cooperation, by the village council and Joint Services Council. The soiled waste is collected from residential area and sent by Joint Services Council vehicle and sent to Al Deirat dumping site which 20 km away.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Qalqas is not connected with any sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater.
- **Transportation Services:** Qalqas is served by informal transportation sector many residents have to order taxis to travel. There is about 24 km of roads in Al Qalqas, 7 km are paved and in good condition, 7 km are paved but in bad condition and 10 km not paved at all.

Development Plans and Projects

Despite of the clear necessity - Qalqas village council has not implemented any project for many years due to shortage of funding.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Qalqas Project committee has prepared a study for the development priorities in the village; table 3 shows the ranks of these priorities.

Table 3: Development Priorities and Needs in Qalqas						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				33 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				5 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				1000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				3 Km
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network				*	
Health Needs						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres				*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools				*	
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Female school
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				1000 dunum
2	Building Cisterns	*				20
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				4
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 33 km: 6 km main roads, 7 km internal roads and 20 km agriculture roads

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