

Wadi ash Shajina 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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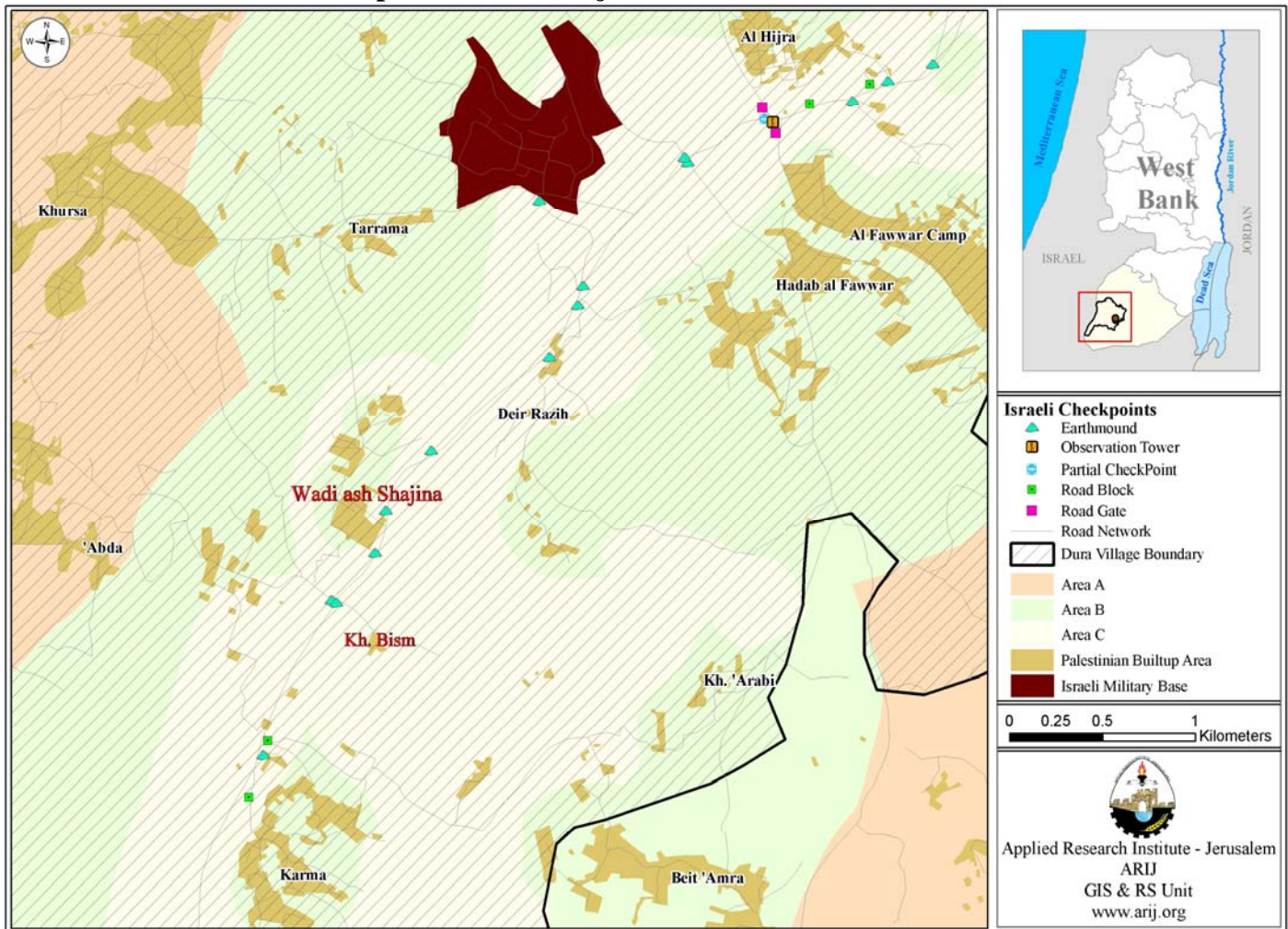
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Wadi ash Shajina Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Wadi ash Shajina is a village in Dura area which is located about 3.5 km southwest of Hebron City. The village is bordered by Beit 'Amra (Yatta) to the east, Tarrama village to the north, Imreish and 'Abda villages to the west and to the south by Karma and Abu Al 'Asja (See map 1).

Map1: Wadi ash Shajina location and borders



The total area of the village is estimated to be 1,000 dunums, of which 300 dunums are Palestinian built-up area, and 700 dunums are agricultural land.

Wadi ash Shajina village extends over an area west of Hebron Mountains, with an elevation of 854 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

The village is considered a rural area. The village is governed by a project committee, which was established in 1995, and consists of three members and two full time employees. The services provided by the committee are:

1. Infrastructure services: for example providing the people with electricity, collecting solid waste and paving and maintaining roads.
2. Social and human services: providing the people with food, seeds and any other social services.

History

The village of Wadi ash Shajina dates back to 200 years ago, similarly Khirbet Bism is considered an old archeological area. The name of Wadi ash Shajina is derived from the name of a well that exists in the village.. The origin of the people of the villages came from Dura city.

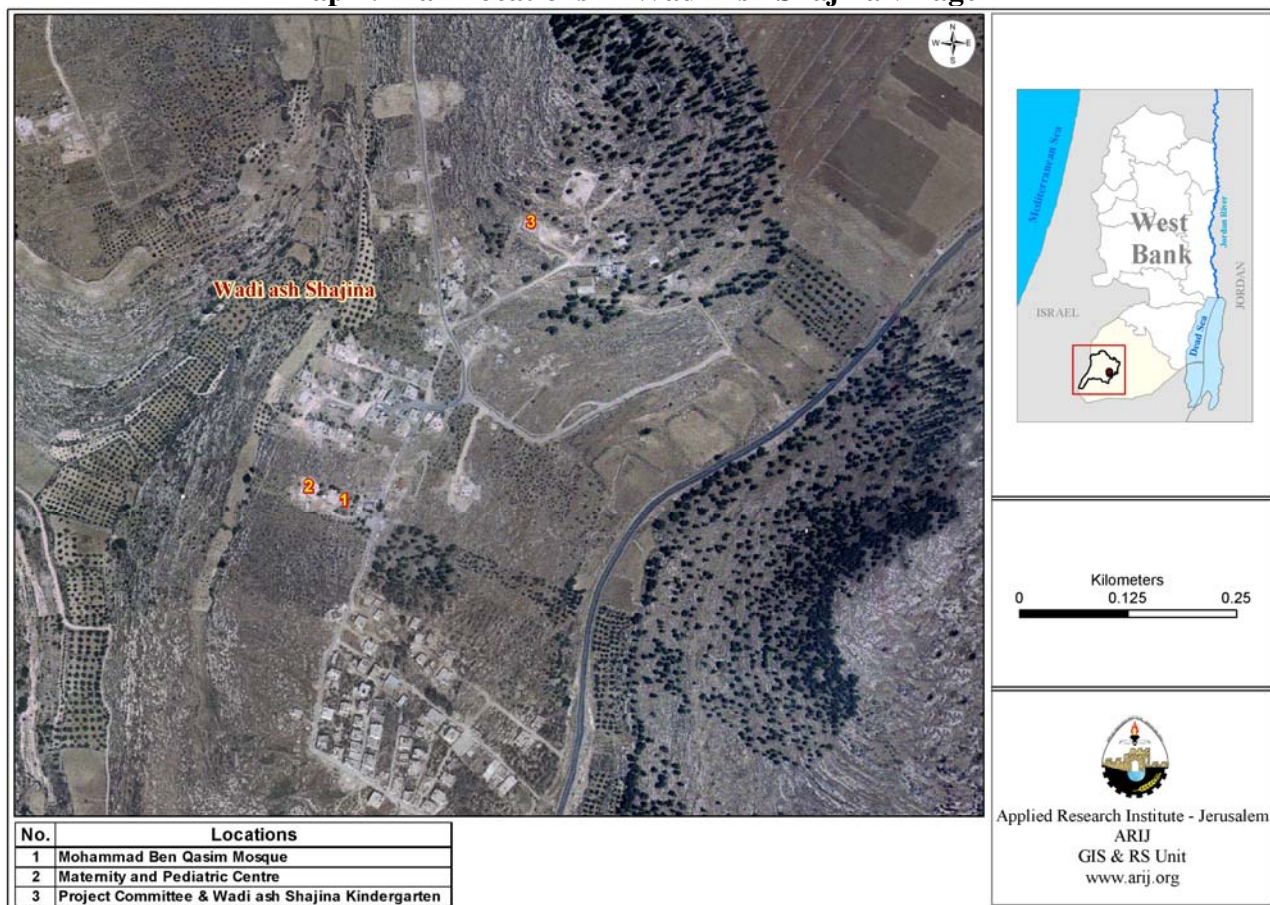
Photos of Wadi ash Shajina village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In Wadi ash Shajina, there is one mosque “Mohammad Ben Qasim Mosque”, and one archaeological site “Hafayer Bism”.

Map 2: Main locations in Wadi Ash Shajina village



Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of the village was 715 inhabitants, of whom 641 inhabitants were living in Wadi ash Shajina village, and 74 inhabitants were living in Khirbet Bism. Out of the 715 inhabitants 361 were males and 354 were females (See table 1). There are 121 households in the village living in 122 housing units.

Village	Male	Female	Total
Wadi ash Shajina	325	316	641
Khirbet Bism	36	38	74
Total	361	354	715

Source: PCBS, May 2008. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

Age Group and Gender

Population, Housing and Establishment Census – 2007 showed that the distribution of population by age and sex in the village. The results indicate that the 0-14 age groups is the main in the village' society, where it constitutes 45.9% of the total population, while the 15-64 age groups constitutes 51.9% of the total population and the 65 years or above constitutes only 2.2% of the total population. The sex ratio in the village is 102 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constitute 50.5% of the total population while the females constitute 49.5%.

Families

The residents of Wadi ash Shajina are from the following families: Abu 'Arqoub· Al Boustanji , Bedouins from Beersheba consist and other Families.

Education

According to PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007 about 7.4% of the population (aged 10 years and over) were illiterate, where the percentage of illiterate among females is higher compared with males (63% for female and 37% for male). Of the literate population, 11.6% of residents could read and write, 25.3%, 35.8% and 14.3% of the population (10 years and above) completed their elementary, preparatory and secondary education respectively in the village and 5.6% have an associate diploma or above, see table 2.

S e x	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Prepa ratory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PHD	Total
M	13	26	59	91	36	7	7	1	1	0	241
F	22	29	61	79	32	5	6	-	-	0	234
T	35	55	120	170	68	12	13	1	1	0	475

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

The field survey data indicated that there is one school in the village, which is called “Bely Co-education School”. The school is supervised by UNRWA and it is an elementary co-education school.

In Wadi ash Shajina, there is one kindergarten “Wadi ash Shajina Kindergarten” which has about 30 children and is supervised by the private sector.

The students who are in the secondary stage are forced to travel to Dura city (3.5 km) to obtain their secondary education. The educational sector in the village suffers from obstacles including:

- The high cost of transportation to Dura city for secondary students.
- A lack of schools especially for preparatory and secondary education.

Health Status

There is one health clinic in Wadi ash Shajina, it is open and provides health services once a week and it is supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH).

The village’ officials state that the residents in the village suffer from a lack of any kind of health center where the residents of Wadi ash Shajina are forced to travel about 3.5 km to access Dura hospitals and health centers. The village also lacks medical equipments, doctors, ambulances, and pharmacies, and this is the main problem that threatened the health situation in the village.

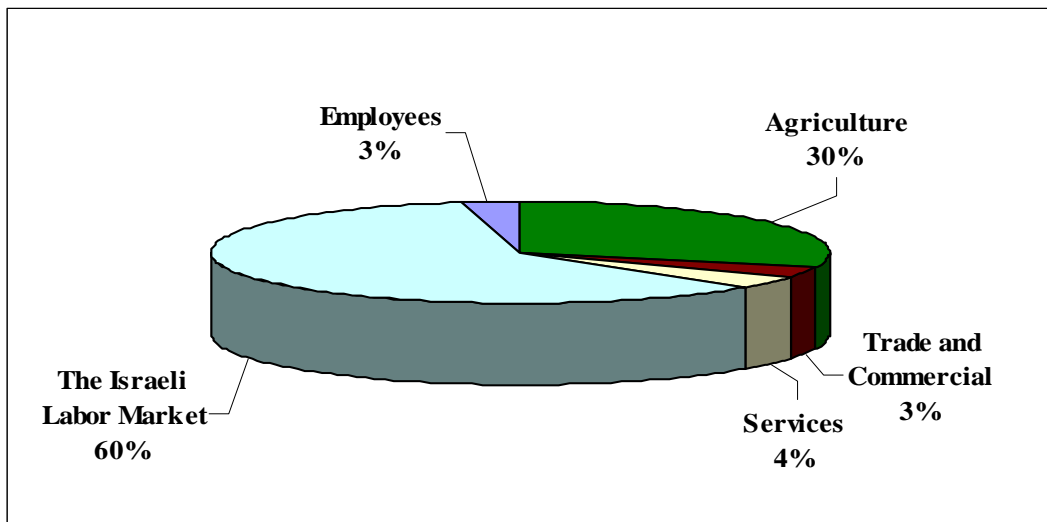
Economic Activities

According to a survey carried out by ARIJ in Hebron localities, about 60% of the total populations in the working age in Wadi ash Shajina village are dependent on the Israeli Labor Market, and 30% are depending of the agricultural activities. 4% engage in the service sector, 3% in trade and commercial sector and 3% of the population are employees in governmental or private institutions (See figure 2). In terms of industrial shops, there are 3 groceries that serve the village. Recently, about 10% of the population in the village is unemployed. The social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) Small-holder farmers, 2) Previous worker in Israeli labor market.

According to village officials’ estimates, the economic base of the village consists of the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (30%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (3%)
- Services sector (4%)
- Government or Other Employees (3%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (60%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Wadi ash Shajina



Labor Force

According to PCBS Census in 2007, 30.7% of the population in the village was economically active, while 69.3% were non-economically active persons. Out of the 146 economically active persons, 82.2% were employed persons of whom 89.2% were males. Out of the non-economically active persons, 55% were students, 28.6% were housekeeping and 27.0% were unable to work or not working and not looking for work (see table 3).

Table 3: Wadi ash Shajina population (10 years and above) by sex and activity status

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Student	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for Work	Others	Total	
M	107	19	4	130	85	-	17	-	9	111	241
F	13	1	2	16	96	94	18	-	10	218	234
T	120	20	6	146	181	94	35	-	19	329	475

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

*The population of Wadi ash Shajina includes the population of Wadi ash Shajina and Khirbet Bism.

Agricultural Sector

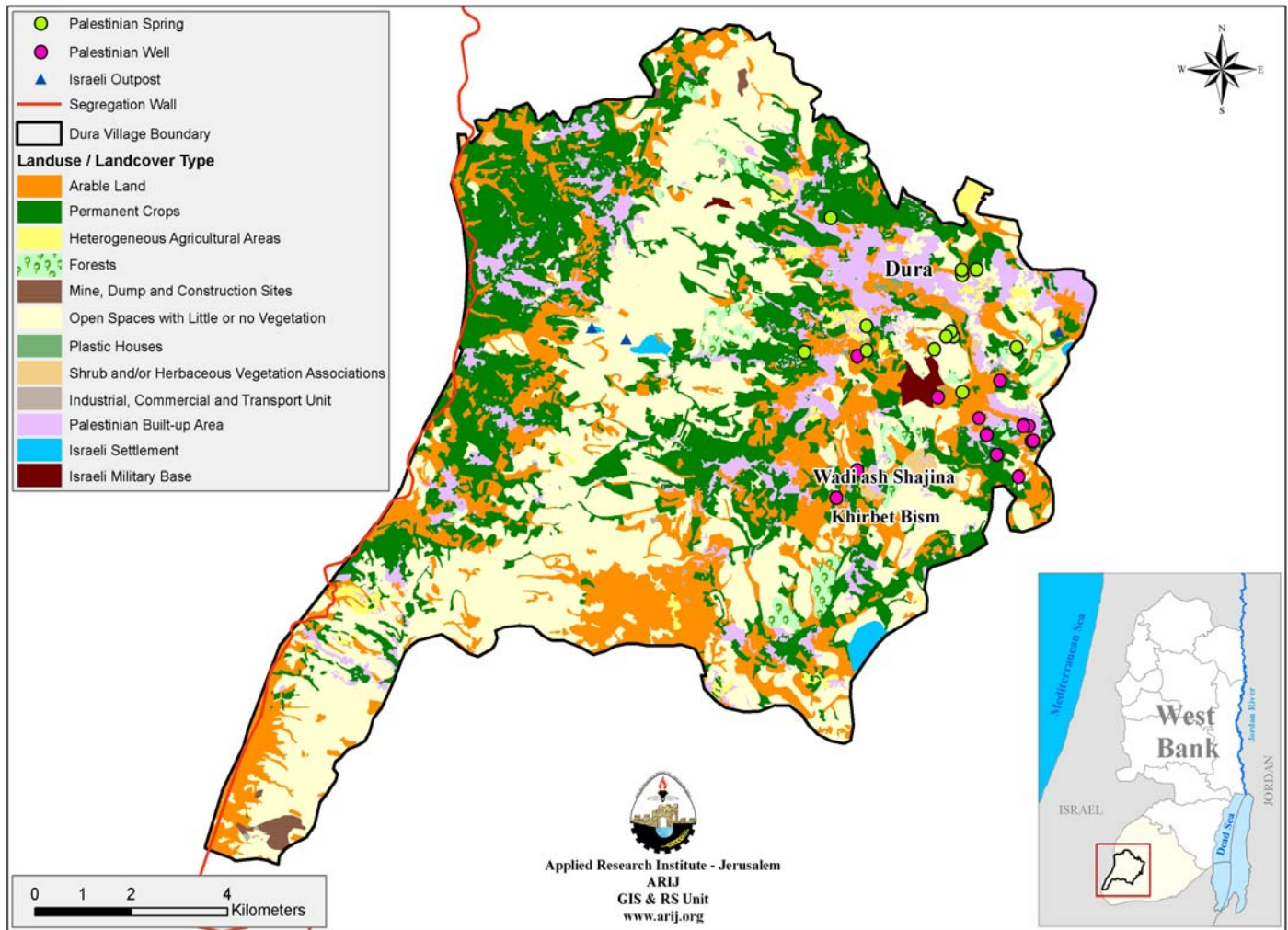
According to the village officials in Wadi ash Shajina, there is about 700 dunums of agricultural lands. The main crops cultivated in the village are field crops, grapes, olives trees and vegetables.

Rain fed agriculture is the main activity in the village; also the residents depend on a local spring in the village to irrigate their agriculture crops.

Regarding to agricultural roads in the village, the existing roads is not sufficient and is need rehabilitation, and the roads are suitable only for tractors and other agricultural machines.

The data indicates that the residents of the village depend upon rearing livestock; about 10% of residents keep livestock. There are 400 head of sheep; in addition, there are two poultry farms with approximately 8,000 birds (ARIJ database, 2007).

Map 3: Land use/ land cover and the Segregation Wall in Wadi ash Shajina village



Institutions and Services

The main institution in the village is a project committee, established in 1995 to provide main services to the residents.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: Wadi ash Shajina village is connected to the telecommunication network, and about 30% of the housing units are connected to this network.

Water Services: Wadi ash Shajina village is not connected to any water network. The alternative resources of water used in the village are the cisterns (harvesting wells) and water tankers. In addition there is one spring in Wadi ash Shajina village called the “Al Hafayer Spring” which used is for livestock. The village officials cite several obstacles for the conditions of the water, these are: a lack of water network, and a shortage of water in summer seasons.

The domestic water supply in the village was approximately 76 L/day per capita in Wadi ash Shajina and 88.1 L/day per capita in Khirbet Bism, while the domestic water use was 45.6 L/day and 54.7 L/day per capita in Wadi ash Shajina and Khirbet Bism village respectively (ARIJ database, 2006).

Electricity Services: Since 1988, Wadi ash Shajina village has been connected to an electricity network provided by the Southern Electric Company. All the housing units in the village are currently connected to this network. The village officials state that the major problem with the electricity network is the lack of regular maintenance.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: Wadi ash Shajina village is not connected to any sewage disposal network, and the waste water is disposed of in cesspits. The annual volume of wastewater produced in Wadi ash Shajina is 0.0067 MCM/yr and 0.0009 MCM/yr in Khirbet Bism most of which were disposed of in cesspits.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There are no solid waste services in the village, and each household must dispose its own solid waste by burning or by burying it. The total amount of solid waste generated annually in the village was estimated at 113.5 tons in Wadi ash Shajina and 13.1 tons in Khirbet Bism.

Transportation Facilities: Wadi ash Shajina village is served by informal transportation which is composed of five private vehicles. The primary obstacle to transportation in the village is the lack of vehicles to cover all the residents' services. In terms of road qualities, there are 1,500 meters of main roads that are paved and in good condition, and 1,000 meters of internal roads that are unpaved roads. The village lacks agricultural roads.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Wadi ash Shajina village is located adjacent of Israeli bypass road which prevents residents to access their land, in addition the Israeli forces have construct an earth mountain in the village road.

Development Plans and Projects

Village officials cite that since 2004, the project committee of the village implements one project for the village, which was building cisterns. The project was funded by the Netherlands.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Wadi ash Shajina project committee, the village has suffered from a shortage of many infrastructure and services needs. Table 4 below shows the development priorities in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			200 m of main road
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
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	*				Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			
2	Building Cisterns	*				30 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock				*	
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			1 greenhouse
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

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