

Khashem al Daraj 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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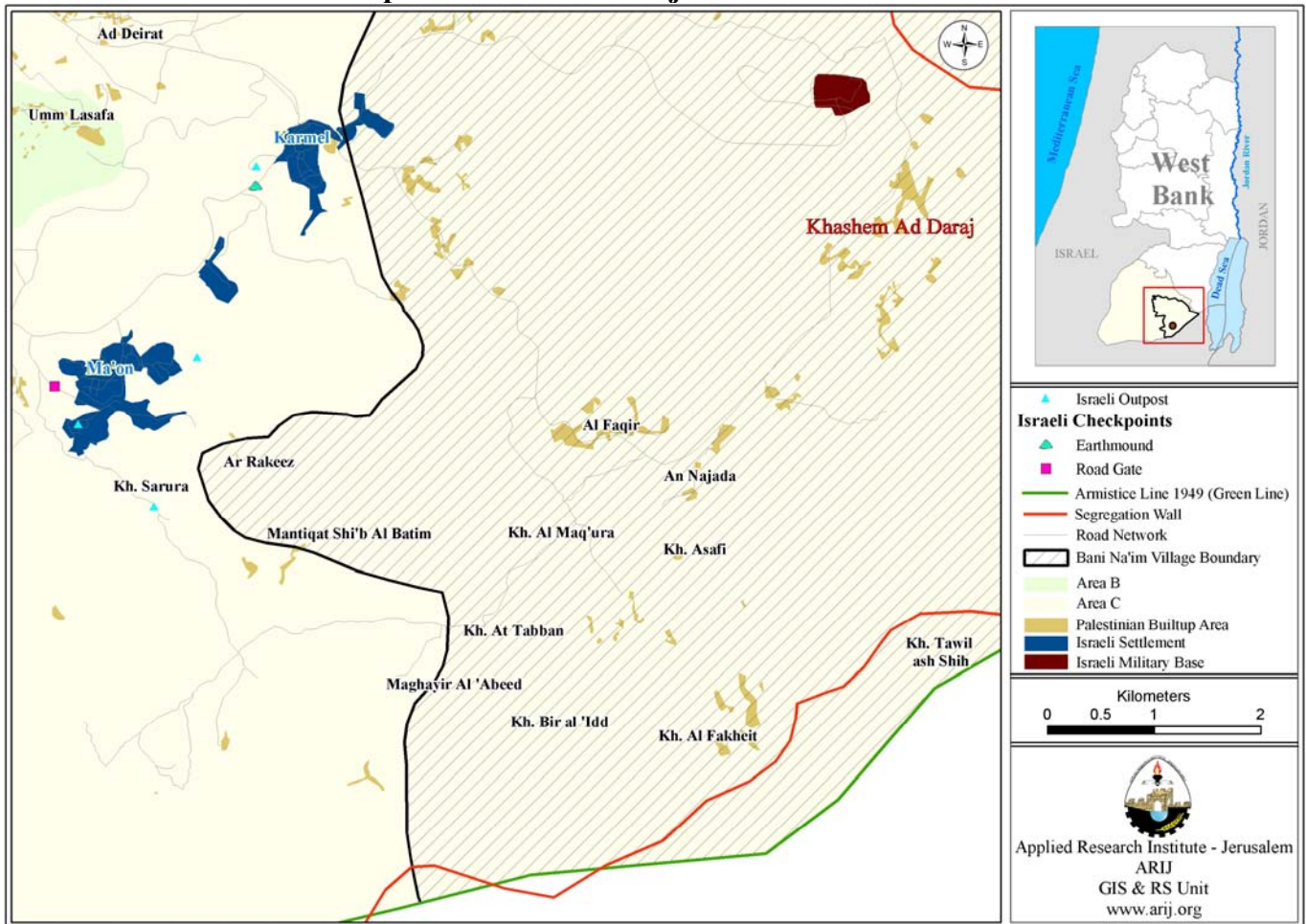
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Khashem al Daraj Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Khashem al Daraj, (Al Hathaleen), is a village in the Yatta area. It is located 18 km southeast of Hebron City in the southern West Bank. Khashem al Daraj is bordered by the Dead Sea to the East, Az Zuweidin village to the North, Al Faqir (Umm al Kheir) to the West, and by An Najada to the South. (See map 1).

Map 1: Khashem al Daraj location and borders



The total area of Khashem al Daraj village is estimated to be 45,000 dunums, of which 1,000 dunums are Palestinian built-up areas, 6,000 dunums are agricultural land, and around 38,000 dunums are forests or open spaces.

The village of Khashem al Daraj is located at an elevation of 553 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Khashem al Daraj village is 369 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 6.8% (ARIJ GIS).

Khashem al Daraj is considered to be a rural area as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas. The village is governed by a Village Council which was established in 1997. Currently the council consists of five members. The main duties of the council are to provide management of water, electricity, maintenance of schools and roads within the village in addition to social welfare.

History

Khashem al Daraj village history is related to the history of Al Jahaleen tribe which came originally from the Arabian Peninsula and settled in the area a long time ago. The village is commonly known as Al Hathaleen and it takes this name from a mountain which was referred to as Mount Hathaleen hundreds of years ago.

The inhabitants of the village trace their lineage to the Arab tribe "Al Jahaleen" (الجهالين) from the Arabian Peninsula.

Photos of Khashem al Daraj



Religious and Archaeological Sites

As Sahabah Mosque is the only religious site in the village. In terms of historical sites, there are very old Wells in the village that may be considered as an archeological site though it is not put to good recreational or tourist use.

Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census in 2007, the total population of Khashem al Daraj village was 606 inhabitants, of whom 309 were males and 297 were females. There were 93 households living in 113 housing units in the village and the average household size was 5.8 people.

Age Groups and Gender

Census 2007 results about Khashem al Daraj village showed the distribution of the population in terms of age group and sex. The data showed that 50.4% of the total population was less than 15 years, 45.3% were in the 15-64 age group and 2.7% were 65 years and above. The sex ratio in the village was 103.8 males per 100 females. In terms of percentage, the males in the village constituted 50.9% of the total population while females constituted 49.1% of the total population.

Families

There are seven families that reside in the village, they are: Al Hathaleen , Al Faqir , Al Tabnah , Al Hamadeen, Al Siyaylah , Al Ajarmeh and Abu Alih .

Education

According to PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results, about 82 persons (23.1%) were illiterate of whom the majority was females with a percentage of 78%. Of the literate population, 45.1% of the population could read and write, 25.4% completed elementary education and 3.4% completed preparatory education. Only nine persons in the village had completed secondary education (See table 1).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Total
M	18	84	61	8	5	1	1	178
F	64	76	29	4	4	-	-	177
T	82	160	90	12	9	1	1	355

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

The field survey conducted in 2007 showed that there was one governmental school in Khashem al Daraj village, Al Hathaleen Elementary Co-educational School. The school provided elementary and preparatory co-education for both male and female students of the village.

As there is no secondary school for students or enough classrooms for elementary education in the Village, most students are required to complete their school education in An Najada and Umm el Kheir villages which are about 5 km and 7 km away, respectively.

According to the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there were 146 students, 80 male students and 66 female students in the village school. They were distributed into 10 classes. Around 12 teachers are currently schooling in the village, 11 male teachers and 1 female teacher.

The field survey data indicated also that there was a private coeducational kindergarten in the Village, Al Hathaleen Kindergarten. It provided pre-school education services to 40 children. The kindergarten was funded by a charity. However, the kindergarten is nowadays closed due to fiscal problems facing the charity.

The educational sector in the Village is suffering from the following problems:

- Lack of classrooms.
- No secondary school in the village.
- The bad conditions of the roads leading to the schools in the nearby villages.

Health Status

Khashem al Daraj lacks any kind of health services; no clinics, no ambulances, and no pharmacies, and the closest health facility lies in Yatta and Hebron City, 18 kilometers and 20 kilometers away, respectively, from the village. However, there is only a Mother and Child Care Center that is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

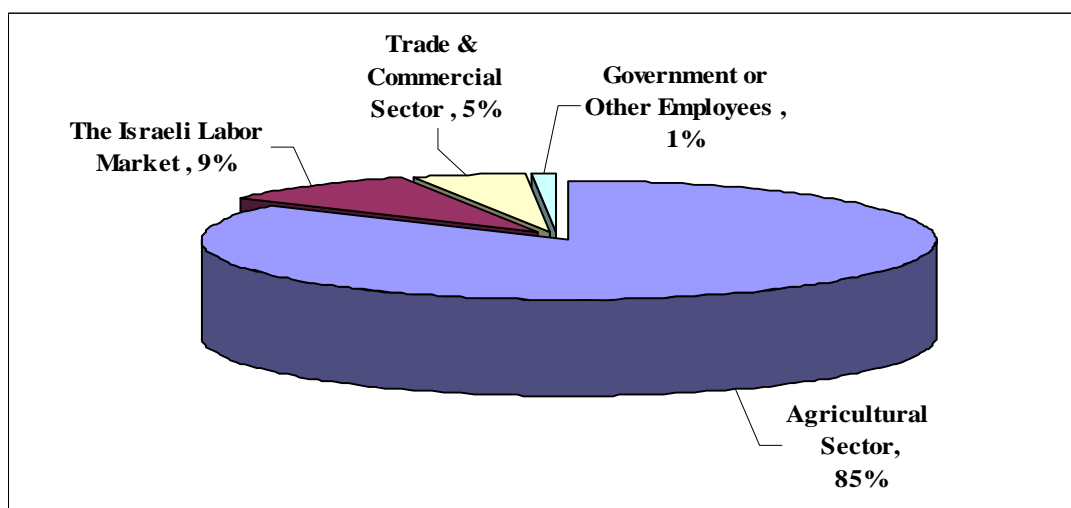
The village officials state that Khashem al Daraj needs sufficient medication, in addition to a permanent clinic with a full-time doctor to provide medical diagnosis and treatment for the village's patients.

Economic Activities

Khashem al Daraj is an agricultural village; all its residents depending on the agricultural sector, mainly on livestock. More than 85% of the residents are engaged in agricultural activities especially keeping animals. A small part of the residents work in the Israeli labor market (9%) and another small percentage are occupied in trade activities (5%).

According to village officials' estimates, the economic base of Khashem al Daraj village consists of the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (85%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (9%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (5%)
- Government or Other Employees (1%)

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Khashem al Daraj village

Based on a survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron localities, the unemployment rate in Khashem al Daraj village had reached 75%. The survey data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village by Israeli measures were: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families with six individuals and more, 3) Small-holding farmers 4) Housewives and children, and Small-holder traders.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, there were 355 persons within the working age (10 years and above) in Khashem al Daraj; 123 persons were economically active, of whom 86.2% were employed. There were 232 non-economically active persons in the village, of which 29.7% were students, 62.1% were housekeeping and 8.2% were unable to work, not working and not looking for work, or other. Females were over-represented in the non-economically active sector as housewives, see table 2.

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	105	14	3	122	42	-	9	-	5	56	178
F	1	-	-	1	27	144	5	-	-	176	177
T	106	14	3	123	69	144	14	-	5	232	355

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

Agricultural Sector

As mentioned earlier, Khashem al Daraj is an agricultural village, it lies on a total area of 45,000 dunums, of which 6,000 dunums are considered to be agricultural land; 4,500 dunums are already

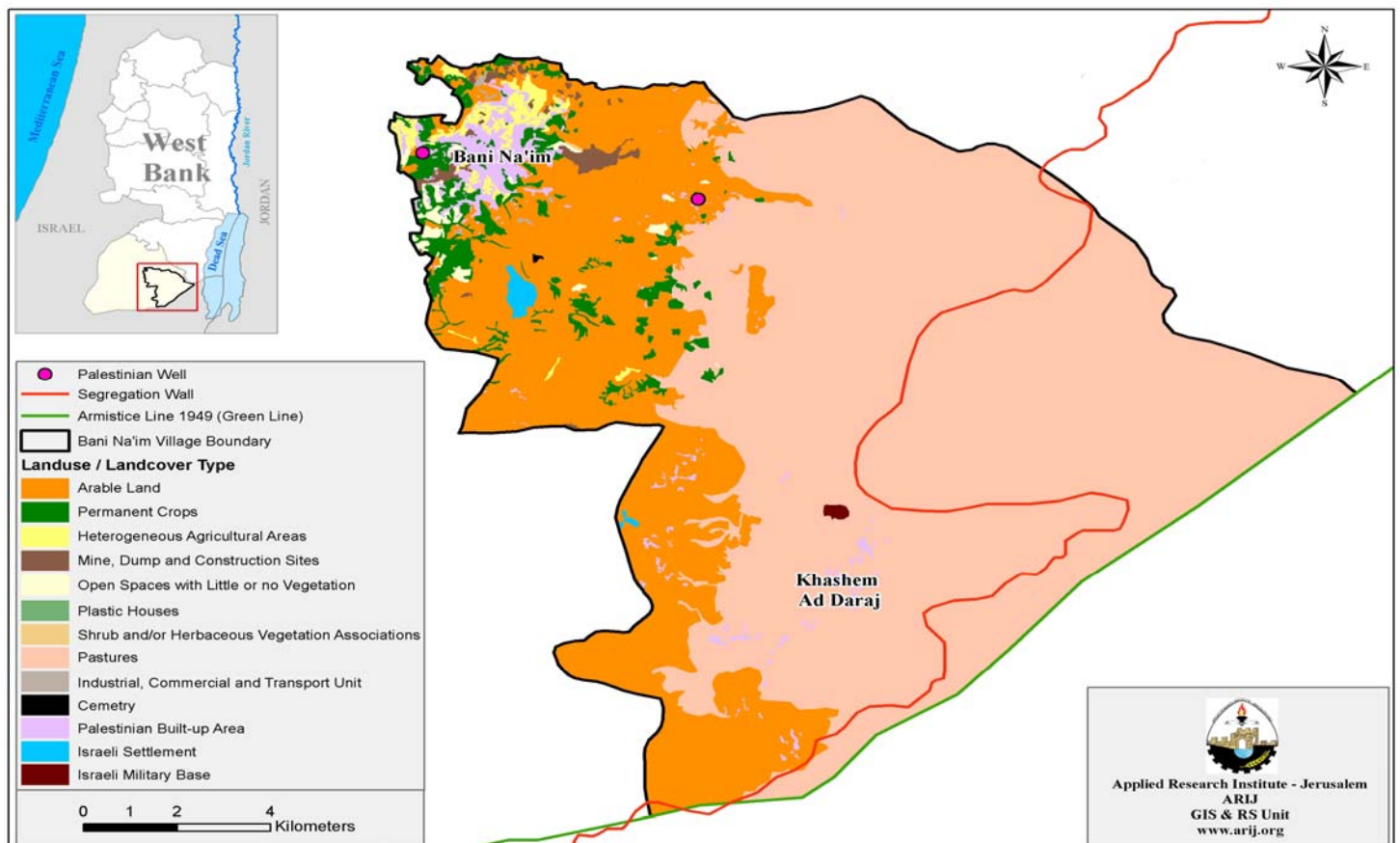
cultivated and around 2,000 dunums are uncultivated arable land. There are another 2,500 dunums of lands that are suitable for reclamation. Lack of available investment capital for agricultural development, in addition to the lack of water resources have interfered with the unsuitability of arable farming in the village.

There are about 2 km of agricultural roads in the village; however, they are only used by animals and the village needs to construct these roads in order to serve the agricultural activities well. The main cultivated crops in the village include wheat and barley.

Data collected from Khashem al Daraj Village Council in 2007 indicated that the village residents depended on livestock rearing and dairy production. The data indicated that around 80% of the households were rearing and keeping domestic animals. In total there were about 3,500 goats and 2,000 sheep.

The main obstacles that face the agricultural sector development in the village are the lack of capital and the high prices of animal feed.

Map 2: Land use/land cover in Khashem al Daraj village



Institutions and Services

The main institute in Khashem al Daraj village is the Village Council. The council was established in 1997.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Telecommunication Services: There is no telecommunication network in Khashem al Daraj village.

Water Services: The village has been connected to a water network since 1970. Currently, the main provider of water in Khashem al Daraj village is the Palestinian water Authority. Cisterns are an alternative source of water for domestic and agricultural uses in the village. The availability and quality of water supply is of main concern in the village. The water network system is in a very bad condition, and the total quantity and the quality of water available to the residents is not sufficient for the residents' daily activities.

Electricity Networks: Khashem al Daraj village is not connected to the electricity network. Around 80% of the housing units in the village have been connected to an electrical generator since 2004, which is considered the only provider of electricity in the village.

The provided electrical power is very weak and it is halted frequently, therefore the village is in a massive need to be connected to an electrical network for a sustained electrical supply.

Sewage Disposal Facilities: There is no sewage network in Khashem al Daraj village and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits. It should be noted that the wastewater of the surrounding settlements and the poultry and livestock farms is harmful to the village environment.

Solid Waste Collection Services: There is no solid waste management system in the village; each family disposes of its own waste by either throwing it out randomly or burning it.

Transportation Facilities: The public transportation in Khashem al Daraj village is considered to be an informal transport system. There are unconstrained taxis operating to transport people between Khashem al Daraj and nearby villages. In whatever manner, the transportation system in the village is poorly developed and lacks regulated transport services, in addition to the unsuitability of the roads and the flying Israeli checkpoints posted around the village. In the case of the unavailability of common carriers, the passengers get to the closest community on foot to use its transport system, or they use their private cars if there are any.

In keeping with the transportation facilities in the village, there are about 7 km of roads in the village; 3 km un-surfaced main roads, of which 1 km is considered in bad condition, 2 km un-surfaced link roads, and another 2 km un-surfaced agricultural roads.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

The village suffers from indirect Israeli procedures, mostly Israeli flying checkpoints constructed on the main roads near the village from time to time.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Khashem al Daraj Village council, the village is suffering from shortages in many infrastructural and service requirements. Table 3 below summarizes development priorities and needs in the village.

Table 3: Development priorities and needs for Khashem al Daraj Village						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				6 km
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				2 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			500 m
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				1000m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				One kilometre
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		*			
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools		*			
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				1000 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

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