

Qurnet ar Ras 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/>

Table of Contents

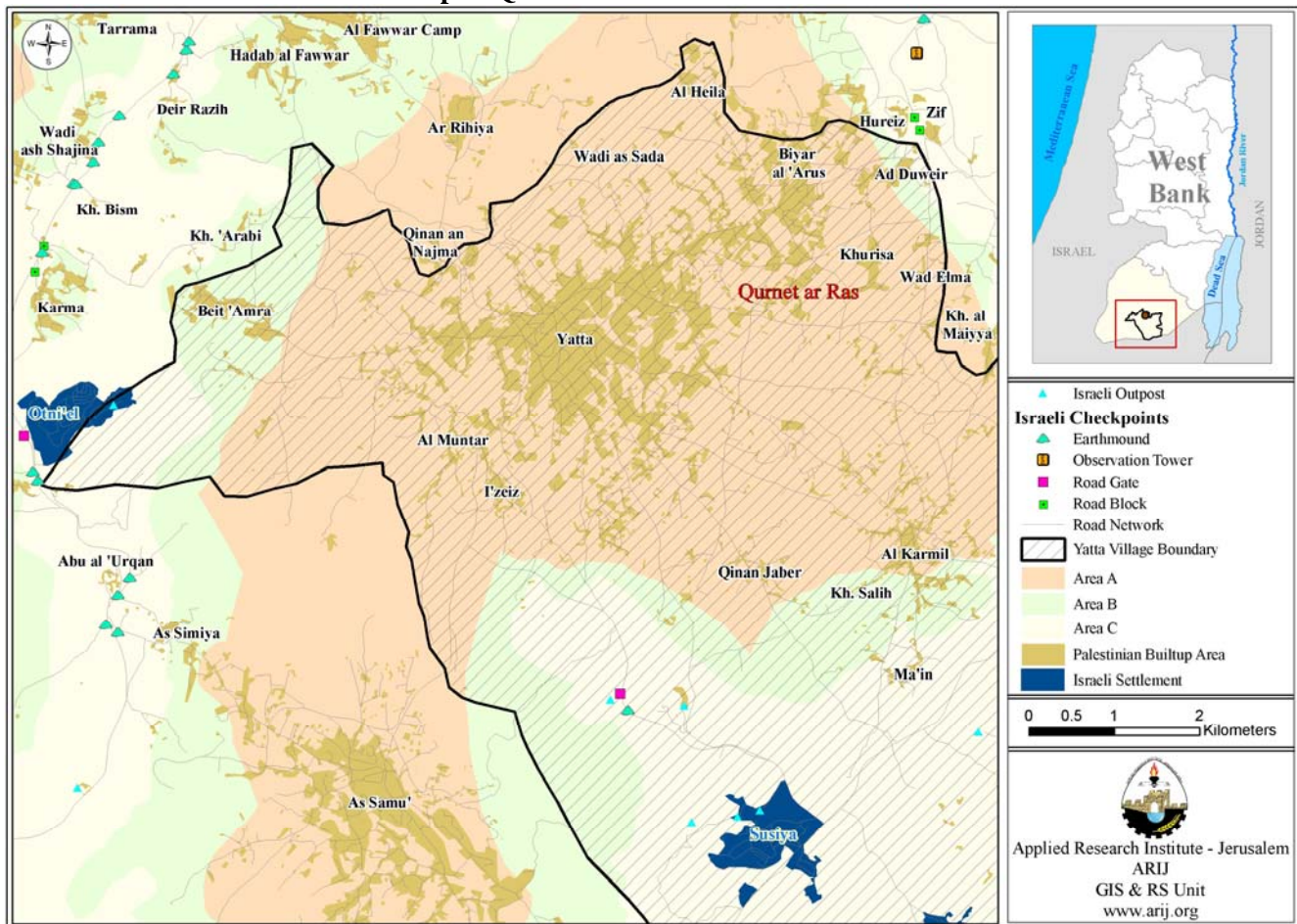
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>History</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Demography and Population</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Education</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Health Status</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Economic Activities</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	<u>9</u>
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	<u>10</u>
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	<u>10</u>
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	<u>11</u>
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	<u>11</u>
<i>References</i>	<u>12</u>

Qurnet ar Ras Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Qurnet ar Ras is a village to the east of Yatta city. It is located 10 km south of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. Qurnet ar Ras is bordered by Khurisa village to the East, Raqa village to the North, Al Shwomrea to the West, and Al Saheal to the South (See map 1).

Map 1: Qurnet ar Ras location and borders



The total area of Qurnet ar Ras is 400 dunums, of which 200 dunums are classified as 'built up' area and 200 dunums as agricultural areas.

The village is located on a mountain to the East of Yatta city, at an elevation of 784 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 303 mm and the average annual temperature is 18 °C. The average annual humidity in the village is 60 % (ARIJ GIS).

The village is considered to be a rural area as it complies with the demographic and institutional criteria relevant to rural areas. The village is governed by a project committee, which was established in 1998, and consists of five members, but it has no building. The services provided by the committee are:

1. Infrastructure and municipal services: providing the people with electricity and water, and collecting solid waste.
2. Social and human services.

History

The data collected from Qurnet ar Ras reveals that its history dates back to the Canaanite period, and that the residents of the village are indigenous to the area.

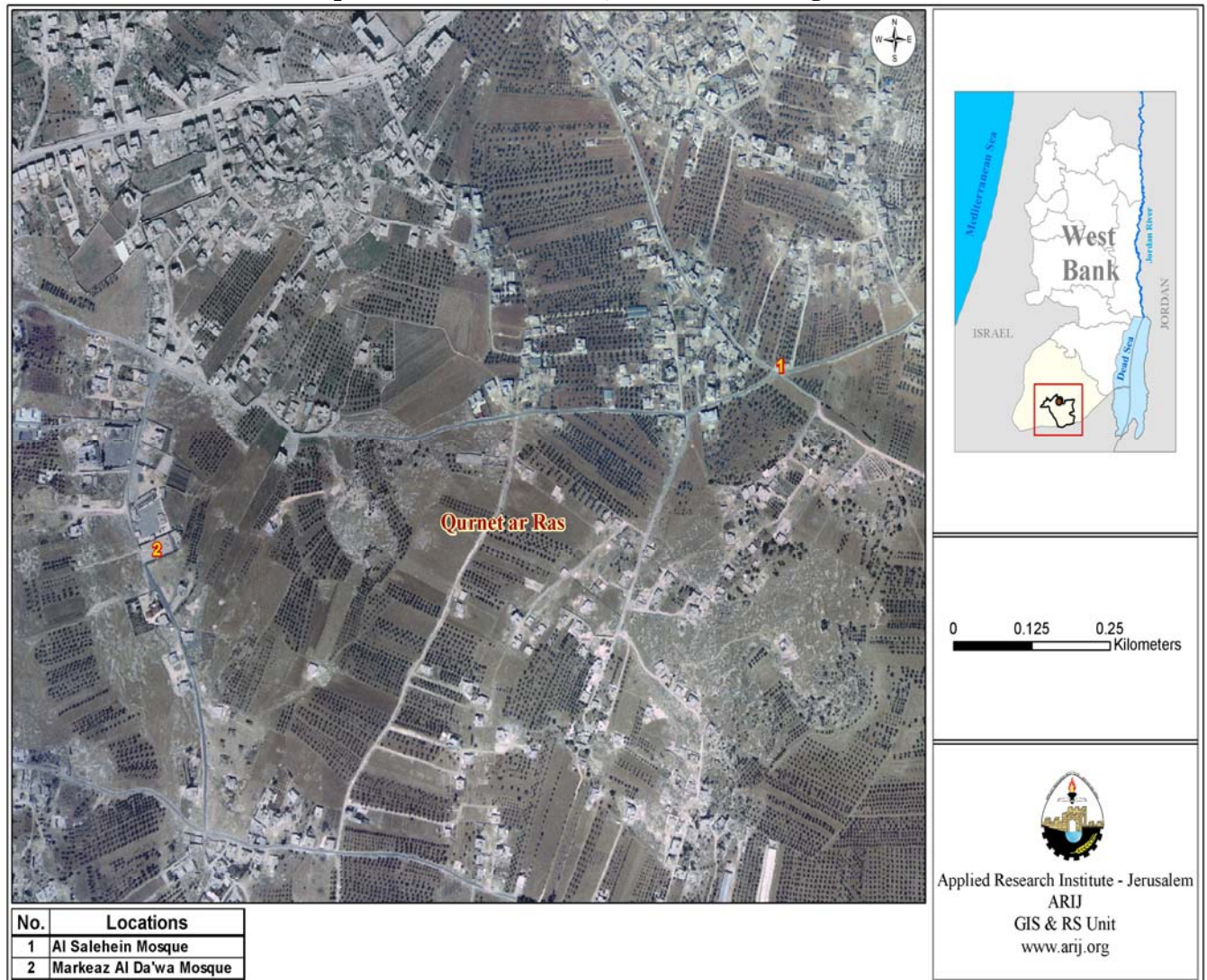
Photo of Qurnet ar Ras Village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are two mosque in the village, “Al Salheaan Mosque” and Markeaz Al Da'wa Mosque and in terms of historical sites; there is no holy site in the village.

Map 2: Main locations in Qurnet ar Ras village



Demography and Population

The total population of Qurnet ar Ras, in 2007, is estimated to be 288. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of which 146 were males and 142 were females

Families

The population of Qurnet ar Ras are comprised of five families: Shwahean and others small families (Nawajea , Shreth , Abu Qbeta and Moer).

Education

Qurnet ar Ras village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, Qurnet ar Ras village was counted as part of Yatta city. Therefore, the labor force data for Qurnet ar Ras village is not available. Table 1 shows the education status in Yatta, Rafada, Al Muntar, Khurisa, Qurnet ar Ras, Ad Duweir, I'zeiz, Wadi as Sada , Hureiz and Khallet 'Arabi

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	908	3,216	4,765	3,824	2,009	271	731	8	54	19	15,805
F	2,476	3,136	3,999	3,686	1,699	193	536	3	6	2	15,736
T	3,384	6,352	8,764	7,510	3,708	464	1,267	11	60	21	31,541

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

This data includes population figures from the villages of Yatta, Al Muntar, Khurisa, Qurnet ar Ras, Ad Duweir, I'zeiz, Wadi as Sada , Hureiz and Khallet 'Arabi.

Data of field survey reveals that Qurnet ar Ras has no schools or any educational institutions. The village students go to Raqa village schools to obtain their primary and secondary education. Raqa village is far away about 3 km.

Health Status

There are shortages of medical personnel and services in Qurnet ar Ras village; there are no health institutions, no clinics and not even pharmacies. This, combined with the distance of medical facilities in neighbouring villages makes medical treatment inconvenient and difficult. In emergency cases, patients have to travel a distance of 6 km to reach Yatta city for medical treatment and 3 km to reach Raqa village.

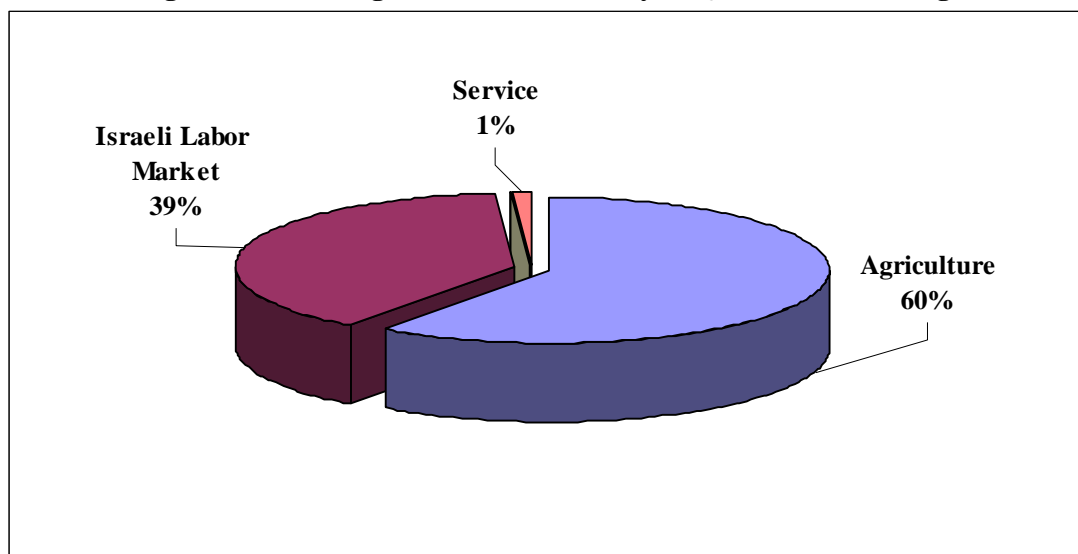
Economic Activities

The economic base of Qurnet ar Ras village is mainly dependent on the agricultural sector and the Israeli labor market. According to the data collected from the village, about 60% of the total population in the working age group are engaged in agricultural activities, in addition to there being 39% of the residents who depend on the Israeli labour market.

The data collected from the Project committee revealed that the percentages of the population working in various sectors of economy in the village were as listed below:

- The agricultural sector (60%),
- Israeli labor market (39%).
- Employees in governmental or private institutions (1%),

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Qurnet ar Ras village



The village lacks any economic institutions. However, there are two groceries for retailing foodstuffs and various household supplies to the residents.

Based on the ARIJ survey conducted in 2007 in Hebron Governorate localities, the unemployment rate in Qurnet ar Ras village stood at 60%. The survey data also indicated that the social groups most affected in the village by Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Workers previously employed in the Israeli market, 2) Families maintaining 6 or more individuals, 3) Small-holding farmers, 4) Housekeeping and children.

Labour Force

Qurnet ar Ras village was not counted as a single locality during the 2007 PCBS Census. Based upon the PCBS divisions, Qurnet ar Ras village was counted as part of Yatta city. Therefore, the labor force data for Qurnet ar Ras village is not available. Table 2 shows the labor force status in Yatta, Rafada, Al Muntar, Khurisa, Qurnet ar Ras, Ad Duweir, I'zeiz, Wadi as Sada , Hureiz and Khallet 'Arabi.

Table 2: Yatta 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	
<i>M</i>	6,432	902	986	8,320	5,853	44	1,009	106	473	7,485	15,805
<i>F</i>	571	22	170	763	5,901	7,987	785	34	266	14,973	15,736
T	7,003	924	1,156	9,083	11,754	8,031	1,794	140	739	22,458	31,541

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, results
 This data includes population figures from the villages of Yatta, Al Muntar, Khurisa, Qurnet ar Ras, Ad Duweir, I'zeiz, Wadi as Sada , Hureiz and Khallet 'Arabi.

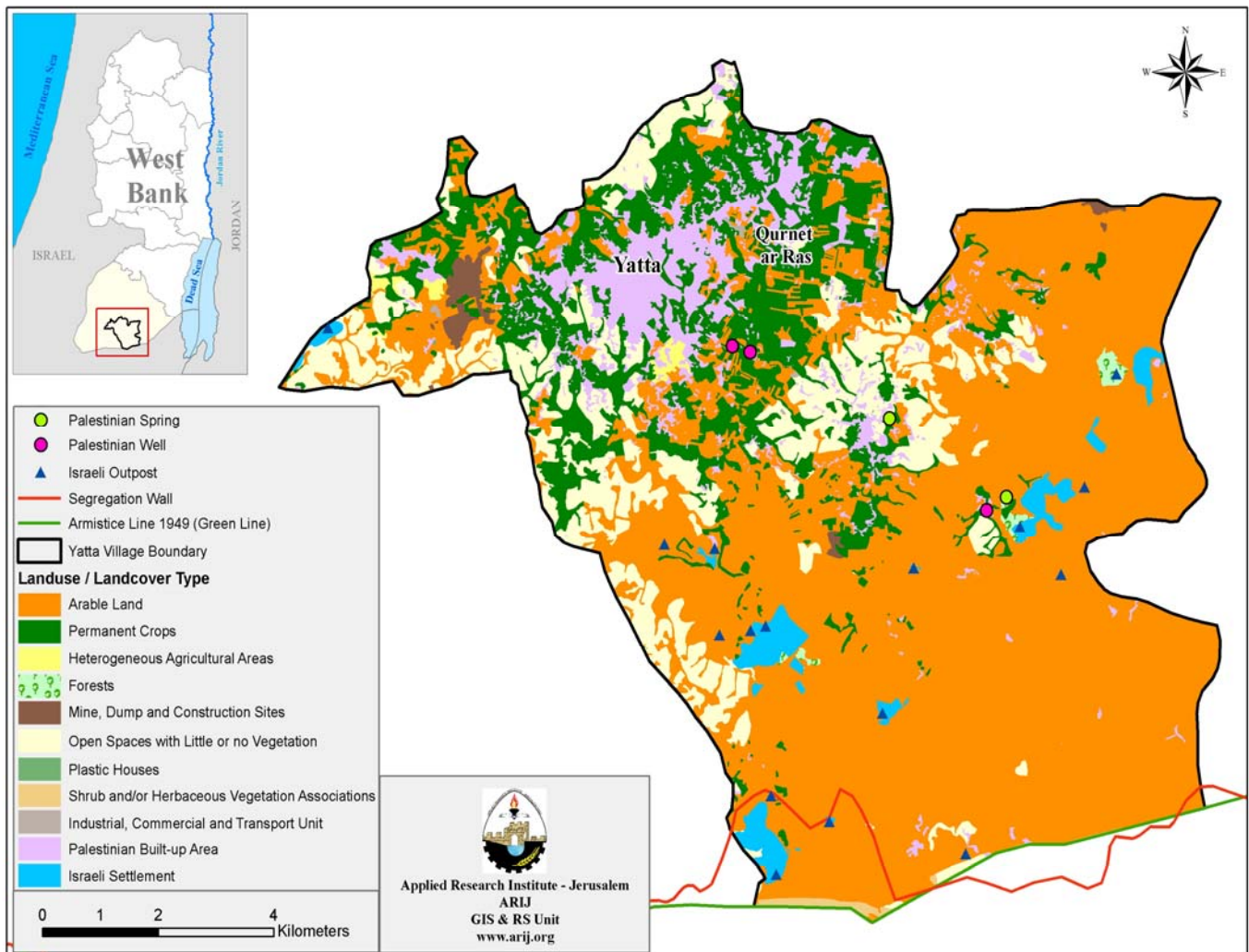
Agricultural Sector

According to the data collected from the Project committee in December 2007, the agricultural land forms half of the village land (about 200 dunums), all 200 dunums are cultivated land. The reclaimed land in the village is estimated to be 200 dunums. Qurnet ar Ras village is known for olive trees, almonds trees in addition to the field crops.

The data also indicates that the residents of Qurnet ar Ras village are also dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock. About 3% of the households keep livestock. Most people have sheep and goats with numbers equalling about 60 and 60 respectively.

The village officials state that the agricultural sector in the village is suffering from the lack of capital and water, in addition to the lacks of feeds and pastures.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Qurnet ar Ras village.



Institutions and Services

The main institution in the village is the Qurnet ar Ras Project committee which was established in 1998. The Committee takes over local oversight of social welfare and public services in the village.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Qurnet ar Ras is connected with a telecommunication network and 25% of the housing units are connected with the network.
- **Water Services:** Qurnet ar Ras has been connected to the water network since 2000, almost 90% of the households is connected with the network. The Yatta Municipality is the main provider for water resources to the village. The cisterns are alternative resources of water case of shortage of water. The main problem of water in the village is the old pipes of the water network which cause water losses.
- **Electricity Services:** Qurnet ar Ras has been connected to an electricity network since 1996. Approximately 100% of housing units in the village are connected to the electricity network. Qurnet ar Ras Project committee manages the distribution of electricity, supplied by the South Electricity Company.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Qurnet ar Ras village is not connected to the sewage disposal network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** In Qurnet ar Ras village, there is a solid waste management system operated by the Project committee cooperation with Yatta Joint Services Council. The solid waste management is collected by a special vehicle and transported from the residential areas to a dumping site (Al Deirat Mahraqa) 7 km away from the built-up area and is disposed of by burning or burying it. Nevertheless, about one ton of solid waste is generated in Qurnet ar Ras daily.
- **Transportation Facilities:** Qurnet ar Ras village is served by seven illegal informal taxis. Village officials state that people travel by using private cars that are allowed to travel on the main roads. The transportation sector in the village is suffering from several primary obstacles including the lack of main paved roads, and a scarcity of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, there are 3 kilometres of main roads which are surfaced and in good condition, and 2 kilometres of main roads are unpaved. In addition there are 5 kilometres of internal roads that are unpaved.

Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, the Project committee has implemented one project in the village, which was the construction of greenhouses funded by USAID.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Qurnet ar Ras Project committee, the village suffers from shortages in many infrastructural and service requirements. Table 3 shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				7 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				1000 cubic meter
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				1.5 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	*				Elementary & Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools				*	
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				100 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				30 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	*				

^ 7 km: 2 km main roads and 5 km internal roads

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