

Yatta Town 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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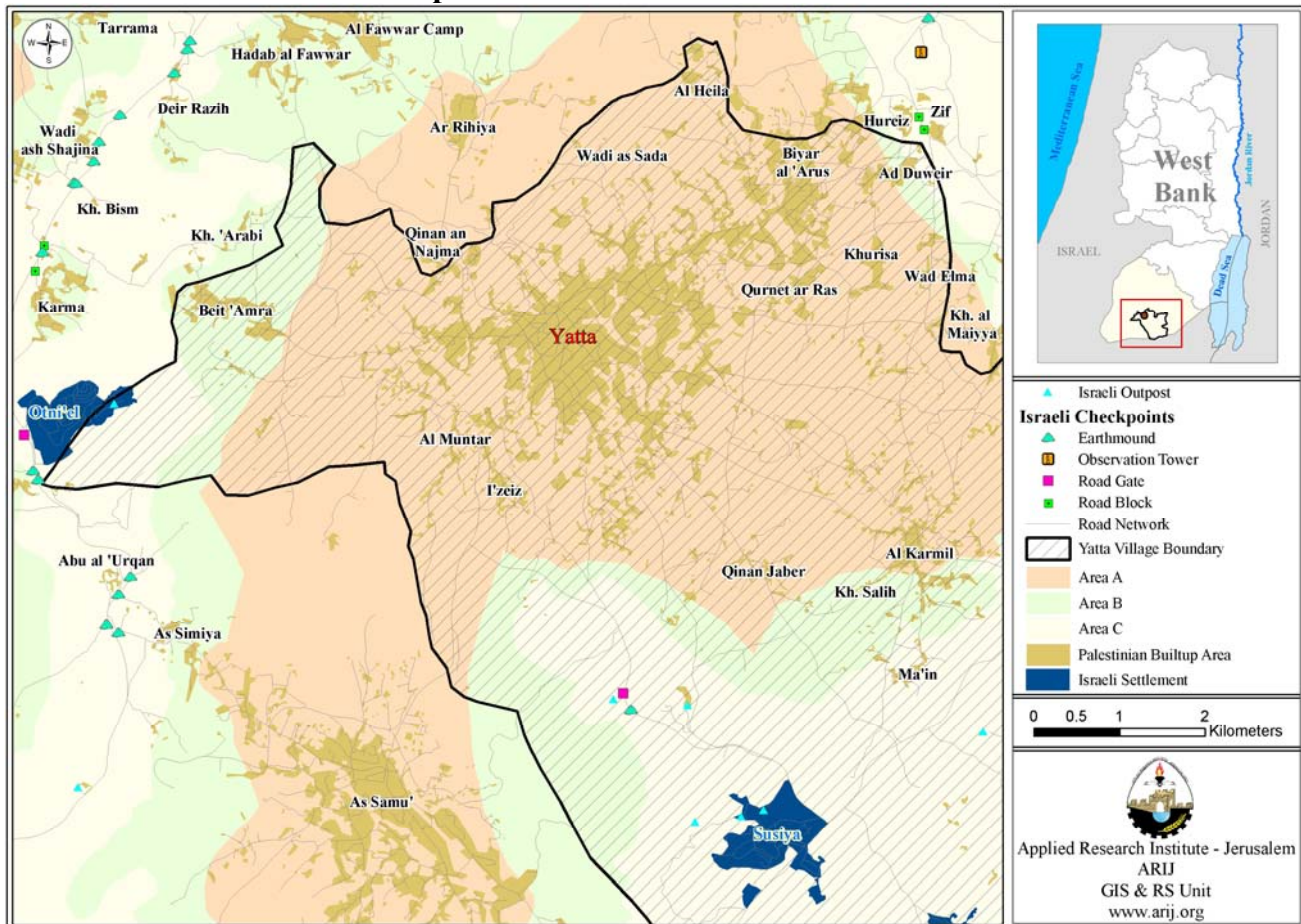
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Yatta Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Yatta is a Town in the Hebron Governorate, located 9 km south of Hebron city, in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Zif and Khaled al Maiyya to the East, Ar Rihya, Al Fawwar Camp and Wadi as Sada to the North, Beit 'Amra to the West, and As Samu' to the South (See map 1).

Map 1: Yatta Town location and borders



The total area of Yatta town estimated to be 270,000 dunums, of which 14,000 dunums are classified as 'built up' area; whilst 115,000 dunums are agricultural area, 141,000 is forests, uncultivated, or public land. Yatta municipality has a master plan for 24,500 dunums of town lands.

Yatta town is located on the mountainous area south of Hebron city at an elevation of 793 m above the sea level, with a mean rainfall 303 mm, an average annual temperature of 18 °C, and average annual humidity at 61% (ARIJ GIS).

According to Ministry of Local Authority classification, Yatta is comprises the following localities: Yatta, Al Muntar, Khurisa, Raq'a, Qfair, Al Shawamreh, Sweidan, Qat'et As Shaikh, Al Farhaniyeh, Wadi Musalah, Al Farash, Al Dair, Fattooh, Al Marmlea', Khallet Saleam, Khallet Yerhas, Qurnet ar Ras, Wad I'zeiz, Al Heila, Khallet Tabeash, Khallet Mazaher, Al Mqthea' and Al Goweata villages.

Yatta town has been governed by a municipal council since 1971, which today consists of 13 elected members with 60 paid employees. In addition to drafting and implementing development programs, the council provides a number of services to the residents of Yatta, including:

- Infrastructure Services such as water and solid waste disposal.
- Health Services.
- Social development services.
- Road construction and repair, and construction of public buildings, particularly schools.

Yatta municipality has ten departments so as to facilitate services for the residents, these departments include:

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|
| 1. | Administration | 6. | Engineering |
| 2. | Public relations | 7. | Study and Planning |
| 3. | Financial | 8. | Water |
| 4. | Traffic | 9. | Computer Services |
| 5. | Collection and computer services | 10. | Health and Environment |

History

Yatta history dated back to the Canaanite Era, when the Canaanites settled Palestine in the early ages. It was called "Yuta" (يوطة) which means "the flat and curved"; the place covers about 90 dunums on a hill.

In the Roman ages, it got the name of "Letaem". However, the Town itself was established during the Ottoman age and was larger than the old one; it has old buildings, architectural monuments, and other buildings of interest.

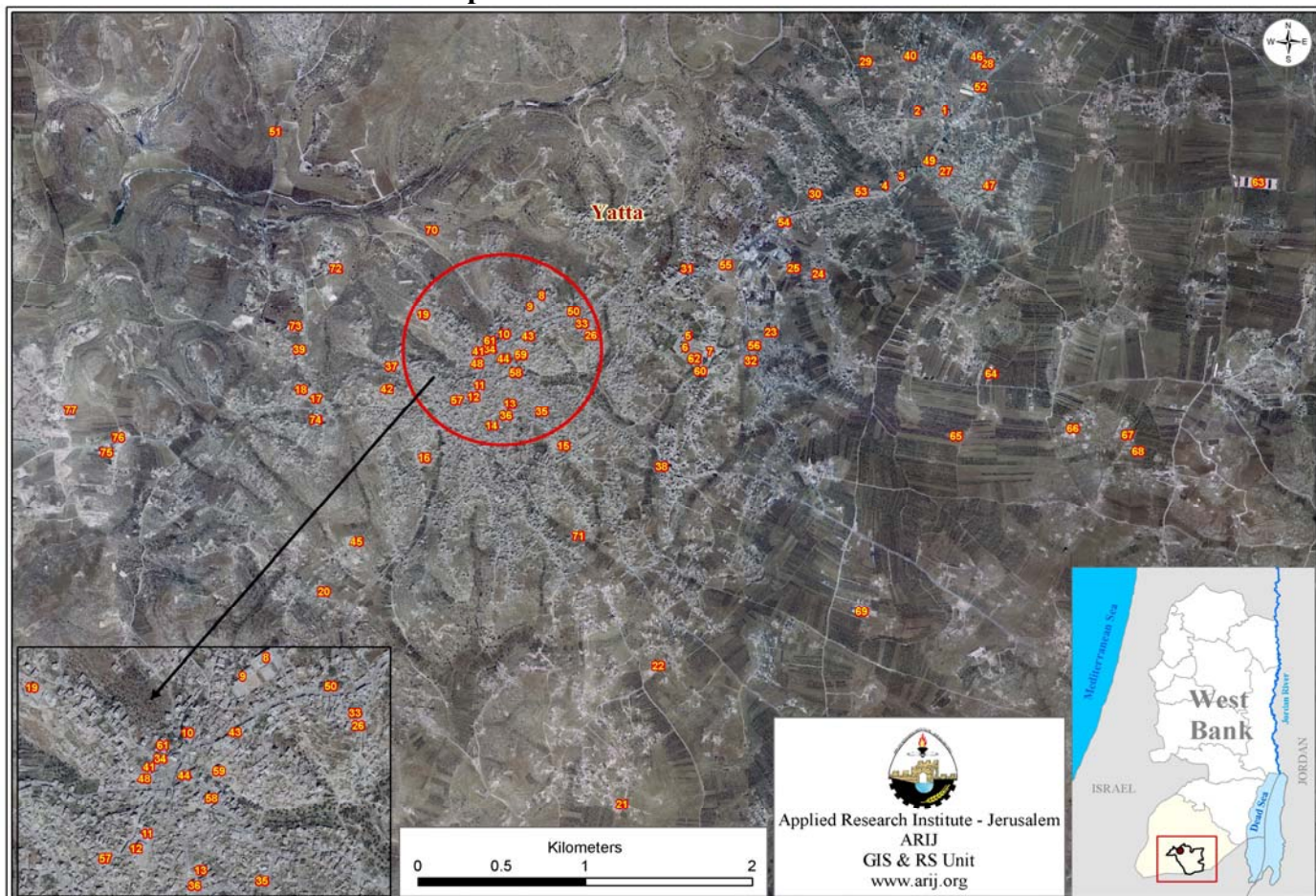
Photos of Yatta



Religious and Archeological Sites

There are 60 mosques in Yatta town , There are also a number of archeological and historical sites in the Town of which Al Khader shrine, Old town, Raqa Site and Berkhat Majed Al B'ea'.

Map 2: Main locations in Yatta Town



| No. | Locations | No. | Locations | No. | Locations | No. | Locations |
|-----|--|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Raq'a Girls Secondary School | 21 | Dirar bin Al Zwaer Boys Elementary School | 41 | Center City Water Reservoir | 61 | Yatta Charitable Society |
| 2 | Raq'a Girls Elementary School | 22 | Shuhdea' Al Qasa School | 42 | Water Reservoir | 62 | Yatta Municipal Stadium |
| 3 | Bin Tem'ya Boys Elementary School | 23 | Shuhdea' Yatta Girls Elementary School | 43 | Nasser Private Hospital | 63 | Cattle Farm |
| 4 | Raq'a Boys Secondary School | 24 | Al Ansar Boys Elementary School | 44 | Al E'tmaid Private Hospital | 64 | Barax Chickens |
| 5 | Al Ma'moun Boys Elementary School | 25 | Al Ansar Girls Elementary School | 45 | Abu Hasan Al Qasam Governmental Hospital | 65 | Barax Chickens |
| 6 | Al Amin Boys Elementary School | 26 | Um Salama Girls Elementary School | 46 | Raqa Al Raouas Health Clinic | 66 | Barax Chickens |
| 7 | Yatta Boys Secondary School | 27 | Al Fatih Al Mobeain Mosque | 47 | Raqa Health Clinic | 67 | Barax Chickens |
| 8 | Yatta Girls Secondary School | 28 | Al'Asadeaq Al Amin Mosque | 48 | Yatta Health Clinic | 68 | Barax Chickens |
| 9 | Nizamiyeh Yatta Girls Elementary School | 29 | Al Heila As Sarqeya Mosuqe | 49 | Raqa Medical Centre | 69 | Barax Chickens |
| 10 | Sakhra Girls Elementary School | 30 | Al Yasser Mosque | 50 | Fadi Medical Centre | 70 | Sheep Farm |
| 11 | Al Monsour Boys Elementary School | 31 | Mosque | 51 | Maher Fuel Station | 71 | Sheep Farm |
| 12 | Yatta Boys Elementary School | 32 | Al Ma'moun Mosque | 52 | Abu Ehmeaid Fuel Station | 72 | Cutting Stone |
| 13 | Khansa Girls Elementary School | 33 | Ali bin Abi Talib Mosque | 53 | Al Rebat Fuel Station | 73 | Cutting Stone |
| 14 | Yatta Girls Elementary School | 34 | Yatta Al Kabear Mosque | 54 | Nassar Fuel Station | 74 | Cutting Stone |
| 15 | Al Muthana Boys Secondary School | 35 | Al 'Omary Mosque | 55 | Yatta Police Station | 75 | Cutting Stone |
| 16 | Hamza Boys Elementary School | 36 | AL Salam Mosque | 56 | Security Office | 76 | Cutting Stone |
| 17 | That Nitaqin Girls Elementary School | 37 | Hab Al Hobar Mosque | 57 | Intelligence Centre | 77 | Cutting Stone |
| 18 | Sa'ed bin Abey Waqase Co-education Elementary School | 38 | Al Nour Mosque | 58 | Yatta Municipality | | |
| 19 | Hawa' Girls Secondary School | 39 | Al Farash Mosque | 59 | Islamic Charitable Society | | |
| 20 | Ashead Kamal Al Sareah Co-education Elementary | 40 | Raqa' Water Reservoir | 60 | Yatta Youth Sport Club | | |

Demography and Population

The total population of Yatta town, in 2007, is estimated to be 45,424. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of which 22,930 were males and 22,494 were females.

| Locality | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Yatta | 22,693 | 22,274 | 44,967 |
| Al Muntar | 218 | 197 | 415 |
| Khurisa | 19 | 23 | 42 |
| Total | 22,930 | 22,494 | 45,424 |

Age groups and gender

The population of Yatta town is classified by age groups. The data of the 2007 census reveals that 47.3% of the population is less than 15 years, 49.5% are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.3% are 65 year and above .

The sex ratio in the town was 102 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 50.6% of the population and females constitute 49.4%. ((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.))

Families

The population of Yatta predominantly from the following families: Al Da'ajna , Harizat , Hoshchiya , Makhmera Allaya , And Makhmera Tahtta .

Migration

According to field survey data, there have been 150 people migrations from Yatta town due to Israeli procedures during second Intifada.

Education

According to (PCBS), Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 results, about 3,384 persons were illiterate (10.7% of the total population) in Yatta town, of whom 73.2% were female. Of the literate population, 6,352 persons (20.1%) received no schooling, 8,764 persons (27.8%) had elementary education, 7,510 persons (23.8%) had preparatory education, 3,708 persons (11.8%) had a secondary degree, and 1,823 persons (5.8%) had an associate diploma or a bachelor's degree and other degree .Table 2 shows the education status in Yatta by sex and education attainment in 2007.

| 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, Qumet ar Ras, Ad Duweir, I'zeiz, Wadi as Sada , Hureiz and Khallet 'Arabi.

The field survey data indicated that there are three levels of education in Yatta town: pre-school (kindergartens); basic and secondary education. The data also reveals that there were 24 schools, of which 10 schools for males, 10 schools for females and 4 schools for co-education system. Most of the schools are supervised by the public sector (22 schools) and two schools are supervised by the private sector. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 3.

| No. | School Name | Stage | Sex | Supervising Authority |
|-----|---|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Yatta Boys Secondary School | Secondary | Male | Governmental |
| 2. | Al Muthana Boys Secondary School | Secondary | Male | Governmental |
| 3. | Yatta Boys Elementary School | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 4. | Al Monsour Boys Elementary School | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 5. | Al Ma'moun Boys Elementary School | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 6. | Al Amin Boys Elementary School "A" | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 7. | Al Amin Boys Elementary School "B" | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 8. | Dirar bin Al Zwaer Boys Elementary School | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 9. | Abu Ali Iyad Boys Elementary School | Elementary | Male | Governmental |
| 10. | Al Ansar Boys Elementary School | Elementary | Male | Private |
| 11. | Yatta Girls Secondary School | Secondary | Female | Governmental |
| 12. | Hawa' Girls Secondary School | Secondary | Female | Governmental |
| 13. | Sakhra Girls Elementary School "A" | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 14. | Yatta Girls Elementary School | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 15. | Nizamiyeh Yatta Girls Elementary School | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 16. | Shuhdea' Yatta Girls Elementary School | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 17. | Sakhra Girls Elementary School "B" | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 18. | That' Nitaqin Girls Elementary School | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 19. | Um Salama Girls Elementary School | Elementary | Female | Governmental |
| 20. | Al Ansar Girls Elementary School | Elementary | Female | Private |
| 21. | Al Qadseya Co-education Elementary School | Elementary | Co-education | Governmental |
| 22. | Tallet As Sumud Co-education Elementary School | Elementary | Co-education | Governmental |
| 23. | Sa'ed bin Abey Waqase boys Elementary School | Elementary | Co-education | Governmental |
| 24. | Ashead Kameal Al Sareah Co-education Elementary School (Al Muntar locality) | Elementary | Co-education | Governmental |

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

According to Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there were 11,883 students, 446 teachers and 336 classes in Yatta schools (See table 4).

| | | Government | Private | UNRWA | Total |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Male | No. of Schools | 9 | 1 | - | 10 |
| | No. of class | 141 | 9 | - | 150 |
| | No. of Teachers | 189 | 13 | - | 202 |
| | No. of Students | 5284 | 281 | - | 5565 |
| Female | No. of Schools | 9 | 1 | - | 10 |
| | No. of class | 127 | 9 | - | 136 |
| | No. of Teachers | 174 | 12 | - | 186 |
| | No. of Students | 4598 | 282 | - | 4880 |
| Co-education | No. of Schools | 4 | - | - | 4 |
| | No. of class | 50 | - | - | 50 |
| | No. of Teachers | 58 | - | - | 58 |
| | No. of Students | 1438 | - | - | 1438 |

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

As of 2007, there were five kindergartens in the town; all of them supervised by the private sector. These kindergartens provide pre-school education services to more than 558 children in the town, see table 5.

| No. | Kindergarten Name | Number of Classes | Number of Children | Number of Teachers | Supervising Authority |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Al Ansar Islamic Kindergarten A | 8 | 220 | 10 | Private |
| 2. | Al Ansar Islamic Kindergarten B | 5 | 170 | 6 | Private |
| 3. | Children Isra Kindergarten | 2 | 68 | 3 | Private |
| 4. | Al Yasameen Kindergarten | 2 | 52 | 3 | Private |
| 5. | Almoakkp Kindergarten | 3 | 95 | 4 | Private |

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

The educational sector in Yatta town is suffering from the following problems:

- Lack of classrooms: Yatta schools have been forced to rent classrooms in order to meet increasing student enrolments.
- The existence of evening education system because of lack of classrooms.

Health Status

The health sector in the town is served by governmental, private and society sectors. The main health institutions in Yatta town are Abu Hasan Al Qasam governmental Hospital, Nasser Hospital maternity and general surgery private hospital, Hospital accreditation medical specialist private hospital, and two Yatta clinic and Maternity & Pediatric Centres. The town is also served by a

governmental health centre which provides doctors, as well as, for example, vaccination services for children. Table 6 below shows the health institution in the town by supervising authority.

Yatta Municipality officials cite several obstacles facing the health sector in the town. These include the lack of financial possibilities, insufficient supplies of medicine, insufficiency of specialist doctors, and lack buildings suitable for use as a health centre

| Institution | Governmental | Private | NGOs | Society |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Hospital | 1 | 3 | - | - |
| Physician Clinic | | 5 | - | - |
| Dental Clinic | | 5 | - | - |
| Health Clinic | 1 | 3 | - | - |
| X-Ray Centre | | | - | 1 |
| Medical Lab | 1 | | - | - |
| Maternity & Pediatric Centre | 2 | | - | - |
| Pharmacy | | 21 | - | - |
| Ambulance | 2 | | 1 | - |
| Physiotherapy Centre | 1 | | - | - |
| Total | 8 | 36 | 1 | |

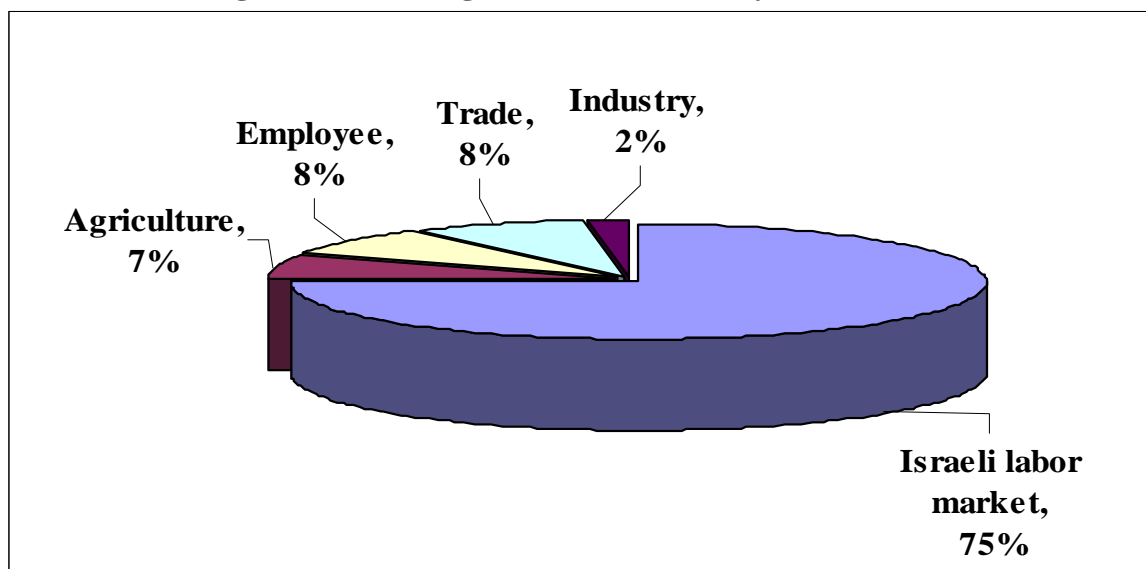
Economic Activities

Data collected from Yatta municipality indicated that Yatta's population is mainly dependent on the Israeli labor market for its livelihood; nearly 75% of the total labor force in the town is engaged in Israeli labor market. Employment in governmental and private sector forms the second sector which the residents depend on, whereas 8% of the labor force engaged in these sectors. Dependence on the agricultural sector decreased in Yatta town in recent years, just about 7% of the labor force working in agriculture sector. The trade and commercial sector comprises about 8% of Yatta workers and a smaller percentage depend on the industrial sector within the town.

The survey also indicated that the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 7%,
- The Employee sector 8%,
- Israeli labor market 75%.
- The industrial sector 2%,
- The trade sector 8%,

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Yatta town



The economic base of Yatta town also depends on many economic institutions including factories, oil stations, nine stone cutting workshops, 14 of soap factories, small crafts workshops and more than 600 grocers, 350 clothing shops, 15 butchers, 50 blacksmiths, 35 carpenters, 70 services and 80 other shops .

Based on the field survey conducted in December 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron localities indicated that the social groups most affected in the town by the Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) Workers that had previously worked in the Israeli labor market, 2) Families with six individuals and more, 3) Small traders, 4) Small farmers and 5) housekeeping and children.

Labor Force

In 2007, the labor force in Yatta is 31,541 people in total; of which 28.8% are economically active people and 71.2% are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people, 77.1% are employed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the housekeeping and students, who constitute 52.3% and 35.8% respectively. Table 7 shows the labor force in Yatta town.

| 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 | 6,432 | 902 | 986 | 8,320 | 5,853 | 44 | 1,009 | 106 | 473 | 7,485 | 15,805 |
| F | 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 Khamlet 'Arabi.

The Israeli procedures against Palestinian people since September 2000, have affected the economy of Yatta residents. On one hand, Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the residents' movements, disabling them from accessing their land, in order to cultivate and harvest their crops. On the other hand farmers cannot market their produce. A lot of areas, crops and trees have been destroyed and uprooted. As a result, the residents have lost their primary source of income and many have become unemployed.

Agricultural Sector

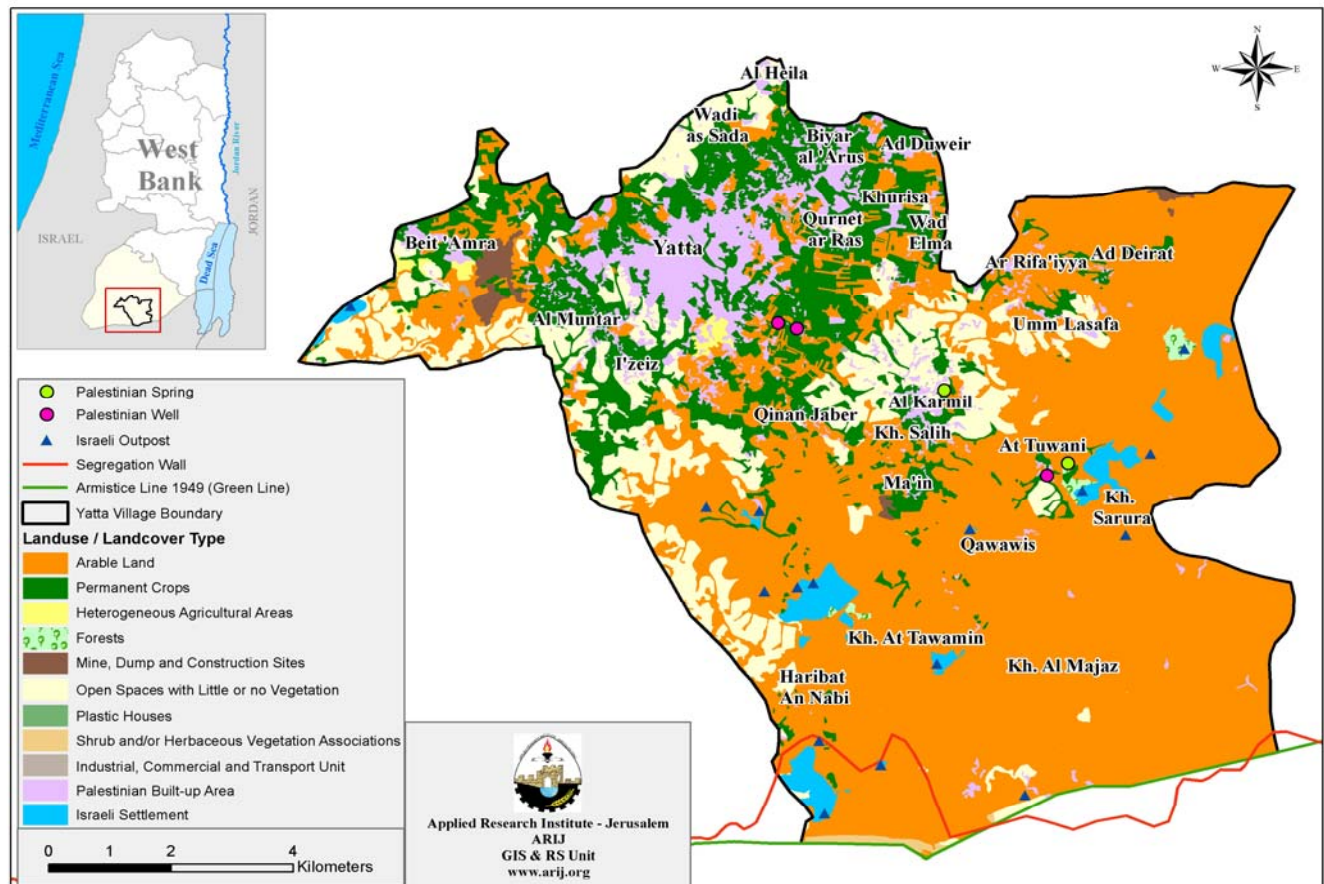
Yatta town lies on a total area of 270,000 dunums. 115,000 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 37,578 dunums are cultivated area and 77,422 dunums are uncultivated area

Table 8: Land Use in Yatta Town (dunum)

| Total Area | Arable Land | | Built up Area | Forests Area | Open Spaces and Rangelands |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| | Cultivated Area | Uncultivated Area | | | |
| 270,000 | 37,578 | 77,422 | 14,000 | 500 | 140,500 |

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/land cover and segregation wall in Yatta town



there are about 9 dunums of plastic houses in Yatta town. About 4 dunums of this area are used for growing cucumbers.

Table 9 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of Yatta. The irrigated fruity vegetables, such as white tomato, squash, and snake cucumber are the most cultivated vegetables with an area of about 480 dunums.

| Fruity vegetables | | Leafy vegetable | | Green legumes | | Bulbs | | Other vegetables | | Total area | |
|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------|------|-------|------|------------------|------|------------|------|
| RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. | RF | Irr. |
| 480 | 50 | 20 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 17 | 565 | 67 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

In the town of Yatta, there is a total area of 10,392 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees panted in the area are mostly grape vines, almond trees, fig trees and stone fruits.

| Olives | | Citrus | | Stone-fruits | | Pome fruits | | Nuts | | Other fruit | | Total area | |
|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr |
| 10,392 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 216 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 786 | 0 | 1,624 | 0 | 13,034 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 11 shows the total field crops cultivated in Yatta town. Cereals, in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated crops with an area of about 21,750 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of forage crops such as lentil and common and bitter vetch is common in Yatta.

| Cereals | | Bulbs | | Dry legumes | | Forage crops | | Stimulating crops | | Other crops | | Total area | |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr | Rf | Irr |
| 21,750 | 0 | 140 | 0 | 3,545 | 0 | 3,787 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 29,425 | 0 |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Yatta town are also dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock, such as cows, sheep, goats and chicken, in addition to about 33 bee hives.

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Horses | Donkeys | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| 754 | 75,000 | 20,000 | 5 | 270 | 1,030,000 | 9,000 | 33 |

**Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls*

Rainwater is the main source of irrigation in Yatta town, but field survey data indicated that farmers in the town depend on the water network and cisterns for irrigating their crops. In spite of the availability of 16 km of agricultural roads in the town suitable for tractors and other agricultural machinery, this is largely insufficient. The town needs to construct new roads in order to cover the vast agricultural area of the town.

The agriculture sector in the town is suffering from the following problems:

- Lack of water and capital
- Lack of pastures
- Difficulty in marketing agricultural products
- Lack of agricultural development programs in the town.
- In addition to unfeasibility of agriculture activities

Institutions and Services

Yatta has many public institutions and ministry offices; these include:

- Office of Ministry of Social Affairs
- Office of Ministry of Agriculture.
- Office of Ministry of Post.
- Security Office.
- Department of the Interior
- Office of Ministry of Labor Force.
- Yatta Magistrate Court.
- police station
- Center firefighter.

In addition to the public institutions, Yatta has 21 societies and clubs, which are:

1. Yatta Municipality: established in 1971, it is a public “service” organization working under specific regulations and by-laws enacted and improved over years in order to render the best municipal services for its citizens.
2. Yatta Charitable Society: It was established in 1969 and aims to develop people in fields of education, health and social services. It employs 400 of staff and an administrative board of 7. The society has three buildings, and its activities are: emergency clinics (24hrs), tests lab, specialty clinics (obstetric, ophthalmic and skin) and X-ray.
3. Sport & Youth Clubs: which include: Yatta Sport Youth Club: established in 1997, it has football team of excellent class, Al Kirmel sports club: it has a 2nd class football team, Al Istiqlal sports club: it has a 2nd class football team, Al Ahli sports club: it has a 2nd class football team and Karate club: established in 1998, it works on the training of children and youth in sports like judo and karate.
4. Dar of Holy Quran: It was established in 1990, originally for studying the Holy Quran, later on, and five centers were opened for girls. The Islamic Society of Orphans Care opened 45 centers for learning holy Quran and there are now 26 teachers of both sexes.
5. The Regional Rehabilitation committee: it was established in 1994, it belongs to a Sweden private organization in collaboration with the regional committee which consists of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Hebron and Bethlehem Rehabilitation Center and Health Union Committee in Jerusalem.
6. Zakat and Charity Committee of Yatta established in 1995.

7. Islamic Society for Orphans Care: established in 1997, it was a branch of Hebron Islamic society, and then separated. It organizes many activities such as education, health clinic and woman section.
8. Regional planning Committee: It is a local entity; non-profitable, it plans projects of village's councils in Yatta and rural areas i.e. 23 areas. In 1997 a regional council was elected and consists of a chairman, vice and treasuries. In 1998 the committee became a joint service council aiming at developing infrastructure in rural areas.
9. South Cultural Forum: It was established in 1997, it aims at spreading knowledge and culture among people through cultural programs, social educational, seminars, meetings, publications...etc. A staff of 9 people runs the forum. The forum has a public staff of 400.
10. The World Club: established in 1999, it aims at rehabilitating and training the deaf so that they can fit into normal social life. The school has 15 pupils aged between 5-20 years old, in 5 classes: pre-elementary, primary and elementary.
11. House of Palestinian Artists: it was established in 1999, a cultural, creative and literature productive organization, licensed by Ministry of information.
12. Palestinian Children Club: established in 2000, aiming at developing children's talents, and taking care of children's health. It offers services to more than 2000 children. In 2000 and 2001 the club held two summer camps.
13. Palestine Al Mustqbal (Future of Palestine): This organization opened a branch in Yatta i.e. Thalassemia and Hemophilia in 2000. It follows up cases of anemia, bleeding, and testing people before marriage (CBC).
14. The National Committee: established in 2001, the ministry of supply started it due to spread of unemployment and the bad economic situation. It organizes programs to support needy people; the Catholic Relief and Child Land Society support the program. The committee consists of a number of volunteers, the main programs include: 1) Work against foodstuff, 2) Health courses and 3) Decreasing malnutrition.
15. Palestinian Red Crescent: established in 2003, it offers services in the medical field, it has an ambulance and the center holds awareness raising courses, first aid and academic activities
16. South Labors Council: it was established in 2003, aiming at reducing unemployment, it has 2100 subscribers, and offers the following services: 1) helping labors financially through programs of Ministry of Labor, 2) material help, 3) Insurance cards with discount 20-30% of fees, and 4) searching for job opportunities.
17. South Society organization established in 2004 with the aims of: 1) Improving health awareness, 2) activating role of local community, 3) exchanging experiences with related organizations, and 4) treating sick people.
18. Yatta Women Club: It provides educational and training services for women.
19. Child Land Society (branch): It was established in 1999 as a national entity, aiming at developing the health field in Hebron area, exchanging information and experiences with related organizations.
20. Agricultural Society: Established in 2004
21. Al-Quds Open University-Yatta: established in 2002, this centre was established after the increasing number of students in the Hebron area. The Centre offers this service to education both in Yatta and the villages surrounding it, especially for girls and provides university degree in interdisciplinary teaching and administration.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Yatta town is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 60% of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water Services:** Yatta has been connected with a water network since 1974. Almost 85% of the households are connected. The Israeli Water Company (MECOROT) is the main provider for water coming from Toque wells. The water network supplies water three days in a week. The town also has three water reservoirs with a capacity of total 2,700 m³. These are primarily used to provide water for the town in the summer time and are available only on a once a weekly basis. The alternative sources of water network is cisterns. There are six springs and wells in the town the two main ones being Al Hano spring, Tawani spring. Furthermore, the water of springs and wells are not used. The main obstacles facing Yatta are: general reduction in water supply; insufficiency of the water network in meeting demand, water pollution, and an increase in water losses through the phenomenon of stealing and an unavailability of technicians.
- **Electritown Services:** Yatta has been connected to electritown network since 1987. Approximately 90% of households in the town are connected to the electritown network. Yatta municipality manages the distribution of electritown which is supplied by Southern Electritown Company.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** In Yatta town, there is a solid waste management system operated by the Yatta Municipality. The solid waste collected by special vehicles in cooperation with neighbour villages (Joint Services Council) and transported from the residential areas to special dumping site (Al Dyirat Mahraqa) which is 8 km from the built-up area, where the wastes are buried. Nevertheless, about 40 tons of solid waste is generated in Yatta town daily (about 14,600 yearly).
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage network in Yatta town. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater rather than the waste water is collected in cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** There are about 80 km roads in Yatta town, 50 km are paved and in a good condition, 18 km are paved yet not in good condition and 12 km are not paved at all see table 13. The only means of transportation in Yatta comprises two office taxis. There are obstacles in front of transportation of passengers is the deterioration of the roads

| Road Condition | Road length (km) | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | Main roads | Internal roads | Agricultural roads |
| Paved roads in good condition | 15 | 25 | 10 |
| Paved roads in bad condition | 2 | 16 | - |
| Unpaved roads | - | 6 | 6 |
| Total | 17 | 47 | 16 |

Development Plans and Projects

The town municipality has established a plan which includes development projects. Since 2004, the municipality has implemented 33 projects funded by external donors

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Yatta municipality the town has suffered from shortages in many infrastructure and service requirements. Table 14 below summarizes development priorities and needs in the town.

| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Moderately Needed | Not Needed | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|-------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | | 84 km roads ^ |
| 2 | Construction of New Water Networks | | | | * | |
| 3 | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | * | | | | 40 km |
| 4 | Construction of Water Reservoirs | * | | | | 4000 cubic meter |
| 5 | Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas | * | | | | 20 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 | * | | | | |
| Agriculture Needs | | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands | * | | | | 250 dunums |
| 2 | Building Cisterns | * | | | | 150 of cisterns |
| 3 | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | | * | | | 20 |
| 4 | Veterinary Services | * | | | | |
| 5 | Seeds and Hay for Animals | * | | | | |
| 6 | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | | * | | 6 Greenhouses |
| 7 | Field Crops Seeds | * | | | | |
| 8 | Plants and Agricultural Supplies | * | | | | |

^ 84 km (2 km main roads, 76 km internal roads and 6 km agricultural roads)

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