

Hajja Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2013

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Qalqiliya Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Qalqiliya 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 Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and 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 Qalqiliya Governorate.

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 Qalqiliya 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://vprofile.arij.org>.

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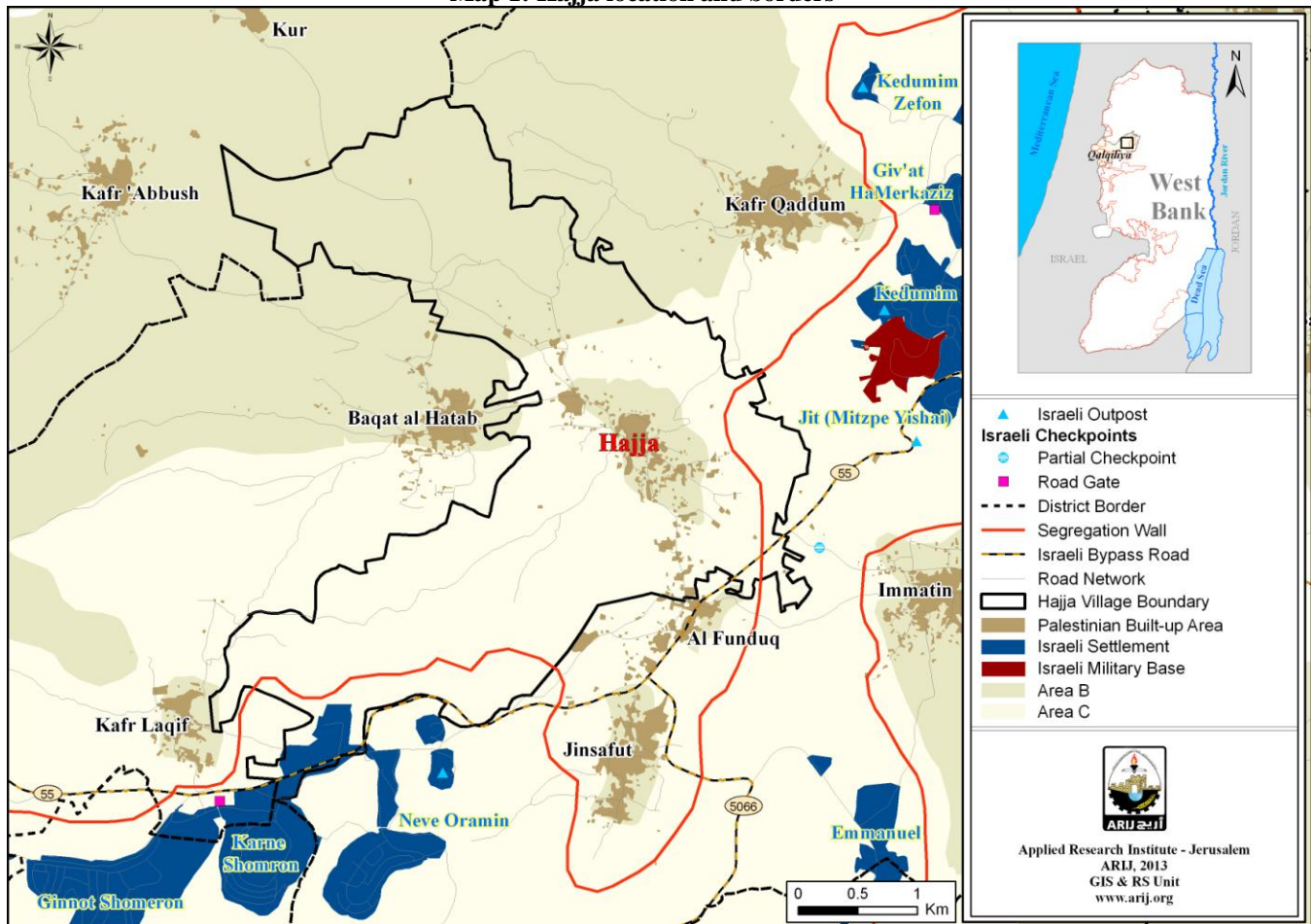
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Hajja Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Hajja is a Palestinian village in the Qalqiliya Governorate located 15.9km east of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Kafr Qaddum and Immatin villages to the east, Al Funduq and Jinsafut to the south, Kafr ‘Abbush (in Tulkarem Governorate), Kafr Laqif and Baqat al Hatab villages to the west, and Kur village (in Tulkarem Governorate) to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Hajja location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Hajja is located at an altitude of 409m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 580.7mm. The average annual temperature is 18.5°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61.5% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

The classification of the residential areas borders has been adopted in this profile based on the administrative division of Palestinian communities, according to the Palestinian National Authority(PNA). This administrative division system has been developed by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics(PCBS), and the Central Election Commission (CEC).

Since 1994, Hajja has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also 7 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the First Joint Services Council (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

The Council owns a vehicle for the collection of solid waste to serve the residents. It is also the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Hajja, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, road construction, paving and restoration, and street cleaning.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the village.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Provision of offices for governmental services (e.g. security, post).
- Provision of a sewerage network.

(Hajja Village Council, 2012)

History

There are two books which suggest names for the village. The first says that the village was a meeting place of travelers and pilgrims (“hujjaj” in Arabic) which also was represented as a trading market, accordingly it was called Hajja. The second book suggests that a Mufti inhabited the village to whom people used to resort in times of troubles in order to resolve their disputes, and the “fatwas” issued by him were considered as argument (meaning “hujja”), from which the village got its name (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

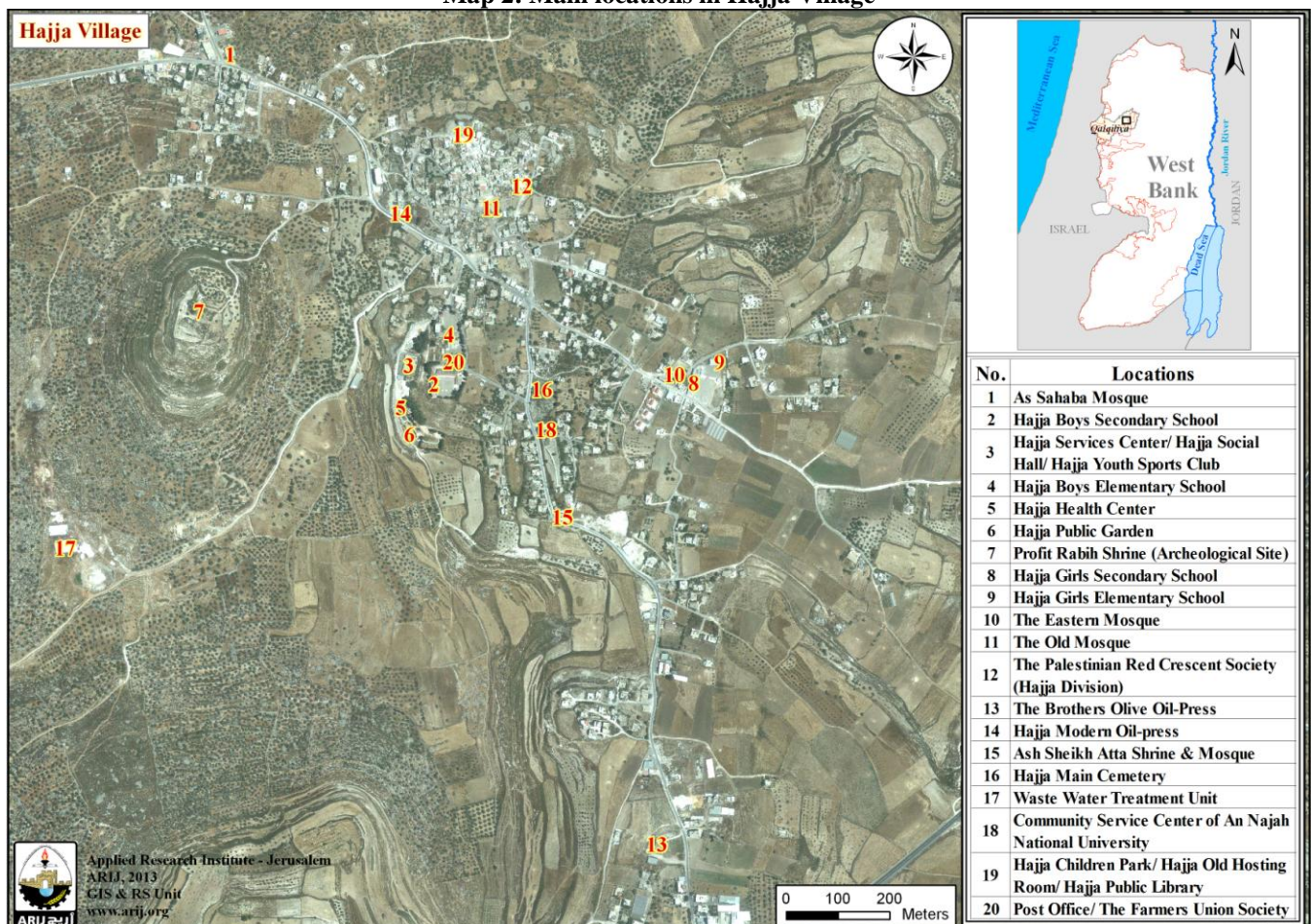
The village was established in 1010 A.D. Its residents however are descendent from Jaffa, Yemen and Egypt (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Photo of Hajja

Religious and archaeological Sites

There are 4 mosques in the village (As Sahaba, Al Khilafa, Al Hara ash Sharqiya and Hajja Old Mosque). The village has several sites of archaeological interest including Ash Sheikh ‘Atta and Ash Sheikh Ghanem Shrines, the Old City and Hajja Old Mosque which is 800 years old. All of these sites are suitable for tourism as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiques (Hajja Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Hajja Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Hajja in 2007 was 2,086, of whom 1,069 were male and 1,017 female. There were 389 households registered as living in 472 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Hajja was as follows: 39.7% were less than 15 years of age, 56.8% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.5% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 105.1:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.2% and 48.8% of the population, respectively.

Families

Hajja residents are from several families, including the Battah, Hamad, Baslat, Nofal, Masalha, Tubas, Da'aas, Abu Ali, Ahmad, Tayyun and Farakhta families (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among Hajja population is approximately 6.2%, of whom 83% are females. Of the total population, 12.9% could only read and write with no formal education, 21.3% had elementary education, 29.4% had preparatory education, 17.8% had secondary education, and 12.5% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Hajja by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Hajja population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	16	82	157	256	161	55	67	1	5	2	0	802
F	79	115	170	194	111	19	42	0	0	0	0	730
T	95	197	327	450	272	74	109	1	5	2	0	1,532

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are four public schools in the village, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012) (see table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Hajja by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Hajja Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Thukoor Hajja Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Hajja Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Hajja Co-educational Elementary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 667 students, 52 teachers, and 30 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 13, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 22 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There is also one kindergarten in Hajja village (Zuhoor Hajja Kindergarten) run by a private organization. The kindergarten has 2 classes which are supervised by 2 teachers (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

The educational sector in Hajja village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of classrooms.
- The lack of playgrounds and yards in schools.
- The need for rehabilitation of the classrooms.

The lack of computer and scientific labs in the schools.(Hajja Village Council, 2012):

Health status

Hajja has a governmental health center, a governmental mother and child care center, a governmental general physician clinic, a governmental gynecologist clinic, a governmental dermatologist clinic, and two private pharmacies. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital in Qalqiliya city (20km away) or to the Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus city (20km away) (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of an emergency 24 hour service in the health center.
- The lack of a radiology center and a medical laboratory.
- The need for development and medical equipment in the health center.

The lack of an ambulance.(Hajja Village Council, 2012)

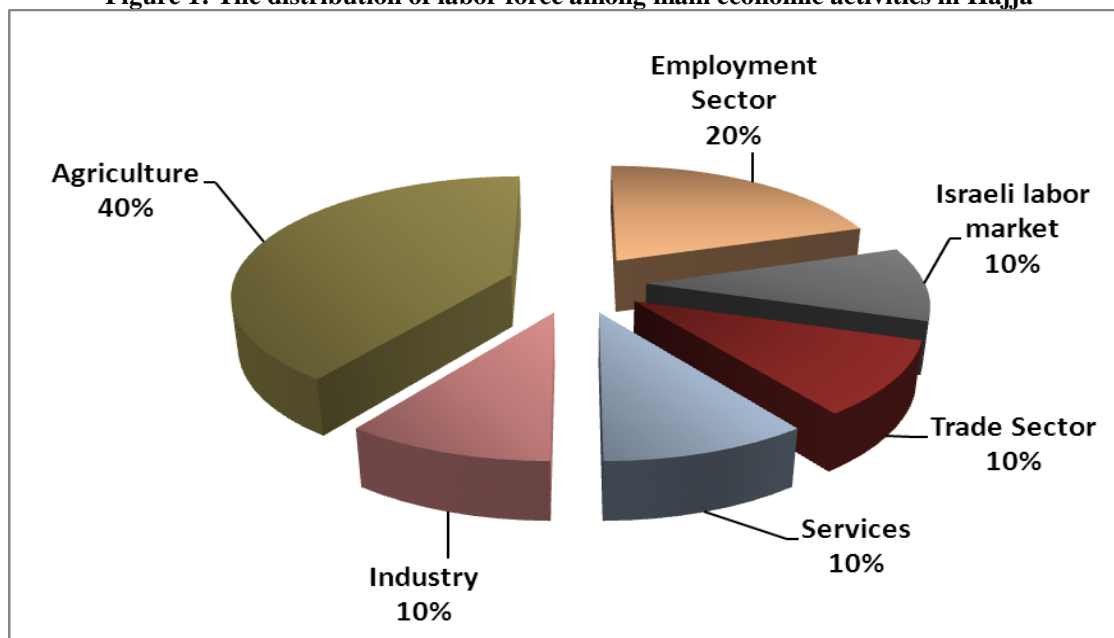
Economic activities

The economy in Hajja is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector which absorbs 40% of the village's workforce (Hajja Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Hajja are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (40%)
- Government or other employees sector (20%)
- Israeli labor market (10%)
- Trade sector (10%)
- Industry (10%)
- Services sector (10%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Hajja



Source: Hajja Village Council, 2012

Hajja has 8 groceries, 1 fruit and vegetable store, 12 service stores, 7 different professional workshops, 2 olive oil presses and 2 factories (dairy and cleaning products) (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Hajja reached 30%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.

(Hajja Village Council, 2012)

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 32.4% of Hajja labor force was economically active, of whom 84.7% were employed, 67.5% were not economically active, 55.7% were students, and 32.8% were housekeepers (see table 4).

Table 4: Hajja population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	372	16	50	438	295	0	58	9	1	363	1	802
F	49	2	8	59	281	339	51	0	0	671	0	730
T	421	18	58	497	576	339	109	9	1	1,034	1	1,532

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

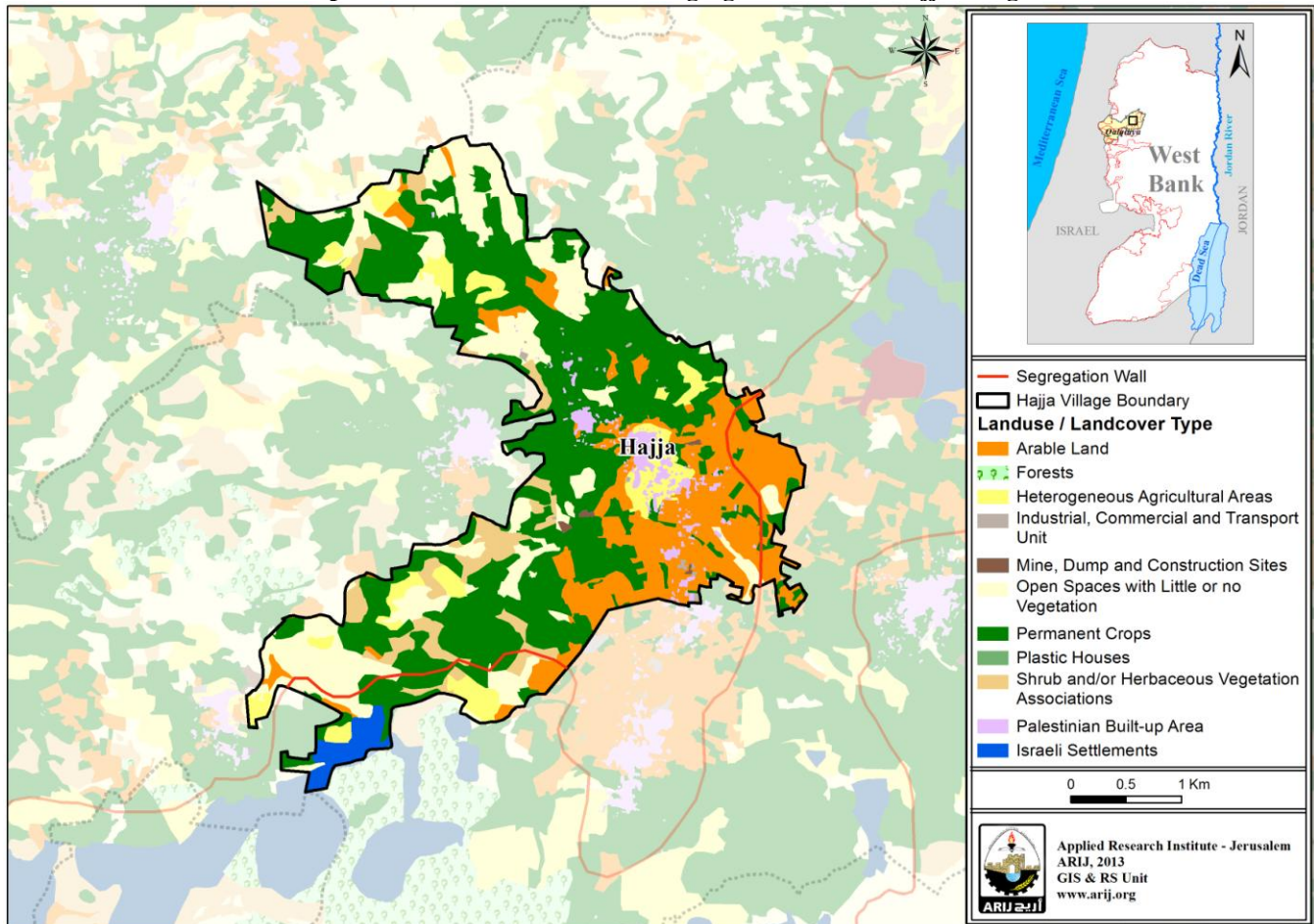
Hajja has a total area of approximately 12,403 dunums, of which 9,509 are arable land and 297 dunums are registered as residential (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Hajja village (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (9,509)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
12,403	297	6,425	0	742	2,342	0	1	2,337	45	216

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Hajja village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Hajja. The most commonly cultivated crops in this area are okra and snake cucumber.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Hajja (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
165	0	0	0	40	0	10	0	0	0	215	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Hajja is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 7,000 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Hajja (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
7,000	0	0	0.8	65	0	0	0	55	0	64	0.5	7,184	1.3

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Hajja, cereals (particularly wheat and barley) are the most cultivated, covering an area of around 160 dunums (see table 8).

Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in Hajja (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
160	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	22	0	246	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in size of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas and they did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that just 3% of the residents in Hajja rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, cows and goats (see table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Hajja

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
6	615	240	0	0	0	0	27,000	1,000	290

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 51km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 10: Agricultural roads in Hajja village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	20
For animals only	30
Unsuitable	-

Source: Hajja Village Council, 2012

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- The urban sprawl over agricultural lands.
- The settlement expansion at the expense of agricultural lands.
- The harassment and attacks from settlers.
- The lack of water resources available for agriculture.
- The lack of financial support for the agricultural sector.
- The wild animals, mainly pigs.

(Hajja Village Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

Hajja village has a post office in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Hajja Village Council:** Founded in 1994 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services and infrastructure to its residents.
- **The Red Crescent Society:** Founded in 2002 by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. It provides medical days, physiological guidance, summer camps and women's aerobics classes.
- **Hajja Charitable Society:** Founded in 2009 by the Ministry of Interior, aiming to provide charitable activities and educational assistance to the village residents.
- **The Development Charitable Society:** Founded in 2006 by the village women. The Society teaches different skills to women, including food processing, embroidery and other profit activities.
- **An Nawras Cultural Center:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of the Interior. The Center provides cultural activities and summer camps.
- **The Sports Club:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, with the goal of providing sport activities and summer camps.
- **Hajja Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2012 by a group of village farmers and is still in the formation phases. The Society aims to reclaim agricultural lands, construct harvesting wells, rehabilitate roads and construct retaining walls. (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Hajja has been connected to a public electricity network since 2007. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily the weak electrical power in some areas, (mainly the northern part of the village), and the lack of sufficient transformers (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Hajja is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

There are 5 taxis and 8 large taxis (7 passengers), but this is not sufficient for the village residents, who also suffer from a lack of sheltered waiting areas. Due to this lack of transportation vehicles, many residents use their own private cars (Hajja Village Council, 2012). There are 8km of main roads and 4km of secondary roads in Hajja (Hajja Village Council, 2012) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Hajja village

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	-	1
2. Paved and in poor condition	3	1
3. Unpaved	5	2

Source: Hajja Village Council, 2012

Water resources:

Hajja is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 2009. Approximately 90% of the housing units are connected to the network (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Hajja village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 144,000 cubic meters/year (Hajja Village Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 163 liters/day. However, no Hajja citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 35% (Hajja Village Council, 2012). These losses happen at the main source, along major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Hajja is 106 liters per day (Hajja Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Hajja residents is considered a good rate compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

The village has 400 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

Hajja has been connected to a public sewerage network since 2004. However, only 30% of Hajja housing units use the sewage network as a means for wastewater disposal, while the rest of the housing units use cesspits and septic tanks (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 205 cubic meters, or 75,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 85 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected from housing units that are not connected with the sewage network by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Solid waste management:

Hajja Village Council Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 12 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of the fees are collected from the citizens (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Hajja benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 50 containers (of 1 m³ capacity) located around the village. Hajja Village Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a dumping site located 1.5km from the village, where it is subsequently burnt (Hajja Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Hajja is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated quantity of solid waste produced per day from the Hajja residents is nearly 1.7 tons, or 618 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Hajja experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water crisis

Water is cut off for long periods of time during the summer in numerous neighborhoods of the village, as the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs. In addition, there is a high rate of water losses because the water network is aged and worn out and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

The citizens also suffer from the problem of water pollution, mainly from water collected through household cisterns, due to the presence of the cesspits which are used for the disposal of wastewater.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in many neighborhoods (70%) means that Hajja residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid waste management:

Zahrat al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate (approximately 32km from the center of Qalqiliya Governorate), is considered the central sanitary landfill which is supposed to serve Qalqiliya Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Qalqiliya Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout the Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. As a result, waste is being disposed randomly in these landfills causing damage to health, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which is emitted when the waste is burned. All of these issues have harmful effects on human as well as environmental health.

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Hajja and the other neighboring communities in the Governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. The implementation of such projects is also dependent on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, which produces bad odors and a distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Hajja

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Hajja was divided into areas "B" and "C". Approximately 4,612 dunums (37.2. % of the village's total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. Most of the population of Hajja resides in area B. The rest of the village's area, constituting 7,791 dunums (62.8% of the total), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area C, Palestinian

building and land management is prohibited without the prior consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas and open spaces. In addition to this is the confiscated land used for the purposes of building Israeli settlements.(see table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Hajja according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	4,612	37.2
Area C	7,791	62.8
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	12,403	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Israeli occupation practices on Hajja village

Hajja has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations in order to forward various Israeli objectives, which is demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements and bypass roads on the village territories. The following sections are details of the Israeli confiscations on Hajja village:

Israel confiscated approximately 216 dunums (1.7%) of Hajja land, to establish two Israeli settlements, Karne Shomron and Neve Oramin.. It is important to note that only part of this settlement was established on the village land of Hajja, while the remaining settlement area was established on the land of other neighboring villages such as Jinsafut, Kafr Laqif and Deir Istiya. Moreover, the settlement of Karne Shomron and the settlement of Neve Oramin forms a key component of the larger 'Kedumim settlement bloc, which Israel is seeking to include within its borders by constructing the Separation Wall in the area.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Hajja village

Implementation of the Israeli segregation Wall plan on the ground has been ongoing since 2002. This began after the Israeli Authorities decided to implement the separation policy between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories by establishing an isolation zone in the western part of the West Bank. This isolation zone stretches from the north to the south of the West Bank confiscating the most fertile agricultural lands and isolating Palestinian societies and communities from one another. By connecting most of the Israeli settlements in an attempt to legitimize the route of the Separation Wall inside the West Bank, the isolation area also undermines the regional interaction between Palestinian towns and villages, and controls the natural resources. The construction of the wall has ignored the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) made on July 9th 2004, in which they recommended that the route of the Wall should be changed and Palestinians affected by the Wall should be offered compensation. However, on April, 30th, 2007, rather than changing the wall route to reduce the negative impact on these villages, Israel disregarded the human rights of these Palestinians by implementing more changes to the route, intending instead to connect the Israeli settlements to one another. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages as they became more isolated from one another. According to the latest amendments of the Wall route, Israel plans to build 4.8km from the Separation Wall, on the village lands of Hajja from the eastern side. In general, the Wall will isolate 1,638dunums, (approximately 13.2% of the village's total area) and this area includes agricultural land, Israeli settlements and open

spaces. This land is considered the only resource for the village in order to develop in the future. It is important to mention that Israel is trying to control the largest area possible of Palestinian land through the Separation Wall, in order to guarantee the expansion of Israeli settlements even after including them in their new illegal borders. (See table 12).

Table 12: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in Hajja village

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Israeli Settlements	216
2	Forests	1
3	Open spaces	314
4	Agricultural Areas	1106
6	Palestinian Built up Area	1
7	Total	1,638

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli bypass roads on the Lands of Hajja village

The concept of “Bypass roads” began to appear during the time of the Oslo Agreement in September-1993 (signed between the PLO and Israel) and refers to the roads built by the Israelis in the occupied Palestinian territories in an attempt to link Israeli settlements in the West Bank to each other and Israel. Since then, Israel has doubled their efforts to increase the size of bypass roads in the occupied Palestinian territories which will affect the peace negotiations with the Palestinians, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. During the last 46 years of occupation since the year 1967, Israel has built 810 kilometers of bypass roads and facilitating the connection of illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. According to the Oslo Agreement that was signed between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Palestinians were allowed to use these roads, but after the start of the second Intifada on 30th September 2000, the Israeli authorities prevented Palestinians from using these roads under the pretext of 'security concerns'. It is worth mentioning that the establishment of the Israeli bypass roads in the occupied Palestinian territories has contributed to the weak development of Palestinian communities in the West Bank because of the creation of real obstacles in the areas that are marked for Palestinian development. In 2004, Israel proposed a network of bypass roads that transformed the path way of the Palestinians and prevented them from using Israeli roads, forcing them to relocate their path way to another road network entirely separated from Israeli bypass roads, and in doing so, ensuring exclusive Israeli use of these roads. This in effect, is helping Israel tighten its control on Palestinian movements and restricting their rights. The Palestinian village of Hajja is in a similar position to other Palestinian villages in the occupied Palestinian territories having had land confiscation because of the establishment of the Israeli bypass road No. 55 which cuts the village through the south-eastern side with a length of 2 kilometers.

Previous Israeli attacks on the territory and property of Hajja village

The Palestinian communities that is located in area " C" are still suffering from the prohibitions of the Israeli occupation authorities which are enforced by the Israeli Occupation Army. Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian territories and to this day, the urban Palestinian development of Palestinian has stopped in those areas. In addition to the negative impact on the economic development for the Palestinians and their displacement from their places of residence. This effect was caused by Israel in order to implement their settlement plans and strengthen their presence in the occupied Palestinian territories. And this policy has formed a problem to the growth of Palestinian communities because these communities are located mostly in areas which prevents building constructions without a construction permit issued from the Israeli civil administration. The citizens of the village who are living in the Palestinian communities that is located in area 'C' suffers from the lack of structural plans for the village in order to meet their urban needs. While the position of the Israeli Civil Administration was not to grant them building permits in order to keep up with their population growth in those areas. And they remain under the threat of demolition because of the unauthorized buildings , according to the Israeli claims. At the same time , the Israeli bulldozers did not hesitate to have a response to the Palestinians who dare to defy the laws of Israel regarding the construction in Area C which is under full Israeli control. Every Palestinian who wants to build a home or add a room to an existing house, must go through long, complicated and expensive procedures to attain a license for their construction. In the end these licenses are normally rejected by the Israeli civil administration which claims that there is a lack of necessary conditions for building in those areas. While Hajja village is subjected to various demolition policies by the Israeli authorities which is summarized as follows:

- On July,12th,2007 the Israeli occupation authorities demolished a facility farm belonging to the citizen Safia Baslat from the village of Hajja. This was done after they notified her of the demolition order since June, 2006 , which is under the pretext of an unauthorized buildings in the area classified as area " C" , which is considered to be under the full Israeli security and administrative control, and this is according to the Oslo II Interim agreement of 1995.
- In July,14th, 2009 six Palestinian families in Hajja Palestinian village received notification orders to stop the work construction in their premises under the pretext of unlicensed construction because the targeted facilities is located in the area " C" , which are subject to full Israeli control . The targeted facilities belongs to Raji Raji Samir Haj , Mohammed Ahmed Diab ,Salamah Samir Odeh , and Samer Majid Mahmoud Hamad and Bassem Mahmoud Ahmed Taha and Imran Yusuf Abdul Qader Hamad .
- The Inspection Subcommittee of the Israeli Civil Administration notified, a number of facilities in the villages of Hajja and Jinsafut in early February ,2010. In order to stop the construction under the pretext of unauthorized buildings. Because the targeted facilities is classified as " C" and this is according to the Oslo II Interim in 1995 , which is under a full Israeli security and administrative control . The Israeli Civil Administration gave the owners until the fourteenth of March 2010, to correct the status of their facility. the targeted facilities , belongs to Essam Fabiq Baslat, Riad Abdel Rahim Bashir and Mohammed Abed Sabrah.
- The Inspection Subcommittee of the Israeli Civil Administration handed over notification orders for three citizens in October,18th, 2010 which require them to stop the construction on their agricultural and residential premises under the pretext of an unauthorized building because the targeted facilities is

located in area " C" . |These facilities belongs to Atef Mahmoud Diab , Zaher Majid Hamad and Mohammed Atef Hassan

- The Inspection Subcommittee of the Israeli Civil Administration in May,30th, 2012,handed over notification orders for two families, in order to stop the construction work on their premises under the pretext of “unauthorized building” in area" C" , which is under full Israeli security and administrative control. The Israeli civil administration gave the owners until June,17th, 2012 in order to straighten out the situation for their construction. The targeted facilities belongs to Bassam Mahmoud Batta and Jaber Khalil Baslat.

Military orders for Hajja village

- Israeli Military Order No. 15/ 6/ T: issued on January 25th 2006, confiscated an area of 279dunums which included the village lands of Hajja, Kafr Laqif, and ‘Azzun for the purpose of building the Segregation Wall in the area.
- Israeli Military Order No. 62 / 06 / T: issued on July 26th 2006, confiscated an area of 8 dunums from the village lands of Hajja and Kafr Laqif for the purpose of establishing an Israeli camp near the settlement of Karne Shomron. It is worth mentioning that on July 21st 2006, the Israeli army issued a new amendment to the Israeli Military Order No. 62/.06 / T, to be changed to become order No.70/06/T, but this order remained for the same purpose, which is the establishment an Israeli military camp near the settlement of Karne Shomron.

Israeli Military Order No. 70 / 06 / T (An Amendment for the extension to the validity of the military order). This was issued on December, 4th, 2011 and confiscated an area of 9.4 dunums of lands villages of Hajja and Kafr Laqif, for the purpose of establishing an Israeli Military Camp near the settlement of Karne Shomron. Usually the military order comes into force when the order is signed , where the military order that was issued for the first time in 2006 in a specific period by the Israeli Defense Ministry through which the Execution planned is included within this military order . And by reference to the order that was issued in each of the villages of Kafr Laqif and Hajja, the building of an Israeli military camp was approved to be built near the settlement of Karne Shomron since the moment of its release in 2006 until the date of December,30th, 2009, which is the period that was due for the building of the Israeli camp and this according to the issued military order , but the camp construction was not finished on the real ground , which pushed the Israeli government to issue the extension of the first period of the Israeli military order until December ,30th 2016 in order for Israel to complete the establishment of the Israeli camp in the area. And to provision their settlement plans that is designed to confiscate more Palestinian lands. Moreover, the military order included an amendment for the military camp boundaries , which is to increase the space of the camp, of course at the expense of the other surrounding Palestinian territories

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Hajja Village Council has implemented several development projects in Hajja during the past five years (see table 13).

Table 13: Implemented development plans and projects in Hajja during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Rehabilitating the secondary road network	Infrastructure	2007	Ministry of Finance
Building Hajja Girls' Elementary School	Educational	2008	Ministry of Education
Building Masqat Health Center	Public Services	2006-2007	Oman State
Renovating the Old City	Public Services	2010	Riwaq & USAID
Rehabilitating the wastewater treatment unit	Infrastructure	2012	European Union & The Hydrology Group

Source: Hajja Village Council, 2012

Proposed projects

Hajja Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a civil defense center to serve the village and its neighboring localities.
2. Establishing a vocational training center to serve the village and its neighboring localities.
3. Establishing an industrial zone to accommodate all professional workshops and stores in the village.
4. Establishing a center that includes a closed hall for the gym.
5. Expanding the public electricity network by approximately 5km.
6. Establishing an agricultural association for the development of livestock in the village.
7. Reclaiming more than 2,000 dunums of agricultural lands.
8. Constructing agricultural roads (25km) and agricultural water harvesting cisterns, especially on lands near settlements.
9. Supporting farmers and assisting them in marketing their agricultural products.
10. Developing the infrastructure of all schools in the village, each according to its requirements.
11. Paving the main road (4km), and secondary roads (11km).
12. Connecting the village with neighboring localities by paving the roads leading to Kafr Laqif (4km), Immatin (2km), Jinsafut (3km) and Kafr 'Abbush (1.5km), in order to reduce the settlement expansion in those areas.

13. Establishing a training and rehabilitation center for women and implementing programs that support women and provide them with job opportunities, such as food processing projects, embroidery, and others.
14. Furnishing the public library and providing it with books, stationery and other supplies.

Locality development priorities and needs

Hajja suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's point of view.

Table 14: Development priorities and needs in Hajja

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Constructing and paving of roads	*			32km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks	*			10km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			5km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			50 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Hajja girls' elementary & Thukoor Hajja secondary schools
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			All schools
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			110 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns			*	
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			20 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		500 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 8km main roads, 3km secondary roads and 21km are agricultural roads

Source: Hajja Village Council, 2012

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