

# Kafr Laqif 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>.

## Table of Contents

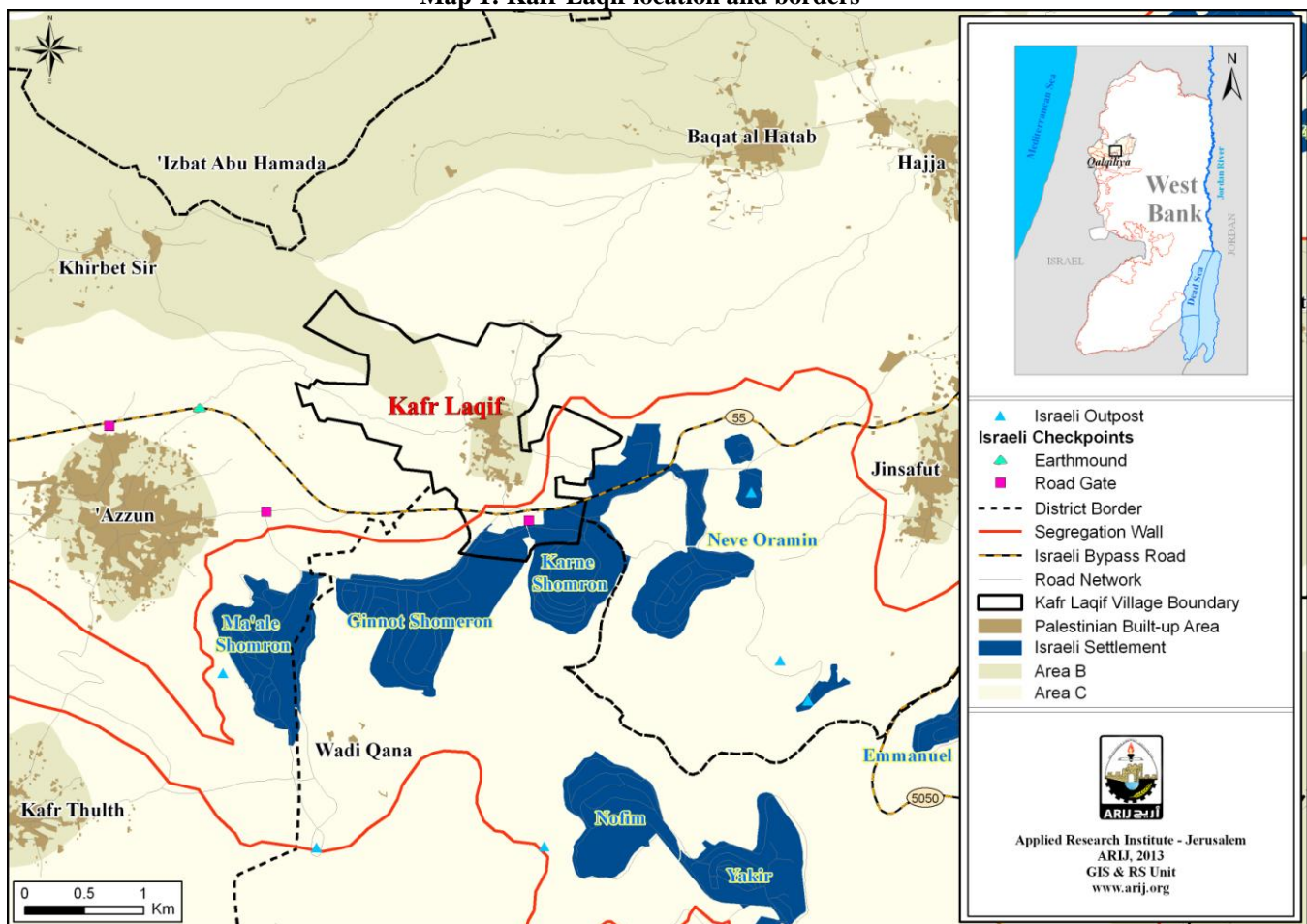
<i>Location and physical characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and archaeological sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	7
<i>Education</i>	8
<i>Health status</i>	9
<i>Economic activities</i>	9
<i>Agricultural sector</i>	11
<i>Institutions and services</i>	14
<i>Infrastructure and natural resources</i>	14
<i>Environmental conditions</i>	16
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i>	17
<i>Development plans and projects</i>	21
<i>Implemented projects</i>	21
<i>Proposed projects</i>	21
<i>Locality development priorities and needs</i>	22
<i>References:</i>	23

# Kafr Laqif Village Profile

## Location and physical characteristics

Kafr Laqif is a Palestinian village in Qalqiliya Governorate located 12.04km east of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Hajja to the east, Wadi Qana (in Salfit Governorate) to the south, 'Azzun to the west, and Khirbet Sir and Baqat al Hatab to the north. All localities (except for Wadi Qana) are located in Qalqiliya Governorate (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Kafr Laqif location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Kafr Laqif is located at an altitude of 342m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 585mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (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 1993, Kafr Laqif has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are an additional 4 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the First Joint Services Council (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Kafr Laqif, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, street cleaning and public services.
- Implementation of projects and studies.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the village.
- Organization of license processes.
- Provision of kindergartens.

(Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012)

## History

The word ‘Kafr’ means village, while the word ‘Laqif’ is the past participle form of the verb ‘laqafa’ which means catch and/or cling on. The village used to be known for its small population which was a motive for thieves to steal from it during night. However when the residents noticed they were being robbed, they joined forces and caught the thieves. Others say that the village residents were known for their hospitality, thus they used to cling on to their guests and any travelers passing through the village and welcome them in their houses. Hence the village became known as Kafr Laqif.

The village was established more than 250 years ago with its residents descending from the Deir Istiya (Salfit Governorate), Dura al Khaili (Hebron) and Hajja (Qalqiliya) villages (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

Photo of Kafr Laqif



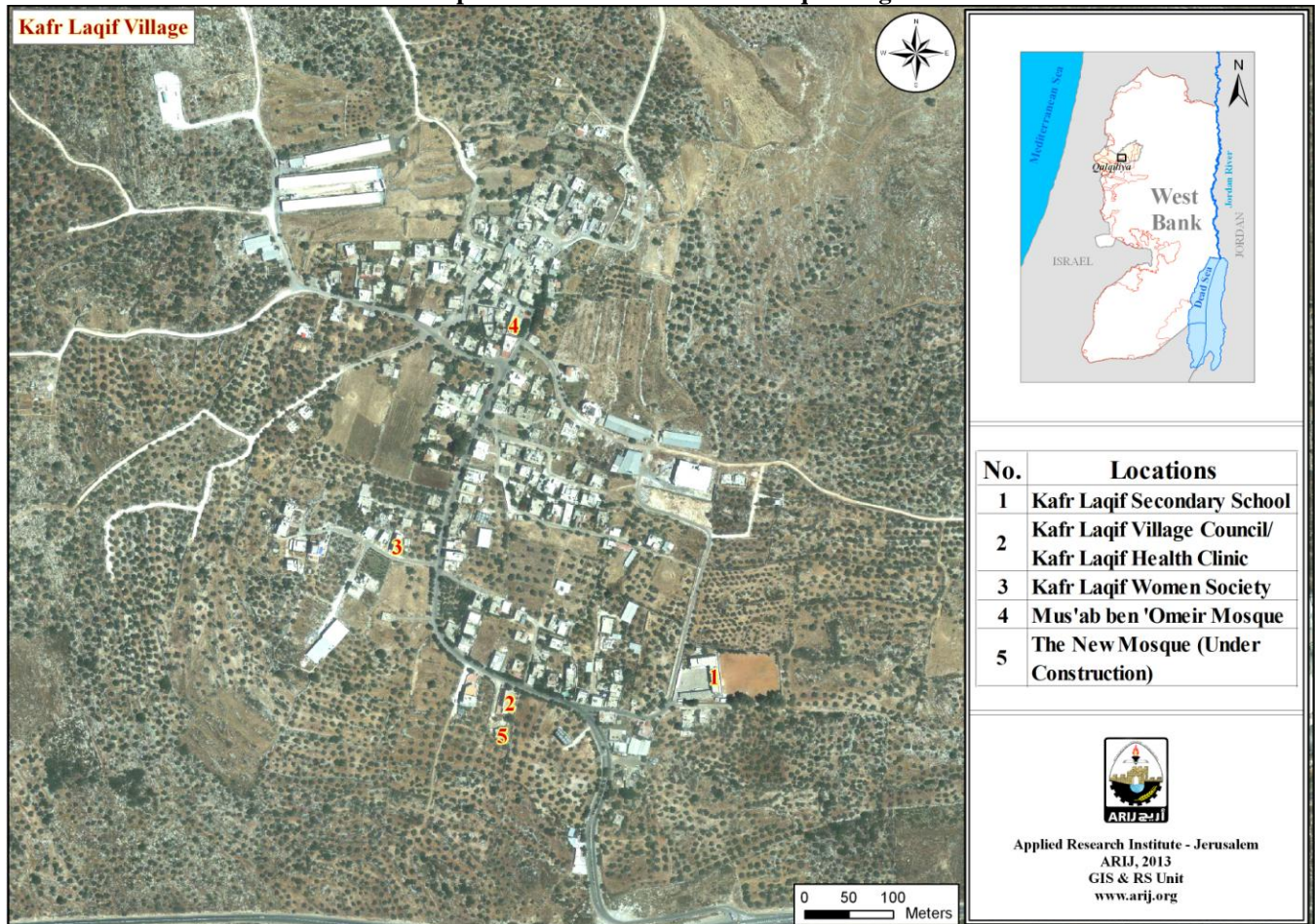
## Religious and archaeological sites

There is one mosque in the village; Kafr Laqif Mosque. The village has few sites of archaeological interest including Sitti Nafisa and Al Balabel Grottos in addition to many other grottos, old wells and old houses. However in order for this to be utilized for tourism it must be rehabilitated and then approved by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012) (See Map 2).



Map 2: Main locations in Kafr Laqif Village

Map 2: Main locations in Kafr Laqif village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Kafr Laqif in 2007 was 831; of whom 415 were male and 416 female. There were 157 households registered as living in 187 housing units.

### Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Kafr Laqif was as follows: 43.2% were less than 15 years of age, 54% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.8% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 99.8:100; meaning that males and females constituted 49.9% and 50.1% of the population, respectively.



## Families

Kafr Laqif residents are from several families, including Assaf, Jabr, Khatib and Abu al Madaniya (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 90 people from different families have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among Kafr Laqif population is approximately 5%, of whom 74.2% are females. Of the literate population, 12.9% could only read and write with no formal education, 25.1% had elementary education, 25.9% had preparatory education, 21.4% had secondary education, and had 9.7% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Kafr Laqif by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Kafr Laqif 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	8	33	74	83	72	16	17	0	1	2	0	<b>306</b>
F	23	47	82	78	61	9	15	0	0	0	1	<b>316</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>622</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There is only one public school in the village (Kafr Laqif Co-educational Secondary School) which is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There are 269 students, 21 teachers, and 12 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 the village (Zuhour al Mustaqbal Kindergarten) run by a private organization. The Kindergarten has 2 classes supervised by 2 teachers (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

Due to the lack of some levels of education in the village school, in particular scientific branches, students attend 'Azzun Boys' Secondary and 'Azzun Girls' Secondary Schools in the neighboring

village of ‘Azzun (5km away) or Hajja Commercial Secondary School in Hajja village (5km away) (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

The educational sector in Kafr Laqif village faces a number of obstacles, in particular:

- The location of the school near settlements which poses a threat to students and teachers.
- The lack of activity centers for girls.
- The lack of classrooms leading to overcrowding.
- The need to separate females from males.

Limited access to Kafr Laqif school occasionally, due to Israeli harassments.(Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012)

## Health status

Kafr Laqif has only one governmental general physician clinic. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital in Qalqiliya city (13km away) or to ‘Azzun Medical Center in ‘Azzun (5km away) (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

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

- The lack of specialized clinics.
- The lack of a separate building for the health clinic.
- The health clinic’s irregular working hours.

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

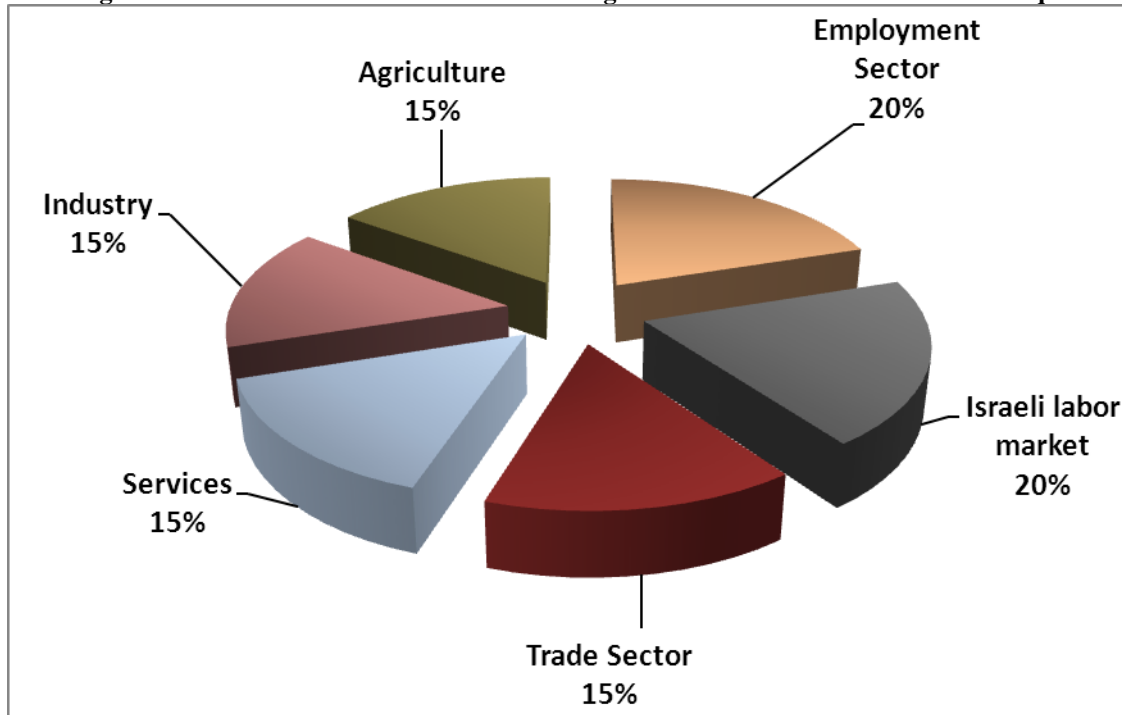
## Economic activities

The economy in Kafr Laqif is dependent on both the employment sector and the Israeli labor market; each of which absorbs 20% of the village’s workforce (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

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

- Israeli labor market (20%)
- Government or other employees sector (20%)
- Agriculture sector (15%)
- Trade sector (15%)
- Services sector (15%)
- Industry (15%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Kafr Laqif**



Source: Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012

Kafr Laqif has 5 groceries, 2 fruit and vegetable stores, 2 service stores, 5 different professional workshops and 2 olive oil presses (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Kafr Laqif reached 25%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012):

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Industrial workers.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the services sector.
- Workers in the employment sector.

### Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 32.6% of Kafr Laqif labor force was economically active, of whom 94% were employed, 67.2% were not economically active, 66% were students, and 26.3% were housekeepers (see table 2).

Table 2: Kafr Laqif 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	153	6	0	<b>159</b>	132	0	11	1	3	<b>147</b>	0	<b>306</b>
F	38	3	3	<b>44</b>	144	110	17	0	0	<b>271</b>	1	<b>316</b>
T	<b>191</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>622</b>

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

## Agricultural sector

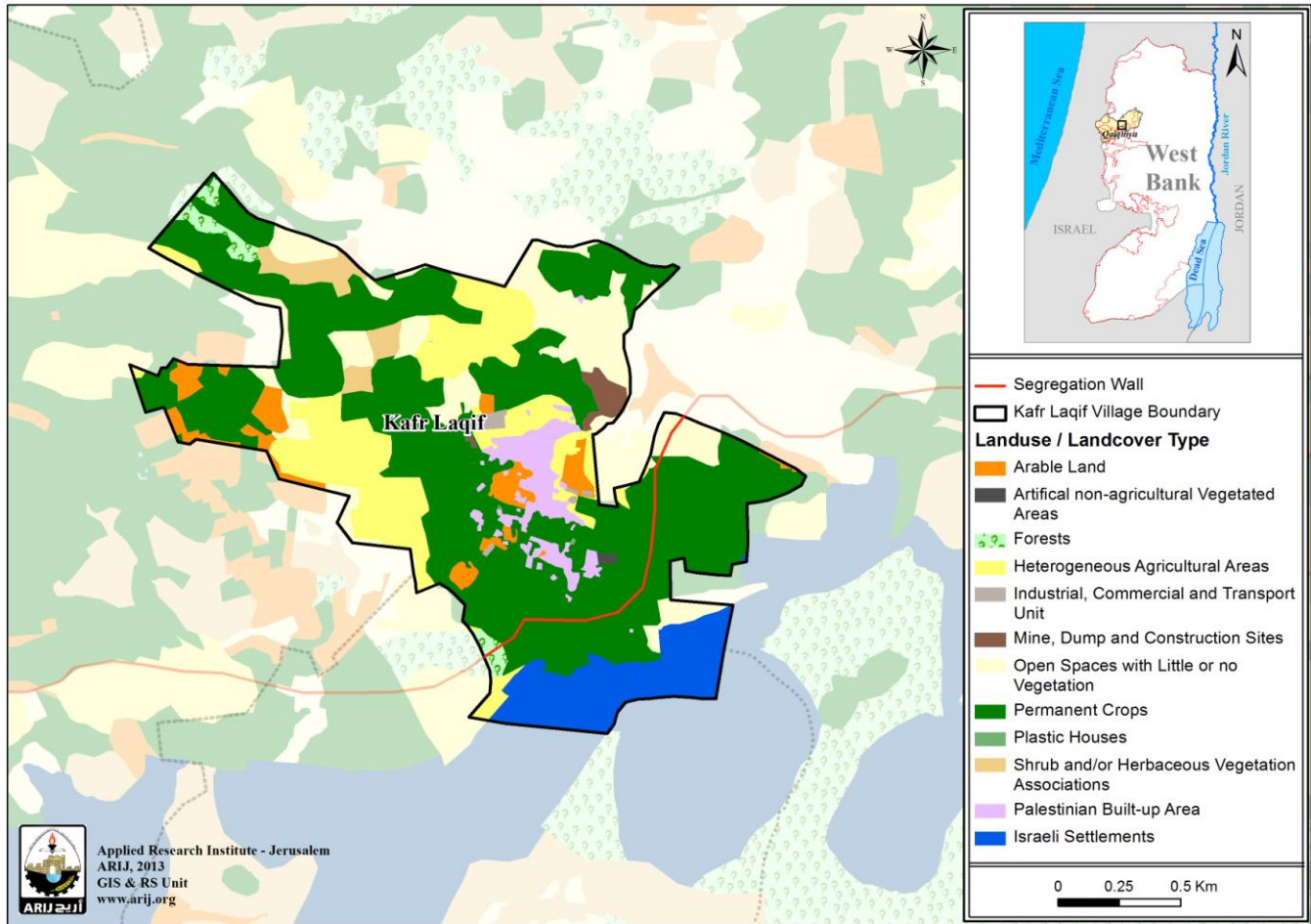
Kafr Laqif has a total area of approximately 2,881 dunums of which 2,097 are arable land and 111 dunums are registered as residential (see table 3 and map 3).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Kafr Laqif village (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (2,097)				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					
2,881	111	1,911	1	68	117	0	44	360	41	229

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Kafr Laqif. The most commonly cultivated crop in this area is okra.

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Kafr Laqif (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.
5	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	25	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Kafr Laqif is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 1,910 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Kafr Laqif (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.
1,910	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	17	0	6	0.5	1,936	0.5

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Kafr Laqif, cereals (particularly wheat and barley) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 40 dunums (see table 6).

**Table 6: Total area of forage and field crops in Kafr Laqif (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.
40	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	8	0	68	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 the ARIJ team shows that 4% of the residents in Kafr Laqif rear and keeps domestic animals such as sheep, goats and others (see table 7).

**Table 7: Livestock in Kafr Laqif**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
0	410	139	0	0	0	0	0	106,000	306

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 10km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

**Table 8: Agricultural roads in Kafr Laqif village and their lengths**

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	4
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	2
Unsuitable	2

Source: Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012

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

- The lack of water for irrigation.

- Settlement expansion and the existence of the Segregation Wall.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The inability to reclaim some agricultural areas.

(Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012)

## Institutions and services

Kafr Laqif village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012):

- **Kafr Laqif Village Council:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services and infrastructure for its residents.
- **Kafr Laqif Women's Charitable Society:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of the Interior. The Society is interested in providing seminars sessions for the women of the village, as well as food processing courses.

## Infrastructure and natural resources

### Electricity and telecommunication services:

Kafr Laqif has been connected to a public electricity network since 2005. 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. However, the network is in need of expansion to connect the new areas with water (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

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

### Transportation services:

There is no licensed public transportation in Kafr Laqif which is a key problem for the village residents. Some use private cars or public vehicles from the neighboring villages (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012). There is 1km of main roads and 3km of secondary roads in Kafr Laqif (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012) (see table 9).

**Table 9: Roads in Kafr Laqif village**

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	1	1
2. Paved and in poor condition	0	0.5
3. Unpaved	0	1.5

Source: Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012

**Water resources:**

Kafr Laqif is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1997. All housing units are connected to the network (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Kafr Laqif village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 60,000 cubic meters/year (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 171 liters/day. However, no Kafr Laqif citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 5% (Kafr Laqif 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 Kafr Laqif is 162 liters per day (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Kafr Laqif residents is considered good 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 (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

The village also has 100 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns as well as a public water reservoir with a capacity of 200 cubic meters (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

**Sanitation:**

Kafr Laqif lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks, as the main means of wastewater disposal (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 125 cubic meters, or 45,600 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 130 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. It is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

**Solid waste management:**

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste 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 3 NIS per capita is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Kafr Laqif benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 25 containers (of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site located 0.5km from the village, where the waste is subsequently buried (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Kafr Laqif is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Kafr Laqif residents is nearly 0.7 tons, or 246 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

## **Environmental conditions**

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

### **Water crisis**

Water in the village is cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long time periods of due to Israeli control over Palestinian water resources, which causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among residents. The water is distributed to various areas on an interval basis because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. The West Bank Water Department also purchases water from Israeli companies in order to meet the citizens' water needs. Unfortunately, the network is worn out and is in need of renovation and to expansion in order to access new areas.

### **Wastewater management**

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Kafr Laqif residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. 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 27.5km 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 are emitted when waste is burned. All of these have harmful effects on human as well as environmental health.

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Kafr Laqif 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. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends 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 Kafr Laqif

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995, Kafr Laqif was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 813 dunums (28.2% 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. It is worth noting that most of the population of Kafr Laqif resides in area B. The rest of the village area, constituting 2,068 dunums (71.8% of the total area), 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, open spaces and Israeli settlements built on the village territory (see table 10).

**Table 10: The geopolitical divisions of Kafr Laqif according to the Oslo Agreement of 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	813	28.2
Area C	2,068	71.8
Nature reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

### Israeli Occupation practices in Kafr Laqif village

Kafr Laqif village has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts and bypass roads on the village territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan realized through the Segregation Wall. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have had a negative impact on the Kafr Laqif village territories:

During the years of occupation to date, Israel has confiscated 229 dunums of land in Kafr Laqif (7.9% of its total area) to establish the Ginnot Shomeron and Karne Shomron settlements. It is worth noting that these two settlements are built over Kafr Laqif lands as well as those of other villages including Jinsafut, Hajja and Azzun. The two settlements constitute a part of the settlement bloc Ariel Kedumim. In 2005, Israel announced a plan to annex all Israeli settlements in the West Bank into Israel, such as Ma'ale Adummim, Ariel, Giv'at Ze'ev, Gush Etzion, and Mod'in Illit, considering them an essential part of the Israeli state as they “... contribute to security, to political standing, to the economy and to the



*demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel*” as stated by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American president George Bush on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005. When the Wall construction is completed in 2014, Israel will annex 107 settlements into its borders including all of those huge settlement blocs, as well as other settlements in the Western Segregation zone.

### Segregation Wall plan in Kafr Laqif village

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Kafr Laqif village. According to the latest amendments to the route of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007, it will extend 1.5km on to Kafr Laqif lands to the east and south of the village. The Wall will isolate 657 dunums (22.8% of the village's total area) to be a part of the Western Segregation zone in the West Bank. The confiscated lands include open spaces, agricultural lands, and forests (see table 11).

**Table 11: Classification of land confiscated by the construction of the Segregation Wall in Kafr Laqif village – Qalqiliya Governorate**

No.	Land classification	Area in dunums
1	Agricultural lands	364
2	Open spaces	56
3	Israeli settlements	229
4	Forests	8
5	<b>Total</b>	<b>657</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

### Bypass roads in Kafr Laqif

The term ‘bypass roads’ appeared during the era of the Oslo agreements (September 1993), which were agreed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Israel. The term refers to the roads opened by the Israelis in the occupied Palestinian territories to link the Israeli settlements established in the West Bank to Israel. Since then, Israel has put substantial effort in to increasing the number of bypass roads in the West Bank as an artifact, which would eventually affect the Israeli-Palestinian negotiation, including the establishment of a geographically connected and viable Palestinian state.

During the 46 years of the Israeli occupation, Israeli has illegally constructed 810km of bypass roads all across the West Bank. According to the Oslo Agreement, Palestinians should be allowed to use these roads. However, since the outbreak of the Second Intifada on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000, the Israeli Occupation Authorities have prohibited Palestinians from using these roads under the pretext of ‘security reasons.’ The establishment of bypass roads has also prevented the development of Palestinian communities in the West Bank, as the roads have created numerous obstacles. In 2004, Israel proposed a road network plan that would divert the movement of Palestinians away from these bypass roads, and reserve them exclusively for Israelis. This will enhance the control of the Israeli Authorities on the areas around these roads, and deny the Palestinians the right of movement within their land.

Kafr Laqif is one of many Palestinian communities which have suffered land confiscations for the construction of bypass roads, such as road no.55, which was opened in the south of the village to

connect settlements within the Kedumim bloc to others in the west of the Qalqiliya governorate, and those within the Green Line (the Armistice Line of 1949).

### **Israeli Occupation attacks on lands and properties in Kafr Laqif village**

Attacks from Israeli settlers have had a significant impact on Palestinians and their properties in Kafr Laqif village. Settlers attack Palestinian cars traveling on bypass road no.55 in order to prevent them from using it.

### **Israeli military orders in Kafr Laqif village**

The Israeli Occupation Authorities have published a series of Israeli military orders against Palestinians living in Kafr Laqif village, as follows:

- Military order 62/06/T: published on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to confiscate 8 dunums in Kafr Laqif and Hajja villages for ‘security reasons’, with no further clarifications. However, the maps attached with the military orders showed that the land was confiscated to establish a military base close to the Karne Shomron settlement in order to provide security to it and other surrounding settlements.
- Military order 15/06/T: published on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006 to confiscate 279 dunums from the villages of Azzun, Jit and Kafr Laqif for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Amendment to military order 15/16/T: published on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007, made changes to the Segregation Wall plan to be built on Kafr Laqif and Azzun lands. And usually comes amendment issued by the Israeli Authorities for the benefit of Israeli settlements in the area.
- Amendment to military order 21/91/T: published on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to make changes to the borders and the completion deadline for the Israeli settlement plans. It also came with a confiscation order that was not openly justified, although the maps attached to the order showed that the confiscation was being carried out in order to build part of the Segregation Wall on Kafr Laqif lands.
- Amendment to the military order 70/06/T: published on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to confiscate some land for military purposes that were not clarified. However, the maps attached to the order showed that the confiscation was being carried out in order to build segments of the Segregation Wall in the Kafr Laqif and Jit villages.

### **Israeli military checkpoints in Kafr Laqif village**

Since the outbreak of the second intifada in September 2000, the Israeli Occupation Forces have increased the number of military checkpoints across the West Bank and imposed numerous restrictions

on Palestinians' movement. Palestinians from all walks of life including students, teachers, patients, health workers, and employees undergo many forms of humiliation and abuse at these checkpoints, including beatings, verbal humiliation, strip searches, and detention for hours under the sun or in cold weather before they are granted permission from the soldiers to cross the checkpoint. This suffering has had a detrimental effect on social relations among Palestinians and has led to economic separation between Palestinian communities, high unemployment, internal immigration and disruption to daily life. Israeli soldiers at checkpoints also stop, check and detain doctors and medical staff before allowing them to cross checkpoints, even in emergency situations. At many checkpoints, soldiers impose time restrictions for when Palestinians are allowed to cross, which has caused gross inconvenience and a lot of suffering.

In accordance with what was previously described, Palestinians in Kafr Laqif endure yet more checkpoints if they wish to travel outside of their village. The Israeli Occupation Authorities have positioned a checkpoint at the southern entrance to the village on road no.55, separating the Israeli settlements Karne Shomron and Ginnot Shomeron from Kafr Laqif in order to provide security to the Israeli settlers using the aforementioned bypass road. The Israeli Occupation Forces check the Palestinian cars and identities of people traveling through the checkpoint.

### **Israeli settlements: areas of national priority**

During a meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the Israeli government approved a new settlement project entitled 'Areas of national priority.' The project includes a series of financial benefits and allocations granted to targeted areas. According to the plan, the Israeli government will include 557 communities in the project, including 90 illegal Israeli settlements (Karne Shomron is on the list). The financial allocations and grants comprise of agricultural and industrial allocations such as providing guarantees and agricultural and industrial tax benefits, support of rural settlements, participation in the development of the industrial facilities and infrastructure, grants for industrial research and development, funding the scientific research centers and innovation and supporting employment, as well as housing incentives and reduced land prices. This project plan was first announced in 2002, when the Israeli Prime Minister of the time, Ariel Sharon, presented a map of the proposed Israeli communities and classified them as 'areas of national priority.' Later, in the era of Olmert and Netanyahu, some amendments were made to the plan.

## **Development plans and projects**

### **Implemented projects**

Kafr Laqif Village Council has implemented only one development project in Kafr Laqif during the past five years, which is the construction of 2km of agricultural road. The project was implemented in 2010 with funding from the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012).

### **Proposed projects**

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

1. Establishing a sewerage network (6km long).
2. Creating small productive development projects (sheep, home gardens, food manufacturing, sewing workshops, etc.).
3. Establishing 40 household harvesting cisterns for drinking water.
4. Reclaiming 300 dunums of agricultural lands near the Wall.
5. Building an elementary school.
6. Establishing a building for the health clinic.
7. Establishing a home garden.
8. Expanding the water and electricity networks; each by 1.5km.
9. Constructing new agricultural roads (5km).
10. Constructing retaining walls (700m).
11. Distributing solid waste containers (25 containers).

## Locality development priorities and needs

Kafr Laqif suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective.

**Table12: Development priorities and needs in Kafr Laqif**

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural needs</b>					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			8km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			1km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			2km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			4km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			15 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
<b>Health needs</b>					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			A co-educational elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Kafr Laqif Co-educational School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
<b>Agriculture needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			200 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			20 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks			*	
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			200 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	*			
---	---	---	--	--	--

^ 2km secondary roads and 6km agricultural roads.

Source: Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012

## References:

- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2013. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit Database. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2013. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2012) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2013. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Kafr Laqif Village Council, 2012.*
- *Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Qalqiliya, 2012. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2011/2012). Qalqiliya – Palestine.*
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.*
- *Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2010. Directorate of Agriculture data (2009/2010). Qalqiliya – Palestine.*