

Hay al Karama Profile (previously known as Beit Nuba Residential Community)



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ)

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 to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in improving 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 to prepare 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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Hay al Karama Neighborhood Profile

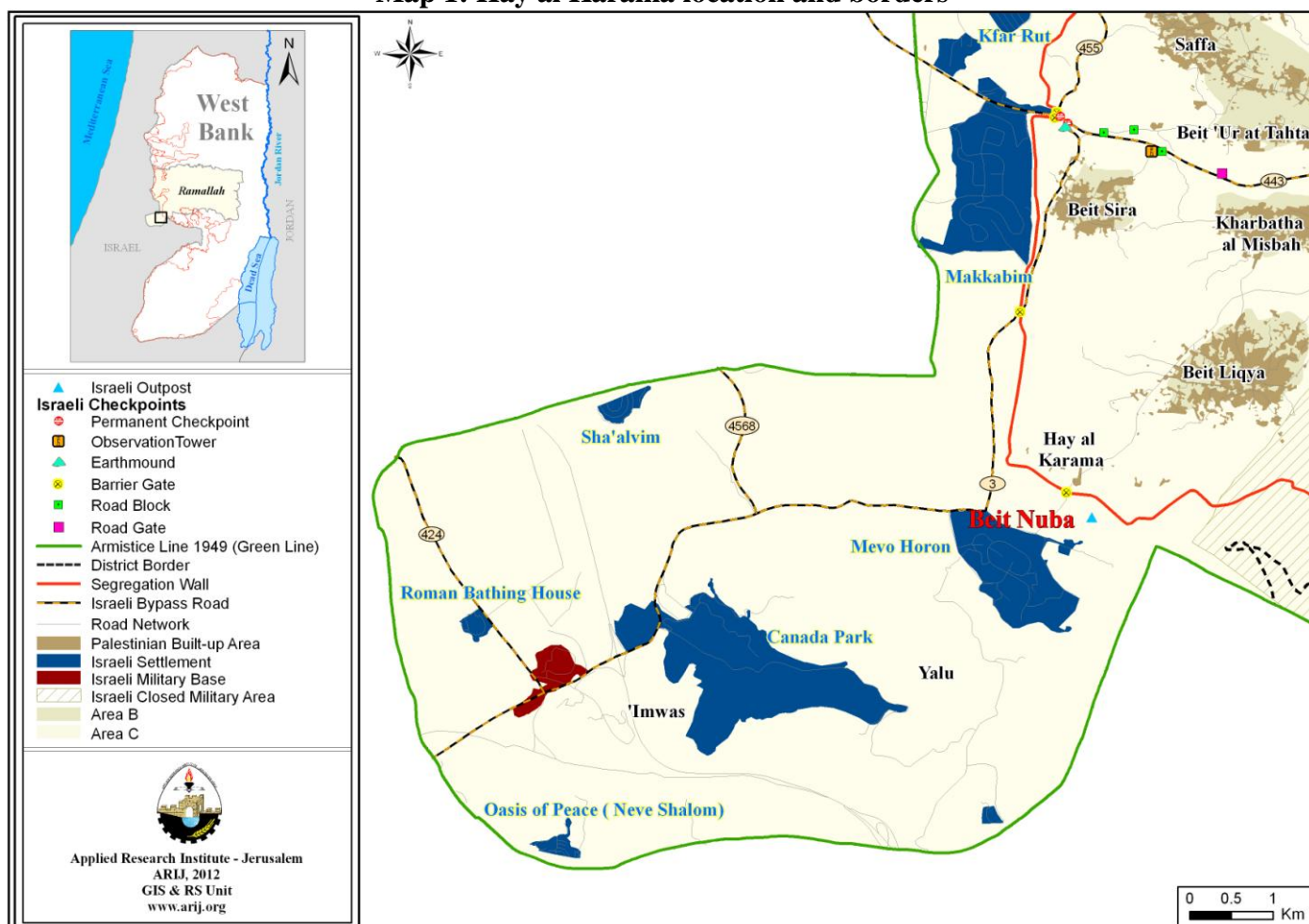
Location and Physical Characteristics

Hay al Karama neighborhood south-west of Ramallah, has witnessed the crimes of destruction and displacement of the residents of the Latrun Palestinian villages in 1967, and is considered an extension to a decades-old tragedy. This neighborhood is currently inhabited by 200 Palestinian refugees whom were displaced from their original village of Beit Nuba, which is one of the Latrun destroyed villages; located no more than 40 meters away.

Residents of Hay al Karama suffer from the unfair laws and measures imposed by the occupation which prevents them from constructing in the region and thus have amassed more than 60 families in 20 houses only. It is worth noting that these houses lack the requirements of a basic life, nevertheless, its inhabitants are still resisting and are still clinging on their dream of returning to Beit Nuba village.

Hay al Karama is a Palestinian neighborhood in Ramallah Governorate located 16.8km southwest of Ramallah City (horizontal distance). Hay al Karama is bordered by Beit Liqya town lands to the east, Beit Sira and Beit Liqya to the north, and by Beit Nuba village, which was destroyed in 1967, to both the west and south (ARIJ GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Hay al Karama location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2013

Hay al Karama is located at an altitude of 238m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 576mm. The average annual temperature is 19° C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2013).

In 1996, a projects' committee was established in Beit Nuba, however, in 2013, the committee became a village council (Hay al Karama Village Council) upon a decision issued on April 16, 2013 by the Prime Minister (a copy is attached)¹. The Village Council is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. This Council is included within the Joint Services Council of Ni'lin and has a rented permanent headquarters, but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Hay al Karama, including (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013):

- Infrastructure services e.g. water and electricity provision and management.
- Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement and restoration, and social development services.

- Implementation of projects and case studies for the neighborhood.

History

In 1973, Beit Nuba residential community was established on the southern lands of Beit Liqya, represented by “Beit Nuba Projects Committee” in the Palestinian Authority, however, on July 19, 2012, a decision was issued by the Minister of Local Government to change all projects committees into village councils, upon which, Beit Nuba Projects Committee became Beit Nuba Village Council, however, the inhabitants of this neighborhood considered this step a big mistake, explaining that the destroyed village of Beit Nuba in 1967 is not related to this neighborhood except through the people who emigrated to it. Nevertheless, on April 16, 2013, the name was converted to Hay al Karama, after a confusion occurred with some maps between the location of Beit Nuba residential community and Beit Nuba village, thus, it was called Hay al Karama relative to the old village of Beit Nuba destroyed in 1967, which is one of the four villages that had been destroyed, namely; Yalu, ‘Emwas, and Deir al Latrun (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Hay al Karama was established in 1973, with its residents originating from the localities of Beit Nuba, Yalu and Beit Liqya (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

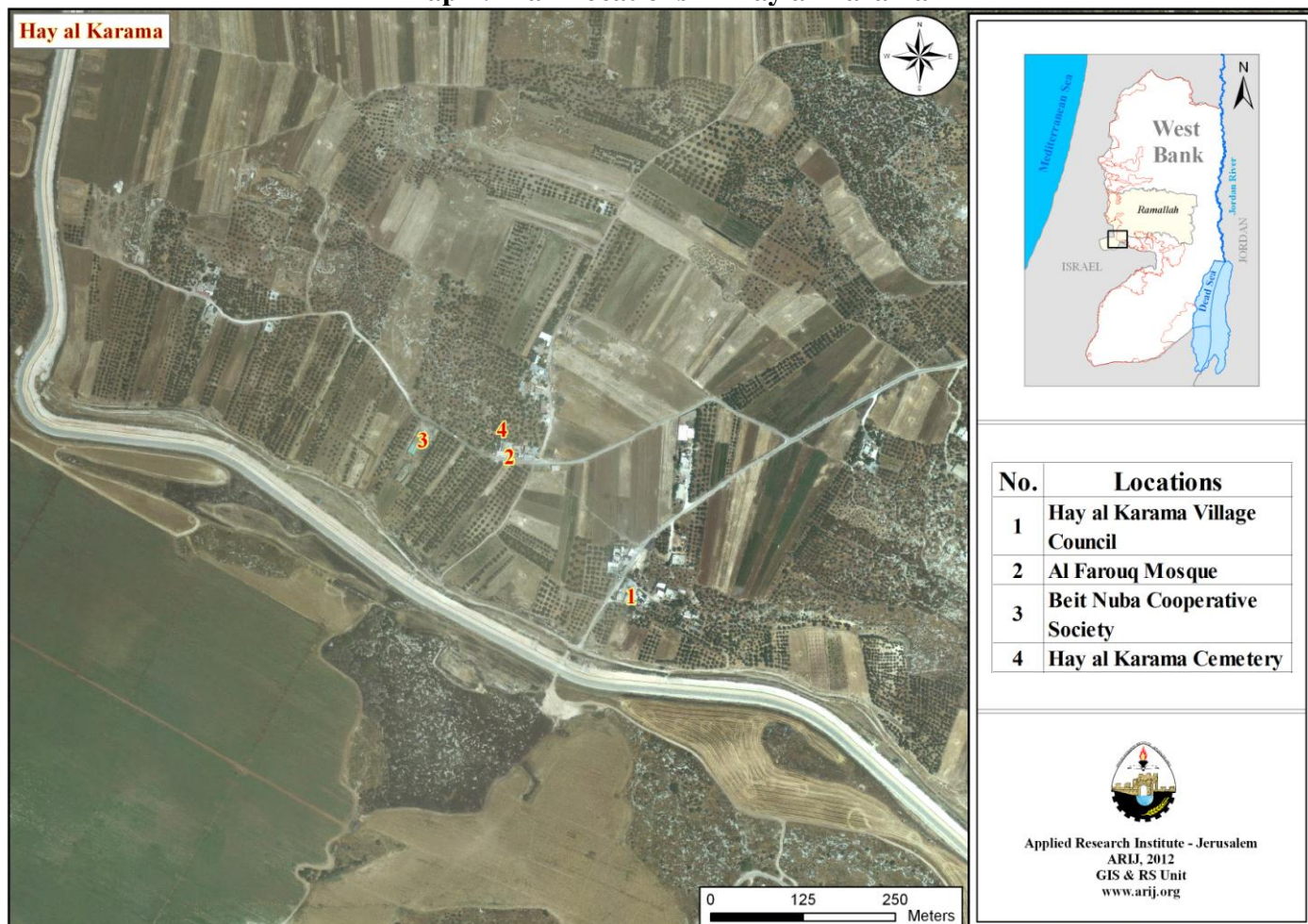
Photo of Hay al Karama



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque, known as Al Farouq Mosque, in Hay al Karama (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013). However, Hay al Karama has no sites of archaeological interest discovered till the day (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Hay al Karama



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Hay al Karama in 2007 was 234, 126 of whom were male and 108 female. There were 32 households living in 31 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 Hay al Karama was as follows: 40.6% were less than 15 years of age, 55.6% were between 15

and 64 years of age, and 2.6% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the neighborhood is 116.7:100, meaning that males and females constitute 53.8% and 46.2% of the population respectively.

Families

The inhabitants of Hay al Karama are from several families, primarily the Rayyan, Al Qadi, Al Hadidi, Ash Sheikh and Mafarja families (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that around 50 families have left Hay al Karama since the Second Intifada in 2000 (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the Hay al Karama population is about 6.4%, of whom 81.8% are females, 11.1% can only read and write, with no formal education 29.8% had elementary education, 29.8% had preparatory education, 14% had secondary education, and 8.8% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the neighborhood of Hay al Karama by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Hay al Karama population (10 years of age and above) by sex and educational attainment (2011/2012)

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	2	7	30	28	16	3	4	-	2	-	-	92
F	9	12	21	23	8	1	5	-	-	-	-	79
T	11	19	51	51	24	4	9	-	2	-	-	171

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are no schools or kindergartens in Hay al Karama (Ministry of Education in Ramallah, 2012), which is a significant problem for residents of the area. Students from Hay al Karama must attend Beit Liqya town schools, 3km away, in order to receive their preparatory, elementary and secondary education (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Health Status

There are no health facilities available in Hay al Karama and this forms a serious problem for the residents who must use health clinics and centers in Beit Liqya, 3km away, or in emergency case, the residents use Ramallah hospitals which are 23 km away (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

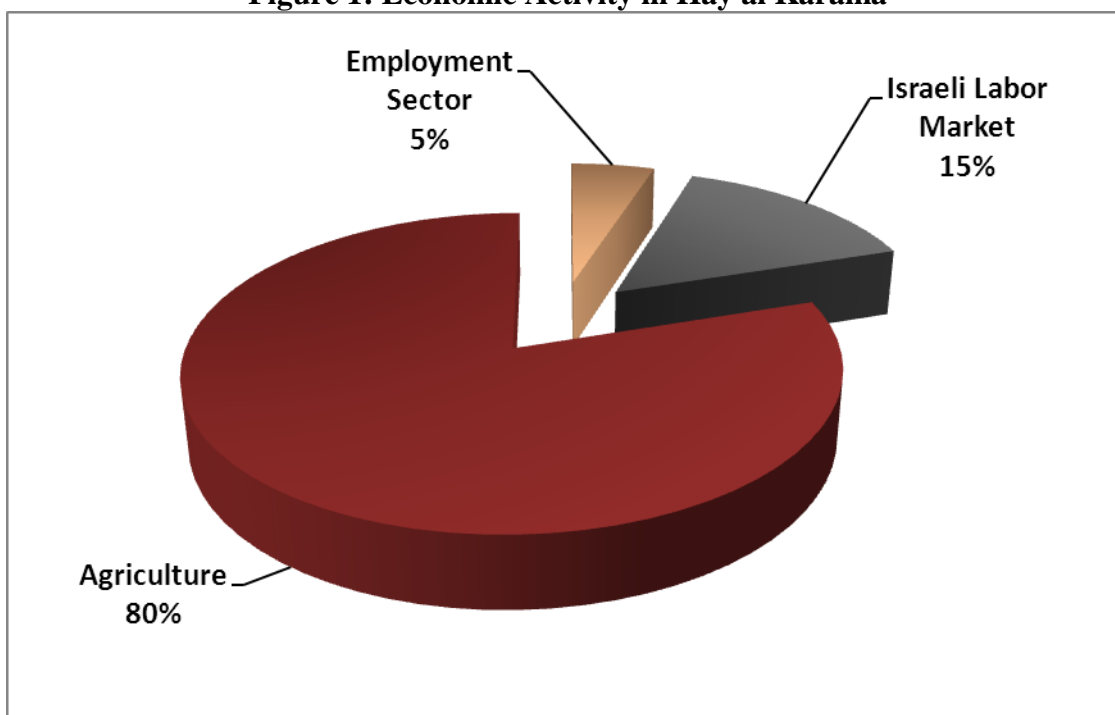
Economic Activities

The economy in Hay al Karama is mainly dependent on the agriculture and livestock sector which absorbs 80% of the neighborhood workforce (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ staff in 2013 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Hay al Karama are as follows:

- Agriculture Sector (80%).
- Israeli Labor Market (15%).
- Government or Other Employees Sector (5%).

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Hay al Karama



Source: Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013

Concerning industrial facilities in Hay al Karama; there are only two grocery stores (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

The unemployment rate in Hay al Karama reached approximately 25% in 2013 (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013). The economic groups most vulnerable as a result of Israeli policies and procedures are (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013):

- Workers in the agricultural sector.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the services sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 24% of the Hay al Karama population was economically active, of whom 100% were employed, and 74.9% were not economically active, 59.4% of whom were students, and 29.7% of whom were housekeepers (See Table 2).

Table 2: Hay al Karama population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	35	-	-	35	45	-	5	-	5	55	2	92
F	6	-	-	6	31	38	4	-	-	73	-	79
T	41	-	-	41	76	38	9	-	5	128	2	171

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

Table 3 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Hay al Karama. Squash is the main cultivated vegetable in the neighborhood.

Table 3: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Hay al Karama (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.
270	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	280	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Table 4 shows the total area of field crops cultivated in Hay al Karama, with cereals (particularly barley) covering the largest area (approximately 30 dunums).

Table 4: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Hay al Karama (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.
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Hay al Karama is known for keeping and rearing livestock. The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 80% of the residents in Hay al Karama rear and keep domestic animals mainly cows, sheep and poultry (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013) (See Table 5).

Table 5: Livestock in Hay al Karama

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
100	500	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013

There are no agricultural roads in Hay al Karama (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

The agricultural sector in Hay al Karama experiences many problems, including (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013):

- The pesticides used by the Israelis to spray the crops through airplanes.
- The lack of access to agricultural lands due to the Israeli occupation.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of pastures.
- The high costs of feed.

Institutions and Services

Hay al Karama has no governmental institutions, but has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

- **Hay al Karama Village Council:** Founded in 2013 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the goal of taking care of issues in the neighborhood and providing various services to its population.
- **Beit Nuba Cooperative Society for Livestock:** Founded in 1975 by the Cooperative Union for the Development of Livestock with an interest in the care of livestock in the neighborhood.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Hay al Karama has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984. The network is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company and is the main source of electricity in the neighborhood. All of the housing units in Hay al Karama are connected to this network (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

However, Hay al Karama is not connected to a telecommunication network (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

Hay al Karama has no transportation vehicles, which, in addition to the unqualified and poor condition of main roads, is considered a main obstacle faced by the residents (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013). There is 3km of main paved roads in total, assessed as being in 'poor' condition, and 1km of unpaved secondary roads (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Water Resources:

The West Bank Water Department provides Hay al Karama with water through a water network constructed in 1998. This network supplies water to almost all housing units in the neighborhood (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Hay al Karama reached approximately 43,200 m³ in 2012 (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013), and therefore the amount of water supplied per person is estimated to be 253 liter/capita/day. However, no resident of Hay al Karama consumes this amount of water due to water losses from the transfer of water and its distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units. Such losses reach 20%, and thus the average of water consumption per capita is 202 liter/capita/day (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013). This average is very good compared to the recommended amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition to the public network, there are 15 household harvesting cisterns in Hay al Karama. However, each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 5 NIS (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

Hay al Karama lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as a main means for wastewater disposal (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 40 cubic meters, or 13,800 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in Hay al Karama, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 142 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without concern for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid Waste Management:

Beit Liqya Municipality is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the neighborhood. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of approximately 15 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for a good management of solid waste (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Hay al Karama benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in 15 containers (of 1 cup capacity). Beit Liqya Municipality collects the solid waste from the containers twice weekly and transports it using a waste vehicle to Beit Liqya dumping site, 3km from the neighborhood, where it is randomly burnt or buried (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Hay al Karama is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Hay al Karama residents is nearly 0.16 ton, or 60 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by the source for long periods of time during summer for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and distribution. The Jerusalem Water Authority distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs simultaneously.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Hay al Karama residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or 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 neighborhood. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to seep into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve in Hay al Karama 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, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Hay al Karama

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, all of Hay al Karama lands (600 dunums) were classified as area “C”, in which Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area “C” Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a consent or authorization given by the Israeli Civil Administration.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Hay al Karama

The Israeli segregation wall plan has a negative and destructive impact on Hay al Karama. According to the latest revised route of the Israeli segregation wall plan published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30th April 2007, the wall extends a length of 2.5 km on lands of Hay al Karama and causes the confiscation of more than 165 dunums of the neighborhood's agricultural lands for the construction of the Wall in that area. Also, large areas of the lands that were used by residents of Hay al Karama for grazing were isolated.

Issued Military Orders in Hay al Karama

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Hay al Karama, in addition to other neighboring villages, for the construction of the Segregation Wall, including the following:

- Israeli Military Order No. (22/03/T): it was issued on the 5th of March 2003 and confiscates an area of 42 dunums of the lands of Hay al Karama, Beit Sira and Beit Liqya for security purposes; for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (104/03/T): it was issued on the 14th of December 2003 and confiscates a total land area of 2,047 dunums of the lands of Beit Liqya, Hay al Karama and Beit Sira for security purposes for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (105/03/T): it was issued on the 14th of December 2003 and confiscates a total land area of 489 dunums of the lands of Beit Liqya, Hay al Karama, Safa and Beit Sira for security purposes for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (105/04/T): it was issued on the 30th of December 2005 and confiscates a total land area of 489 dunums of the lands of Beit Liqya, Hay al Karama, Safa and Beit Sira for security purposes for the construction of the Segregation Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Hay al Karama Village Council has not implemented any development projects in the neighborhood during the past five years (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Proposed Projects

Hay al Karama Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the neighborhood and its residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the neighborhood. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013):

1. Implementing small agricultural development projects to help needy families and create job opportunities for the unemployed, such as the establishment of sheep and cattle farms.
2. Providing monthly food assistance to needy families in the neighborhood, such as flour, sugar, rice and others
3. Providing a bus to transport students to their schools in Beit Liqya.
4. Paving the main street connecting Hay al Karama with Beit Liqya (approximately 2 km), in addition to paving internal secondary roads (1.5 km).
5. Renovating the public water network and increasing the diameter of pipes carrying water (approximately 1,350 m).

Note: Hay al Karama has many developmental needs in the education, health and infrastructure sectors; however, there is currently no possibility of implementing projects due to the difficulty of obtaining building permits and other obstacles imposed by the Israeli state.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Hay al Karama suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 6 shows the development priorities and needs in the neighborhood according to the Village Council's perspective (Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013).

Table 6: Development Priorities and Needs in Hay al Karama

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			5km*
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			3km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			300 cubic meters
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			3km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection		*		15 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill		*		
Health Needs					
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			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			2 schools; elementary & secondary
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment			*	
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands			*	
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			15 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks			*	
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			1,000 tons/ year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

* 3km are main roads, 1km are sub roads and 1km are agricultural roads

Source: Hay al Karama Village Council, 2013.

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