Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Profile





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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Ramallah 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 Ramallah 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 Ramallah 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.

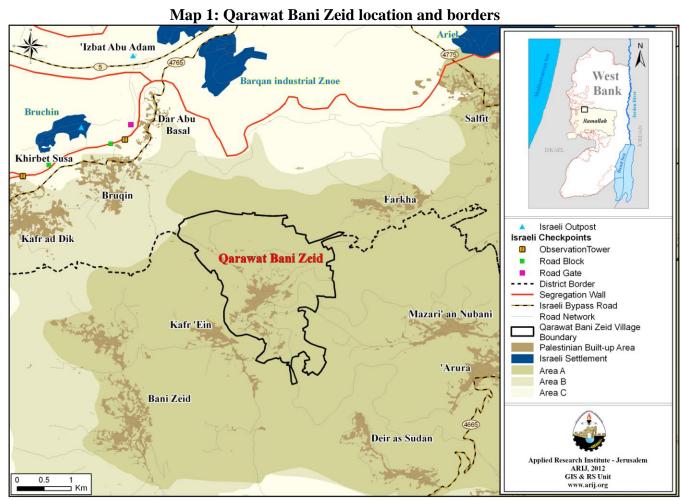
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Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Qarawat Bani Zeid is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 18.1km northwest of Ramallah City. Qarawat Bani Zeid is bordered by Bani Zeid ash Sharqiya village to the east and by its lands to the south, Farkha and Bruqin village lands in Salfit Governorate to the north, and Kafr 'Ein to the west (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Qarawat Bani Zeid is located at an altitude of 318m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 615.6mm. The average annual temperature is 17 °C and the average annual humidity is about 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1994, Qarawat Bani Zeid has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 7 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also two employees working in the Council. The Village Council owns a permanent headquarters but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Qarawat Bani Zeid, including (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

- Infrastructure services such as water and electricity.
- Road construction, pavement and rehabilitation, solid waste collection, street cleaning, and providing social development services.
- Providing headquarters for governmental services.
- Protecting governmental properties.
- Providing schools and kindergartens.
- Providing means of transportation.
- Providing public markets.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.

History

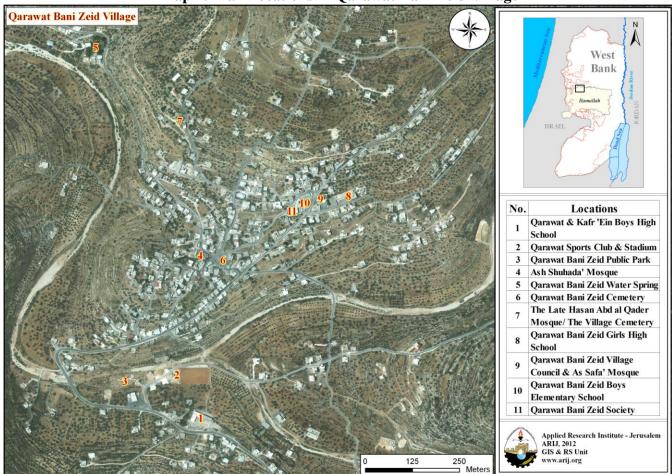
Qarawat Bani Zeid village was named after the tribe of Bani Zeid. The establishment of the village dates back to more than 500 years ago, and its residents are originally from Egypt and Yemen (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Qarawat Bani Zeid village).



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Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are four mosques in the village, Ash Shuhada' Mosque, Safa' Mosque, Hasan Abd al Qader Mosque and the old mosque. There are a few sites of archaeological interest, primarily Qarawah Spring, Al 'Ein Grotto, and An Nabi Saleh Shrine (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011) (See Map 2).



Map 2: Main locations in Qarawat Bani Zeid Village

Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Qarawat Bani Zeid in 2007 was 2,741, of whom 1,413 were male and 1,328 were female. There are 504 households living in 530 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Qarawat Bani Zeid is as follows: 42.2% are less than 15 years, 54.9% are between 15 - 64

years, 2.9% are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 106.4:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51.6% and 48.4% of the population respectively.

Families

Qarawat Bani Zeid residents are from several families, primarily the Suleiman, Abd al Jalil, Hjeiji, Taha and Ma'ali families (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the Qarawat Bani Zeid population is about 5.2%, of whom 73.5% are female. Of the literate population, 12.4% can only read and write, with no formal education, 28.6% had elementary education, 28% had preparatory education, 16.8% had secondary education, and 9% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Qarawat Bani Zeid by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Qarawat Bani Zeid population (10 years of age and above) by sex and educational attainment

S E x	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Maste r	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	27	129	310	293	169	31	48	4	10	1	-	1,022
F	75	115	252	257	162	23	56	1	3	-	-	944
T	102	244	562	550	331	54	104	5	13	1	-	1,966

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are four public schools in the village, all run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Qarawat Bani Zeid by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2010/2011)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Qasim al Rimawi Girls Secondary School		Females
Qarawat Girls Secondary School	Government	Females
Qarawat Co-educated Elementary School		Mixed
Bani Zeid Girls Elementary School		Females
Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011		

In the village there are 1267 students, 75 teachers, and 46 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, while the average number of students per class is approximately 28.

There are three kindergartens in Qarawat Bani Zeid, all privately-run. The number of children cared for by these organizations is 159. Table 3 shows the kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority (Qarawat Bani Zeid Municipality, 2011).

Table 3: The Kindergartens in (Darawat Bani Zeid by na	me and supervising authority	2010/2011
	C		

Kindergarten Name	Supervising Authority	Children Number					
Al Yasmine Kindergarten		56					
Karamish Kindergarten	Private	47					
Farah Kindergarten		56					
Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011							

The educational sector in Qarawat Bani Zeid village faces some obstacles, mainly (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

- 1. The inadequate number of classrooms.
- 2. The lack of effort to improve educational conditions on the part of the Directorate of Education.

In addition to these obstacles some of the village's schools suffer from harassment due to the Israeli occupation, represented by sporadic attacks on the students and schools (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Health Status

There are a few healthcare facilities in Qarawat Bani Zeid village: a governmental physician's clinic, a private dentist clinic, a health center run by a charitable society, and a private pharmacy. In case of the absence of required health services and in emergencies, residents of Qarawat Bani Zeid go to Salfit Governmental Hospital (Salfit city) or Ramallah Governmental Hospital (Ramallah city), 10km and 30km from the village respectively (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

In addition to the sabotage of one of the village's clinics by Israeli occupation forces, the health sector in the village faces some further obstacles and problems, including (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

- 1. The lack of a fully-equipped health center in the village.
- 2. The lack of a village ambulance.

Economic Activities

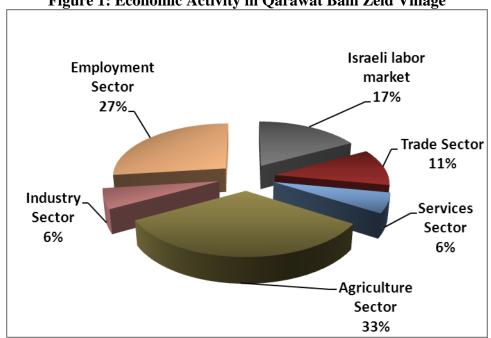
The economy in Qarawat Bani Zeid is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agriculture sector, which absorbs 33% of the village workforce (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ staff in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Qarawat Bani Zeid are as follows (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

- Agriculture Sector (33%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (27%)

- Israeli Labor Market (17%)
- Trade Sector (11%)
- Services Sector (6%)
- Industry (6%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Qarawat Bani Zeid Village



Source: Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011

In terms of commercial and industrial productions in Qarawat Bani Zeid village, the village has an olive oil-press, 70 groceries, 10 vegetables and fruits stores, one butchery, 10 different professional workshops, and 15 different service stores (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Qarawat Bani Zeid reached approximately 20% in 2011; ARIJ found that the economic field most affected by the Israeli occupation restriction has been workers in the agricultural sector (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.6% of Qarawat Bani Zeid labor force was economically active, of whom 86.8% were employed. 68.3% were not economically active, 56.3% were students, and 31.7% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Qarawat Bani Zeid population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

S E X	Economically Active					Not Economically Active						
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House- keeping	Unable & Not working to work looking for work		Other	Total	Un- known	Total
M	456	40	30	526	364	-	76	8	46	494	2	1,022
F	84	2	10	96	391	426	27	-	4	848	-	944
T	540	42	40	622	755	426	103	8	50	1,342	2	1,966

Source: PCBS, 2009.

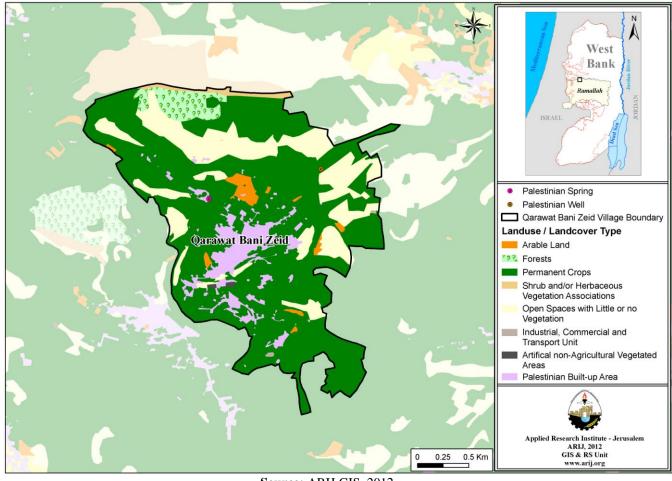
Agricultural Sector

Qarawat Bani Zeid lies on an area of 5,087 dunums, of which 3,572 dunums are arable land and 368 dunums are residential (see Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Qarawat Bani Zeid village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total	Built	A	gricultura (3,572)			Inland		Open	Area of Industrial, Commercial	Area of Settlement,
Area	up Area	Permanent Crops	Green- houses	Range -lands	Arable lands	water	Forests	Spaces	& Transport Unit	Military Bases & Wall Zone
5,087	368	3,424	0	59	89	0	179	956	11	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.



Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Qarawat Bani Zeid Village

Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Qarawat Bani Zeid. The most commonly cultivated crop in this area is tomato.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Qarawat Bani Zeid village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable			Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	
30	27	0	0	17	2	15	0	0	0.5	62	29.5	

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Qarawat Bani Zeid is famous for olive cultivation; there are 4,328 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 7: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Qarawat Bani Zeid Village (dunum)

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.
4,328	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	162.5	0	80	0	4,577.5	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated field crop in Qarawat Bani Zeid, covering an area of about 130 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of field crops in Qarawat Bani Zeid village (dunum)

Cereals		Bulbs		Bulbs Dry		Dry Oil		Fora	Forage Stimula		ating Other			Total	
					legumes		crops		S	crops		crops		area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
130	0	12	0	50	0	3	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	235	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2011 shows that 15% of the residents in Qarawat Bani Zeid rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Qarawat Bani Zeid village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
14	24	115	0	0	0	0	52,000	3,000	60

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls **Source:** Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are around 20 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village suitable for tractors and agricultural machinery only (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

The agricultural sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, including (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

- The lack of capital.
- The lack of water sources.
- The lack of economic feasibility.
- The lack of technical and financial support.
- The lack of agricultural expertise.

Institutions and Services

The post office is the only governmental institution in Qarawat Bani Zeid village. However, the village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

 Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council: Founded in 1994 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.

- Qarawat Bani Zeid Society for Agricultural Development: Founded in 2010 by the Farmers Union, offering farmers assistance and support.
- **Youth Development Society**: Founded in 2005 by the Agricultural Relief Society, with the goal of helping village youth and increasing their involvement within the community.
- Qarawat Bani Zeid Charitable Society: Founded in 1976 by the Ministry of Social Affairs and interested in health and childcare issues.
- **Ad Diwan:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Culture with the goal of providing educational and scientific training courses.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Qarawat Bani Zeid has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 90% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents experience some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011):

- The need to expand and maintain the electricity network.
- The weak electric current.
- The lack of adapters.

Furthermore, Qarawat Bani Zeid is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 30% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

Ten public buses are the main means of transportation in Qarawat Bani Zeid. However, the village residents experience difficulties in traveling due to earth mounds and military checkpoints on the roads in the vicinity (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011). There are 20km of main roads and 20km of subroads in the village in total (See Table 10) (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Table 10: Roads in Qarawat Bani Zeid village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)				
Status of Internal Roads	Main	Sub			
1. Paved & in good condition	15	15			
2. Paved but in poor condition	-	-			
3. Unpaved	5	5			

Source: Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011

Water Resources:

Qarawat Bani Zeid is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1976, using water from sources it owns and water purchased from the Israeli company of Mekerot. Approximately 90% of housing units in the village are connected to the water network (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

The quantity of water supplied to Qarawat Bani Zeid is about 120,000 cubic meters/ year. The estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 120 liters/day (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011). However, no Qarawat Bani Zeid citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which stand at about 10%. The losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, distribution network, and at the household level (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011). Therefore, the actual rate of water consumption per capita in Qarawat Bani Zeid is 108 liters per day, a healthy rate compared to the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

The village also has 150 rainwater harvesting cisterns (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 5 NIS. Additionally, the village has a water spring with a pumping rate of 12 cubic meters/ day (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

Qarawat Bani Zeid lacks a public sewage network; most of the village residents use cesspits as the main means of waste water disposal (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 236.7 cubic meters, or 86,400 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that per capita wastewater generation is approximately 75.6 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, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Qarawat Bani Zeid Village 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 of about 2.5 NIS per capita is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good solid waste management, as only 70% of fees are collected from the citizens (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Qarawat Bani Zeid benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags; there are no containers in the village. The Village Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using waste vehicle to Al Wadi (The Valley) dumping site, where it is burnt (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Qarawat Bani Zeid is 0.7kg. Therefore the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by Qarawat Bani Zeid residents is nearly 1.9 tons, or 700 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, in Qarawat Bani Zeid 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 West Bank Water Department for long periods of time during summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The lack of a public water reservoir for residents' use during water shortages.

Wastewater Management

• The absence of a public sewage network means that Qarawat Bani Zeid 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 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 Qarawat Bani Zeid and 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 of Qarawat Bani Zeid

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Qarawat Bani Zeid was divided into areas A and B. Approximately 5,073 dunums (99.7% of the village's total area) were assigned as Area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and public order. 14 dunums (0.3% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the PNA has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security (See Table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Qarawat Bani Zeid - Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of total village	
Aica	Area in dunums	area	
Area A	5,073	99.7	
Area B	14	0.3	
Area C	0	0	
Nature Reserve	0	0	
Total	5,087	100	

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council has not implemented any development projects in the village during the past five years (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

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Proposed Projects

Qarawat Bani Zeid 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 PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

- 1. Providing a water tank with a capacity of 12 cups, along with a vehicle to transport water to families suffering from water shortage from the public network, and constructing a large water tank (1000 cups) to serve all residents of the village.
- 2. Providing containers in the various alleys and streets of the village, along with providing a vehicle for waste collection and a sanitary and environmental landfill for the disposal of village waste.
- 3. Constructing two model elementary schools for females and males.
- 4. Constructing headquarters for the working institutions in the village (land is available).
- 5. Establishing a sewage network connected to all housing units in the village, along with establishing a wastewater treatment unit to exploit treated wastewater for irrigation and reuse.
- 6. Constructing agricultural roads and reclaiming lands, in addition to constructing agricultural harvesting cisterns to serve remote lands so that farmers can access such lands.
- 7. Creating small development projects for individuals, institutions, craftsmen, and farmers.
- 8. Creating projects to improve the environment of the valley passing through village lands.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Qarawat Bani Zeid 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 point of view (Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011).

Table 12: Development Priorities and Needs in Qarawat Bani Zeid

No.	Sector	Strongly	Needed	Not a	Notes	
		Needed		Priority		
	Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			20km ≭	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			10km	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			10km	
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			10km	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			2 springs	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			3000 cubic meters	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			10km	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			5km	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			100 containers	
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			1	
	Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			2 health centers	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health center	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*				
	Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary level	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary & secondary levels	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*				
	Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1000 dunums	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			100 cisterns	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			10 barracks	
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			10 tons/ year	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			20 greenhouses	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				10 greenhouses	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*				
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

x5km are main roads, 5km are sub roads and 10km are agricultural roads

Source: Qarawat Bani Zeid Village Council, 2011

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