

Aqqaba Village Profile



Produced by



The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem

In cooperation with



Funded by

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

February, 2006

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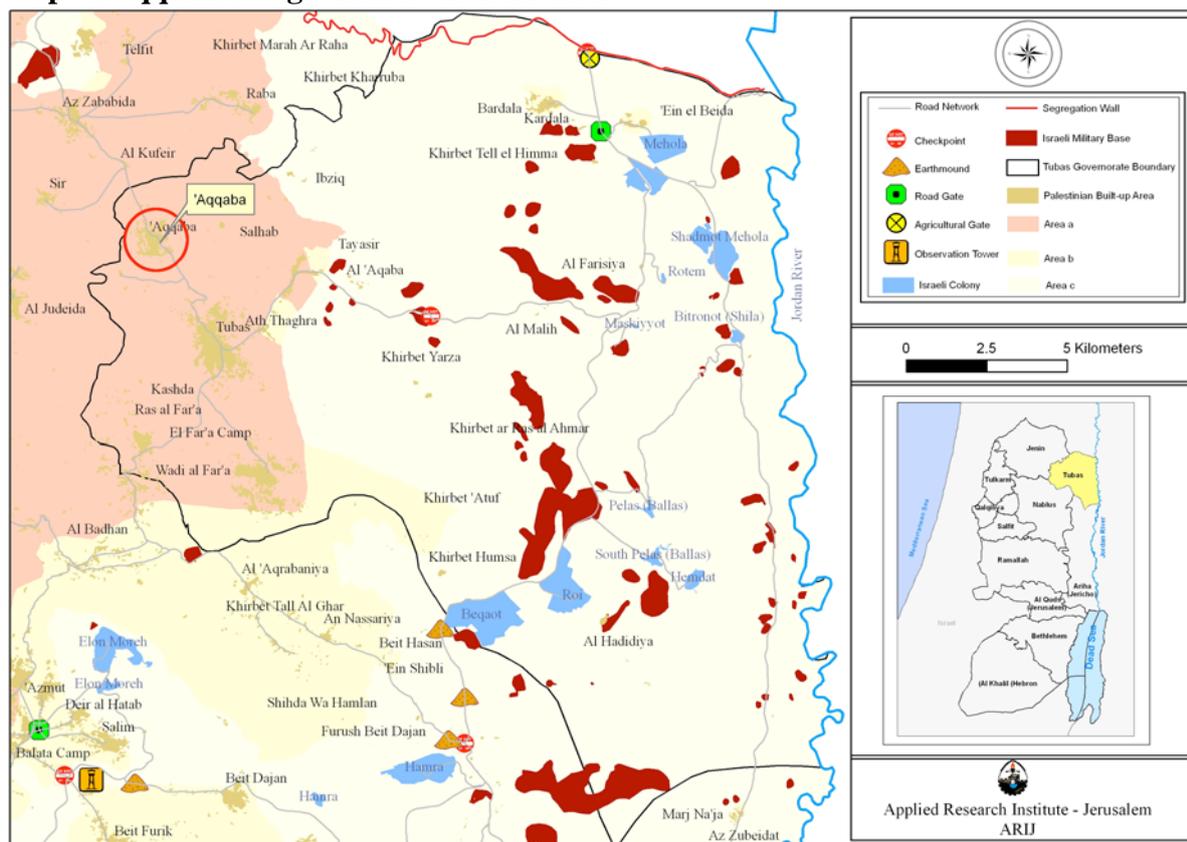
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Aqqaba village profile

Location and Physical characteristics

AQQABA is a Palestinian village in Tubas Governorate which is located 4 km north of Tubas city, in the north eastern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Salhab village to the east, Al Kufeir and Sir Villages to the north and west (Jenin Governorate) and Tubas city to the south.

Map 1: Aqqaba village location and borders



The total area of Aqqaba village is 10,000 dunums, which represents approximately 2 % of the Tubas Governorate's land area. 774 dunums are classified as 'built up' area, whilst 8,500 dunums are agricultural area cultivated with deferent crops.

Aqqaba village is located in the mountainous area (called Al Aqrah Mountain) in the west of Tubas Governorate. It is surrounded by plains and level areas, at the moderate elevation of 495 m above sea level.

Aqqaba village is characterized by a moderate climate; the summer is hot and dry, whilst the winter sees a lot of rainfall. The mean annual rainfall in Aqqaba village is 410 mm; the average annual temperature is 20 °C, and the average annual humidity is 59 % (ARIJ GIS).

Since 1998 Aqqaba village has been governed by a municipal council of 11 members who were elected during the 2005 local authorities' elections. The municipality employs 13 paid employees and workers. Its operations and responsibility include:

1. Administration, planning and development;

2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructure maintenance, water, electricity, solid waste collection, and issuing of building licenses.

History

The word "Aqqaba" is derived from its rugged and uneven terrain which is located in a mountainous area; another narrative believed that its name derived from the name of "Aqqba" tribe which lived in the area. The village has been inhabited by its current residents for 200 years, dating back to when two families settled in the area to cultivate the fertile land and take advantage of the moderate climate during the summer months.

Photography of Aqqaba village



Demography and Population

In 1997 the total population of Aqqaba village was 4,441 people, of which 2,336 were males and 2,105 were females. There were 651 households resident in 699 housing units (1997 census).

The population of Aqqaba village constitutes about 12.6 % of the total population of the Tubas Governorate and which considered rural area.

Age groups and gender

The population of Aqqaba village has been classified by age groups and sex as indicated by 1997 census. The census reveals that 49 % are less than 15 years, 48.2 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.8 % are 65 years and above (See table 1)

Sex	Age			Total	percent
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +		

Male	1148	1125	62	2335	52.6
Female	1025	1014	64	2103	47.4
Total	2173	2139	126	4438	100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

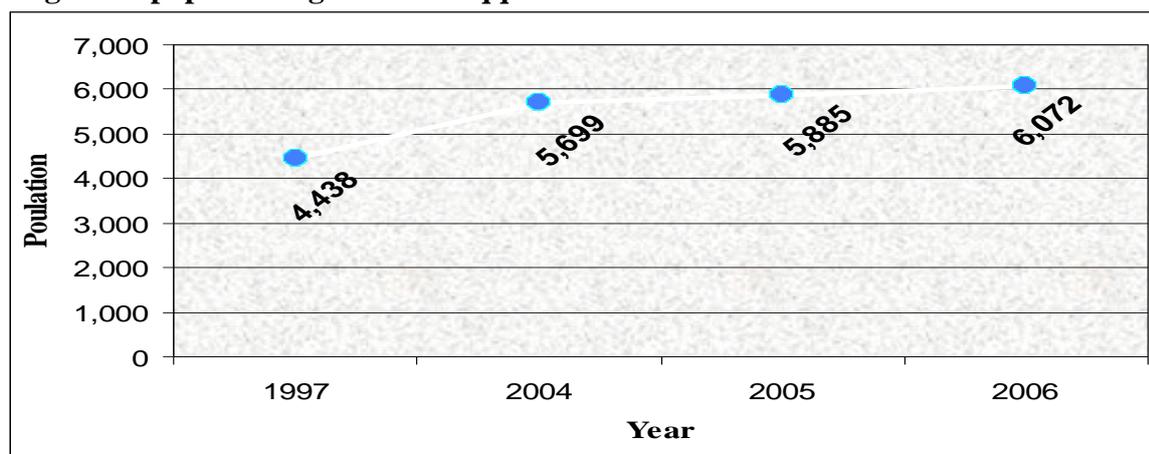
The sex ratio in the village was 111 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 52.6 % of the population and females constitute 47.4 %.

The estimated population of Aqqaba village by mid 2005 was 5,885 and in mid 2006 it will increase to 6,072. The data in table 2 indicates that the population of Aqqaba village grew by 32.6 % between 1997 and mid 2005 and in 2006 it will increase by 3.2 % (an increase of 496 people) (See figure 1).

	1997 census	Mid-year population in		
		2004	2005	2006
Aqqaba village	4,438	5,699	5,885	6,072

Source: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/populati/pop10.aspx>

Figure 1: population growth in Aqqaba



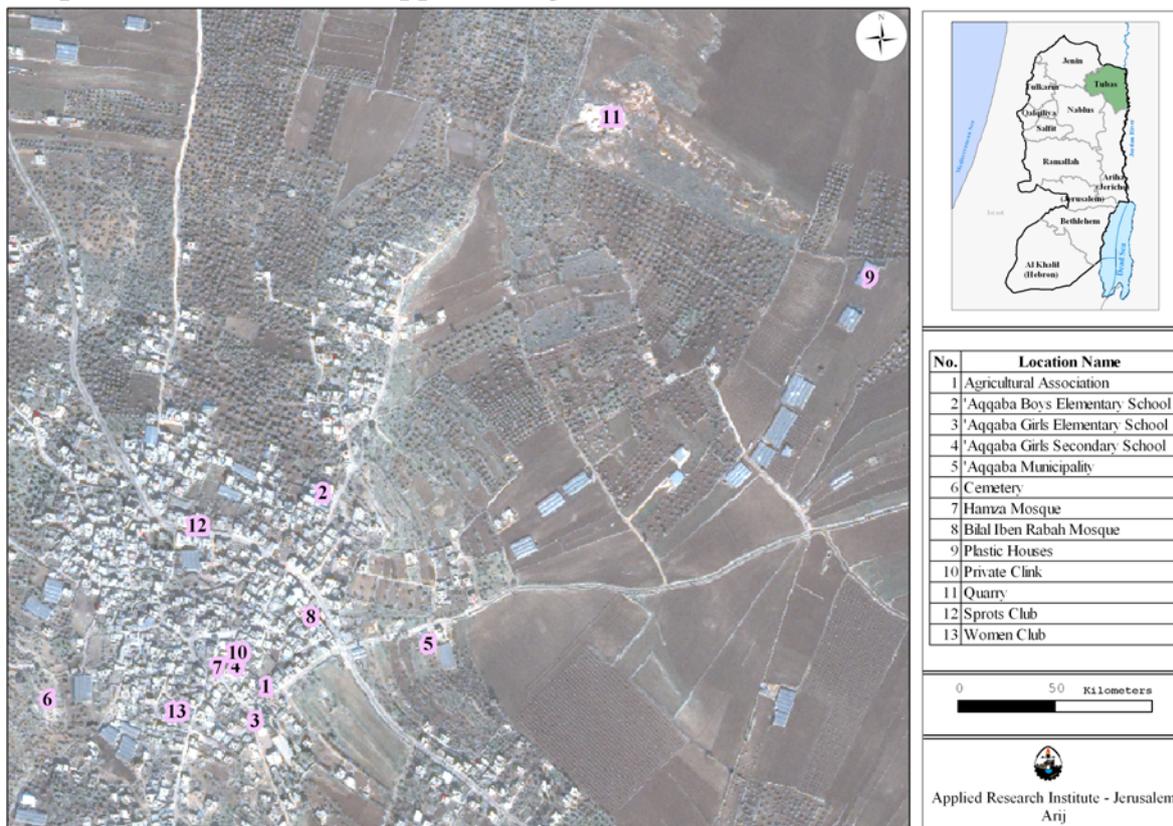
Families:

The population of Aqqaba village comprises of three main families: Abu Arra 58 %, Abu Ghannam 35 % and Almasry 7 %.

Religious and Archeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village and two places considered to be archeological sites; these are Roman buildings which take the shape of grottos cut into the rocks to form rooms and burial chambers. Aqqaba also known for the very old and historical trees found in the village, where one of them is known as (Al wali Aqab Tree) and there are many Romanian olive trees.

Map 2: Main locations in Aqqaba village



The Economy

The economic base of Aqqaba village is dependent upon the agricultural sector; most of the residents base their livelihood on agricultural activities. The residents depend on cultivated field crops, vegetables and live stock.

Besides depending on the agriculture activities Aqqaba residents engaged in trade, services, Israeli labor market and public sector.

In Aqqaba village there are 85 shops, stores and restaurants, mills and olive press, small factories, many household handcraft workshops which are capable of obtaining convenient living conditions and basic needs.

Labor Force Construction

In 1997, the percentage of participants in labor force in Aqqaba village was 62.9 % of the total population of the village. The participation of women was assessed to be 29.6 % (1314 women in total). The labor force in Aqqaba village is 2790 people in total, of which 35.9 % are 'economically active' people and 64.1 % are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people 90.4 % are employed people, 9.6 % are unemployed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housewives, who constitute 42.4 % and 37.8 % respectively. Table 3 shows the labor force in Aqqaba village.

Table 3: Aqqaba Population (10 years and Over) by Sex and Employment Status

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Un-Employed	Un-Employed Never Worked	Total	Students	House -Wife	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	833	84	8	925	456	-	70	18	7	551	1476
F	72	2	2	76	302	677	65	5	189	1238	1314
T	905	86	10	1001	758	677	135	23	196	1789	2790

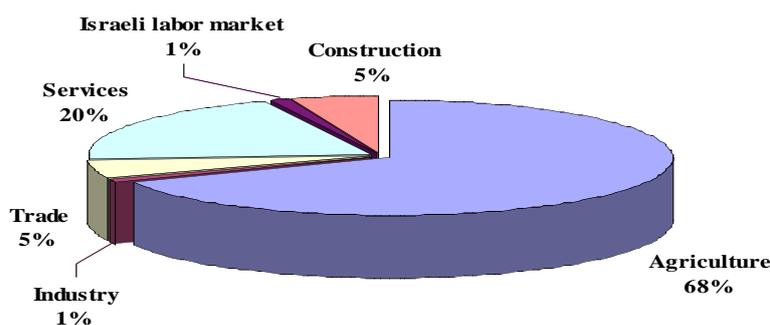
Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

Since the outbreak of second Intifada in September 2000, most of the Palestinian migrant labor force cannot reach their places of work in Israel and settlements. As a result the workers have lost their primary source of income and many have returned to work in their lands.

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005, the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agricultural sector 68 %,
- The industrial sector 1 %,
- The trade sector 5 %,
- Service sector 20 %,
- Israeli labor market 1 %.
- The construction sector 5 %.

Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Aqqaba village



The survey also indicated that the social groups most affected by Israeli measures in Aqqaba village during the second Intifada are: 1) housewives and children, 2) former migrant workers in the Israeli labor market, 3) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 4) small farmers, 5). Small traders

The average household income in Aqqaba was severely affected by the second Intifada. Prior to this the average income stood at 2500 NIS. Today however it has declined sharply to 600 NIS. The result is that the average household income decreased by 76 % in only four years.

Education

In the 1997 census the education status in Aqqaba village indicated that about 13.8 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (73.8 %) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (26.2 %). Of the literate population, 20.8 % of residents could read and write, 29.6 % completed elementary education, 22.2 % completed preparatory education and 13.5 % completed their secondary and higher education. Table 4 shows the education status in Aqqaba by sex and education attainment in 1997.

Table 4: Aqqaba Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PHD	Total
M	101	288	415	393	147	93	33	1	2	-	4150
F	285	293	410	227	71	24	5	0	-	0	3950
T	386	581	825	620	218	117	38	1	2	-	8100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

There are four levels of education available in Aqqaba village: pre-school (kindergartens); elementary education; preparatory education and secondary education which provide the *Tawjihi* exam for local students to allow them to enter university in other districts.

At the end of the 2004/2005 scholastic year there were four schools in Aqqaba village, two schools for males, two schools for females. The education status in Aqqaba village is shown in table 5.

Table 5: No. of Schools, Classes and Students by Sex in Aqqaba village (2004-2005)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	2	0	2
	No. of classes	29	0	29
	No. of Teachers	0	0	0
	No. of Students	1057	0	1057
Female	No. of Schools	2	0	2
	No. of class	29	0	29
	No. of Teachers	0	0	0
	No. of Students	985	0	985
Co-education	No. of Schools	0	0	0
	No. of class	0	0	0
	No. of Teachers	0	0	0
	No. of Students	0	0	0

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2005

In 2005 there were about three kindergartens in Aqqaba village provide pre-education schools for 180 children.

Health Status

There is one Governmental health clinic provides health services in Aqqaba village. There are also three private clinics in the village, one is a general physician clinic, another is a pediatrician and the other is a dental clinic. In addition, there is only one pharmacy in aqqaba which provides medical drugs to residents.

The main problems and obstacles facing the health sector in the village are as follows:

1. There is no medical laboratory in the village.
2. There is no specialized clinic.
3. There is no ambulance.
4. There is no maternity clinic.
5. There is a shortage of qualified specialist physicians in the local clinic.
6. Physicians face difficulties in mobility - especially for those coming from outside the village - due to Israeli closures and barriers.

Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

Aqqaba is a small village the residents get most of their services from Tubas city as it is the main city in the Governorate. In addition to schools, clinics and post offices, Aqqaba village has four institutions working as NGOs and charitable organizations which are:

1. Aqqaba Agriculture Society, which provides (financial?) extensions to the farmers.
2. Aqqaba Women Society/ Womens Committees Union, which includes the kindergarten and training courses for women.
3. Aqqaba Sport Club, which provides sports, social and cultural activities to the youth.
4. Childrens Land Society, which provides services of maternity and childhood care in the health and psychological fields.

Table six shows the number of institutions in Aqqaba village by Type.

Table 6: No of institutions in Aqqaba village by type

	Type of institution						
	Gov.	Charitable	women	NGO	Agriculture	sports	Worship
Aqqaba	1	1	1	1	1	1	2

- **Telecommunication services:** Aqqaba village is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 40 % of the households have a Telephone connection.
- **Water services:** Aqqaba has been connected to the water network since 1999. Almost 39 % of the households are connected to water supplied by the Palestinian Water Authority. Due to the shortages of water two reservoirs have been built in Aqqaba with a capacity of 400 m³ which supply water to the village in the summer time. The water is clean and appropriate for domestic consumption and it supplies water once every three days. There are no springs and wells in Aqqaba village so residents depend largely on the water collecting cisterns.

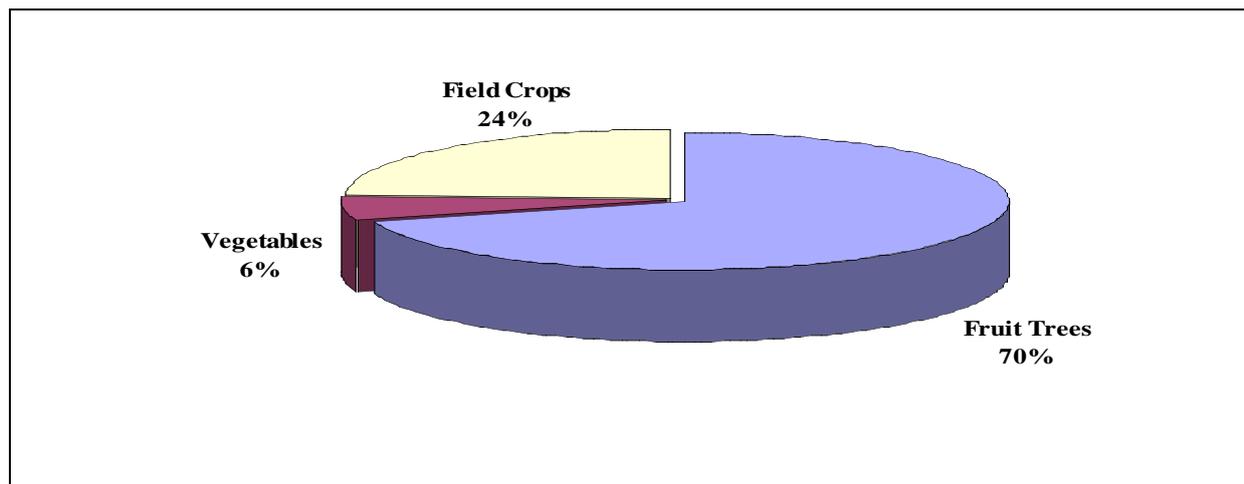
There are several problems in the water sector in Aqqaba village:

1. The water network is old with high rates of loss from the main line which is in need of rehabilitation.
 2. The main reservoir in Aqqaba has no chlorine unit.
 3. Deterioration of the water tanks used in the village.
- **Electricity services:** Until 2001 electricity in Aqqaba was provided by local generators owned by the municipality. In 2001 the village connected with the main electricity network supplied by Israeli Electric Cooperation. Approximately 97 % of the households in the village are connected to the electricity network.
 - **Solid Waste Collection:** Solid waste management in Aqqaba is operated by the municipality and Joint Services Council. One vehicle is operating in the village and owned by the municipality. Solid waste is collected daily from the residential area and sent to a shared dumping site 9 km away from Aqqaba village. Burning is the main method used for the disposal of solid waste.
 - **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Aqqaba village is not connected to the sewage network. All households must therefore dispose their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater.
 - **Transportation services:** Aqqaba village has a simple road network, only eight km of roads are paved, of them five km are in a bad condition, five km are not paved at all. The means of transportation in Aqqaba comprise of two buses, eight taxis and ten private cars.
There are many obstacles facing residents who want to travel in or out of the village, such as:
 1. Israeli check points and barriers.
 2. Deterioration of roads.
 3. Shortages of vehicles and transportation services.

Agriculture Sector

More than 67 % of the population of Aqqaba depends on the agricultural sector for their economic activities. The total area of arable land in Aqqaba village is 8500 dunums, whilst the cultivated area has reached 6785 dunums. 985 further dunums are forests and 15 dunums are grazing areas. Out of 6785 dunums which are cultivated, 4777 dunums are primarily planted with fruit trees, 393 dunums are for the cultivation of vegetables and 1650 dunums are for the cultivation of field crops. (Ministry of Agriculture 2004)

Figure 2: Percentage of cultivated area of fruit trees, vegetables and field crops in Aqqaba village.



Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ, Aqqaba village produces 160 tons of olives, 15 tons of nut stone, 150 tons of vegetables and 450 tons of field crops per annum.

90 % of the residents of Aqqaba also raise different kind of livestock. Data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicates that there are 27 heads of cattle, 150 goats, 2900 sheep, 130 bee hives and 77000 poultry.

Fields and agriculture area in Aqqaba



Impact of Occupation Practices

Since the beginning of the second intifada the Israeli occupation has closed the roads leading to Aqqaba village from Tubas city side, preventing people from accessing the main city in the Governorate to satisfy their basic needs. The Israeli occupation frequently constructs flying check points on the main road of Aqqaba. At the same time they have destroyed one house, 200 dunums of agriculture area and prevented municipality vehicles from disposing the solid waste in the main dumping site for three years.

During the second Intifada there were restrictions placed on access to health services, hospitals and social relations with other relatives. Farmers are facing problems reaching their fields and cultivated crops, about 10 households have been affected by uprooted trees and bulldozed agriculture areas.

Plans and Development Projects

Currently, Aqqaba municipality has implemented a project to supply water to the households funded by ACH. The strategic plan for Aqqaba municipality includes implementing a lot of projects based around developing and promoting the villages' infrastructure and services. The developmental projects set up in the plan are listed in table 7.

Table 7: Development plans and projects in Aqqaba village

Project	Type	Budget
Project of paved the main road in the village	Infrastructure	666,667 USD
Project of paved minor roads	Infrastructure	266,667 USD
Built new school in the village	education	666,667 USD
Built public garden	entertainment	133333 USD

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