

Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Profile



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Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in 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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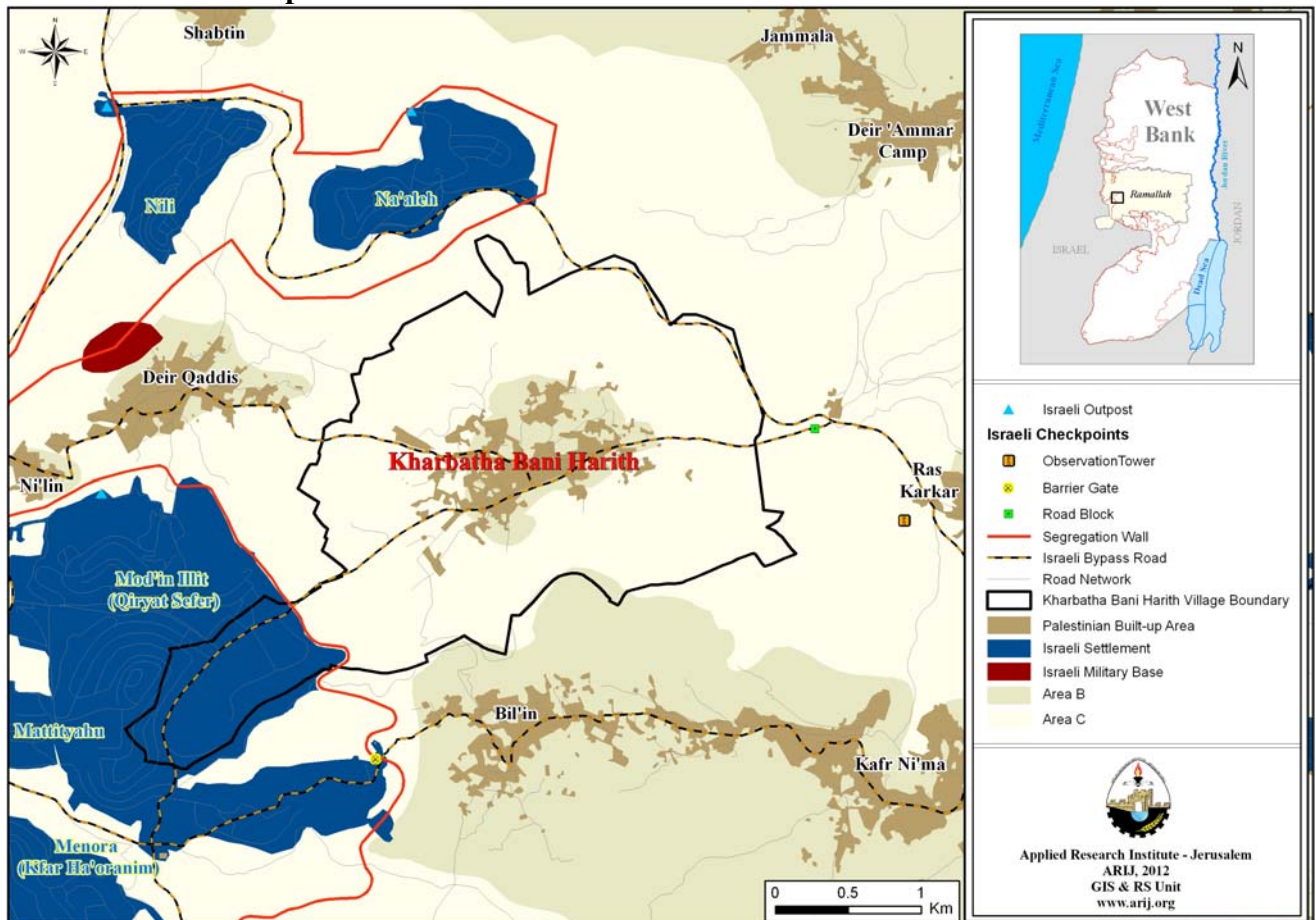
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Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Kharbatha Bani Harith is a Palestinian village in Ramallah Governorate located (horizontally) 13.1km west of Ramallah City. Kharbatha Bani Harith is bordered by Ras Karkar village to the east, Al-Itihad town lands and Deir Qaddis village to the north, Deir Qaddis village to the west, and Bil'in and Kafr Ni'ma villages to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Kharbatha Bani Harith location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Kharbatha Bani Harith is located at an altitude of 396m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 565.4mm. The average annual temperature is 18 °C, and the average annual humidity is about 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1997, Kharbatha Bani Harith has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 7 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority.

There are also 2 employees working in the council which owns a permanent headquarters.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Kharbatha Bani Harith, including:

1. Infrastructure services i.e. provision of water.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.
4. Protection of governmental properties and archeological and historical sites in the village.
5. Management and supervision over kindergartens.

History

The origin of the village name “Kharbatha Bani Harith” was diverted from the name “Kharbatha al Harithiya” that was called on the village after it was resides by Al Hawarith al Yamaniya tribes.

The establishment of the village dates back to 1700, and its residents originate from Al Janiya neighboring village and Kafr ‘Ein village. (See photo below for Kharbatha Bani Harith village).

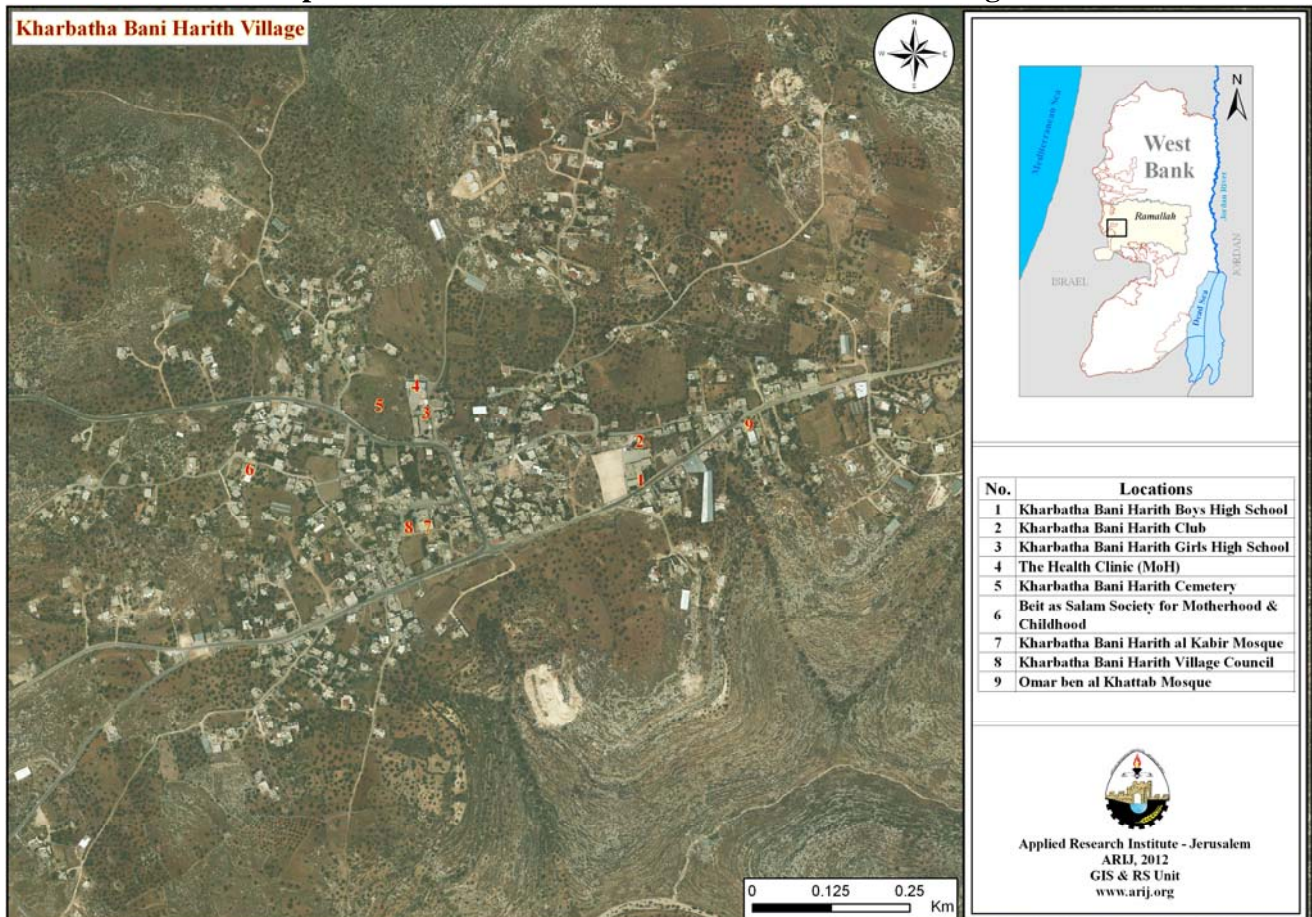
Photos of Kharbatha Bani Harith



Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are three mosques in the village; Omar ben al Khattab Eastern Mosque, Kharbatha ben al Harith al Kabir Mosque and Al Kawthar Mosque. As for the archaeological sites, there are few, mainly: the old town (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Kharbatha Bani Harith Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Kharbatha Bani Harith in 2007 was 2,846; of whom 1,477 are males and 1,369 are females. There were also recorded 487 households living in 519 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 Kharbatha Bani Harith is as follows: 42.4% are less than 15

years, 55% are between 15 - 64 years, 2.2% are 65 years and older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 107.8:100, meaning that males constitute 51.9% of the population, and females constitute 48.1% of the population.

Families

Kharbatha Bani Harith residents are composed of several families, mainly: 'Injass, Hammurah, Beitellu and Ash Sheikh.

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Kharbatha Bani Harith population is about 7.4%, of whom 79.4% are females. Of the literate population, 14.1% can read and write, 25.5% had elementary education, 28.5% had preparatory education, 16.2% had secondary education, and 8% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the village of Kharbatha Bani Harith, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Kharbatha Bani Harith population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	29	120	254	315	155	39	50	-	3	2	3	970
F	112	150	234	231	155	24	36	-	-	-	2	944
T	141	270	488	546	310	63	86	-	3	2	5	1,914

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

With regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Kharbatha Bani Harith in the academic year 2010/2011, there is was recorded just two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There is only one private co-educated school in the village (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

However, due to the lack of high schools for boys in the village, male students of Kharbatha Bani Harith village head to Kharbatha Bani Harith village schools in order to complete their education; located 3km from the village. .

In the village there are 864 students, 51 teachers, and 31 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 28.

Table 2: The Schools in Kharbatha Bani Harith by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Kharbatha Bani Harith Boys Elementary School	Government	co-educated
Kharbatha Bani Harith Girls School	Government	Females

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

However, the educational sector in Kharbatha Bani Harith village suffers some obstacles, mainly:

1. The lack of classrooms in schools.
2. The lack of laboratories.
3. The lack of computers, libraries and playgrounds.

Health Status

There are few health centers and services available in Kharbatha Bani Harith village, including: a governmental health center, two private physician clinics, one private dental clinic and a motherhood and childhood center supervised by the health center. In case of the absence of any health services in the locality, residents of Kharbatha Bani Harith head to Kafr Ni'ma village; about 5km from the village, or to Ramallah governmental hospital; approximately 35km from the village.

The health sector in the village suffers some obstacles and problems, including:

1. The lack of a radiology center and a medical analysis laboratory.
2. The lack of a polyclinic and an ambulance for emergencies.

Economic Activities

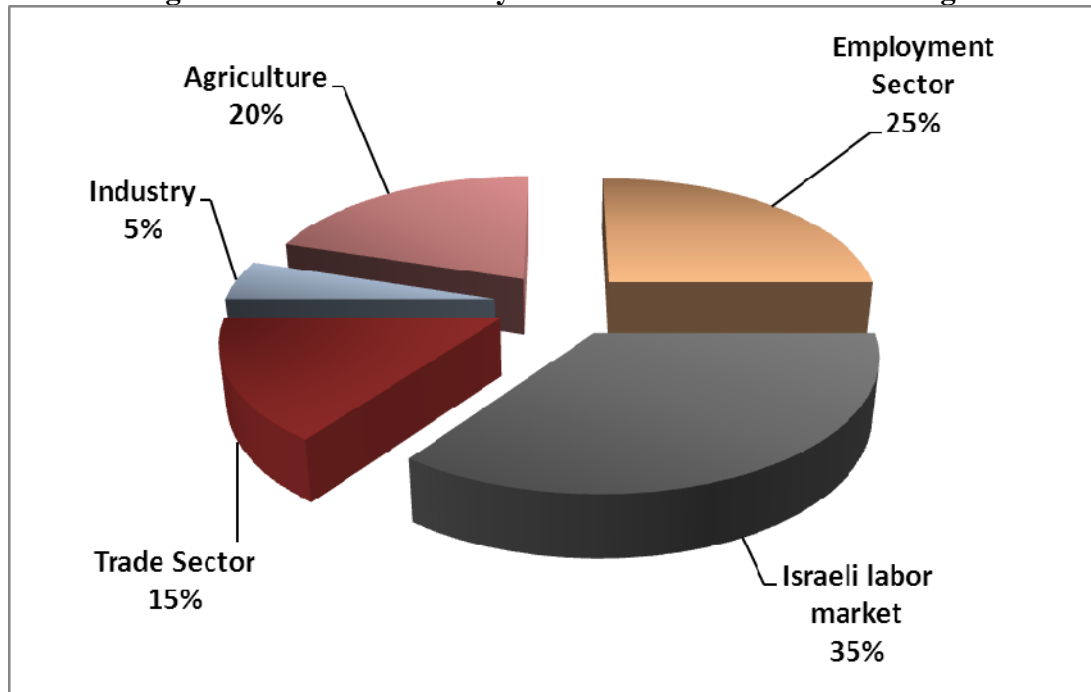
The economy in Kharbatha Bani Harith is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly: the Israeli Labor Market, which absorbs 35% of the village workforce (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Kharbatha Bani Harith is as follows:

- Israeli Labor Market (35%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (25%)
- Agriculture Sector (20%)
- Trade Sector (15%)

- Industry (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Kharbatha Bani Harith Village



Source: Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011

In term of industrial productions and parks in Kharbatha Bani Harith village, there are some industrial facilities, including a cleaning materials factory and a stone and marble quarry. Moreover, there are 18 grocery stores in the village, two butcheries, 3 groceries, 3 different professional workshops (carpentry, aluminum, glass,.. etc.), 8 different services stores and an olive oil-press.

The unemployment rate in Kharbatha Bani Harith has reached around 12%, and the economical groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions were:

1. Workers in the trade sector.
2. Former workers in Israel.
3. Workers in the agriculture sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.1% of Kharbatha Bani Harith labor force was economically active, of whom 82% were employed, 68.8% were not economically active, 56.9% were students, and 33% were housekeepers (See table 3).

Table 3: Kharbatha Bani Harith 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	444	64	31	539	350	2	46	7	25	430	1	970
F	44	3	9	56	399	432	52	1	2	886	2	944
T	488	67	40	595	749	434	98	8	27	1,316	3	1,914

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

Agricultural Sector

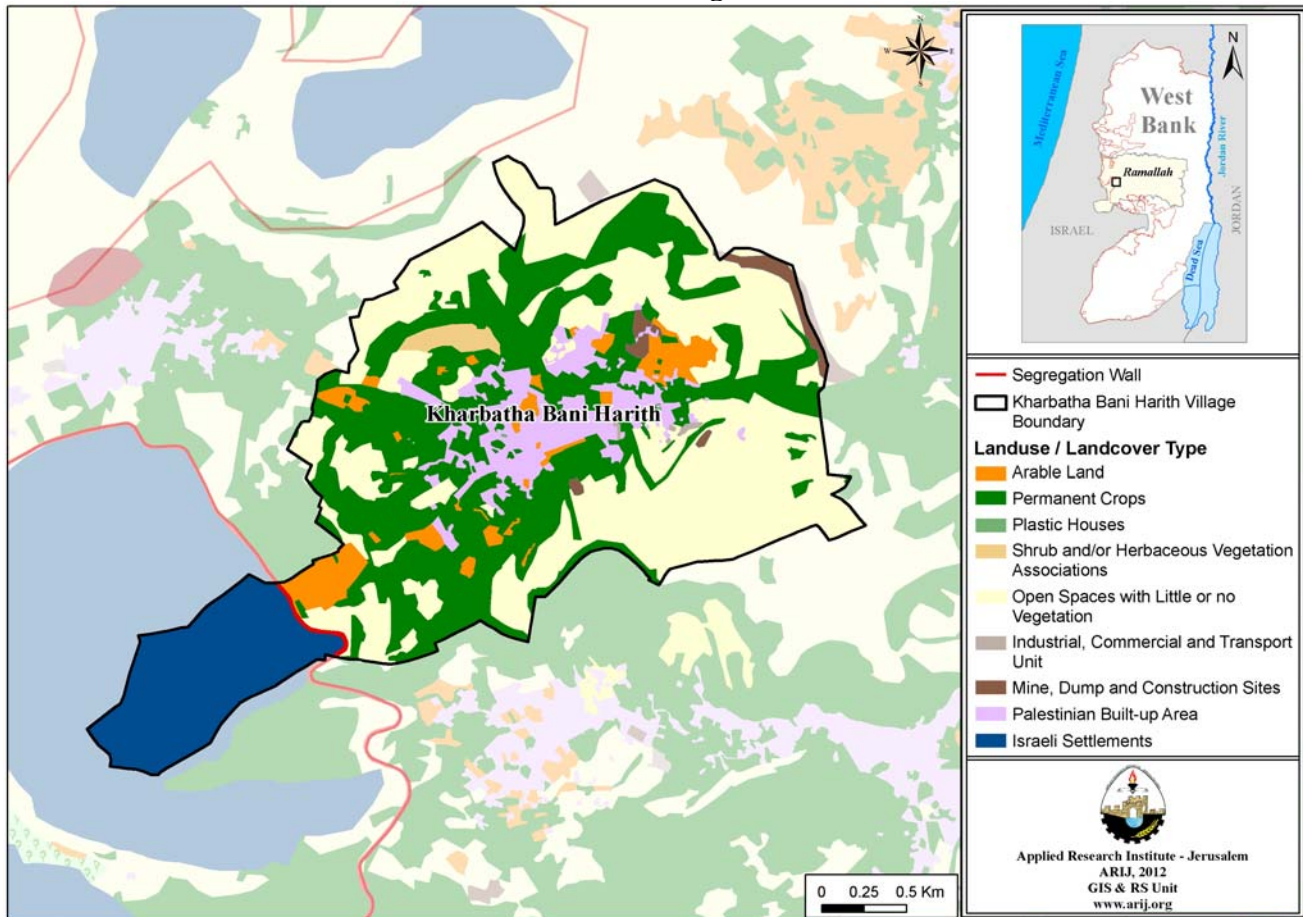
Kharbatha Bani Harith has a total area of around 7,143 dunums of which 2,876 are considered 'arable' land and 560 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Kharbatha Bani Harith village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (2,876)				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					
7,143	560	2,471	1	70	333	0	0	2,769	105	833

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Kharbatha Bani Harith Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Agricultural production in Kharbatha Bani Harith depends mostly on rainwater. As for irrigated fields, these depend on springs and domestic harvesting cisterns. Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Kharbatha Bani Harith. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Kharbatha Bani Harith 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.
45	0	0	0	24	0	12	0	0	0	81	56

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There is also one dunum of land on which there are greenhouses planted with different vegetables, mainly: cucumber and tomatos.

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Kharbatha Bani Harith is famous for olives; there is a total of 901 dunums planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Kharbatha Bani Harith 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.
901	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	15	0	83	0	1,003	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) 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 instead of seasonal ones. The survey 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, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

As for the field crops and forage in Kharbatha Bani Harith, cereals, (in particular wheat and barley are the most cultivated) covering an area of about 208 dunums, whilst dry legumes, such as chickpeas and lentils are the next most cultivated crop (See table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Kharbatha Bani Harith village(dunum)

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
208	0	17	0	26	0	10	0	48	0	0	0	0	0	381	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The field survey shows that most of the residents in Kharbatha Bani Harith rear and keep domestic animals such as; sheep, goats, broiler chicken, and bees (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Kharbatha Bani Harith village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
7	92	240	0	0	0	0	146,000	55,900	34

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are also about 13.5 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Kharbatha Bani Harith Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	4.5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	5
Unsuitable	2

Source: Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011

Institutions and Services

Kharbatha Bani Harith village has only one governmental institution; a post office division, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society: children, youth, and women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2010):

- **Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Kharbatha Bani Harith Sports Club:** Founded in 1974 and is interested in all sports and cultural activities for young people.
- **House of Peace Society (Beit as Salaam):** Founded in 2003, the Society is interested in childhood and motherhood matters and supervising the kindergartens in the village.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Kharbatha Bani Harith has been connected to a public electricity network since 1985; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 85% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2010):

1. The weak electricity power supply and the frequent breaking down of electricity during the winter.
2. The lack of electricity poles and street lighting..

Furthermore, Kharbatha Bani Harith is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

There are only 3 taxis in the village which are considered to be the main means of transportations in Kharbatha Bani Harith, used by the village residents to transport them from the village to Ramallah city center (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2010). As for the road network in the village; there are a total of 7km of main roads; 4km of which are paved and in good condition and 3km are paved but in poor condition roads, and a total of 7km of secondary roads; 3km of which are paved and in good condition, 2km are paved but in poor condition and 2km are unpaved roads (See Table 10) ((Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011).

Table 10: Roads in Kharbatha Bani Harith village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	4	3
2. Paved but in poor condition	3	2
3. Unpaved	-	2

Source: Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011.

Water Resources:

Kharbatha Bani Harith is provided with water by West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1973. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network. (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011). The quantity of water supplied to Kharbatha Bani Harith in 2010 was approximately 120,000 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Kharbatha Bani Harith is 123 liters per day (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011). However, no Kharbatha Bani Harith citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 30%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011). Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Kharbatha Bani Harith is 86 liters per day. The rate experienced by Kharbatha Bani Harith residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters proposed by the World Health Organization.

Also, located in Kafr 'Ein are 15 rainwater harvesting cisterns. (Kafr 'Ein village Council, 2011).

Sanitation:

Kharbatha Bani Harith lacks a public sewerage network; most of the village residents use cesspits for the disposal of waste water.

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 184 cubic meters, or 67,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 60 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council in cooperation with a private contractor is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in the village, which is currently represented by solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 20 NIS/month per capita. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste; only 50% of these fees are collected from the citizens.

Most of the population in Kharbatha Bani Harith benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to certain spots; due to the lack of containers in the locality. The Village Council collects the solid waste from the containers twice a week and transports it to a random dumping site; 1km from the locality. The common method for solid waste treatment in this dumping site is setting waste on fire.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Kharbatha Bani Harith is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Kharbatha Bani Harith residents is nearly 1.9 tons, or 684 tons per year.

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Kharbatha Bani Harith 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 in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:

- (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and distribution among populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs simultaneously. Consequently, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies in order to satisfy residents' needs.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The lack of a public reservoir in the town to cover the residents' water needs during water cut-offs.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Kharbatha Bani Harith 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 village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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:

The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Kharbatha Bani Harith 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.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Kharbatha Bani Harith village council has implemented several development projects in Kharbatha Bani Harith, during the last five years (See Table 11).

Table 11: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Kharbatha Bani Harith During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Rehabilitation of the Boys School's Playground	Educational	2010	World Vision
Pavement of Kharbatha & Deir Qaddis Road	Agriculture	2009	Japanese Institution
Construction of Agricultural Roads	Agriculture	2008	ANERA
Construction of a Girls School	Educational	2007	UNDP
Construction of Health Facilities & Laboratories	Health	2006	KFW
Construction of a School Canteen	Educational	2005	UNDP
Source: Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011			

Proposed Projects

Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority, from the viewpoint and feedback of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a multi-services complex and a headquarters for the village council.
2. Providing a waste collection project.
3. Providing street lighting and expanding the electricity network.
4. Establishing a medical services center.
5. Establishing a public park.
6. Providing agricultural land reclamation and agricultural roads construction projects.
7. Creating job opportunities for graduates and laborers.
8. Expanding the organizational chart.
9. Establishing a police station.
10. Rehabilitating educational and health facilities in schools.
11. Establishing a public library.
12. Expanding the water network.
13. Creating small projects for women.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Kharbatha Bani Harith 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 (Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011).

Table 12: Development Priorities and Needs in Kharbatha Bani Harith

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			7km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		0.6km
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			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			2km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			one clinic
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			secondary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			secondary level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			2000 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			50 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services		*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			15 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*2km are main roads, 2.5km are sub roads and 2.5km are agricultural roads

Source: Kharbatha Bani Harith Village Council, 2011

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