

Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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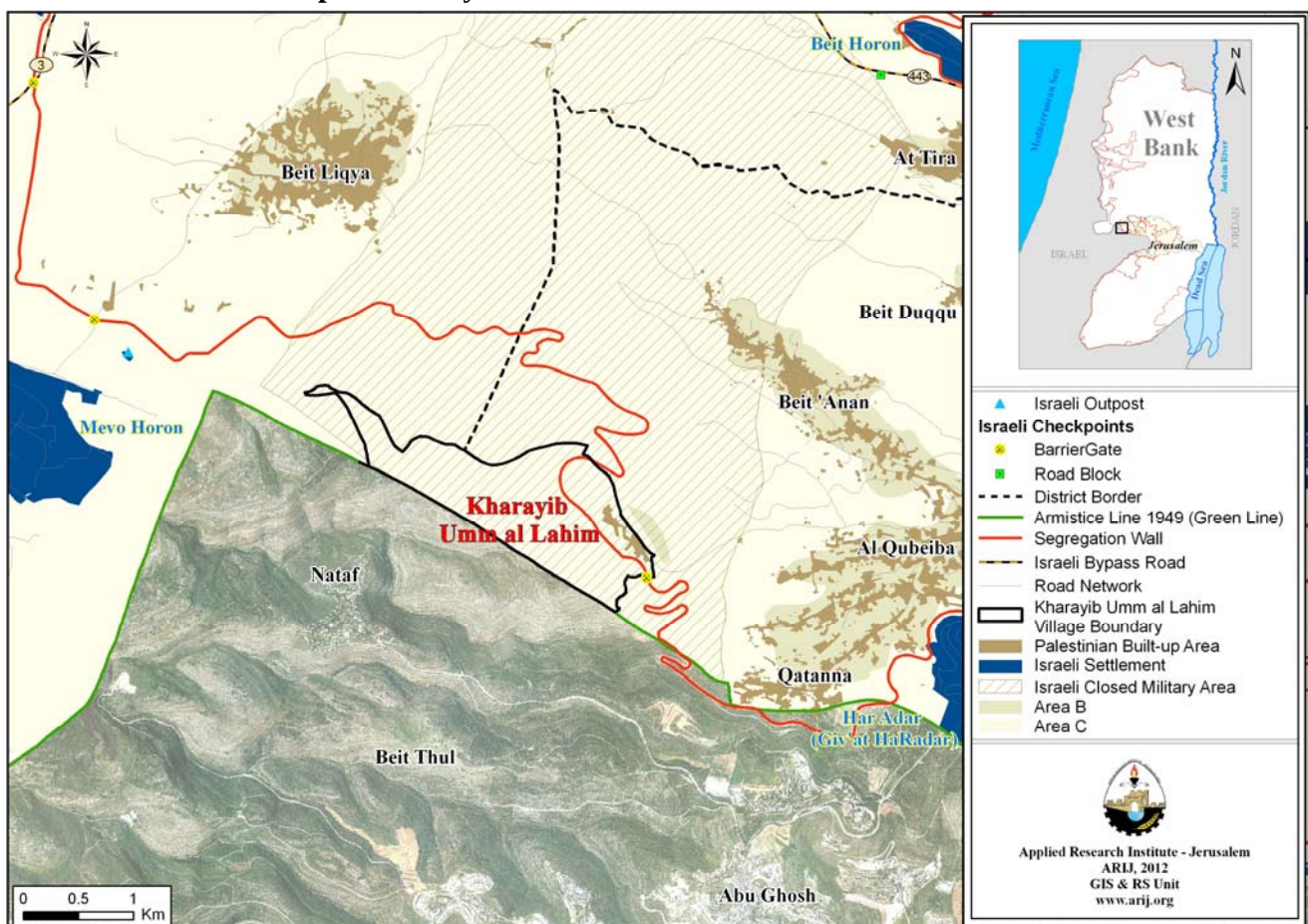
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Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Kharayib Umm al Lahim is a Palestinian village in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 15km north-west of Jerusalem City. It is bordered by Qatanna and Beit 'Anan villages' lands to the east, Beit 'Anan village to the north, Beit Nuba village lands to the west, and Qatanna village lands to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Kharayib Umm al Lahim location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Kharayib Umm al Lahim is located at an altitude of 662m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 603mm. The average annual temperature is 17 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1997, Kharayib Umm al Lahim has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 5 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority in addition to 1 permanent

employee. However, the Village Council does not own a permanent headquarters or a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Kharayib Umm al Lahim, including (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010):

- Establishing an electricity network or providing generators.
- Establishing and maintaining the drinking water network.
- Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement and rehabilitation, street cleaning and social development services.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the village.

History

The village was named Kharayib Umm al Lahim as its earliest residents were dependent on breeding animals ('lahim' tr. 'meat') (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

The village was established in the early 18th century; its residents are originally from Deir abu Mash'al village (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010) (See photo below for Kharayib Umm al Lahim village).

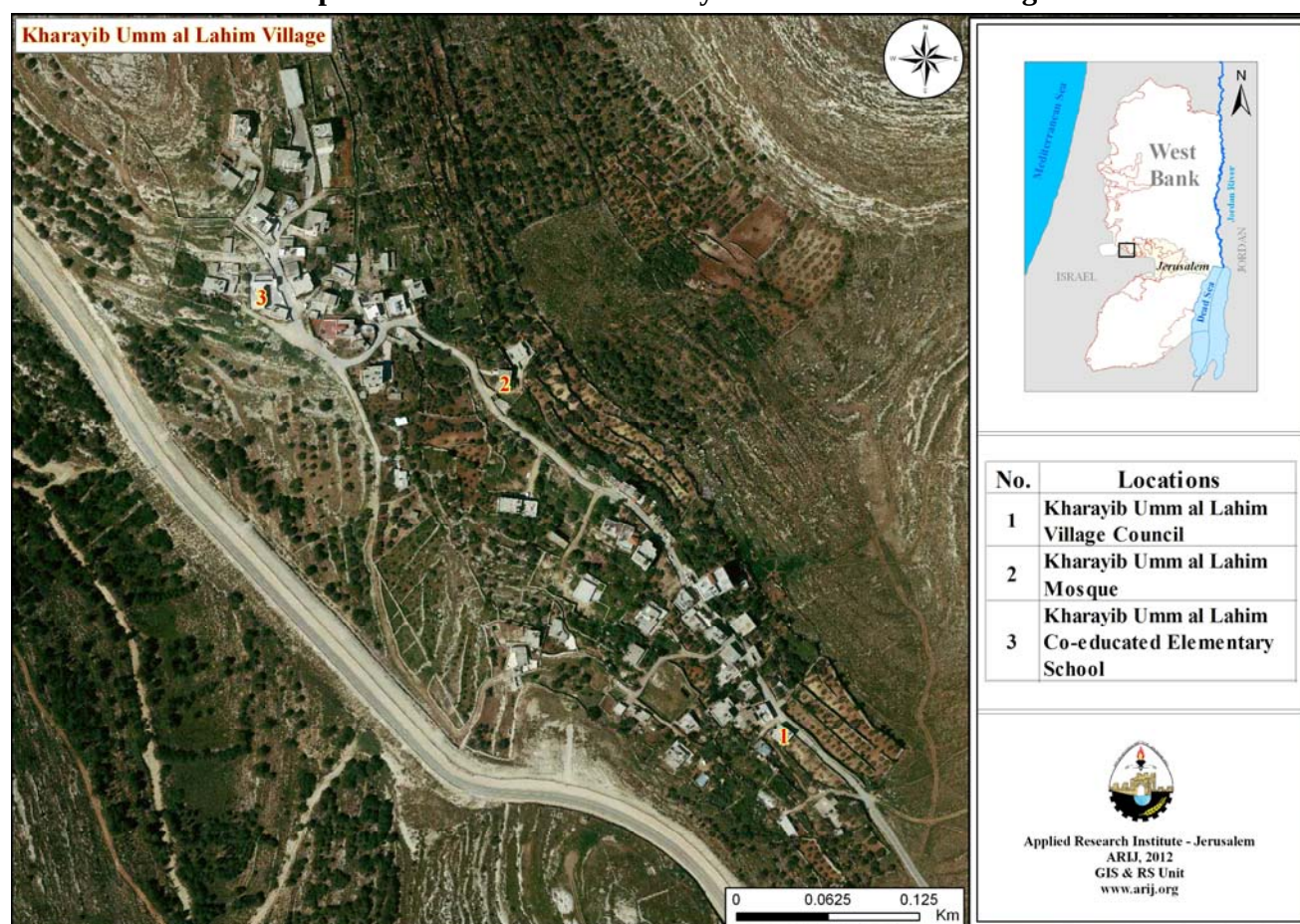
Photo 1: Kharayib Umm al Lahim village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque in the village, Kharayib Umm al Lahim Mosque. No sites of archaeological interest have been found in the village (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Kharayib Umm al Lahim in 2007 was 328, of whom 160 were male and 168 female. There were 53 households living in 55 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 Kharayib Umm al Lahim was as follows: 46% were less than 15 years old, 44.5% 15 – 64

years old, and 3% aged 65 years or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 95.2:100, meaning that males and females constituted 48.8% and 51.2% of the population respectively.

Families

Kharayib Umm al Lahim residents are primarily from the Thubab (Faqih) family (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate among Kharayib Umm al Lahim population was approximately 7.5%, of whom 43.8% were females. Of the literate population, 18.3% could only read and write with no formal education, 34.3% had elementary education, 31% had preparatory education, 5.2% had secondary education, and 3.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Kharayib Umm al Lahim by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Kharayib Umm al Lahim population (10 years old and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007

S E x	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Elem- entary	Prepa- ratory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bach- elor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	9	20	36	42	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	113
F	7	19	37	25	9	2	1	-	-	-	-	100
T	16	39	73	67	11	3	4	-	-	-	-	213

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There is one public school in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Khirbet Umm al Lahim Co-educated Elementary School, and there are no kindergartens in the village (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There are 47 students, 11 teachers, and 6 classes (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 4, and the average number of students per class is approximately 8 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Due to the absence of some levels of education in the village's school students attend schools in neighboring villages' schools, including Shuhada' Qatanna Elementary & Secondary Boys Schools in Qatanna, Qatanna Girls Preparatory School in Qatanna, and Al Qubeiba Girls High School in Al Qubeiba, each of which is about 5km from the village (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

The educational sector in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village faces some obstacles, primarily (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010):

- The shortage of transportations to schools.
- The lack of some educational levels in schools.

Health Status

There are no health centers available in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village. Therefore, patients are sent to Qatanna Health Center in Qatanna town (5km from the village), Biddu Health Center in Biddu town (6km from the village), or Az Zawiya Center in Beit Surik (7km from the village) (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

The health sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, mainly (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010):

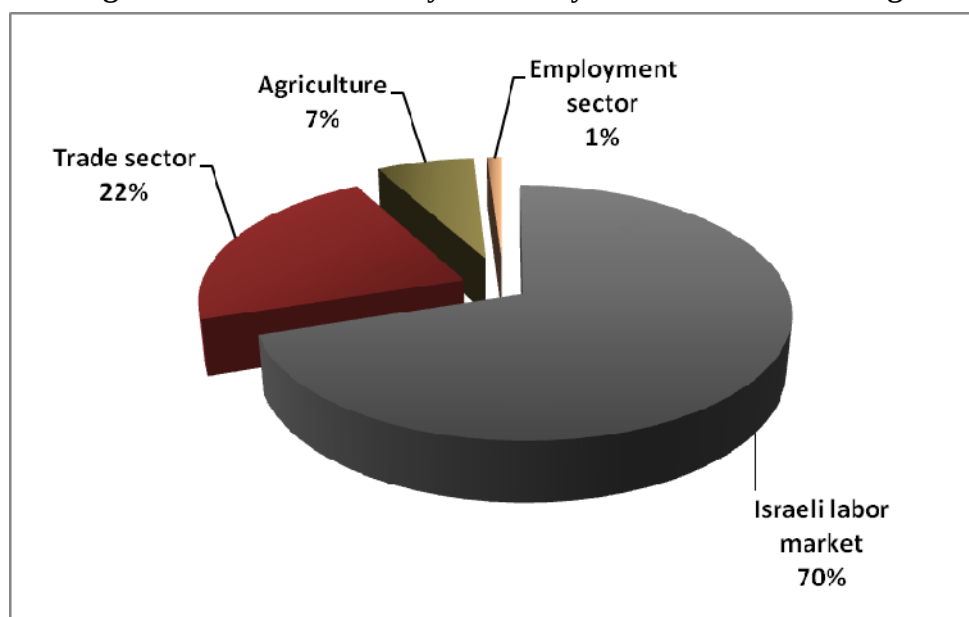
- The lack of health centers in the village.
- The long distances between the village and neighboring health centers.

Economic Activities

The economy in Kharayib Umm al Lahim is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 70% of the workforce (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010) (See Figure 1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2010 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Kharayib Umm al Lahim is as follows:

- Israeli labor market (70%)
- Trade sector (22%)
- Agriculture sector (7%)
- Government or private employees sector (1%)

Figure 1: Economic activity in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village

Source: Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010

There are no commercial and industrial productions in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village except the poultry trade (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Kharayib Umm al Lahim has reached around 20% in 2010 (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010), and it was found that the social group most affected in the village as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures is workers in the agriculture sector (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 31.9% of Kharayib Umm al Lahim's labor force was economically active, of whom 70.6% were employed, and 67.6% were not economically active, of whom 59% were students and 33.3% were housekeepers (See table 2).

Table 2: Kharayib Umm al Lahim population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

S E X	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un- known	Total
	Emp- loyed	Currently Un- employed	Un- employed (Never worked)	Total	Stud- ents	House- keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	46	6	13	65	42	-	4	-	1	47	1	113
F	2	-	1	3	43	48	3	-	3	97	-	100
T	48	6	14	68	85	48	7	-	4	144	1	213

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

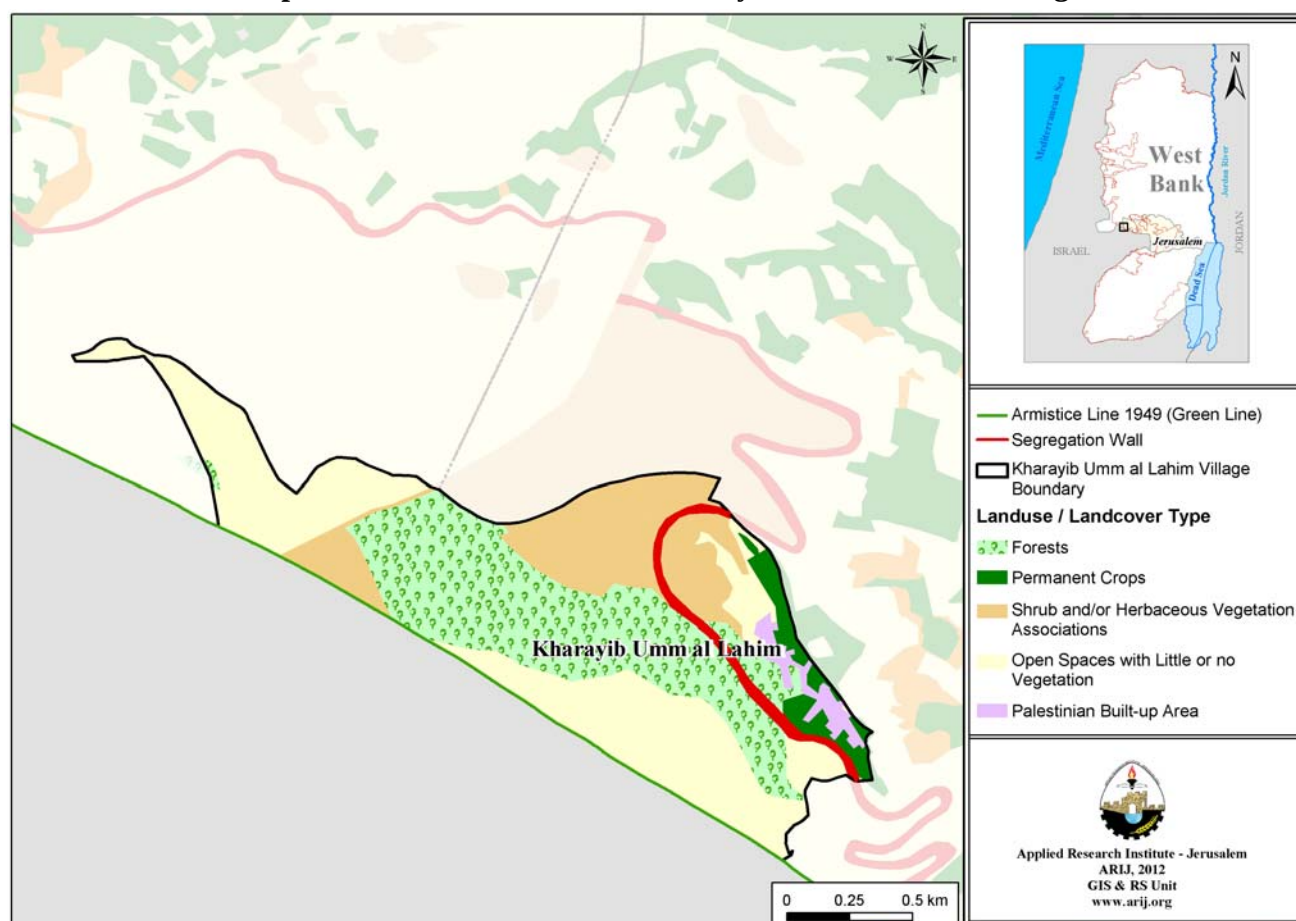
Kharayib Umm al Lahim has a total area of around 2,036 dunums of which 1,179 are considered 'arable' land and 48 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See table 3 and map 3).

Table 3: Land use and land cover in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,179)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
2,036	48	78	0	401	700	0	0	750	0	59

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 4 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Kharayib Umm al Lahim is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 44 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 4: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village (dunum)

Fruit trees	Rainfed	Irrigated
Olives	44	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	3	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	8	0
Other fruits	35	0
Total Area	90	0

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Kharayib Umm al Lahim only cereals, particularly wheat and barley, are being cultivated in the village covering an area of about 15 dunums (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010).

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.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that half of the residents in Kharayib Umm al Lahim (50%) rear and keep domestic animals such as goats and sheep (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010) (See Table 5).

Table 5: Livestock in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are also around 16 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010), divided as follows:

Table 6: Agricultural roads in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village and their lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	-
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	8
Unsuitable	6

Source: Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010

The agricultural sector in the village faces some obstacles, mainly:

- The confiscation of lands.
- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The existence of the Segregation Wall.
- The annexation of agricultural and pastoral lands behind the Wall.

Institutions and Services

Kharayib Umm al Lahim village has no governmental institutions, and only one local association that provides services to the various segments of society, which is (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010):

- **Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Interior with the goal of solving issues in the village and providing various services to its population.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Kharayib Umm al Lahim has been connected to a public electricity network since 2002. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Kharayib Umm al Lahim is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 20% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Transportation Services

20 unlicensed/illegal cars are the main means of transportation in Kharayib Umm al Lahim village (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010). There are 6.8km of designated ‘main’ roads (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010) (See Table 7).

Table 7: Roads in Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	-	-
Paved but in poor condition	5	-
Unpaved	1.8	-

Source: Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010

Water Resources

Kharayib Umm al Lahim is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 2007. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010). The quantity of water supplied to Kharayib Umm al Lahim in 2010 was approximately 4,800 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Kharayib Umm al Lahim is 36 liters per day. Water supply for Kharayib Umm al Lahim residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organisation (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

The village has 20 rainwater harvesting cisterns, which, in addition to water tanks costing 25 NIS per each cubic meter, are an alternative resource of water in the village, as the quantity of water supplied to the village is considered insufficient and does not meet the residents’ needs (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Sanitation

Kharayib Umm al Lahim lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits as their main means of wastewater disposal (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 11 cubic meters, or 3,840 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 29 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

The Joint Services Council for Development and Planning in north-west Jerusalem (B) is the official body for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee (around 10 NIS/month) has been charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Kharayib Umm al Lahim benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 5 small-sized containers distributed throughout the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste once a week and then transports it using a waste vehicle to a dumping site shared with neighboring localities¹ that is located 9km outside of the village, where it is buried (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Kharayib Umm al Lahim is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Kharayib Umm al Lahim residents is nearly 0.3 tons, or 92.7 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and camps in the Governorate, Kharayib Umm al Lahim 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 village for several reasons:

- Israeli control over Palestinian water resources, forcing the residents to buy large quantities of expensive water tanks.
- The lack of a public water reservoir in the village to cover the residents' water needs during water cut-offs.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Kharayib Umm al Lahim 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 cause environmental damage, health problems, and facilitate 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. Additionally,

¹ Beit 'Anan dumping site.

the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas with no 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 Kharayib Umm al Lahim 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. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is hazardous to health, 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.
- There is no system in the village and the governorate to separate hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, so hazardous and industrial solid waste are collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to Beit Anan landfill for disposal by burial.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Kharayib Umm al Lahem Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Kharayib Umm al Lahem village (2,036 dunums) was classified as part of area 'C', where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In area 'C' Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration.

Kharayib Umm al Lahem Village and Israeli Occupation Practices

After the war of 1948, the Israeli state was established on 78% of the territory of historic Palestine. The armistice line (also known as the Green Line) was drawn in 1949 between the occupied lands and the rest of Palestine, which is known now as the West Bank (later under the control of Jordan). A portion of the disputed land to the north-west of Jerusalem city along the armistice line was considered to be 'no man's land'. Accordingly, part of Kharayib Umm al Lahem was decreed to be No Man's Land.

In 1986 the Israeli Border Police uprooted hundreds of olive trees on the land of Youssef Mustafa Al Faqih in No Man's Land. Youssef, with the assistance of peace activists and international volunteers, replanted the land with olive seedlings. Later, however, the Israeli police again uprooted the trees, claiming that the land is owned by the state of Israel. They alleged that the land was confiscated and given to the Israeli Custodian of Absentee Property in 1948. The land has been turned into a nature reserve where access is prohibited, despite the ability of the legal owners to prove their ownership of this area.

Between 1994 and 1996, the Israeli Border Police attacked Youssef's land for the third time and uprooted more than 1800 olive trees. Through these actions and by confiscating a large section of

agricultural lands in the village, the Israeli state destroyed the residents' livelihoods, economic well-being, and traditional employment. The village has been left with a few dunums of built-up land and some land planted with fruit trees.

Kharayib Umm al Lahem and the Israeli Segregation Wall

The Segregation Wall has had a negative and destructive impact on the village of Kharayib Umm al Lahem. According to the last amendment, published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry (30th April 2007), the Wall will extend over 2 km of Kharayib Umm al Lahem and will isolate 1,699 dunums (66.1% of the total area of Kharayib Umm al Lahem) from the western side of the village. The isolated areas are open space and agricultural lands which form an important source of capital for many Palestinian families in the village (Table 8).

Table 8: The land classification of the isolated lands to the west side of the Segregation Wall in Kharayib Umm al Lahem Village - Jerusalem Governorate

No.	Land classification	Area (dunUmms)
1	Agricultural areas	1,358
2	Open space	302
3	Wall zone	39
Total		1,699

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Suffering Caused for Kharayib Umm al Lahem Residents by the Segregation Wall

Palestinian farmers in Kharayib Umm al Lahem are denied access to their lands isolated behind the Wall. They cannot access their lands without a permit issued by the Israeli Liaison Office allowing them to pass through gates within the Wall. Access to isolated agricultural lands is limited to those farmers who are able to prove their land ownership to the Israeli Civil Administration. Permits² are issued to those whose names are listed in the property ownership documents, usually elderly people. Additionally, the Israeli Civil Administration issues these permits seasonally. Finally, issued permits do not allow the labor force or equipment farmers necessary to cultivate isolated land appropriately.

Ramallah City as a Substitute for Jerusalem City

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Palestinians living in Kharayib Umm al Lahem and other villages have lost their link with Jerusalem City, previously the primary source of employment, educational, and health services. Residents of Kharayib Umm al Lahem have therefore started using Ramallah City to fulfill these needs. Until 2002, residents of Kharayib Umm al Lahem were able to use Israeli bypass road 443 to access Ramallah; they have now been prohibited from using this road by Israeli authorities and must travel using indirect roads with poor infrastructure to Ramallah and other villages. Israel built concrete and steel barriers and imposed fines on Palestinians to prevent them from using the bypass road. This has caused many people living in Kharayib Umm Lahem to move to

² Obtaining a permit is not an easy process, and it is usually denied for the owners of the isolated lands.

Ramallah to avoid delays and disruptions caused by Israeli obstacles to travel and routine mistreatment at Israeli checkpoints.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council has implemented few development projects in Kharayib Umm al Lahim during the past five years (See Table 9).

Table 9: Implemented development plans and projects in Kharayib Umm al Lahim during the last five years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
The water network project	Infrastructure	2007	The German Government
Pavement of roads	Infrastructure	2008	Islamic Bank

Source: Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010

Proposed Projects

Kharayib Umm al Lahim 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 perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Expanding the village structural plan.
2. Constructing and paving agricultural roads.
3. Reclaiming agricultural lands.
4. Constructing a headquarters for the village council.
5. Establishing a women's center.

Village Development Priorities and Needs

Kharayib Umm al Lahim suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 11 shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the village council's feedback (Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010).

Table 11: Development priorities and needs in Kharayib Umm al Lahim

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			9km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
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		*		100 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			10 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			one health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			preparatory & secondary levels
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			10 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			5 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			100 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*	

*5km are main roads, 2km are sub roads and 2km are agricultural.

Source: Kharayib Umm al Lahim Village Council, 2010.

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