

Kafr Qaddum 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 Qalqiliya Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Qalqiliya 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 Qalqiliya Governorate.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Qalqiliya Governorate. In addition, the project aims 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>.

Table of Contents

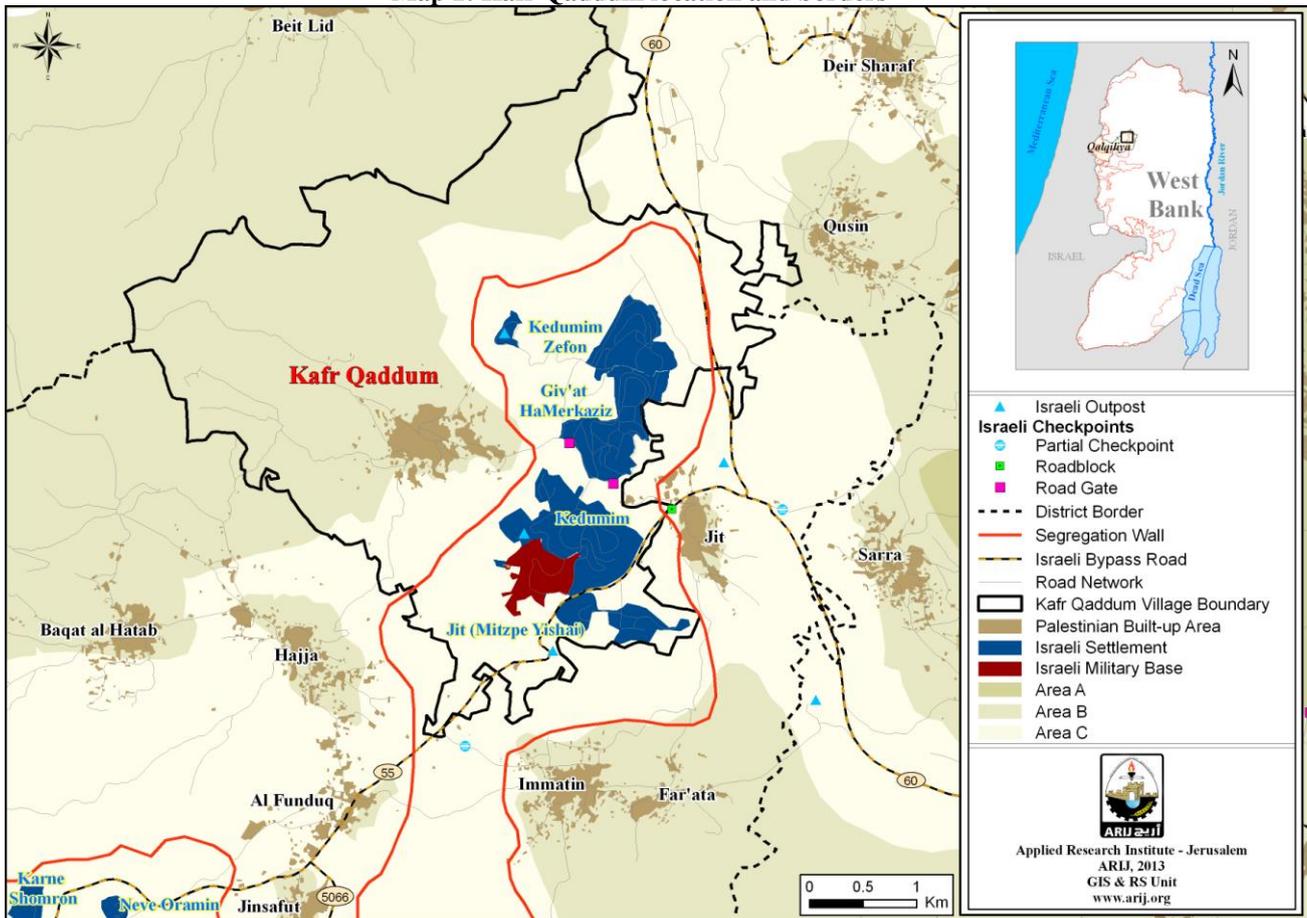
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i> _____	4
<i>History</i> _____	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i> _____	6
<i>Population</i> _____	6
<i>Education</i> _____	7
<i>Health Status</i> _____	8
<i>Economic Activities</i> _____	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i> _____	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i> _____	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i> _____	12
<i>Environmental Conditions</i> _____	14
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i> _____	15
<i>Implemented Projects</i> _____	19
<i>Proposed Projects</i> _____	19
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i> _____	20
<i>References</i> _____	21

Kafr Qaddum Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Kafr Qaddum is a Palestinian village in Qalqiliya Governorate, located 17.32km north-east of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Jit village to the east, Immatin village to the south, Kur village (in Tulkarem Governorate) and Hajja village to the west, and Beit Lid (in Tulkarem Governorate) and Qusin and Deir Sharaf (in Nablus Governorate) to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Kafr Qaddum location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Kafr Qaddum is located at an altitude of 379m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 580mm. The average annual temperature is 18°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

The classification of the residential areas borders has been adopted in this profile based on the administrative division of Palestinian communities, according to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). This administrative division system has been developed by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), and the Central Election Commission (CEC).

Since 1995, Kafr Qaddum has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 6 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 5 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the First Joint Services Council (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Kafr Qaddum, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection and public services.
- Road rehabilitation and construction.

(Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012)

History

The word 'Kafr' literally means village while the word 'Qaddum' is believed to be converted from the Syriac word 'Qadama' which means the advanced or progressive, thus Kafr Qaddum means the village of the advanced. It is also said that Prophet Ibrahim al Khalili passed through the village, and there is therefore a shrine named after him (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

The village was established more than 3000 years ago, with its residents descending from the Arabian Peninsula (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

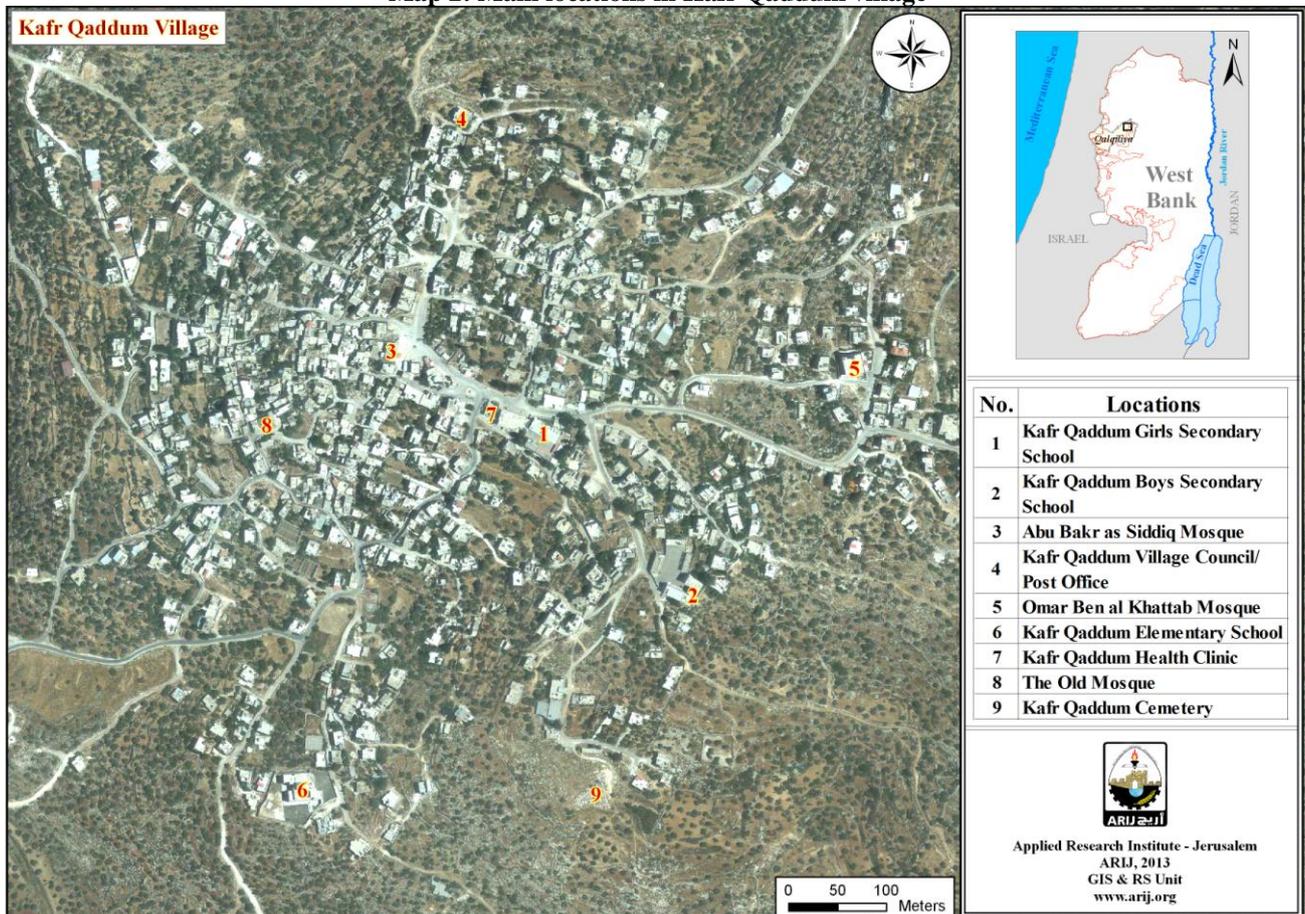
Photo of Kafr Qaddum



Religious and archaeological sites

There are three mosques in the village, Omar Ben Abd al ‘Aziz, Abu Bakr as Siddiq and the Old Mosques. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including the Old City, the Old Mosque and the Shrine to Prophet Ibrahim al Khalili. (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Kafr Qaddum village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Kafr Qaddum in 2007 was 2,824, of whom 1,446 were male and 1,378 female. There were 490 households registered as living in 564 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Kafr Qaddum was as follows: 42.4% were less than 15 years of age, 52.4% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 5.2% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 104.9:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.2% and 48.8% of the population, respectively.

Families

Kafr Qaddum residents are from several families, including Shteivi, Jum'a, 'Obeid, Barham, Ali and 'Amer (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among Kafr Qaddum's population is approximately 8.1%, of whom 83% are females. Of the total population, 11.1% could only read and write with no formal education, 21.5% had elementary education, 26.3% had preparatory education, 18.3% had secondary education, and 14.4% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Kafr Qaddum by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Kafr Qaddum population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	28	103	232	274	207	68	107	6	7	0	0	1,032
F	137	125	209	269	168	30	77	0	0	0	0	1,015
T	165	228	441	543	375	98	184	6	7	0	0	2,047

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are three public schools in the village, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. However, there are no kindergartens in the village (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012) (see table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Kafr Qaddum by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Kafr Qaddum Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Kafr Qaddum Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Kafr Qaddum Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 933 students, 61 teachers, and 38 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 25 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

The educational sector in Kafr Qaddum village faces a number of obstacles; mainly:

- The long distance between the village and the elementary school.
- The girls' school classrooms are old and in need of rehabilitation.
- The lack of classrooms in some schools.
- The lack of experienced teaching staff.

(Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012)

Health status

Kafr Qaddum has three general physician clinics (one governmental, one private and one run by UNRWA), and a private dental clinic. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital in Qalqiliya city (27km away), or to Rafidiya Hospital or Nablus Specialized Hospital in Nablus city, both of which are 15 km away (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

As well as harassment from the Israeli forces, the health sector in the village faces a number of other obstacles:

- The lack of a resident physician working on daily basis in the health center.
- The lack of an ambulance.
- The lack of specialized clinics and medical labs in the village.
- The long distances between the village and hospitals.
- The existence of partial checkpoints on the road leading to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital and the health centers in Nablus city.
- The closure of the main road linking the village with Nablus city.

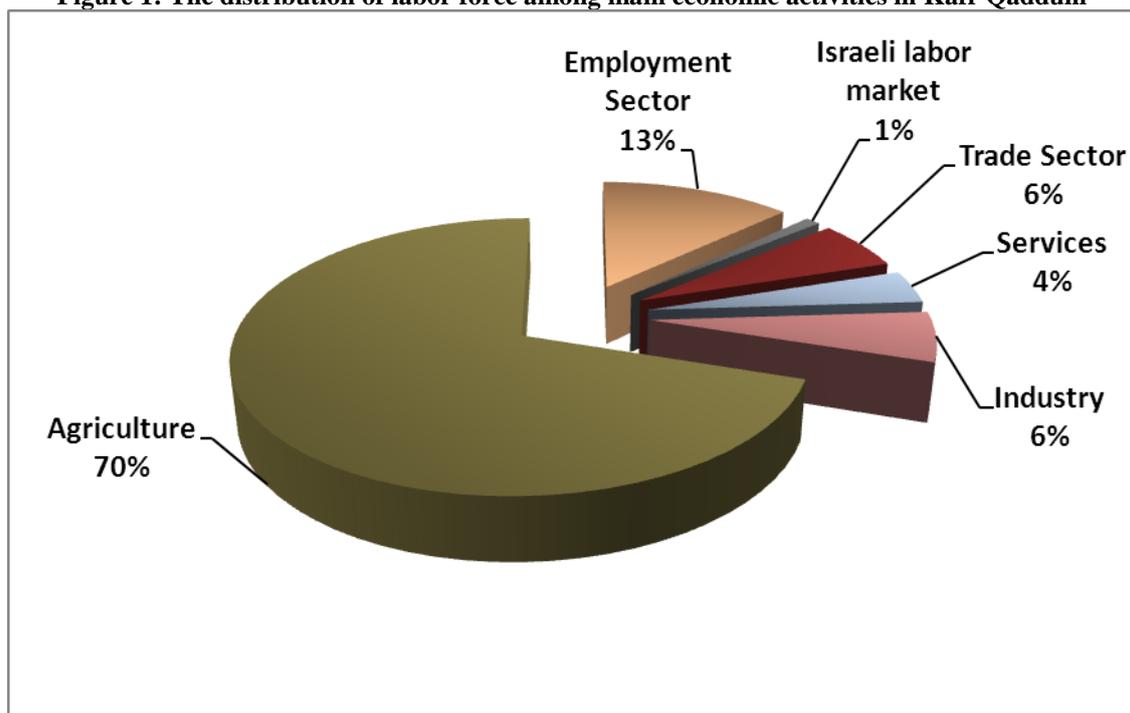
(Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012)

Economic activities

The economy in Kafr Qaddum is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 70% of the village's workforce (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Kafr Qaddum are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (70%)
- Government or other employees sector (13%)
- Trade sector (6%)
- Industry (6%)
- Services sector (4%)
- Israeli labor market (1%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Kafr Qaddum

Source: Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012

Kafr Qaddum has 17 groceries, 5 fruit and vegetable stores, 2 olive oil presses and 7 agricultural nurseries (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Kafr Qaddum reached 25%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the services sector.

(Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012)

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 30.5% of Kafr Qaddum's labor force was economically active, of whom 92.5% were employed, 69.5% were not economically active, 54.5% were students, and 32.3% were housekeepers (see table 4).

Table 4: Kafr Qaddum population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	511	32	14	557	382	2	59	12	20	475	0	1,032
F	66	0	1	67	393	457	94	2	2	948	0	1,015
T	577	32	15	624	775	459	153	14	22	1,423	0	2,047

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

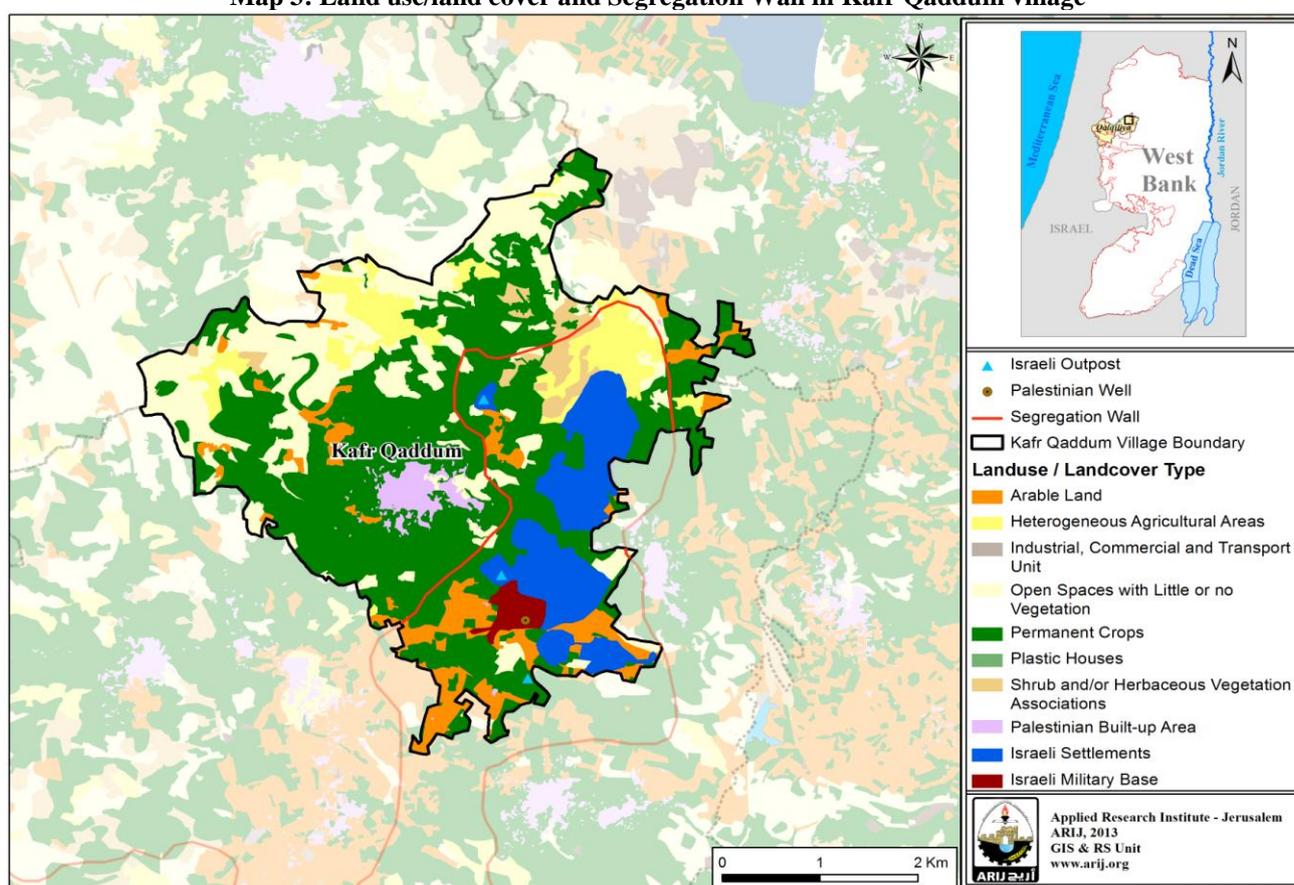
Kafr Qaddum has a total area of approximately 18,783 dunums of which 12,397 are arable land and 396 dunums are registered as residential (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Kafr Qaddum village (area in dunums)

Total Area	Built up area	Agricultural area (12,397)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Greenhouses	Rangelands	Arable lands					
18,783	396	10,338	1	533	1,525	0	0	3,724	4	2,262

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Kafr Qaddum village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Kafr Qaddum. The most commonly cultivated crops in this area are okra and snake cucumber. About 4 dunums in Qaddum are cultivated with different types of vegetables in Green-houses.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Kafr Qaddum (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
30	0	0	0	25	0	5	0	0	0	60	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Kafr Qaddum is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 7,100 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Kafr Qaddum (area in dunums)

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.
7,100	0	0	2	75	0	0	0	64	0	70	0	7,309	2

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Kafr Qaddum, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 180 dunums (see table 8).

Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in Kafr Qaddum (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
180	0	0	0	7	0	3	0	30	0	0	0	9	0	229	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in size of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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 and they 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 15% of the residents in Kafr Qaddum rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats and others (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Kafr Qaddum

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
27	391	756	0	0	0	0	37,000	1,500	259

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 50km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 10: Agricultural roads in Kafr Qaddum village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	3
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	14
For animals only	25
Unsuitable	8

Source: Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The lack of pastures and the high cost of feed.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of proper planning for projects.
- The limited economic feasibility of agricultural production.

(Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

Kafr Qaddum village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Kafr Qaddum Village Council:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services and infrastructure for its residents.
- **Kafr Qaddum Livestock Society:** A cooperative society founded in 2008 by the village residents, interested in livestock.
- **Kafr Qaddum Agricultural Society:** A cooperative society founded in 2006 by the village residents, specialized in marketing olive oil.
- **Kafr Qaddum Sports Club:** Founded in 2006 by the village residents. The club provides sports and cultural activities and organizes summer camps. (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Kafr Qaddum has been connected to a public electricity network since 2009. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 95% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the inability to connect the new subscribers to the electricity network (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Kafr Qaddum is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

There are 9 taxis and 3 public buses in Kafr Qaddum, but as this is not sufficient, some residents use private cars. The residents also suffer some obstacles concerning transport, mainly the closure of the village's main road, the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints, the existence of the Segregation Wall and the poor infrastructure of the main roads (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012). There are 13km of main roads and 17km of secondary roads in Kafr Qaddum (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Kafr Qaddum village

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	7	2
2. Paved and in poor condition	6	7
3. Unpaved	0	8

Source: Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012

Water resources:

Kafr Qaddum is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1983. Approximately 90% of the housing units are connected to the network (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Kafr Qaddum village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 360,000 cubic meters/year (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 301 liters/day. However, no Kafr Qaddum citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 40% (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012). These losses happen at the main source, along major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Kafr Qaddum is 181 liters per day (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Kafr Qaddum residents is considered good compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4.5 NIS (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

The village also has 90 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

Kafr Qaddum lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits as the main means of wastewater disposal (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 473 cubic meters, or 172,800 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 145 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. It is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both the environment and public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid waste management:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste 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 amounting to 30 NIS per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. Approximately 60% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Kafr Qaddum benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 40

containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zahret al Finjan dumping site in Jenin Governorate, 70km from the village, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Kafr Qaddum is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Kafr Qaddum residents is nearly 2.3 tons, or 836 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Kafr Qaddum 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 the summer in several village neighborhoods due to the Israeli control over Palestinian water resources which causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. In addition, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies in order to meet the citizens' water needs. There is also a very high rate of water loss (40%) from the network, which is in need of renovation.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Kafr Qaddum residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. 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, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. 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

Kafr Qaddum village does not suffer any problems concerning the management of solid waste, as the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environmentally-friendly landfill serving the village, as well as most of the other localities in the Qalqiliya Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Kafr Qaddum

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Kafr Qaddum was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 8,384 dunums (44.6% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth noting that all of the population of Kafr Qaddum resides in area B, which constitutes 10,399 dunums (55.4% of the total area), where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited without consent or authorization from the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements built on the village territory (see table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Kafr Qaddum according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement of 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	8,384	44.6
Area C	10,399	55.4
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	18,783	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation practices in Kafr Qaddum village

Kafr Qaddum village has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts and bypass roads on the village territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan realized through the Segregation Wall. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have had a negative impact on Kafr Qaddum village.

During the years of occupation to date(2013), Israel has confiscated 2,031 dunums of land in Kafr Qaddum (10.8% of its total area) to establish the Israeli settlements of Kedumim, Kedumim Zefon, Jit (Mitzpe Yishai), and Giv'at HaMerkaziz. It is worth noting that these settlements are established over Kafr Qaddum as well as Jit lands (a neighboring village). These settlements constitute a part of the settlement bloc Ariel Kedumim. In 2005 Israel announced a plan to annex all Israeli settlements in the West Bank into Israel, considering them an essential part of the Israeli state as they “... contribute to security, to political standing, to the economy and to the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel” as stated by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American president George Bush (11th April 2005). This includes the annexation of all the settlement blocs of Ma'ale Adummim, Ariel, Giv'at Ze'ev, Gush Etzion and Mod'in Illit . When the Wall construction is completed in 2014, Israel will annex 107 settlements into its borders including all of those huge settlement blocs, as well as other settlements in the Western Segregation zone.

During the last two decades, Israel has established 232 outposts across the West Bank. Typically mobile caravans established by settlers on stolen lands, outposts often form the nuclei of new

settlements and tend to be an extension of a nearby ‘mother settlement’. The epidemic of Israeli outpost construction began with a Sharonian call for Jewish settlers to take control of Palestinian hilltops to prevent them from being transferred to Palestinians during negotiations. Although consecutive Israeli governments have not officially sanctioned these illegal outposts, the state provides them with military protection and infrastructure services, facilitating their permanent existence and encouraging further expansion. After 2001, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implicitly sanctioned the expansion of outposts, which led to an increased number being constructed. Israeli Occupation Forces have assisted the Israeli settlers in moving to and settling in these outposts, as well as protecting them and providing infrastructure to guarantee their continued survival. Around 3 outposts are constructed over the lands of Kafr Qaddum to the east of the village; Har Hemed, Shevut Ami and a third outpost located to the north of Kedumim settlement (ARIJ – GIS, 2013).

Segregation Wall Plan in Kafr Qaddum village

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Kafr Qaddum village. According to the latest amendments to the route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30th April 2007, the Wall will extend 7.2km on to Kafr Qaddum lands to the east and south of the village and will isolate 7,175 dunums (38.2% of the village's total area). The confiscated lands include open spaces, agricultural lands, and forests (see table 12).

Table 12: Classification of land confiscated for the construction of the Segregation Wall in Kafr Qaddum – Qalqiliya Governorate

No.	Land classification	Area in dunums
1	Agricultural lands	4,136
2	Open spaces	771
3	Israeli settlements	2,031
4	Israeli military bases	231
5	Palestinian residential areas	6
6	Total	7,175

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Bypass roads in Kafr Qaddum

The term ‘bypass roads’ appeared during the era of the Oslo agreements (September 1993), which were agreed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Israel. The term refers to the roads opened by the Israelis in the occupied Palestinian territories to link the Israeli settlements established in the West Bank to Israel. Since then, Israel has put substantial efforts in to increasing the number of bypass roads in the West Bank as an artifact, which would eventually affect the Israeli-Palestinian negotiation, including the establishment of a geographically connected and viable Palestinian state. During the 46 years of the Israeli occupation to date, Israel has been able to illegally construct 810km of bypass roads across the West Bank. According to the Oslo Agreement, Palestinians were allowed to use these roads. However, since the outbreak of the Second Intifada on 30th September 2000, the Israeli Occupation Authorities have prohibited Palestinians from using these roads under the pretext of ‘security reasons.’ The establishment of bypass roads has also prevented the development of Palestinian communities in the West Bank, as the roads have created numerous obstacles. In 2004, Israel proposed a road network plan that would divert the movement of

Palestinians away from these bypass roads and reserve them exclusively for Israelis. This enhance the control of the Israeli Authorities on the areas around the roads, and deny the Palestinians the right of movement within their land. Kafr Qaddum is one of the many Palestinian communities that has suffered land confiscation for the construction of bypass road no.55 in the south and road no.60 in the east.

Israeli Occupation attacks on lands and properties in Kafr Qaddum village

On 30th April 2010, Israeli settlers from the Havat Gil'ad outpost attacked an area called Al Habayel to the south east of the village and destroyed 35 olive trees owned by Saleh Ismail Eshtewi. The settlers using sharp tools to damage the trees. The Israeli Occupation Authorities prohibited Eshtewi from accessing his land under the pretext of ensuring the security of the Israeli settlers.

On 22nd June 2010, the Israeli Civil Administration verbally informed the Palestinians living in Kafr Qaddum that they had to stop their construction work on an agricultural road connecting the village with the agricultural areas in the Al –Wajeh Al –Shami area on the north eastern side. The 2km long road was funded by USAID and supposed to be worked on by the CHF in cooperation with the village council. It was designed to serve 100 Palestinian farmers living in the village, particularly those who had encountered obstacles in accessing their lands due to the practices of the Israeli Authorities and settlers in Kedumim settlements.

On 22nd October 2010, a group of Israeli settlers from Kedumim attacked the eastern side of the village, which used to be the main entrance to the village but had been closed since 2000. They attacked some of the Palestinian houses and wrote insulting and humiliating phrases in Hebrew on their walls, threatening the Palestinian families. They also attacked the cemetery, wrote on the gravestones and drew the Star of David.

On 1st July 2011, during the weekly demonstrations held by the residents of the village and their supporters against the closure of the main entrance to the village on the southern side since 2003, the Israeli Occupation Authorities fired tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the demonstrators which led to the burning of many olive trees of 25 dunums in an area known as Al Khawarej. The destroyed land is owned by a number of farmers in the village; they are Adnan Abdulmahdi Ali (22 beehives were completely burnt), Abdulsalam Abdulmahdi Ali (24 olive trees were partially burnt), Ali Said Ali (22 olive trees were partially burnt), and Jawad Abdul Karim Ubeid (40 olive trees partially burnt).

On 28th June 2012, the Israeli Occupation Forces handed a military order to the farmer Nazmi Hasan Yussef, forcing him to stop his construction work establishing two water cisterns for agricultural purposes. The construction work was being carried out by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. The volume capacity of each cistern was 45m³ and they were intended to irrigate 71 dunums of almond and olive trees in an area known as Harayeq Abed in the south east of the village. It is worth noting that the two cisterns lay in area C, which is under complete Israeli control. Harayq Abed is considered the most fertile area in the village and Palestinian landowners often face many difficulties in accessing their lands as a result of the actions of the Israeli Occupation Forces and the settlers.

Israeli military orders in Kafr Qaddum village

The Israeli Occupation Authorities have published a series of military orders against Palestinians living in Kafr Qaddum village, as follows:

- Military order 7/15/T: published on 29th April 2007 to confiscate 9.5 dunums in Kafr Qaddum in order to construct a bypass road to the west of the Kedumim settlement.
- Military order 10/22/T: published on 22nd August 2010 to confiscate 11.2 dunums in Kafr Qaddum to construct a bypass road leading to the Kedumim settlement.
- Amendment to military order 21/95/T of 1995, to confiscate land in Kafr Qaddum for security reasons. The amendment was published on 1st December 2011, and the attached maps showed that the confiscation was in fact to enable the construction of a new bypass road to the south of the Kedumim settlement.

Israeli military checkpoints in Kafr Qaddum village

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada, the Israeli Occupation Forces increased the number of military checkpoints across the West Bank and imposed numerous restrictions on the movement of Palestinians. Palestinians undergo many forms of humiliation and abuse at these checkpoints, including beatings, verbal humiliation, strip searches and detention for hours under the sun or in cold weather before being granted permission from the soldiers to cross the checkpoint. This suffering has had a negative impact on social relations amongst Palestinians and has led to economic separation between Palestinian communities, high unemployment, internal immigration and disruption of daily life. Israeli soldiers at checkpoints also stop, check and detain doctors and medical staff before allowing them to cross checkpoints, even in emergency situations. At many checkpoints, soldiers impose time restrictions for when Palestinians are allowed to cross, which causes gross inconvenience and often a lot of suffering.

The suffering of Palestinians in Kafr Qaddum is similar to that of other villages in the Qalqiliya Governorate, as they were affected by the blocking of the main road leading to the village from the southern side after the outbreak of the Second Intifada (September 2000). The closure was under the pretext of providing security to the established Israeli settlements in the area, but it has led to significant financial losses as Palestinians now have to take alternative longer routes to reach their destinations. For example, students, employees and others have to travel 19km instead of 6km to get to Nablus at an increased cost as well as journey time. The agricultural sector in the village also went into financial crisis, as the agricultural lands lie on the other side of the closed road, creating insurmountable obstacles for Palestinian farmers trying to access their lands.

The road closure also had a negative impact on the health sector due to the Israeli occupation violations in detaining the sick at checkpoints for hours and not allowing them to pass through, forcing them to travel alternative longer routes despite their poor health.

Israeli settlements: areas of national priority

During a meeting held on 29th January 2012, the Israeli government approved a new settlement project entitled 'Areas of national priority.' The project includes a series of financial benefits and allocations granted to targeted areas. According to the plan, the Israeli government will include 557 communities in the project, including 90 illegal Israeli settlements (Karne Shomron is on the list) built illegally on the territory of the West Bank. The financial allocations and grants comprise of agricultural and industrial allocations such as providing guarantees and agricultural and industrial tax benefits, supporting rural settlements, participating in the development of the industrial facilities and infrastructure, grants for industrial research and development, funding scientific research and innovation centers and supporting employment, in addition to housing incentives and lowering land prices. This project plan was first announced in 2002, when the Israeli Prime Minister of the time, Ariel Sharon, presented a map of the proposed Israeli communities and classified them as 'areas of national priority.' Later, in the era of Olmert and Netanyahu, some amendments were made to the plan.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Kafr Qaddum Village Council has implemented only one development project in Kafr Qaddum during the past five years, which is the construction of Kafr Qaddum Boys' Elementary School in 2012. The project was implemented with funding from the Belgium Government (Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012).

Proposed projects

Kafr Qaddum Village Council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a public water reservoir (500m³ capacity) and renovating the public water network (17km long).
2. Constructing new agricultural roads (10km long), and reclaiming and rehabilitating other agricultural roads (20km long).
3. Establishing a sewerage network (20km long).
4. Establishing an elementary school for girls.
5. Establishing a kindergarten.
6. Establishing a club and a cultural forum.
7. Reclaiming 4,500 dunums of agricultural land, 2,000 dunums of which are in area C.
8. Expanding and rehabilitating the elementary school's road (180m long).
9. Constructing secondary roads (7km long), and paving other roads (3km long).

Locality development priorities and needs

Kafr Qaddum suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 13: Development priorities and needs in Kafr Qaddum

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			29km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			30km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			6km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			1000m ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			30km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection			*	
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools			*	
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools	*			An elementary school for girls
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Kafr Qaddum old school
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			8,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			100 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		30 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			500 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			3 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 6km main roads, 8km secondary roads and 15km agricultural roads.

Source: Kafr Qaddum Village Council, 2012

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