



مؤسسة المنتدى المدني
Civic Forum Institute



BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

A Regional Study
of some of the villages of the Bani Zayd area
in the Northwest Ramallah District

Supervised by:

Department of Architecture:

Dr. Jamal Amro

Dr. Nael Mousa

Department of Geography:

Dr. Hussain Reemawi

Instructor Khalil Amro.

Collected and organized by two students:

Mohammad Alshubi & Mundir Alshweki

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Sponsored by:

**Civic Forum Institute (CFI),
The Palestinian Economic Council for Development & Reconstruction (PECDAR),
CARE International, Catholic Relief Services and Western Bani Zayd Municipality**

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Acknowledgments

We would like to thank everybody who contributed to the accomplishment of this study and in particular:

Civic Forum Institute - which did its best to arrange a coordination meeting, which aimed at enhancing the standards of living in the Bani Zayd region.

The following that provided financial support towards the completion of the needs assessment:

The Palestinian Council for Development and Revitalization (PECDAR).

CARE International

Catholic Relief Services

The Municipality of West Bani Zayd that took up this study and offered help and support to accomplish it.

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A selected group of students from the Bir Zeit University Department of Geography.

The lecturers from Bir Zeit University who supervised this study including:

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General Project Summary

The West Bani Zayd Needs Assessment: A pioneering experience of collective work

A component of the mission and organizational focus of the Civic Forum Institute is to encourage collective work with governmental and non-governmental sector bodies. This focus has been the motivation for this study of the needs of the villages of the Bani Zayd region. In prosecution of that mission, a study of the needs of the Bani Zayd villages was carried out that culminated in this publication. This study took place primarily through the collaborative efforts of Civic Forum Institute and Bir Zeit University. The idea started as a desire of Civic Forum Institute to draw the attention of the local and international organizations and NGOs to many Palestinian areas that have been deprived of financial support to develop their communities. This matter moved Civic Forum Institute to coordinate with the municipality of West Bani Zayd in order to arrange a meeting between the local municipal councils in Bani Zayd and a group of local and international institutes working on different development projects. (A publication about this meeting is available from Civic Forum Institute in Arabic and English. Please refer to the Civic Forum Institute Website at www.cfip.org or email cfip@cfip.org and request the booklet about the meeting held in the Bani Zayd region in September 2002.) Because of this meeting, there was the suggestion to study the needs of those villages and to submit them to local and international institutes.

The initiative of Bir Zeit University, especially those of the Departments of Architecture and Geography, came out as an attempt to lay down foundations for a professional relationship between public institutes and different departments in the Palestinian universities. The initiative also prepared a foundation for the important role played by the Palestinian universities through the activation of their professional teams. It also aims at polishing the skills of graduate students and prepares them to join the Palestinian business community directly after their graduation.

Consequently, this study was accomplished through the interaction of the graduate students from the Departments of Architecture and Geography with the direct supervision of the lecturers of both departments. It is a good example of what a group of experts may produce. It is a testament to Civic Forum Institute that, despite its relatively young age as an institution, it expressed a strong commitment to the accomplishment of this needs assessment and put a significant effort of

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its administrative and field teams behind this initiative. This effort provides strong evidence for the effectiveness and strong distinguishing capabilities of Civic Forum Institute as an institution. This kind of cooperative work between the civil society community, the university system, the public, and the local municipal councils in Bani Zayd, can establish a solid basis for a unique experiment which can be implemented all over Palestine. This study also can be considered as a special source of information that, it is hoped, may offer help to local and international institutions in their planning work and projects in all fields and respects.

Moreover, the relationship, which has been developed between the Civic Forum Institute and the Municipality of West Bani Zayd, is a normal outcome of the Institute's concern with supporting local development and offering help to active municipal councils who wish to develop their role and serve their public. The nature of Civic Forum Institute's work with the Bani Zayd Multiplicity as a local partner drew it closer to wider sectors of the public and local organizations working at the grassroots level. Because of this grassroots focus, Civic Forum Institute has developed a large informational database about the needs in the marginalized areas in Palestine. Because of this knowledge base, it allows the institute the ability to offer advice and guidance to local and international institutes and draw their attention to marginalized areas that need urgent help.

Finally, we would like to thank all organizations that provided us with support to carry out this study including: The Palestinian Council for Urbanization and Development (PECDAR), CARE International and Catholic Relief Services. In addition, we wish to recognize the efforts of the academic staff in the Departments of Architecture and Geography at Bir Zeit University, the students who persevered to conduct the project activities and reached the studied areas, the Municipal council of West Bani Zayd and the other participating local councils who have all contributed to the achievement of this study.

Aref Jaffal, Executive Director

Civic Forum Institute, Jerusalem February 2004

Introduction

This study was prepared to provide diverse information about several of the villages of the northwest Ramallah region. It came about after the recommendation of the workshop that was held in the municipality of West Bani Zayd on 25 September 2002 and was organized and funded by the Civic Forum Institute. The study involves:

1. The municipality of West Bani Zayd (Beit Reemah and Der Ghassaneh)
2. The municipality of East Bani Zayd (Arorah, Abween, and Mazari Al Nubani)
3. Um Safah
4. Al Nabi Salih
5. Der Al Sudan
6. Kufir Ein
7. Qarawat Bani Zayd.

The study consists of six chapters. The first one is an introduction about the region. The second chapter is about the population and urbanization in the villages of Bani Zayd. The third chapter comprised a detailed analysis of the buildings in the studied communities. The fourth chapter talks about the infrastructure of the Bani Zayd villages. The fifth chapter talks about the details of the population in the subject villages. Finally, the sixth chapter talks about the needs and the problems of the analyzed villages.

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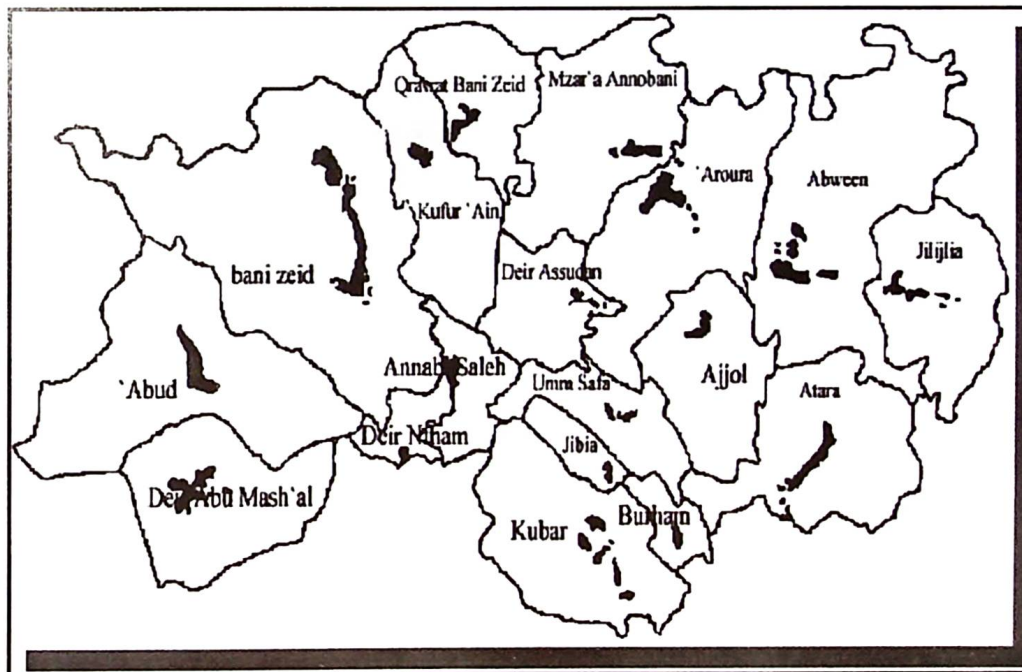
Chapter 1
General Introduction



1. A brief account of Bani Zayd Villages.

The Bani Zayd villages in Palestine are so important that they deserve study and concern. Many geographical, historical, economic, and social features distinguish them. They include 19 villages. These are Beit Reemah, Der Gasanneh, Arorah, Abween, Mazari Al-Nubani, Um Safah, Al Nabi Salih, Der Alsudan, Kufir Ein, Qarawat Bani Zayd, Burham, Ajul, Jebyah, Der Abu Mishal, Der Nizam, Autarah, Abud, Kobar and Jaljelyah. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of those villages in the year 2003 is about 36,000 people.

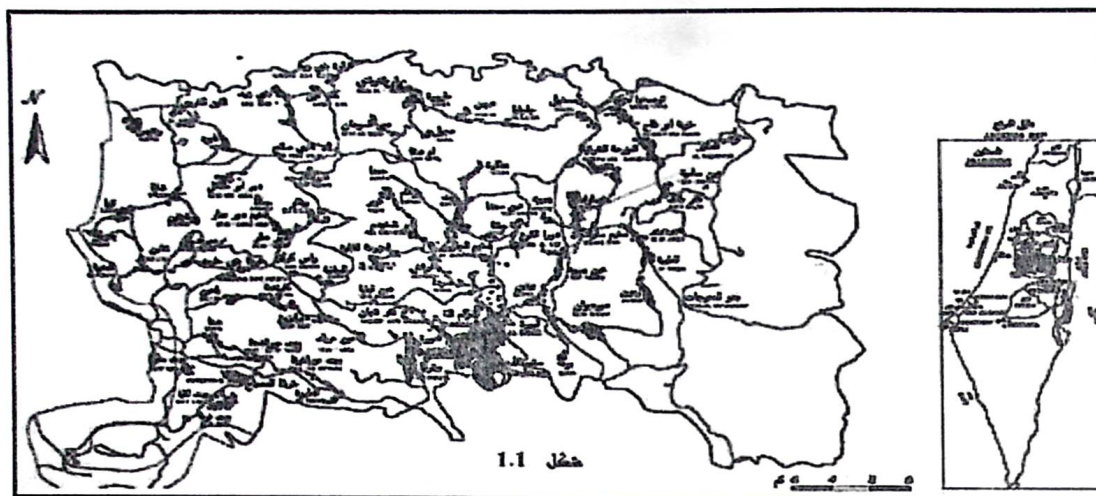
In our present research, we will concentrate only ten of those villages. These are: Beit Reemah, Der Ghassaneh, Arorah, Abween, Mazari Al-Nubani, Um Safah, Al Nabi Salih, Der Al Sudan, Kufir Ein, and Qarawat Bani Zayd.



1.1 Climate and Geographic location:

The Bani Zayd region of the Palestinian central mountains is located northwest of Ramallah and Al Birch governates at about 27 km from Ramallah to the northwest, near Salfet and to the south of Nablus city.

Map 2 : Ramallah and Al Bireh governates.



1.2 Borders and Topography:

On the northern borders of Bani Zayd region are located the Palestinian city of Salfet and the villages of Farkhah Qays and Amoriyah. To the south are located the town of Bir Zeit and the villages of Abu Shkhedim, Beit Ello and Jmala. East of Bani Zayd are located the villages of Aein Senyah, Aein Yabrud, Silwad, Sinjil and Almazraah Alsharqiyah. On the west of Bani Zayd are located the villages of Rafat, Allibban, Rantis and Kufir Deek.

The region of Bani Zayd includes a chain of 100 mountains of intermediate height at an elevation of about 500 meters above sea level. Those mountains extend from the mountains of Jaljelyah in the east to the mountains and hills of Der Abu Mishal in the west. The most famous places of the Bani Zayd region are Jablih, Kufir Tut and Ras Alam.

The total land area measures about two hundred and fifty thousand dunums and is distributed over 19 villages. Each of those villages has its own size and allocation of lands, natural resources and transmitted heritage.

1.3: Climate.

Palestine is located in the eastern region of the Mediterranean Sea, a region distinguished by:

Winter: It is constituted by the season of winter and some parts of autumn and spring. It occurs between November and April. However, sometimes rainfall starts in October and ends in the beginning of May. Although Palestine is a small country, the climate varies considerably from

one place to another due to its varying topography, extending to the seashores and the surrounding deserts on the east and south.

Dry Season: This constitutes summer time and parts of autumn and spring and it starts in May and continues until the beginning of November. High temperatures in the internal parts of the country and moderate temperatures in the western parts, which include the west Bani Zayd region that overlooks the Mediterranean Sea, distinguish it.

Sunlight and Temperature: The duration of sunlight depends on the day length and the astronomic location of the place. The longest day in Palestine is 14 hours long, which is June 21, when the sun shines directly on the Tropic of Cancer. The shortest day, however, is 10 hours long, which is December 22, when the sun's rays become perpendicular to the Tropic of Capricorn. Thus, the highest degree of the sun's rays occurs on June 21 and the lowest degree occurs on December 22. The sun's rays and heat increase during summer when clouds are rare, the sky is clear, and the day is long. During this period of the year, the sun is in the northern hemisphere; therefore, the sun's rays strike directly on the earth. However, during winter time the level of the sun's rays are low because of thick clouds, inclined rays of the sun and the short day.

As for temperatures, they vary with respect to season, year and place. The mean temperature in Palestine is about 20 degrees. The average temperature is about 19 degrees along the western coast, 18 degrees in mountainous regions and 25 degrees in the desert areas. Temperatures start to drop from the beginning of November until they reach their lowest levels in January and February, which are the coldest months of the year. The mean winter temperatures in the years 1990 and 1995 in Ramallah were 10.1 and 8.1 degrees respectively (The Palestinian Bureau of Meteorology, 1998). After this time of the year, the temperatures start to rise until August when the extreme temperature reaches 25.2 degrees. Usually, the monthly mean temperature does not fall below 0 degrees except during some cold winter days and nights. The lowest temperatures usually occur in mountainous regions where it reaches its lowest level at -13 degrees. The highest temperature does not usually exceed 35 degrees.

The temperature reaches its highest point in the inner level lands before midday, in mountains at noon and in the Jordan valley in the afternoon. It reaches its lowest point in all places at night before dawn. The daily and yearly temperature range varies from one place to another depending

on the geographic location of the area. Therefore, it decreases in the coasts and increases in the inner and desert regions.

Rain and Humidity: As for winter, the rain extends from October until April, although summer rain is not uncommon between May and September. The yearly mean rainfall in West Bank is about 500 mm. It reaches its highest level in the mountains where it reaches 700 mm. The yearly average of rainfall between the years 1967-96 in Ramallah was 724 mm. (The Palestinian Bureau Of Meteorology, 1998).

Wind: Wind often blows from the west and northwest at about 14-20 km per hour. During the period from April until June, a southern hot (50 degree – *khamsin* in Arabic) wind blows across the desert carrying dust, which makes the weather unstable and dusty. Wetness also ranges from 50 to 70% and it reaches its lowest level in June and its highest level in January. The relative humidity level differs from south to north and from west to east.

Valleys and Plant Life: The region also has several valleys, such as the Bani Zayd valley, which is famous, both historically and politically. It is also important to cultivators, as it is the largest and most fertile valley, which empties into the Mediterranean Sea north of Jaffa. Its' seasonal flow starts in winter and continues until May. The region is also full of springs, especially in the mountains where each one has at least one fountain.

The region is also famous for its' large forests like the Um Safah forest in the southern part of the area, which is about 900 Dunums. It contains pine trees, coniferous trees, and bushes. The region also has some birds, deer and wild rabbits.

Olive trees constitute the main crop in the area, which cover most of the mountains there. Wheat, which is grown locally, is highly important in making bread using the widespread Palestinian *Taboon* (underground oven) in the rural areas. Due to its strategic location, the region also has many archaeological ruins and ancient villages, which date back to different prehistoric periods since the times of the Canaanites. This led people to regard it as a place of high interest and aspiration throughout history.

2. A brief history of Bani Zayd Villages.

2.1 Name and history of the region:

This region was called the Ghassan Mountains after the Christian Ghassan tribe, who inhabited the area in the period following the birth of the Christ. The tribe reached this place in the year 205 AD and ruled the region together with the tribes of Jizam and Lakhm. The Persians invaded the region in the year 614 AD. The Byzantine Romans followed them. After that, Muslims took control of the whole region under the leadership of Omar Ben Khattab. Since then, Palestine has remained under Islamic rule until it was invaded and occupied by the European Christians in the year 1098 AD. Those foreign invaders started to expel the original natives out of their homeland and replaced them with the Crusaders. Since their aims were only political and economic, the region never reached prosperity until the leader Salah Aldin prevailed against them in the year 1200 AD. Then the Eyopi and Mamluki sultans started to distribute villages. Thus, the tribe of Bani Zayd received 24 villages. However, those villages were almost completely destroyed because of the battles of Salah Aldin against the occupiers. The conditions did not change a lot during the period of Mamluk, who followed the Eyopi rulers because of voluminous environmental disasters. Furthermore, this region witnessed new waves of Arabic tribes like the Alremawi, Altamimi, Abu Alrab and Albarguthi who inhabited it. From time to time, those tribes ruled the region and sometimes disputed over it. Because of those family and tribal struggles in the 16th and 17th centuries, the tribe of Bani Zayd disappeared from the scene. The remaining tribes, however, reunited against the French campaign under the leadership of Napoleon who was defeated and withdrew his army back to Egypt.

In the year 1800 AD, the region started a new period of tribal conflicts, which lasted until 1860 when the power struggle between rural tribes and families reached its end. A new era started with the coming of the Ottoman state, which began executing wide reform projects. This led to the decline of leaderships in the rural areas, which were mainly replaced by new leaderships in the urban ones. The Ottoman reign continued until the First World War in 1914 during which people started to move city ward from the rural areas. This kind of integration between people from villages and cities gradually put an end to the influence and role of the tribal leaders in power.

In 1917, the British Mandate controlled the whole of Palestine, but it did not last for long because of the absence of genuine and sincere relationships between the British invaders and Palestine.

They even tortured and oppressed the Palestinian people and provided facilities to the Zionist movement, which exercised their authority and control over the country with the power of force. Historically, however, one can easily realize that this authority, like its predecessors, will not last for long since the real continuance has always been for the country's natives.

2.2 The origin of people in Bani Zayd Villages:

The present residents of Bani Zayd region descended from different ancestors and origins. They originally arrived with Salah Aldin and his army from the Arabian Peninsula through eastern Jordan. Upon their arrival, each group settled a different place. Some of them had already been living there when they left the place temporarily. They established mosques, olive presses, guest rooms, offices and surrounding houses in their residential places in order to set boundaries to their villages.

The Bani Zayd villages took their final shape and structure after the second half of the 19th century. The outer boundaries of each village extended to enclose all the lands owned by its people. The residents of those villages also used to cultivate trees, especially olive trees. The last villages, which were established in the area, were: Al-Nabi Salih villages, Der Nizam, Burham, Jeebyah and Um Safah.

Like other people, the inhabitants of Bani Zayd have their own socially transmitted customs and inherited cultures. Some of the most common ancient seasonal practices in the Bani Zayd villages include holding celebrations to commemorate anniversaries and Awliya (important religious persons) such as the Al-Nabi Salih anniversary, which takes place in Al-Nabi Salih village.

Many different tribes inhabited the area of the Bani Zayd villages, some of which persisted and continued to live there, whereas other tribes sufficed with commemorating their names in the villages throughout history. An example of the later tribes is the tribe of Ghassaneh, which maintained its memorial in the names of the villages of Der Ghassaneh and Jifnah. The descendants of the Bani Zayd tribe, on the other hand, live in different villages. However, the feeling of tribal solidarity and fellowship began to fade away at the beginning of the 19th century. It is also possible to determine the origins of some of the main families, which arrived in that region in the period between the 15th and 19th century. They came in from Arab countries like Jordan, the Arabian Peninsula, Hejaz and Syria. Some of those famous families are Albarguthi, Sahweel, Abu Alrab, Altamimi, Alnubani, Azein, Murrah, Alhalabi (Alreemawi) and Mazahim.

Chapter Two.

Population and Urbanization in Bani Zayd Villages:



Introduction

An important factor in developmental planning studies is analyzing the populations and their demographic and geographical characteristics (census). The modern regional and urban studies rely on quantitative methods to determine the domain of civilization and the population distribution throughout a specific region. It is also important to know mechanisms of geographic occurrence and their influencing factors. Knowledge of urban and architectural features of a specific region is also important. Therefore, a large part of this study will be dedicated to urban features and population analysis.

In our analysis of the human population, its size, distribution and growth in the Bani Zayd region, we will rely on different statistics and numerical data, which were carried out by the British Mandate. Although these statistics were sometimes inaccurate and biased for political and colonization reasons, they still provide an idea about the urban and population development of the communities in that region.

We will concentrate in this research on the results of the Palestinian statistics and enumeration of population, housing units and buildings, which were executed by the Palestinian Central Bureau Of Statistics in 1997 covering all regions. Those results will be considered as the main source of numerical data upon which our research rests since they are reliable and new. It is also the only official source of data endorsed by the Palestinian National Authority.

Regarding analyzing the characteristics of the population and constructions of the Bani Zayd region, we will depend on field surveys which were carried out by a crew of instructors and students from Bir Zeit University. The crew used the method of "random choice of samples" to survey 550 families at an average of 50 families per community. However, the average sample of Beit Reemah and Abween was 100 families and that of Al-Nabi Salih and Um Safah was 25 families.

2.1: The Population.

The number of the population differs from one village to another in the region of Bani Zayd in accordance with the size of the village, its history and its economic conditions. The number of residents in that area was always changing for many reasons, such as:

1. The outbreak of epidemics like bubonic plague, cholera and locusts.
2. The Ottoman recruitment of men for military service, especially in the First World War, which resulted in the death of many.
3. Internal armed struggles, which led to the loss and death of many people and forced the others to move to more secure places.
4. Hard economic conditions, which resulted in the spread of hunger, unemployment and stagnation.

Examining the historical development of the population revealed that the number of people in the area in the year 1931 was 4,988 persons according to the British Mandate statistics. This number increased to 9,969 persons in 1961 (see the table below). Despite this population growth, the percentage of people in that region dropped considerably in the year 1961 compared with the percentage in the year 1931 and compared with the population growth in Ramallah & Al Bireh. That is, the percentage fell back from 12.8% in 1931 to 8.8% in 1961. After the Israeli occupation, the number of people did not increase significantly in that region. Even the population growth average witnessed another retrograde to become 8.1% of the whole district in 1997. The yearly average of the population growth during the years 1961-97 was about 1.62%. However, after forming the Palestinian National Authority there was a high rise in the population growth in that area which reached 4.65%. This means the population number will be doubled in 15 years if the population growth continues at this rate. This in turn demands increasing services and more living units.

Table (1)

The average of the population growth in the Bani Zayd region from 1922 until 2003

District	No. Of Population					Annual Growth Average	
	1922	1931	1961	1997	2003	1961-1997	1997-2003
Bani Zayd	1,180	1,499	3,002	4,355	5,720	1.04	4.65
Abween	-	695	1,174	2,431	3,193	2.04	4.65
Ararah	-	566	1,337	2,099	2,757	1.26	4.65
Qarwat Bani Zayd	274	349	928	1,958	2,572	2.10	4.65
Mazari al-Nubani	-	864	1,358	1,776	2,333	0.75	4.65
Der Alsudan	173	243	486	1,541	2,024	3.26	4.65
Kufir Ein	376	494	1,095	1,289	1,693	0.45	4.65
Um Safah	-	89	252	510	670	1.98	4.65
Al-Nabi Salih	105	144	337	371	487	0.27	4.65
Total	2,108	4,988	9,969	16,630	21,447	1.38	4.65
Average	-	12.8	8.8	8.1	7.9		
Total of Ramallah & Al-Bireh District	-	39,062	113,839	202,759	269,827	1.62	4.88

- Data is unavailable.

Source: 1931 data: Palestine recapitulation, population enumeration in 1931.

1961 data: "Division Of General Statistics," Jordan. The first general enumeration of people and housing units in 1961. The initial report No. 7; population characteristics and distribution in Jerusalem-Amman district in 1963.

1997 data: "Palestinian Central Bureau Of Statistics" in 1999. Enumeration of people, housing units and buildings in 1997 final results.

Population report in Ram Allah & Al Bireh (the first part - Ram Allah district Palestine)

2003 data: "Palestinian Central Bureau Of Statistics", Population of the communities from 1997 until 2010, Ramallah, Palestine 1999.

** : The average growth of the population was calculated with the use of geometric sequence and series ...*log (1+r)=1+r² % 3 etc.

2.1.1. The Structure of Families in Bani Zayd Villages.

1. Types of Families.

Because of the rural nature of the Bani Zayd region, families were classified into nuclear and extended, during the field survey. As shown by the table below, 82% of the families are nuclear,

although they are rural. This percentage is higher than that of the year 1997. The percentage of the Palestinian nuclear families in the rural areas in 1997 was 73.2%. The reason for that may be attributed to the belief that the Palestinian families found it more appropriate to maintain and keep their privacy particularly after the decline of the necessity for agricultural cooperation among the family members. The extended families, on the other hand, formed 18% of the surveyed families.

Table (2)

Relative distribution of families in the Bani Zayd region according to family type, 2002

District	Nuclear Families		Extended Families	
	No.	%	No.	%
Beit Reemah	86	89	11	11
Der Ghassaneh	53	95	3	5
Ararah	34	68	16	32
Abween	79	77	24	23
Mazari al-Nubani	37	74	13	26
Al-Nabi Salih	21	84	4	16
Um Safah	23	92	2	8
Der Alsudan	35	70	15	30
Qarawat Bani Zayd	47	94	3	6
Kufir Ein	44	81	10	19
Total	459	82	101	18

Source: Bir Zeit University. Departments of Architecture and Geography – field survey- 2002.

We notice from these data that the percentage of nuclear families in the villages of west Bani Zayd is higher than its correspondent in east Bani Zayd villages. The highest percentage, recorded within the boundaries of the municipality of west Bani Zayd, was that of Der Ghassaneh village which was 95%. The lowest percentage was in Ararah village, within the boundaries of the municipality of east Bani Zayd.

2. The number of family members.

The results of the field survey displayed that 43% of the families in the region of Bani Zayd have more than 7 members. This indicates a rise in the average size of households in that area. However, the average size of the rural households in the Palestinian territories is about 6.3 persons per household. This becomes more obvious when we examine the data, which show that 42% of the households have 4 to 6 persons per household. This fact has disadvantageous effects because it will result in overcrowded rooms and houses.

Table (3)

The relative distribution of households in Bani Zayd according to the number of household members, 2002

District	No. Of family Members				Total %
	1-3	4-6	7-9	10 & more	
Beit Reemah	21	43	25	11	100
Der Ghassaneh	20	57	21	2	100
Arorah	18	51	30	2	100
Abween	15	30	39	16	100
Mazari al-Nubani	10	42	32	16	100
Um Safah	4	44	36	16	100
Al-Nabi Salih	20	48	32	0	100
Der Alsudan	2	32	46	20	100
Qarawat Bani Zayd	7	39	35	19	100
Kufir Ein	28	48	22	2	100
Total	15	42	32	11	100

Source: Bir Zeit University, Departments of Architecture and Geography, field work 2002.

2.1.2: The Structure of age and gender of the people in the Bani Zayd Villages

Population study or census is considered as one of the important factors in urban and population analysis. This is so because studying the population provides evidence about the differences of the population structure with respect to gender and age. It also provides a clear overview of the economic structure and educational level of the population. This helps us to determine the

available work force resources and the way to use them reasonably and systematically in economic and social development and to meet their present and future demands.

1. Structure of Gender

The initial results of the fieldwork survey in 2002 indicate that the percentage of males to females in the Bani Zayd region was 109 males per 100 females. That is, the males formed 52.2% of the population. However, the percentage in 1997 was about 103 males per 100 females. That is, the males constituted only 50.8% of the population at that time. These results can be interpreted as a rise in the percentage of males in Bani Zayd or they may be considered as inaccurate because of the random sample method, which was used in the survey as compared with the general enumeration method. When we compare the percentage of males to females in Bani Zayd in the year 1997, we find that it is higher than its counterpart in the Ramallah & Al Bireh governates, but it is identical to the general percentage in the rest of the Palestinian territories.

Table (4)

Development of the relative distribution of males and females in the Bani Zayd region from 1997 to 2002.

District	Enumeration 1997		Survey 2003	
	Percentage of males	Percentage of females	Percentage of males	Percentage of females
Bani Zayd	50.6	47.0	51.3	48.7
Abween	47.4	48.0	51.9	48.1
Ararah	51.2	48.0	52.2	47.8
Qarwat Bani Zayd	51.8	48.2	59.3	40.7
Mazari al-Nubani	50.1	49.9	50.0	50.0
Der Alsudan	50.0	50.0	51.1	48.9
Kufir Ein	49.6	50.4	51.4	48.6
Um Safah	50.1	49.9	49.7	50.3
Al-Nabi Salih	54.4	45.6	56.2	43.8
Total	50.8	49.2	52.2	47.8
Ramallah Governate	50.2	49.8		
Palestinian Territories	50.8	49.2		

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 1999. General enumeration of population, housing units and establishments in 1997 final results. Population report, Ramallah & Al Bireh governates, Part One, Ramallah Palestine.

Bir Zeit University Departments of Architecture and Geography, fieldwork survey 2002.

2. Age structure of the people in the Bani Zayd region:

This is one of the most important indicators of vigorousness and productivity of the people in the Bani Zayd region. It is also a profile reflecting historical events and demographic factors, which affected the society. It helps planners to know what is required for the coming years in order to meet the needs of the society.

As shown by the following table, the percentage of the people whose average age is between 15 to 64 years is as high as 51% of the population. The percentage of children below the age of 15 is 44%. This means that most people in this area are young persons who have the ability to work or to demand work in the future. This requires creating enough job opportunities to employ them and to set up enough educational institutes to absorb a large number of children in all educational levels.

Table (5)

The distribution of residents in the Bani Zayd region according to wide age categories in 1997.

Sex	0-14		15-64		+65		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Male	3682	44	4212	51	396	5	8290
Female	3453	43	4082	51	485	6	8020
Total	7134	44	8294	51	881	5	16309

Source: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 1997. Population Report, Ramallah & Al Bireh governates, Part One, previous source.

Figure 1: Population pyramid in Bani Zayd region in 1997.

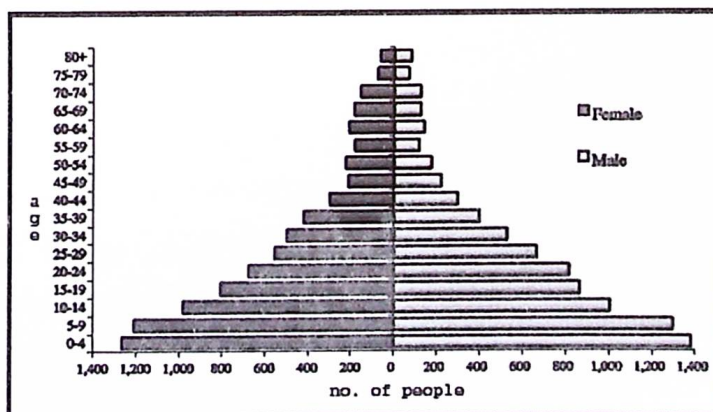


Table (6)

The structure of age and gender of the people in the Bani Zayd region in 1997

Age Categories	Males		Females		Total	
	No. of Males	%	No. of Females	%	Population Total No.	%
0-4	1,381	52.2	1,266	47.8	2,647	16.2
5-9	1,296	51.8	1,206	48.2	2,502	15.3
10-14	1,005	50.6	981	49.4	1,986	12.2
15-19	865	51.9	803	48.1	1,668	10.2
20-24	814	54.6	677	45.4	1,491	9.1
25-29	664	54.4	556	45.6	1,220	7.5
30-34	528	51.5	497	48.5	1,025	6.3
35-39	398	48.5	422	51.5	820	5.0
40-44	296	49.5	302	50.5	598	3.7
45-49	221	51.2	211	48.8	432	2.6
50-54	173	43.5	225	56.5	398	2.4
55-59	116	39.1	181	60.9	297	1.8
60-64	137	39.7	208	60.3	345	2.1
65-69	124	39.9	187	60.1	311	1.9
70-74	125	44.5	156	55.5	281	1.7
75-79	67	46.2	78	53.8	145	0.9
80+	80	55.6	64	44.4	144	0.9
Total	8,290	50.8	8,020	49.2	16,310	100.0

Source: The previous source.

When examining the table of age and gender structure of the population according to age categories, we notice that the male percentage is considerably low in the medium and old age categories: 35-80 years. The reason for that might be owed to immigration of people, especially males, from the Bani Zayd region because of Israeli terrorism and cruelty against them. However, after the bitter experience, which encountered the Palestinians outside their country, the new young generation preferred to remain in their homeland whatever hard conditions they may encounter.

We also notice that the percentage of young male children in the area is slightly higher than the national average of the young male percentage in these age categories.

2.2 Economic Conditions.

1. The Employed and Unemployed people.

The Bani Zayd region, especially the Beit Reemah and Der Ghassaneh villages, suffer from hard economic conditions because of the Israeli barriers and checkpoints. The percentage of unemployment reaches 40%. Most workers in this area used to work inside Israel and in the Israeli settlements and cannot now reach their places of work because of the siege and closure imposed on the Palestinian regions. This resulted in a wide range of unprecedented unemployment for several decades. Unlike many villages in the eastern region of Ramallah city, whose residents work in America and Europe and thus provide their families with financial support, the villages of Bani Zayd, on the other hand, lack such sort of support, because of the very few people who work abroad.

Figure 2: The percentage of employed persons in Bani Zayd, 2002.



As shown by the diagram above, the villages of Beit Reemah and Der Alsudan are distinguished by a high percentage of unemployed people. This is so because a large number of people in those two villages have lost their work and jobs in the private sector because of the enclosure and siege imposed by the Israelis during the Al Aqsa uprising. Following them in the percentage of unemployment are the villages of Abween and Qarawat Bani Zayd. Despite the high percentage

of the employed people in the villages of Al-Nabi Salih and Der Ghassaneh, they remain below the general employment average of the national level.

Regarding the working numbers of people in the Bani Zayd villages, as shown by table 7, we notice that 57% of the families have only one employed person who is the main provider of the family. Whereas the percentage of families who have two employed persons is about 26% only. The number of families correlates conversely with the number of the employed persons in those families.

Table (7)

The relative distribution of families in the Bani Zayd region according to the number of employed persons in the family, 2002.

District	No. of sample Families	Percentage of families according to the number of employed persons in the family				
		One employed person	2	3	4	5+
Beit Reemah	75	57	31	9	3	0
Der Ghassaneh	50	62	28	10	0	0
Arorah	44	50	16	14	8	0
Abween	100	43	27	17	6	7
Mazari al-Nubani	46	67	20	9	2	2
Um Safah	25	68	8	8	8	8
Al-Nabi Salih	23	56	28	8	0	0
Der Alsudan	48	58	25	13	4	0
Qarawat Bani Zayd	48	54	31	13	2	0
Kufir Ein	48	65	31	4	0	0

Source: Bir Zeit University, Departments of Architecture and Geography fieldwork survey 2002.

2. Monthly Income Average:

Because of the very limited economic projects in the Bani Zayd region, the hard economic conditions in the Palestinian territories, the Israeli acts against Palestinians and the low employment opportunities, the standards of living in the area became very low. As indicated by the results of the field survey by a group of Bir Zeit university students in 2002, as shown by the table. most families in the villages of that area have their income ranging from 1,000 to 2,000

Shekels monthly. After that comes, in order, families who have income of about 2,000 to 3,000 Shekels monthly. However, the percentage of those who receive high income decreases noticeably in those villages, which results in negative effects on the standards of living in that area.

Table (8)

The relative distribution of families in the Bani Zayd region according to the monthly income average in Shekels 2002.

District	No. of sample families	The percentage of families according to the monthly income average in Shekels					
		Unspecific	>1,000	1,000-2,000	2,000-3,000	3,000-4,000	4,000+
Beit Reemah	100	16	30	37	13	8	4
Der Ghassaneh	50	6	12	42	30	6	4
Arorah	50	0	8	48	26	14	4
Abween	100	0	17	37	20	14	12
Mazari al-Nubani	50	4	22	44	22	8	0
Um Safah	25	0	24	56	12	0	8
Al-Nabi Salih	25	0	8	64	20	4	4
Der Alsudan	50	0	22	48	22	6	2
Qarawat Bani Zayd	50	6	6	32	26	12	18
Kufir Ein	54	0	24	41	22	7	6

Source: Bir Zeit University Field Survey 2002.

Chapter Three

Buildings in the Bani Zayd region:



3.1. The Palestinian and Arabic Architectural style

The Arab Village In General

Each village started as a nucleus, which expanded through time in accordance with needs such as security, economic, social and political conditions. Because of the absence of security and the weakness of the central government responsible for applying law and the lack of trust in such authority, the houses were built so close and adjacent to each other in order to protect its inhabitants from outside aggressions. Such factors made the nucleus of the village seem more like an assemblage of buildings separated by narrow paths. In such an amassment of buildings used to live a household belonging to one father who is responsible for its social relationships in the tribe. The distance between such neighborhoods or amassments of buildings was so small such that two camels could pass without hitting each other.

As time passed, the nucleus of the village increased as the number of people increased. New people from outside the village used to come and are allowed to live near the nucleus of the village for social and political reasons. Such people brought with them new styles and patterns of buildings to add to the existing patterns and forms of buildings in the village. Therefore, this resulted in differences of age and type of materials used between the buildings in the nucleus of the village and those in the surrounding buildings. The used materials also differ with respect to location of the village whether it was built on a mountain or on a level land.

The Palestinian Village

The Palestinian villages are part of the Arab village in origin. However, because of the special conditions, which took place in Palestine, the Palestinian villages suffer lack of distinctness of its architectural pattern after the fading away of the public style of architecture during the 20th century. That was because of the security, political, social, economic and social conditions, which we have been experiencing since that time.

3.2: Architectural patterns of the Bani Zayd villages

As we mentioned previously, the Arab villages are distinguished by the absence of a fixed and distinct architectural style because of the difficult economic and political conditions that they went through during the period from 1900 until 2002. Therefore, in this study, we have divided the buildings of Bani Zayd into different groups according to the different time spans, which were chosen based on political, social and economic conditions that were witnessed by Palestine in general and the region in particular. The first period extends from 1900 until 1929. The second period extends from 1930 until 1960. The third period extends from 1961 until 1979. The contemporary period extends from 1980 until now. We have also taken into concern the important changes, which influenced the architectural style and the reasons for those changes.

1. The outstanding architectural features during the period from 1900 until 1929

During this period, the Palestinian public architectural style continued with the participation of all people in the village. Buildings used to be close to each other for security reasons and the rural house met all necessities of its people in all respects. It was used during the day and night, to raise animals, for storage, and in all aspects of life. It was the architectural form and nature of the public house, which helped to provide that multifunctionality. Its wide walls played important structural, climatic and functional roles. Cavities in the walls were used to arrange mattresses, furniture and household goods. The roof used to be a dome or a group of compartments with hemispherical roofs built on vaults for structural and climatic reasons. As regarding construction materials, stones from the surrounding nature were the primary materials for construction. The internal design of the house was simple consisting mostly of one floor and sometimes two floors.

Some of the distinguishing features of that period were:

- 1. The entrance:** Usually there used was one entrance leading into a junction room or hallway from which transition into other connected sides or surrounding rooms is possible.
- 2. The area:** The room area did not exceed 16 to 20 square meters.
- 3. The roof:** The roof for square plane was made with crossed hemispheric rays. The rectangular plane of the hemispheric roof was either vault-like or cylindrical with a slight slope to collect rainwater. The roof height exceeded 5 meters and the wall width reached 120 centimeters.

4. Plates: They used Arab plates.

5. Water closet: Usually used to be outside the house.

6. Stairs: They used to be in the corner of one of the rooms in two-floor houses and sometimes they were built outside the house.

7. Windows: The openings were few in number, small, simple, longitudinal and end in round slanted arches in addition to simple and rectangular holes.

Thus, the rural house would satisfy most requirements of the rural life even in its smallest parts despite its simplicity and the small material capabilities of the village people. More than one family used to live in those houses, even though they were small.

2. The prominent architectural features during the period 1930-1960

During this period, Palestine witnessed critical political, economic, and security conditions such as the uprising of 1936 and the Nakbah (catastrophe) of 1948. Such hard conditions had their impact on all aspects of life and on the architectural patterns during that time. In the beginning of that period, the effects of the British mandate started to influence the style of building. The British architectural design was used in public buildings, although the popular style of architecture continued to be used in private houses.

It is noticed that the number of buildings in the Bani Zayd region during the 40's was less than their number in the 50's and the 60's because of the Nakbah (Catastrophe) in 1948 when Palestinian people lost security and stability. The number of buildings, however, increased in the 50's and 60's and were distinguished by:

1. The enclosing boundary verges on the brims of buildings and around windows.
2. The buildings became more reasonable consisting mostly of one floor because the family started to become nuclear in its structure.
3. Moving from inside to outside when constructing. A reasonable internal split-up of space took place by separating private areas from general ones.
4. Different room areas according to function or usage.
5. Internal water closet.
6. A separate stairs cabinet projecting in some buildings.
7. Wall width ranging from 30 to 50 centimeters.

8. More reasonable square or rectangular windows.

Therefore, we notice that different architectural elements appeared in that period which have nothing to do with the popular architectural style. New foreign constructing elements were used in buildings such as “*Karmeed*” which was used in cold and snowy countries.

3. Distinctive architectural features during the period 1961-1979

During this period, the inhabitants of the Bani Zayd region, who emigrated from their country, began to return to Palestine or to transfer money to their families. Consequently, an economic improvement happened to people in that region which had its influence on architecture. This period is also distinguished by the start of the Israeli occupation in 1967, which resulted in advent of building facilities and techniques owing to workers who moved to work in construction inside Israel.

The buildings of this period are also distinguished by the appearance of verandas spanned with glass for winter usage. The terminating verge near the end of buildings also disappeared. However, there were some buildings, which had colored stones to mark their closing borders. There were also buildings with more than one floor. The bathroom was built inside the sleeping room.

4. The typical architectural characteristics after the year 1980.

During this period, the economic conditions of the people in the Bani Zayd region continued to prosper. They constructed multi-floor buildings with large spaces inside, but without taking into account the accurate details of the building. The first floors were used for commercial purposes especially those located on main roads. There were not large areas around the buildings. The buildings had wide openings in addition to large windows or large frameworks enclosing panes of glass.

Since 1993, the Palestinian National Authority has taken the responsibility for social affairs in some regions, especially regarding issuing building licenses in the regions designated A & B according to the Oslo agreement. Consequently, this period witnessed great urban development and progress. There has also been an attempt to redesign and renew the architectural layouts and

the structural and regional schemes in addition to issuing Palestinian building regulations and rules.

Although we tried to draw a line of distinction between the different architectural periods mentioned above, some buildings were not related to the architectural styles in that period. Such buildings are distinguished by their simplicity in design. The reason might be attributed to the difficult economic conditions of their owners.

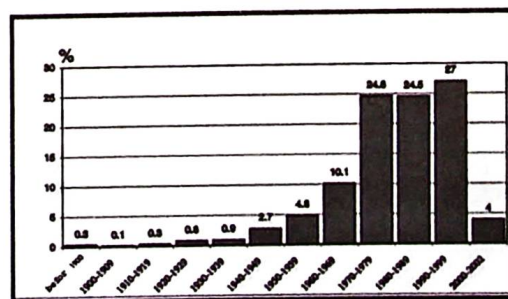
Undoubtedly, it is difficult to specify the actual architectural period during which the usage of a specific architectural style ended. Such a thing is not so easy despite the many attempts to collect information about and to determine the architectural styles of a specific period, in addition to analyzing the political, economic, and social conditions pertaining to that period in Palestine.

3.3. Urbanization and Construction in the region.

As shown by the following figures, most buildings in the Bani Zayd region were established after 1970 where more than 80% of the buildings in that area were built during the period 1970-2002. We also notice that old houses in Bani Zayd villages were not used for living, but were ignored and deserted.

We also notice that the period from 1990 until 1999 is the most active in terms of the percentage of construction in the region. This can be owed to the economic improvement of the people and to the political stability, which happened after the return of the Palestinian National Authority. Such hopes of political relaxation continued until the outbreak of the Al Aqsa uprising in 2000. During the uprising, the percentage of construction dropped considerably to 2% whereas it was 2.7% in the preceding 10 years.

Figure 3 : The external development of the buildings in Bani Zayd region in 2002.



Data source: Bir Zeit University, departments of architecture and geography fieldwork survey 2002.

3.4 The Condition of the Buildings

The results of the fieldwork survey indicated that 76.2% of the buildings in the Bani Zayd region are in good condition. In order to document their styles, they were classified according to their type. It is also already known that the villa buildings are in excellent condition. Those of the type house or edifice are also in good condition. By reviewing the results of the general population, housing units and establishments count in 1997, we noticed that there are only 25 buildings of the type villa. That is, only 0.8% of the buildings in the region which makes 2.2% of the buildings in the whole governate. There are also 84.9% of the buildings in the region of the type house, which forms only 72.4% of the buildings in the whole governate. This means that the condition of the buildings in the Bani Zayd region are less in quality than their counterparts in the whole governate, especially the villages in the north and in the northeast which have high percentage of villas. We also notice a decrease in the percentage of high buildings, which makes only 2.4% in the Bani Zayd region whereas it forms 11% of the buildings in the whole governorate.

Table (9)

Patterns of buildings according to community and type in Bani Zayd in 1997.

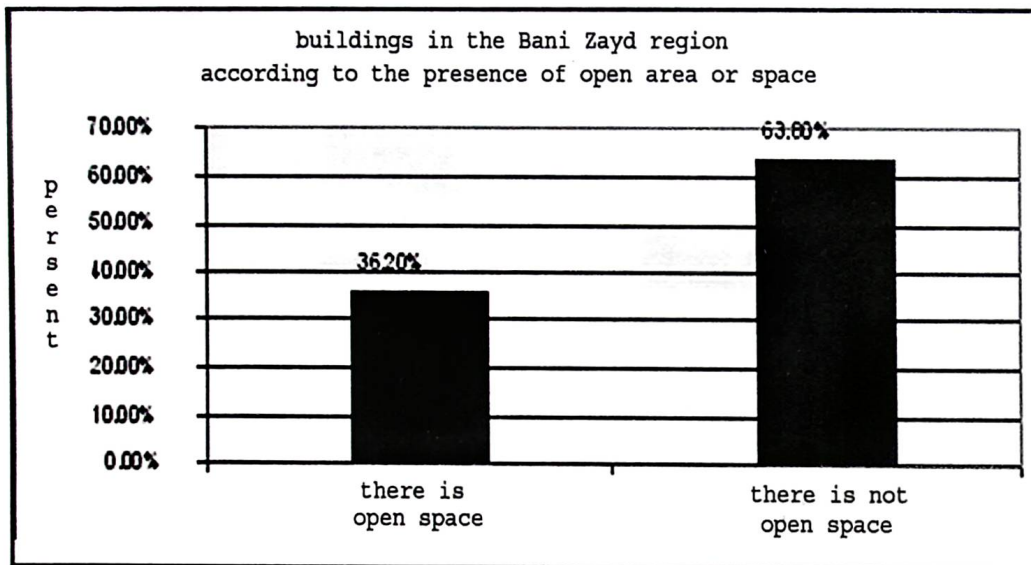
Type of building	Villa		House		Edifice		Establishments		Under Construction		Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bani Zayd	9	1.1	707	82.5	29	3.4	38	4.4	74	8.6	0	0.0	857	100
Abween	7	1.4	421	83.2	9	1.8	36	7.1	33	6.5	0	0.0	506	100
Arorah	4	1.1	305	84.3	6	1.7	29	8.0	17	4.7	1	0.3	362	100
Mazari Al-Nubani	0	0.0	294	91.6	3	0.9	14	4.4	10	3.1	0	0.0	321	100
Qarawat Bani Zayd	1	0.3	240	81.4	13	4.4	16	5.4	25	8.5	0	0.0	295	100
Kufir Ein	0	0.0	208	89.7	1	0.4	7	3.0	15	6.5	1	0.4	232	100
Der Alsudan	4	1.8	200	89.7	4	1.8	11	4.9	3	1.3	1	0.4	223	100
Um Safah	0	0.0	70	78.7	4	4.5	12	13.5	2	2.2	1	1.1	89	100
Al-Nabi Salih	0	0.0	60	89.6	1	1.5	6	9.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	67	100
Total/Area	25	0.8	2505	84.9	70	2.4	169	5.7	179	6.1	4	0.1	2,952	100
Total/ Governate	701	2.2	22,788	72.4	3,475	11.0	2,052	6.5	2,211	7.0	239	0.8	31,466	100

Source: the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 1999, general count and enumeration of population, housing units and establishments 1997, the final results of the count, recapitulation of the population, housing units, buildings and establishments Ramallah & Al Bireh governates Ramallah Palestine.

The results of the field survey also indicated that 63.8% of the buildings in the Bani Zayd region do not have open areas or spaces for houses whereas only 36.2% have such an area or spaces. However, the large spaces exist around the village whereas it is very rare in the center of the old city because of the closeness of buildings and high cost of land. The open spaces often serve only

one family since nuclear families are predominant there. Because of the present conditions, we notice that the families tend to use the whole area for construction ignoring the importance of a house garden, which may be used to grow vegetables in addition to other uses as well.

Figure 4 :The distribution of buildings in the Bani Zayd region according to the presence of open areas or spaces 2002.



Source: Bir Zeit University, Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

3.5 The Usage of Buildings in Bani Zayd.

Table 10 shows that most of the buildings in the villages of the Bani Zayd region are used either as living units only or as housing units with stores used for keeping kitchen utensils and furniture, which may be used for commercial purposes in the future.

Table (10)

Relative distribution of buildings in the Bani Zayd region according to their usage 2002

Usage of Buildings	Housing	Craft	Commercial	Housing & Craft	Housing & Commercial	Housing & Stores	Mosque	Offices	Others	Total
District										
Beit Reemah	72	3	13	0	1	8	2	1	0	100%
Der Ghassaneh	72	0	0	2	18	7	1	0	0	100%
Ararah	43	2	16	0	0	35	2	0	2	100%
Abween	80	1	4	0	3	8	1	0	3	100%
Um Safah	100	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	100%
Al-Nabi Salih	88	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	100%
Der Alsudan	64	0	0	0	0	35	1	0	0	100%
Qarawat Bani Zayd	70	2	7	0	0	19	2	0	0	100%
Kufir Ein	84	0	0	0	6	9	1	0	0	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The percentage of commercial stores differs from one village to another. It is 16% in Ararah, 19% in Beit Reemah, 7% in Qarawat Bani Zayd and 4% in Abween. Several persons used to work in those shops whereas other small villages do not have commercial stores in the real sense. Therefore, their residents depend mainly on nearby villages or on Ramallah and Al Bireh for shopping. This causes many problems for them, such as transportation and financial problems. Vocational buildings are absent from the villages, except for some small workshops like carpentries, blacksmiths, and butchers. The biggest number of such workshops is present in the villages of Beit Reemah, Der Ghassaneh, Ararah, and Qarawat Bani Zayd. Most often, those workshops are separate from the houses of their owners, except for few who have their workshops in the base floors.

Moreover, those villages, except for Beit Reemah, do not have office buildings because they are simple villages that do not require office services like governmental, administrative or engineering offices, which are more prevalent in cities. There are few administrative and engineering offices in Beit Reemah compared to its relatively large area and population and the high ratio of educated people in it.

3.6 The heights of Buildings in Bani Zayd region.

We notice from Table 11 that most buildings in the villages of Bani Zayd consist mostly of one or two floors and few of them have three floors. This is so because the residents like to build on their own piece of land expanding horizontally rather than vertically in their construction. The rural residents of that region do not prefer to live in high and congested buildings. The number of the family members is often about 6 persons living in one floor and an additional floor is added when the family expands due to the marriage of one of its sons.

Table 11

Relative distribution of buildings in Bani Zayd according to the number of floors 2002

District	The percentage of buildings according to number of floors				
	1	2	3	4	5+
Der Ghassaneh	50	40	6	4	0
Beit Reemah	46	44	10	0	0
Ararah	44	30	26	0	0
Abween	36	40	10	13	1
Um Safah	80	20	0	0	0
Al-Nabi Salih	80	16	4	0	0
Der Alsudan	38	52	8	2	0
Qarawat Bani Zayd	56	36	8	0	0
Kufir Ein	60	40	0	0	0

Source: Bir Zeit University departments of architecture and geography field survey 2002.

Many families exist who wish to add floors to their properties, but the current economic situation is an obstacle.

Having four or five floors in the same home is not common in that region, but there are examples of these types of buildings in Beit Reemah and Abween.

Chapter Four

Infrastructure of the Villages of Bani Zayd



4.1: A general description of the infrastructure in each village.

- **West Bani Zayd (Beit Reemah & Der Ghassaneh)**

There are public water lines in the village with about 500 beneficiary subscribers from among the residents. However, some people depend on underground wells and springs to save their drinking water. They also gather water for drinking from rain. There is a public electricity network in the village since 1968 belonging to Jerusalem Electricity Company. However, the village does not have a sewer system. The waste is discharged in underground holes, which are then emptied about 5km from the village. There is a site in the village of Mazari Al-Nubani owned by the locality that is used as a garbage dump and it is located about 5km from the village boundaries. A private truck is used to collect the garbage from the village once a week. The refuse is then burnt.

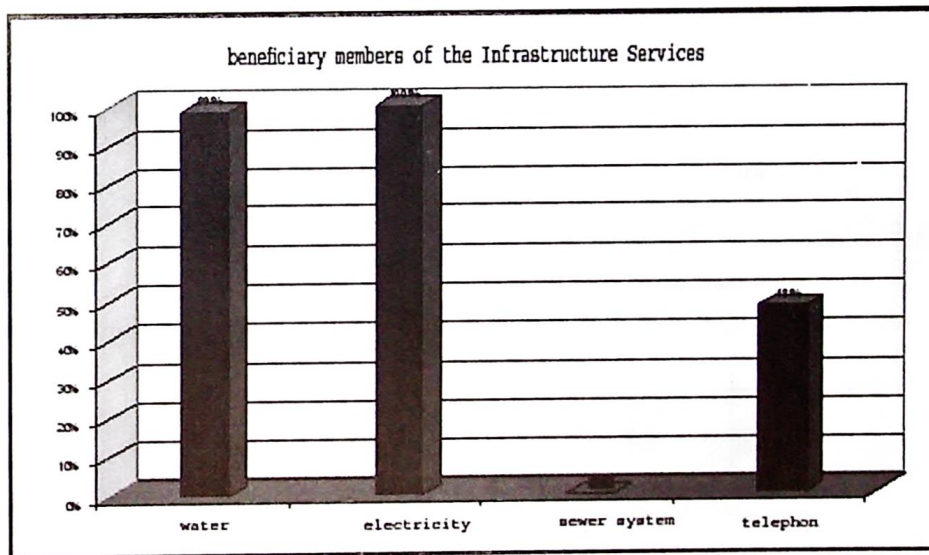


Figure 5: The percentage of the subscribers to the infrastructure services in West Bani Zayd 2002.

- **Arorah:**

There are public water lines in the village with about 300 beneficiary subscribers. Some of the village houses get their drinking water from springs and underground wells, which are filled with rainwater. The village also has a public electricity network that serves almost all the buildings and houses in the community through Jerusalem Electricity Company.

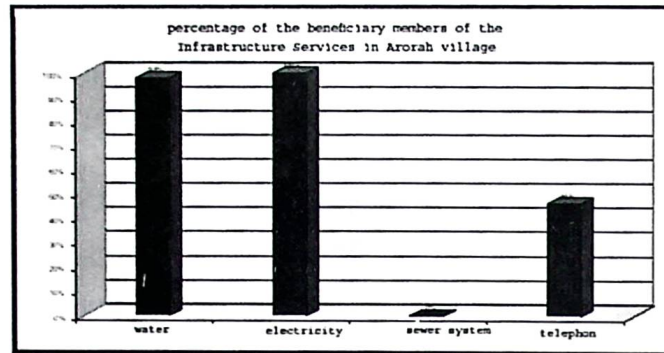


Figure 6: The percentage of the subscribers to the infrastructure services in Arorah 2002

However, the village does not have a sewerage system. Underground holes are employed to get rid of wastewater. The waste is then emptied into the nearby valleys at about 3km from the residential houses. A private car is used to collect the garbage from the village more than once a week, which is then burnt. There are also 150 telephone lines in the village.

- **Abween:**

There is a public water network in the village, which has about 400 subscribers. Some of the residents, however, save their drinking water from underground rainwater wells. The village also has a public electricity network owned by the Jerusalem Electricity Company.

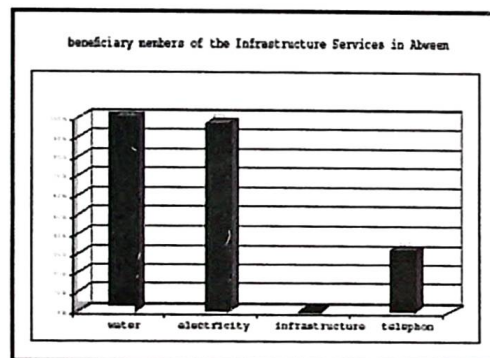


Figure 7: The number of the subscribers to the infrastructure services in Abween 2002

However, this village does not have a sewer system. The wastewater is discharged in underground holes, which are then emptied in the near valleys at about 3km from the village. A private truck is used to collect the garbage from the village, which is then burnt at the village periphery. The village also has 40 telephone lines.

- **Mazari Al-Nubani:**

There is a public water network in this village, which has about 250 subscribers from the residents. However, some of the people get their drinking water from springs and underground wells, which are used to collect water rain. The village has a public electricity network belonging to the Jerusalem Electricity Company.

However, this village like the others does not have a sewer system. Wastewater is discharged through underground holes, which are then emptied into the nearby valleys 3km from the village. There is a place in this village owned by the locality, which is used to get rid of garbage at about 3 km from the residential houses. A private truck is used to collect the garbage from the village more that once a week. The refuse is then burnt at the village periphery. The village also has an old telephone network.

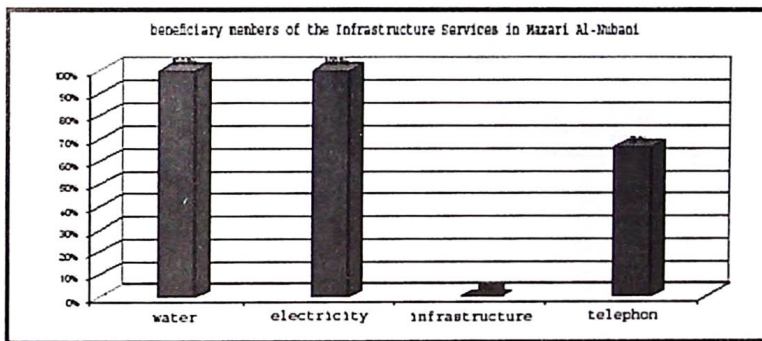


Figure 8: The percentage of the subscribers to the infrastructure services in Mazari Al-Nubani 2002

- **Um Safah:**

There are public water lines in Um Safah, which has 60 subscribers from the residents. Some families save their drinking water from rainwater and springs. There is also an electricity network belonging to the Jerusalem Electricity Company. However, there is no sewer system in this village and underground holes are used to discharge the waste, which is then thrown off at about 3km from the village. The locality has a place in the village, which is used to burn the garbage at about 3km from the residential houses. The garbage is collected more than once a week by a truck.

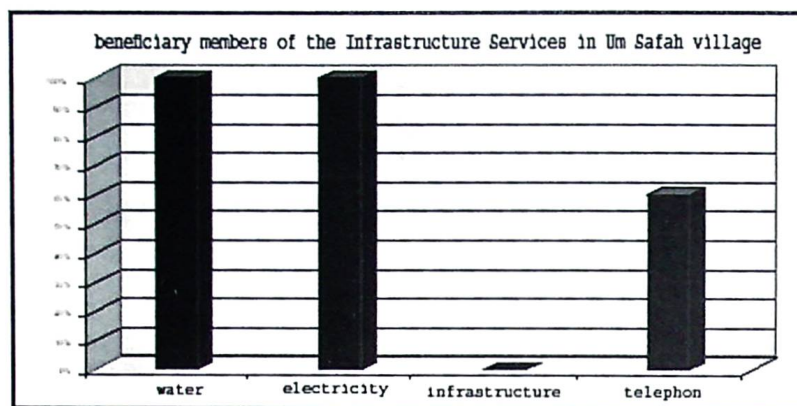


Figure 9: the percentage of the subscribers in the infrastructure services in Um Safah 2002.

- **Al-Nabi Salih:**

There is a water network in the village, which has about 40 subscribers. Some houses get their drinking water from springs and rainwater. The village also has a public electricity network owned by Jerusalem Electricity Company. However, the village does not have a sewer system. Wastewater is discharged in underground holes, which are then emptied into the nearby valleys. There is a place in the village owned by the locality and used to burn the garbage at about 3km from the village houses. There is a truck used to collect the garbage from the village more than once a week in order to burn it.

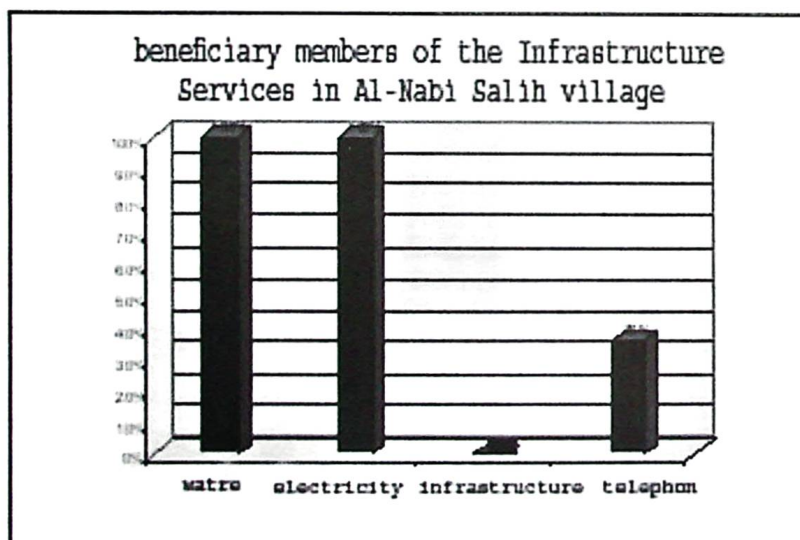


Figure 10: the percentage of the subscribers in the infrastructure services in Al-Nabi Salih

- **Der Alsudan:**

This village does not have a public water network. Therefore, its residents use springs and wells to collect rainwater or buy their drinking water. There is an electricity network in this village belonging to the Jerusalem Electricity Company. However, the village does not have sewer system. The waste is discharged in underground holes, which are then emptied into valleys about 5km from the village. There is a site in the village owned by the locality and used to burn the garbage. It is about 5km from the village. There is a truck used to collect the garbage more than once a week in order to burn it in the near valleys.

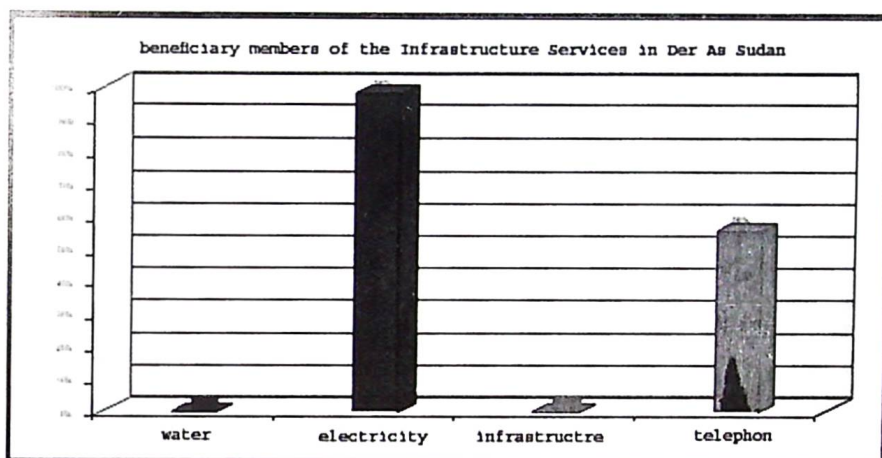


Figure 11: The percentage of the subscribers to the infrastructure services in Der Alsudan 2002.

- **Kufir Ein:**

There is a public water network in this village belonging to the municipality of West Bani Zayd. The number of subscribers is 210 from the residents, a few from the commercial persons and 40 from the farmers. Some areas in this community get their drinking water from rainwater, which is collected in special wells and from springs or they may buy water tanks. There is an electricity network in Kufir Ein belonging to the Jerusalem Electricity Company. However, there is no sewer system in this village. Wastewater is collected in underground holes and then emptied into the valleys about 3km from the village. There is also a site in Kufir Ein owned by the locality and used to collect and burn the garbage from the village. A truck is used to collect the garbage more

than once a week and remove it to about one half a kilometer from the village periphery for burning.

There is no telephone network in Kufir Ein.

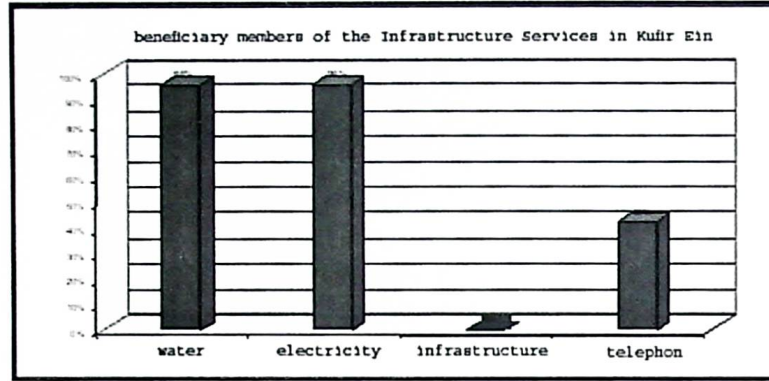


Figure 12: The percentage of the subscribers to the infrastructure services in Bani Zayd 2002

- **Qarawat Bani Zayd:**

There is a public water network in this village belonging to the municipality of West Bani Zayd. It has about 300 subscribers from the residents. However, some people get their drinking water from springs, wells and water tanks. The village also has a public electricity network belonging to the Jerusalem Electricity Company. The village does not have sewer system. The wastewater is collected in underground holes, which are then emptied into the nearby valleys at about 3km from the village. The locality owns a site in this village that is used to collect and burn the garbage of the village. The garbage is collected by a truck, which brings it to the valleys at about 1.5 km from the village for burning. The telephone lines of the village were established several years ago.

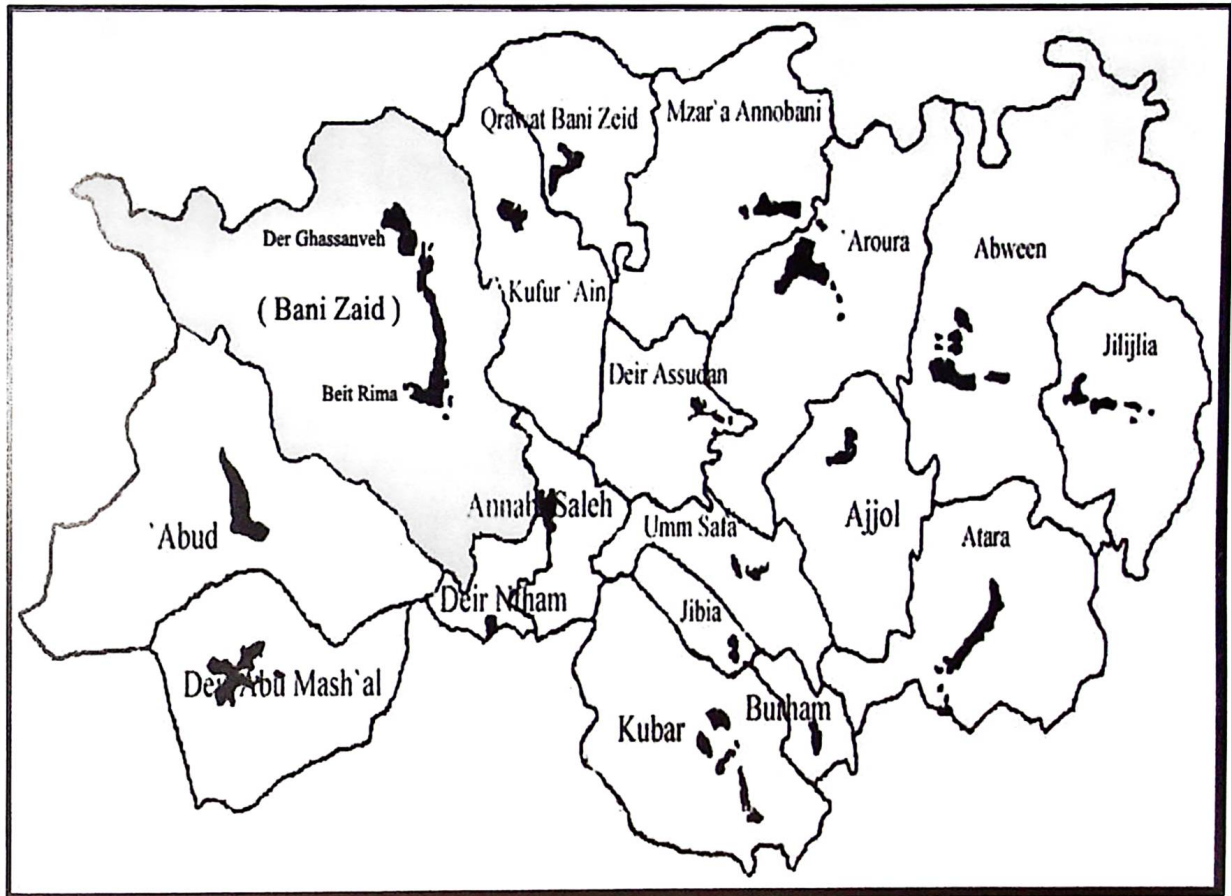
In summary, many of the villages in the region of Bani Zayd lack a sewer system and a system to discharge garbage and wastewater.

Chapter Five

A Detailed Study Of the communities in Bani Zayd Villages

5.1. The municipality of West Bani Zayd.

Map 3: The Municipality of Bani Zayd



5.1.1. The Origin of the Municipality

The municipality of West Bani Zayd emerged after the unification of the two villages of Beit Reemah and Der Ghassaneh in the Bani Zayd region. This union resulted in the rise of West Bani Zayd city in 1966. At first, the town was called Bani Zayd. Then, in 1997, the word 'West' was added because it is located west of the Bani Zayd region, which extends over a large area northwest of Ramallah. The word 'West' also distinguishes the Western municipality from the more recent Eastern Bani Zayd municipality. It is also important to point out that the region used to include the villages of Borqeen and Kufir Aldeek before they were incorporated into the Nablus district by the Jordanian government and then to the city of Salfet. According to the

classification of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, that community was considered as a rural one in 1997. However, if we apply the same criteria nowadays, it would be classified as urban community. A municipal council appointed by the Ministry of Local Government currently administers the community of Bani Zayd. The municipal council consists of 7 male and female members in addition to 13 male employees and one female employee.

5.1.2. The reason for the name

The town of West Bani Zayd was named after the Arab Muslim tribe Bani Zayd who emigrated from the Arabian Peninsula from the region between the Arabian city of Najd and Yemen. The tribe arrived with the waves of the Islamic armies headed towards the Middle East. The tribe of Bani Zayd settled in the area northwest of Ramallah, which began carrying the name of the tribe later on.

5.1.3. The location

The town of West Bani Zayd is located on latitude line 31.52 degrees to the North and on longitude line 12.35 degrees to the East, 27km northwest of Ramallah. It is 25km from Nablus City and at an elevation of 550m above sea level. It overlooks the Palestinian coast, from it, one can view the buildings in Jaffa, and the zephyr wind blows on it in the early morning.

On its southwest borders are located the villages of Abud and West Al Libin, and it borders the villages of Der Nizam and Al-Nabi Salih from the Southeast. The villages Qarawat Bani Zayd and Kufir Ein border on it from the Northeast. From the North, it borders the villages of Borqeen and Kufir Aldeek. From the Northwest, it borders on the villages of Der Ballut and Salfeet.

Topographically, the Bani Zayd region is a mountainous area. Its houses are distributed over its mountains and hills, which are covered mostly with olive trees. It also has many streams, springs, valleys and fertile lands that are cultivated with olive trees, grapes, figs, deciduous trees, nuts and corn.

Its area presently is about 5,629 Dunums within the municipality boundaries according to the new structural layout currently in preparation. It also has a network of internal roads, which total about 20 kilometers in aggregate. In addition, several agricultural roads totaling about 20 kilometers were made to serve its farmers.

5.1.4. A historical overview

The two parts of the West Bani Zayd area have very ancient historical origins. They can be dated as far back as the late prehistoric Canaanites who came to the Middle Eastern areas of Syria and Palestine. Some of them emigrated from Medinah because of economic and warfare conditions. Various archaeological ruins exist in the region and are purported to be of Canaanite origin.

As the years passed, some Arab Muslim tribes (specifically the Halabi family) came to West Bani Zayd town from Syrian Halab and settled it after they had reconstructed its destroyed Canaanite part. Then, other Arab tribes began to arrive from other Arab countries, such as the family of Abd Alraziq, who contributed to the development of the region. During this time, there was rapid population growth.

Its original Canaanite inhabitants had called the other part of the Bani Zayd town Surayda until it fell to the Romans. The name Surayda is mentioned in historical resources and evidenced by the name of a known site in the city called Khallat Surayda (Surayda hamlet) until our present day. The Romans established a church in the city called Crusaders Church after the name of their Queen at that time. They also built many olive pressers and left many archaeological signs and memorials behind them. Even some of the old buildings and figures in the town reflect a beautiful manner of Roman origin until now. Finally, after the Islamic conquests of Syria and Palestine, Muslims had control over the city of Bani Zayd and inhabited the whole region together with the tribe of Bani Zayd.

The scholar Ben Faddl Allah commented about the origins of the tribe of Bani Zayd in his book Maslak Alabsar saying that they are nomadic people from the Middle East. They are made up of a group of Jafaris, a group from Jerusalem, and another group from Ezraat villages, which claim Jafari origin. There are two archaeological sites in Bani Zayd, which are not renovated to receive tourists. They are Al Heera and the Old City.

5.1.5. General statistical information about Bani Zayd

Depending on the statistic information and data issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of the population in the region in 1997 was 4,355. This number is expected to rise to 5,720 individuals by the end of 2003.

The number of nongovernmental organizations	2
The number of clinics	3 (one public and two private)
The number of hospitals	none
General area in Dunums	27,000
Used area for buildings	2,623 Dunums
Agriculture:	olives, figs, grapes & deciduous trees.
The number of schools:	3
The number of kindergartens	3
The number of health centers:	one center operated by PNA MOH One ambulance belonging to the municipality
The number of mosques:	3

5.1.6. Agricultural and economic activities

The number of economic establishments belonging to the private sector is 71 distributed according to economic activities as follows:

Transformational industry: 18 establishments employing 54 workers.

Wholesale and retail commerce in addition to repairing vehicles and motorcycles: 48 establishments employing 64 workers.

Restaurants: Five employing 8 workers.

There are also 47 farms for raising animals and birds.

Agriculture

Like most other villages in the Ramallah and Al Bireh governates, we find that the machines and instruments used in agriculture in the Bani Zayd region are often old. The traditional manual methods are still used by many people. One of those very common machines is the tractor (95%). Sowing and mowing machines are rare.

The agricultural products in that area is divided into two parts:

Plant products such as olive trees, vegetables and fruit

Animal product such as meat (sheep, cows and goats), chickens: eggs, milk and honey.

Marketing is done either in the community or in the nearby Ramallah city. Internal marketing is made directly to consumers or by means of traders and little is sold directly from the farms themselves.

Problems and Needs of the agricultural sector:

The agricultural sector in the Bani Zayd region suffers from many problems hindering its development and productivity. Some of those problems are:

1. There is a need to restore and rejuvenate land.
2. There is a lack of training in agricultural procedures.
3. Water shortages.
4. Marketing problems.
5. Lack of trained workers.
6. Absence of necessary financial support for agricultural projects.
7. There are land areas that are under military closure.

It is suggested to do the following things in order to develop the agricultural sector within the boundaries of the Bani Zayd municipality to supplement the works executed by the Ministry of Agriculture:

1. Providing agricultural guides and directors to offer advice and guidance to cultivators.
2. Providing necessary veterinary service to farmers.
3. Providing modern agricultural machines.
4. Providing needed agricultural materials and supporting marketing services.
5. Providing loans, subsidies and compensation to farmers in order to encourage them to work in agriculture.

Water springs

The Bani Zayd Mountains are full of water springs most of which are unused. Some of its water is used for drinking, irrigation and house usage. Some of those springs are: "Ein Bu Salamah"

north of Der Ghassaneh. There are three springs around Beit Reemah, only 1% of its water is used for drinking and 1% for irrigation while the remaining 98% is unused.

Valleys

The valleys and lowlands in the Bani Zayd are distinguished by temporary water flow. They carry heavy rainwater to the main Bani Zayd valley. They are also relatively short and run between two or more mountains where water flows from uplands and hills into the valleys. The valley of Bani Zayd is about 60km long extending from the Bani Murrah area until the Ras Alaein levels near Jaffa. Because those valleys run temporarily, they are often unused except for Abud valley and its blue springs, which supply the nearby villages, such as Beit Reemah with drinking water.

5.1.7. The Population of Bani Zayd town:

1. The Population growth

The population number in Bani Zayd town in 1997 was 4,355 individuals according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The number of males was 2,255 and the number of females was 2,096.

We should point out here that the number of the population, which was counted in Bani Zayd town, was 4,351. That is, there were only 4 persons who registered themselves as non-Palestinians because the detailed data available is about Palestinian residents only. There are very few non-Palestinian inhabitants in the area. In this study, we will consider only the number of the Palestinian population mentioned above without taking into account the current and future yearly growth average of the population.

As shown by the following table, the population of the two villages of Beit Reemah and Der Ghassaneh in 1931, according to the general population count of the British Mandate, was 1499 individuals. This number was divided as follows: 746 persons in Beit Reemah and 753 in Der Ghassaneh. The population number increased to 3,002 by 1961. The population of Beit Reemah increased to 1,451 and that of Der Ghassaneh increased to 1,461 persons. This means that the population of that region increased by 1,305 individuals during a period of 30 years. This is a large number. This period is sufficient for the population to be multiplied. However, the yearly growth average was only 2.3%. This is a low number compared with the current yearly

population growth average, which is about 4.65% according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

Table (12)
Population growth development in Bani Zayd town from 1922 until 2003

District	No. of Population					Annual Growth Average		
	1922	1931	1961	1997	2003	1931-1961	1961-1997	1997-2003
Bani Zayd	1,180	1,499	3,002	4,355	5,720	2.3	1.04	4.65
Beit Reemah	555	746	1,541	-	-	2.5	-	-
Der Ghassaneh	625	753	1,461	-	-	2.2	-	-

- Data are unavailable.

Source: Data of 1931: Palestine recapitulation, 1931 count.

Data of 1961: Division of General Statistics, Jordan, The first General count of population and housing units in 1961, The initial report No. 7, Characteristics of population distribution in Jerusalem-Amman district in 1963.

Data of 1997: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 1999, General count of population, housing units and establishments-1997, final results, residents report, Ramallah & Al Bireh, part one, Ramallah-Palestine.

Data of 2003: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Population of Palestinian communities from 1997 until 2010 Ramallah-Palestine 1999.

In the count of 1997, the two villages of Beit Reemah and Der Ghassaneh were incorporated into one community called Bani Zayd because it had declared itself a unified municipality since 1966.

(1) The average growth of the population was calculated with the use of geometric sequence and series according to the following formulas:

$$\text{Log}(1+r) = 1+r \cdot 2\%4.$$

For the sake of verification, we calculated the yearly growth average of the population from 1961 until 1997. It was found that the average of the yearly population growth in the town dropped drastically in half because of the Israeli oppressive actions after the occupation of 1967. The average growth became 1.4%, which is less than half of its previous percentage before the Israeli occupation.

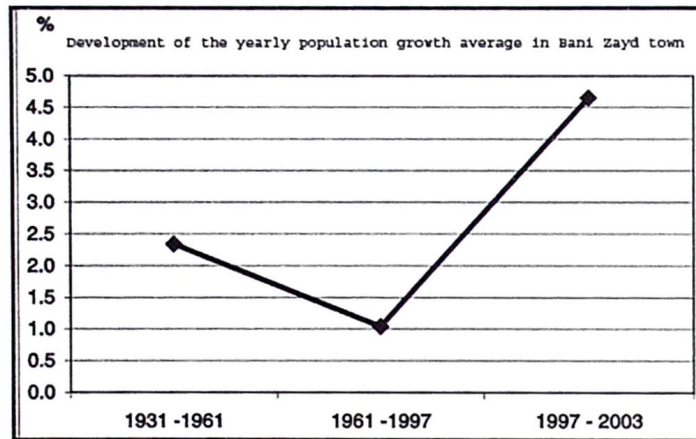


Figure 13: Development of the yearly population growth average in Bani Zayd town from 1931 until 2003

According to the estimation of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of Bani Zayd town in 2003 is about 5,720 individuals. This number is expected to rise to 7,847 by the year 2010.

2. The Structure of age and gender of the people in Bani Zayd town

Studying the population structure, or census, is considered as one of the important factors in urban and population analysis. This is so because studying the population provides information about the differences of the population structure with respect to gender and age. It also gives a clear representation of the economic structure and educational level of the population. This helps us to determine the available workforce resources and the way to use them reasonably and regularly in economic and social development and to meet their current and future demands.

We mean by 'gender structure' the ratio of males to females across different ages.

It becomes clear from studying gender structure of the population in Bani Zayd town that the percentage of males increased rapidly during this period. It jumped from 89 males per 100 females in 1961 to 108 males per 100 females in 1997. In 1997, the males constituted about 50% of the population whereas the females constituted 49.2%. The males' percentage registered a new rise of about 4.8% higher than its corresponding value in 1961 whereas the females' percentage decreased at the same rate.

According to the results of the fieldwork survey, which was executed by a crew of Bir Zeit university students in 2002, the gender percentage was 105.2 males per 100 females in Bani Zayd. This means that the males' percentage is increasing continuously. This rise might be attributed to girls marrying males from outside Bani Zayd and moving out of the town. It may be attributed to the returning back of young males from outside to reside in Bani Zayd because of high house rents in Ramallah and Al Bireh especially after the returning back of the Palestinian National Authority.

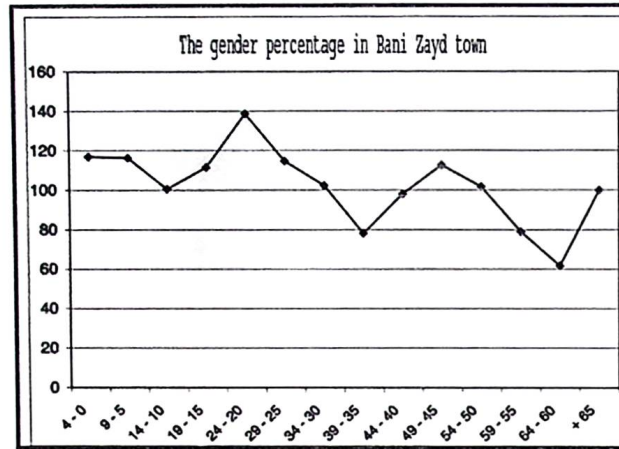
We also notice that the gender percentage varies from one age category to another as shown by Fig. 2. It is higher in the age categories below 20 years. In the age categories 20-24 years, it is as high as 138.5 males per 100 females. However, it begins to fall gradually until it reaches its lowest point in the age category 60-64 years to become 61.5 males per 100 females only. The gender percentage is 78 males per 100 females in the age category from 35 to 39 years. This specific phenomenon happened in the region 60 years ago and is attributed to the Second World War and the war of 1948 as shown by the following table.

Table (13)
The age and gender structure of the population in Bani Zayd in 1997

Age Category	Males	%	Females	%	Total	%	Percentage of Structure
0-4	339	53.9	290	46.1	629	14.5	116.9
5-9	364	53.9	313	46.2	677	15.6	116.3
10-14	237	50.1	236	49.9	473	10.9	100.4
15-19	236	52.7	212	47.3	448	10.3	111.3
20-24	248	58.1	179	41.9	427	9.8	138.5
25-29	149	53.4	130	46.6	279	6.4	114.6
30-34	134	50.6	131	49.4	265	6.1	102.3
35-39	103	43.8	132	56.2	235	5.4	78.0
40-44	90	49.5	92	50.5	182	4.2	97.8
45-49	80	53.0	71	47.0	151	3.5	112.7
50-54	62	50.4	61	49.6	123	2.8	101.6
55-59	41	44.1	52	55.9	93	2.1	78.8
60-64	40	38.1	65	61.9	105	2.4	61.5
+65	132	50.0	132	50.0	264	6.1	100.0
Total	2,255	51.8	2,096	48.2	4,351	100.0	107.6

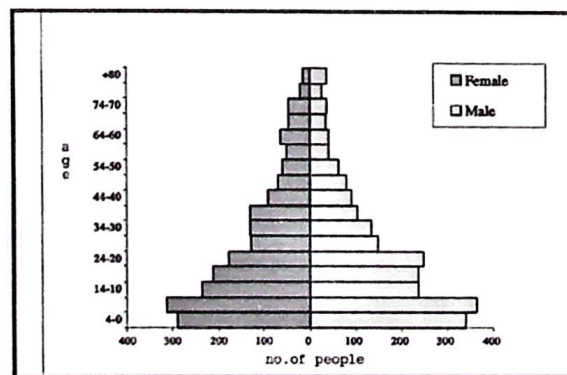
Source: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 1999, The general count and enumeration of population, housing units and establishments in 1997, Final results, residents report, Ramallah & Al Bireh governates (part 1) Ramallah -Palestine.

Figure 14 : The gender percentage in Bani Zayd town in 1997



By pursuing the historical development of the age structure of the population in Bani Zayd, we find that the percentage of young children below the age of 15 constitutes 40.9% of the whole population of 1997. The percentage of the middle-aged people constitutes 53.0% of the population. However, the percentage of old people constitutes only 6.1% of the population. This supports the possibility of a rise in the average of the yearly population growth in Bani Zayd town during the coming few years. This is so because of the high percentage of people at the age of marriage which will result in a rise in the average of the new formed families and consequently in the number of the new births. However, this requires providing further educational, recreational, and health services to young people of different age categories that constitute the great majority of the population in the town as shown by the age's pyramid of the population in Bani Zayd.

Figure 15: The pyramid of the population age in the town of Bani Zayd in 1997



When calculating the average of aging in the town of Bani Zayd, it was found that it was about 14% in 1997. This value is equivalent to half of the national average in all the Palestinian territories, which was about 4.7% in 1997. This confirms the findings that the society is a young one, which requires special concern when preparing the city layout plans and schemes and when providing the necessary needs to such a young society.

Aging average = the number of the people above 65 years old per the number of the people below the age of 15 times 100.

In summary, the high percentage of young and middle-aged people and the low percentage of old people provide evidence that the society moves towards rapid growth in the coming years. The rise of the yearly growth average, in addition to increasing fertility and high numbers of births and marriages will lead to more demands for educational and health services which in turn may result in higher percentages of unemployment and a higher need for sustenance. All those factors will have obvious impact on the population's standards of living as it will be demonstrated when we discuss the projected conditions of the future years.

3. Future expectations of the population growth in the town

After analyzing all the indicators related to the future yearly population growth, it was found that the town of Bani Zayd witnesses an increasing yearly population growth. That finding was reached despite ignoring the effect of the factor of immigration on the population growth because of the inability to determine the influence of that factor under the current conditions taking place in the Palestinian territories. The following table summarizes the most important demographic changes expected to happen in Bani Zayd until 2020. They were calculated by using population policies modeling (spectrum rapid model).

Table (14)
The most important demographic indicators of the population in Bani Zayd during the period
(1997-2020)

Indicator	1997	2000	2003	2005	2010	2015	2020
Fertility							
Total Fertility Rate	5.3	5.29	5.27	5.27	5.24	5.22	5.2
Gross Birth Average	2.59	2.58	2.57	2.57	2.56	2.55	2.54
Net Birth Average	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.45	2.44	2.44	2.43
Pregnancy Average Age	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.3	29.3
Percentage children to Women	0.66	0.68	0.73	0.72	0.74	0.76	0.73
Mortality Rate							
Life Expectancy for males	70	70.4	70.8	71	71.7	72.3	73
Life Expectancy for Females	74	74.3	74.5	74.7	75.1	75.6	76
Total Life Expectancy	71.9	72.3	72.6	72.8	73.4	73.9	74.5
Infant Mortality Rate	32.4	31.4	30.5	29.9	28.4	26.9	25.4
Mortality Rate for children below 5	40.5	39.2	37.9	37	35	33	31.1
Immigration Rate							
Immigrants Rate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livelihood Averages							
Birth Raw Average	35.3	35.4	35.3	35.6	36	35.7	35.2
Death Raw Average	6.8	6.5	6.2	6	5.5	5.1	4.8
Annual increase Average	2.85	2.88	2.92	2.95	3.05	3.06	3.05
Annual Growth Average	2.85	2.88	2.92	2.95	3.05	3.06	3.05
Population Double time	24.6	24.4	24.1	23.8	23.1	23	23.1
Annual Births and Mortality Average							
Births	154	168	184	196	231	268	308
Mortality	30	31	32	33	36	38	42
Population (thousands)							
Total Population	4.35	4.75	5.19	5.51	6.42	7.5	8.75
No. of population-Males	2.26	2.45	2.68	2.84	3.3	3.86	4.5
No. of population-Females	2.1	2.3	2.51	2.67	3.12	3.64	4.25
Percentage of children between 0-4	14.46	14.8	16.1	16.14	16.33	16.34	16.1
Percentage of children between 5-14	26.43	26.96	25.66	25	24.65	25.7	25.86
Percentage of children between 15-49	45.67	45.4	45.87	46.75	47.16	46.1	46.49
Percentage of children between 15-64	53.05	52.44	52.84	53.83	54.63	53.86	54.05
Percentage of 65 and more	6.07	5.8	5.4	5.03	4.39	4.1	3.99
Percentage of females from 15 to 49	45.18	45.15	45.63	46.26	45.7	44.53	45.26
Gender Percentage	107.59	106.88	106.44	106.25	106.02	105.94	105.88
Catering Percentage	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.86	0.83	0.86	0.85
Aging Average	19	19	19	19	19	19	19

It is also obvious that the population number will double after 24 years. Similarly, the percentages of gender and sustenance will decline gradually.

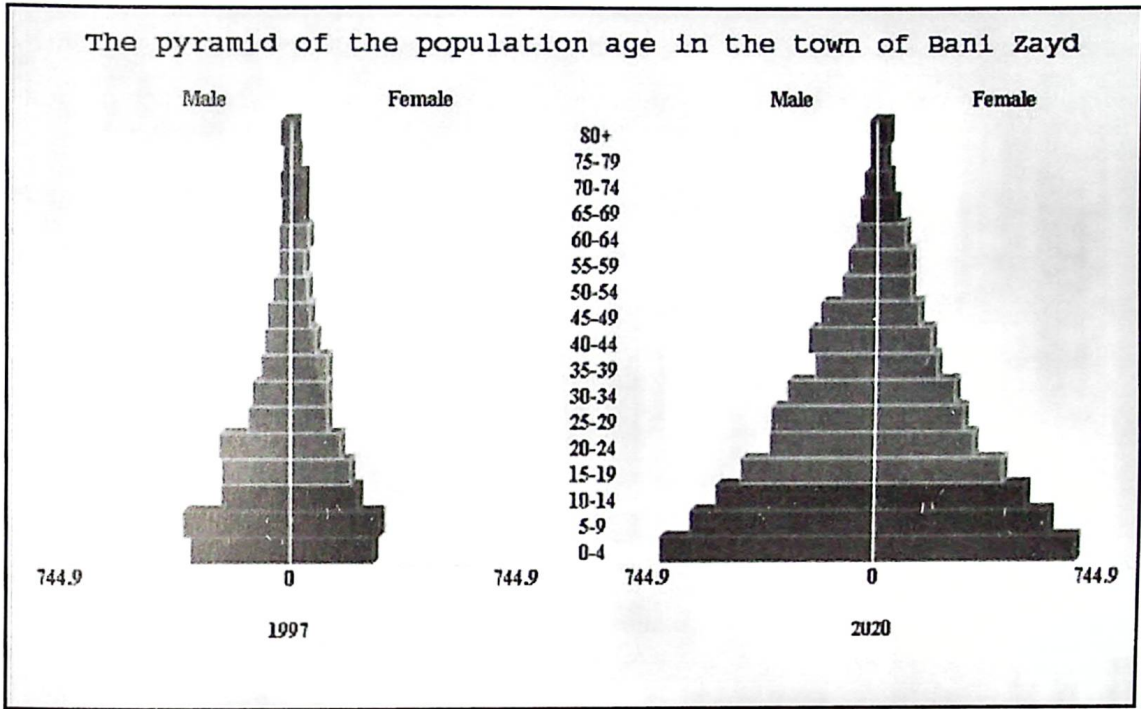


Figure 16: The expected pyramid of population ages in Bani Zayd town in 2020 as compared with the pyramid of 1997.

5.2. Beit Reemah

It's Location:

It is located northwest of Ramallah city and surrounded by Der Ghassaneh, Kufir Ein, Al-Nabi Salih, Der Nizam and Abud.

It's Name:

It was called Aromah in the Old Testament, which probably meant 'height.' In addition, it was called Beit Reemah at the time of the Romans, which is also its current name. It was an artifact of the Allid province, Diospolis. The second part of the name Reemah taken from the Latin plural word "reemata" and its singular "remta," which mean 'great cliff.'

There is another historical version concerning the origination of the name saying that the area was called *Betprime* at the time of the Romans, which is like the Jordanian region of *Petra*. The story says that there was a Roman commander walking near a mountain when he saw a deer and started to chase it. He launched an arrow towards it, but the deer continued to run until it reached a peak of an upland. He then followed it and ordered his soldiers to camp in that place of Beit Alreem or the deer house.

It's Area:

The area of Beit Reemah is about 18,000 Dunums. 6,000 Dunums for roads and valleys and most of the remaining area is planted with olive trees, figs, grapes, nuts, apricots and other fruits.

Water sources:

There is a system of water conduits in the town supplied with water from the municipality of West Bani Zayd and it is the main source of water in the town. In the past, people used to drink water from Aein Fayad (spring of Fayad), Aein Albalad (spring of the country) and from underground water wells.

Buildings in Beit Reemah:

As we see in the following table, most of the houses (89%) are new and the construction of these homes took place since 1940. This construction activity became more intense during the period of 1960-1999. All of the citizens who built new homes left their previous dwellings. These old homes normally were located very near the new residences.

Table (15)

Dates of construction:

Before 1900	1900-1919	1920-1939	1940-1959	1960-1979	1980-1999	2000-2002
0	0	2	11	27	54	3

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The scope of urbanization differs from one family to another depending on the economic conditions of the people, which is often dependent on the changing political situations. People left most old houses empty. Some of them are being renewed and renovated presently to be used by people for different purposes.

Usage of Buildings in Beit Reemah:

The houses in Beit Reemah have their own special arrangements such that commercial, industrial locations and animal farms are not far from them. They are near to the house or even part of it sometimes. The houses are used for living purposes about 70% of the time where people often live in the second floor and use the first floor to store things or to raise animals. The percentage of those using the first floor to raise animals reaches 12%.

Table (16)

The completed buildings according to community and usage since 1997

District	Usage of Buildings					Total
	Living Purposes	Work Purposes	Living & Work Purposes	Closed	Empty	
No. of Buildings	604	79	46	25	29	783
Percentage	77.1	10.1	5.9	3.2	3.7	100.0

The other destroyed and collapsing buildings are in their current state because of the lack of renovation and because of quick construction without previous planning. The economic depression in the village hindered urbanization of Beit Reemah in addition to its remote location from main roads and streets in Palestine. Most cases of construction are in fact additions or expansions to old buildings resulting in weakening the original buildings and deteriorating their conditions.

The roads in Beit Reemah Village:

Most buildings can be reached by means of indirect paths. Data also indicate that most roads in the town are asphalted, but are destroyed. The percentage of asphalted roads in Beit Reemah is

36%, including the main road and some internal streets. The remaining streets are in a state of disrepair. Therefore, they need overhaul, maintenance and pavements.

According to the field survey, the main road in the town is asphalted and in good condition whereas the internal roads and the roads inside the old city are in a deteriorated state. In addition, some houses in the area use unasphalted roads. The main road in the town needs pavements, space for garbage containers, signs and planning. High-speed impediments on the main road are also placed in inappropriate positions such that they need relocating and redistribution.

Table 17

The condition of the roads (driveways) which lead to its buildings:

Type of Roads	State of roads				Total
	Well asphalted	Badly asphalted	Unasphalted	No Road	
Direct Paths	17	13	1	0	31
%	94	46	25	0	62
Indirect Paths	1	15	3	0	19
%	6	54	75	0	38
Total	18	28	4	0	50

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Sectors of employment:

Most employed persons are workers inside the Green Line or in Ramallah city. Because of the current economic depression, they have become unemployed. The majority of the remaining employed people work in education and agriculture.

Monthly income average:

The following table indicates that 67% of the village residents receive monthly incomes of 2,000 shekels or less. This high percentage of low income for big families is attributed to the fact that many people have lost their jobs since the beginning of the Israeli siege and closure, which

commenced in the year 2000. Those who have income higher than 2,000 shekels have their own private work or often have more than one source of income.

Table (18)
Monthly Income according to the Sample

Monthly Income (Shekels)	Percentage
Lower than 1,000	30%
1,000-1.999	37%
2,000-2.999	17%
3,000-3,999	13%
4,000- Higher than 4,000	2%
Unknown	1%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

General Services:

Most people benefit from the local water lines in addition to their own water wells. These wells are designed to collect rainwater to be used when pumping stops in the network. Well water is used for drinking, animals and agriculture. Many of those destroyed wells can be repaired and prepared to collect water in order to compensate water shortages during summer.

Electricity Services:

The study showed that most people benefit from electricity services. However, the electric network is old and needs renewal and maintenance.

Telephone service:

Although the telephone service in Beit Reemah is available, the percentage of members who are subscribing to that service is only 62%. This is so because the telephone lines were established long ago. However, many people have their own mobiles.

Sewer systems:

There is no sewer system in the village of Beit Reemah. However, they have recently started an experimental project of sewerage and it will be ready once the needed financial support is available for the municipality. Because the sewer system is not properly developed, people make underground holes to get rid of waste materials and water.

5.3. Der Ghassaneh

Its Location and Area:

It is located northwest of Ramallah and its name is attributed to the tribe of Ghassaneh who settled the area and their name commemorates this historical fact. The area of Der Ghassaneh is about 12.802 dunums. It is planted with different trees, such as, for example, olives. The lands of Kufir Deek, Burqeen, Beit Reemah, Kufir Ein, Abud, Allibin and Der Ballut surround it.

Buildings in Der Ghassaneh

Ninety percent of the buildings were built after 1960 according to the sample study. This indicates construction prosperity and stability during this period. The most prosperous years of urbanization were the 70s. However, after the year 2000, the urbanization process declined considerably because of the current conditions of the country.

Table (19)
Date of constructing buildings according to sample

Date of construction	No.	Percentage
Before 1900	1	2%
1900-1919	1	2%
1920-1939	1	2%
1940-1959	1	2%
1960-1969	6	12%
1970-1979	15	30%
1980-1989	11	22%
1990-1999	9	18%
2000-2002	5	10%
Total	50	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The condition of the roads leading to its buildings:

Table 20 indicates that 44% of the village roads are in good condition though this percentage can be accounted mainly from the state of the main road in the village. Conversely, 34% of the roads are destroyed and need maintenance and embankments. There is also an urgent need to pave unasphalted roads and to open new agricultural ways.

Table (20)

The condition of roads (driveways) which lead to buildings according to sample

State of Roads	No.	Percentage
Well asphalted	22	44%
Badly asphalted	17	34%
Unasphalted	11	22%
No Road	0	0%
Total	50	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Usage of the Buildings:

Most buildings in the village are residential units while commercial buildings are very few in number because the village services are exclusive to its residents. The residents also depend mainly on the nearby villages and towns to secure their agricultural, industrial and handicraft needs.

Table (21)

Building usage in Der Ghassaneh according to sample

Usage	No.	Percentage
Agricultural	1	2%
Industrial	0	0%
Commercial	4	8%
Housing with garden	25	50%
Housing without garden	20	40%
Total	50	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Types of families:

Most families are nuclear in nature, few of them are extended, and this conforms to the housing pattern that has become prominent in the Bani Zayd region.

Table (22)

Types of households in Der Ghassaneh according to sample

Type of family	No.	Percentage
Nuclear	53	95%
Extended	3	5%
Total	56	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Distribution of the population:

As in other Palestinian villages, the number of males is nearly equivalent to the number of females in Der Ghassaneh. There is, in addition, a great majority of children and young people.

Table (23)

Population Distribution

Distribution of the population	No.	Percentage
Males	157	52%
Females	138	48%
Total	295	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Number of employed people:

Table 24 indicates the sectors of employment and their distribution in the village. The table indicates that 38.5% of the employed people work in the educational and public fields. However, 25% of the employed people work in the private sector. These percentages show clearly that most employed people tend to work in non-productive sectors and less than 20% work in productive fields and crafts.

Table (24)

The relative distribution in Der Ghassaneh according to employment sector 2002

Employment Sector	No.	Percentage
Public Sector	13	18%
Private Sector	18	25%
Educational	15	20.5%
Agricultural	5	7%
Industrial	3	4%
Craft	7	9.5%
Commercial	6	8%
Productive	6	8%
Total	73	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The Employed people according to their place of work:

Table 25 shows that 57% of the village's population works in cities in the public or private sector. This indicates that the village depends mostly on cities in terms of employment sectors. The percentage of those who work inside the village is 36% working in agriculture, education, commerce or crafts.

Table (25)

The relative distribution in Der Ghassaneh according to place of work 2002.

Place of work	No.	Percentage
Village	26	36%
Near-By Village	5	7%
City	45	57%
Total	73	100%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The Monthly income average:

Table 26 indicates that 50% of the population has a monthly income of about 2,000 Shekels or less. This may be attributed to the current hard economic conditions in Palestine because of the Israeli siege and closure. The percentage of the employed people decreases as their monthly income increases.

Table (26)
Monthly income of families in Der Ghassaneh

The average of the monthly income in Shekels	No.	Percentage
<1.000	6	11
1.000-1.999	22	39.50
2.000-2.999	16	28.50
3.000-3.999	4	7
4.000 +	3	5
Unknown	5	9
Total	56	100

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Available services:

Daily shopping:

More than half of the population depends on cities for their shopping. This confirms the close relationship between the Palestinian rural areas and the urban centers. However, 42% of the population depends on their own village to do their shopping.

Educational services:

The village has enough educational services to offer to its people where most of its pupils go to schools inside the village.

Water services:

All houses in the analyzed sample benefit from the water network of the village. However, some people also use wells to supply their houses with gathered rainwater.

Electricity services:

Most houses have electricity from an electricity network that serves the whole village. However, this network is old and needs maintenance and renewal.

Health services:

The village does not have enough health services because of the lack of specialized persons. Therefore, the residents go to nearby villages or cities when they need health care. Table 27 indicates that 56% of the population depends on cities to get health services. In addition, 26% of the population depends on the nearby villages such as Beit Reemah, which has a central clinic. Whereas 18% of the population receive health services from local doctors who live in their village.

Table (27)

Distribution of locations of health services offered to the population in Der Ghassaneh

Health Services	No.	Percentage
Village	9	18
Nearby Villages	10	20
City	6	12
Village + Villages	3	6
Village + City	22	44
Total	50	100

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

Communication services:

Most analyzed houses have a telephone line, access to mobile phones or both.

Sewer systems:

There is still no sewer system in the village, but there is an attempt to build an experimental one in a limited area in the villages of Beit Reemah and Der Ghassaneh. People presently use underground holes to get rid of wastewater.

Social and cultural centers:

There is only one cultural center in Der Ghassaneh village.

Problems and needs:

As shown by the data gathered and the fieldwork conducted, the following social needs and problems were registered:

The problems:

No health expertise

Hard economic conditions due to high unemployment

No activities center for young people

No public library

No parks or places for recreation

No commercial centers. This forces citizens to go to Ramallah and Salfet for shopping

Most roads are either unasphalted or destroyed

No street lights

No sewer system resulting in pollution problems

Uninvested agricultural lands

Severe water shortage during summer and electricity interruptions in winter

Problems pertaining to boundaries, buildings and land classification:

The old city is neglected and destroyed

Continuous emigration from the village

Health and environmental consequences resulting from the accumulation of garbage and wastewater in the nearby valleys about 5 km from the village

Problems hindering agricultural production, financial problems and lack of workers and centers for agricultural guidance

Recommendations and needs:

Encourage and support the agricultural sector by employing idle people, by utilizing more agricultural land and by supporting the economy of the village

Improving roads and paths

Encouraging specialized doctors to work in the village

Provide necessary commercial services

Utilizing water wells in agriculture

Establishing centers of activities for youths

Establishing parks and fields for recreation and entertainment

Establishing a public library

5.4. The village of Arorah

Its Area and Location:

It is located in the north of the Bani Zayd region on the top of a mountain currently occupying its whole summit and the slants of the neighboring mountains. It borders on the villages of Mazari Al-Nubani, Der Alsudan, Ajul and Abween. It was founded before the Ottoman Empire as far back as the Roman period. They called it Aruir and considered it a part of the Kapitolina province of Jerusalem. There are two memorials in Arorah: Alsheikh Radwan, West of Arorah and Alarori memorial. Alarori is Alsheikh Hassan Ibn Ahmad Almaqdisi, who died in 1700 and was known of his wisdom and honored by the people of the village. The area of Arorah is about 10,978 square km and its population is 2,087 according to the census of 2000. Therefore, the population density was about 5.26 persons\1 square km. It is at an elevation of 585 meters above sea level. Some of the most important enterprises in the village include the Municipality of East Bani Zayd, the Arorah coffeehouse, the Municipality playground, the sports club, the Charitable Society, two mosques (one of them is under construction), two memorials, one cemetery, one public and one private clinic and a public school.

The Roads of Arorah:

The village of Arorah connects the three neighboring villages of Abween, Ajul and Mazari Al-Nubani. Their roads converge east of Arorah. The later three villages united to form the

municipality of East Bani Zayd. There is a parking lot in the area of Alkhadir for traveling to Ramallah. The condition of the roads is asphalted, but timeworn except for the road leading to Ajul. However, internal streets and lanes are mostly badly asphalted or unasphalted.

The buildings in Arorah:

Most of the buildings were constructed before 1950 and are centered around the mosque, which is the main center of the village. Collapsed buildings form about 2% of the structures. Because of this, there is a need for their renovation. We also notice that 45% of the buildings have been randomly constructed around the mosque in the last 30 years.

As for the usage of the buildings, 84% of them are housing units. Commercial activities are weak in the village. However, there are some housing units in the center of the village having some commercial enterprises raising the percentage of the commercial buildings to 16%. We also notice that 40% of the buildings contain ground floors to store foodstuff and commodities. Such buildings are concentrated in the center of the village where old buildings are present.

The household in Arorah:

A high percentage of nuclear families (75%) live in the new buildings of Arorah. The highest percentage of age category is that of youths which reaches 72%. Older people form only 6% with their ages being above 50. Because the highest percentage is that of youths, this requires special concern when making developmental policies in the area.

Economic Activities:

We notice that only 23% of the whole population is employed because of the age distribution of the population. That is, 50% of the population is children or pupils between the ages of 0 and 19. This figure accounts for the above logical percentage for the employed people. If we assume that the age of retirement is 70, then the age category 20 to 70 forms only 45%. However, since the percentage of the employed females is as low as 6% of all the employed people, this has its effect on the percentage of the employed.

The low percentage of the employed females is attributed to:

1. Few good job opportunities in the village

2. Social habits and customs
3. There is no material need for female work

The percentage of the employed people in the public sector constitutes only 11% of all the employed because of:

1. Low salaries in the public sector
2. No public job opportunities available in the village

We notice very low level of concern with agriculture. Although 97% of the village area is agricultural land, only 1% of the available employees work in agriculture.

53% of the employed people work in Ramallah city because of:

1. More job opportunities.
2. Higher salaries.
3. Job opportunities available for university graduates and certificate holders.

As for income average, 43% of the families have monthly income ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 Shekels. 23% of the families have monthly income ranging from 2,000 to 3,000 Shekels. As for pupils, 67% of them are in the primary stage, which requires basic services such as libraries, labs and counseling centers. In addition, 19% of females are university students and this reflects a strong tendency to educate females.

Services:

It is obvious that 42 percent of the people in that village depend on their own village in their daily shopping. In Arorah, there are 15 groceries and vegetable shops. Half of the residents also do their shopping in Ramallah and Salfect. Concerning health services, there is one public and one private clinic in the village, in addition to a pharmacy on the road leading to Abween and a traditional female specialist in birth (midwife). However, the problem is that there is no

ambulance for traumas and there is no specialized hospital in the region. Therefore, 67% of the families depend on Ramallah and Salfeet in their health services.

The school of Mazari Al-Nubani serves the villages of both Arorah and Mazari Al-Nubani. There is a girl's school from the first grade up to the eleventh grade in the scientific stream whereas the boy's school has classrooms for all twelve grades in the literary stream. Those who choose to pursue their schooling in the scientific stream are forced to go to Abween School. Therefore, opening a scientific stream in addition to a vocational school in the village is a major priority to be considered.

There is a water spring in Arorah near the school, which is used by 4% of the families. More than 50% of the people depend on their water wells because of water shortages, especially in summer and because most of the houses had built wells before the laying of the public water conduit in 1984.

All inhabited houses in Arorah are connected to the electricity network. However, the electric network is weak. Therefore, the village encounters the problem of electrical service interruptions.

There is no sewerage system in Arorah and the village depends mostly on underground holes, which are then emptied in the nearby valleys at about 3km from the periphery of the village.

There is one truck for garbage collection, which is not disposed regularly, and the trash containers are not distributed in an orderly fashion.

Problems pertaining to public services:

Health problems:

There is a public clinic in Arorah belonging to the municipal council of East Bani Zayd. However, that clinic is not sufficient and 82% of the ill people who use the clinic also go to Ramallah and Salfeet cities for medical treatment. 46% of them go to Ramallah whereas 30% go to Salfeet because of the specialized doctors available in those cities. The village clinic does not have an ambulance either.

Educational Problems:

There is a public school in Arorah belonging to the Ministry of Education. It also serves the village of Der Al-Nubani to the north. Since the building was constructed in 1958, its pupils suffer from very damp and cold classrooms in winter as well as overcrowded rooms. Moreover, boys and girls are forced to go to Abween School to pursue their schooling in the scientific branch because their village school does not have a scientific stream. They are forced to go on foot because of the absence of public transportation between the villages.

Social and Cultural Problems:

There is no women's society in the village capable of dealing with maternal, cultural and family care issues.

There are no meeting clubs either. People meet only when relatives, neighbors or friends visit each other.

There is a small library in the municipal council, but it is not sufficient because the school does not have a library.

There is a coffeehouse in the village, but it is not used as it should be and it is not considered as a place of recreation for the village. The village does not have parks or fields for entertainment or recreation.

There are problems of archaeology and protecting ancient buildings:

The aim is to convert the ancient buildings into cultural centers or meeting places. By examining the date of constructing buildings, we find that the old buildings, which were constructed before 1950, are concentrated in the center of the village. Therefore, they must be protected in order to preserve archaeology and heritage. In addition to these needed renovations, there is the problem of buildings falling, such as the building across from the village mosque that collapsed in 1992 during a snowstorm.

Problems of commercial services:

The commercial activities are concentrated around the center of the village. However, it is apparent that most new buildings are constructed randomly around the village center without

taking into consideration the village's commercial activities because of the lack of structural plans and schemes for the village.

Problems of Infrastructure:

The most prominent problem in Arorah and in the whole region is the sewerage system. Because the village does not have sewerage system, people are forced to use underground holes, which are emptied into the nearby valleys at about 3km from the outermost residential location. The municipality also has a place in the village used for garbage disposal at about 3km from the residential houses.

This in turn results in contaminating the underground water and spreading of epidemics. Regarding the garbage containers, they are not distributed properly over the village of Arorah. There are some places inside the old city, which either do not have containers or their containers are not collected regularly. Concerning electricity, the network reached Arorah in 1985 and 90% of the people have electrical service. However, because of the weakness of the electricity network, there are often electrical service disruptions in winter. This leads to work stoppages in local businesses, which do not use electric generators. The public water network was laid down in 1985. Nevertheless, the residents depend mainly on their own water wells because of frequent water stoppages. More than 54% of the people in the village depend on their own water wells for drinking.

Roads and Transportation:

About 50% of the village's roads are asphalted, but are also worn out or unasphalted, especially those around the center of the village neighborhoods. All the roads do not have pavements. As for transportation, there were only 10 cars in 1997 used as public transportation. Other public transportation is not available in the village. People wait for cars, which come from Ramallah, to take them to one of the neighboring villages.

Agricultural Problems:

The smallest category of the workforce is that working in agriculture. Although the area of the available agricultural land constitutes 97% of the local area, only 1% of the people work in agriculture. Therefore, there should be a concern with this sector by establishing agricultural

societies, agricultural guidance programs and veterinary service centers in the whole region of Bani Zayd.

Recommendations:

Improving the infrastructure in Arorah, especially by building a sewer system because the underground holes pollute the ground water and cause the outbreak of epidemics.

Improving the network of roads, especially the street that connects Abween and Mazari Al-Nubani since it is narrow, broken and is unpaved. In addition, it is the street, which leads to the school where 100% of the pupils travel on foot on it in both directions.

There should be a great concern with agriculture because of the large area of the agricultural lands (97%) as compared with the small built up area. There should be a comprehensive regional plan for agricultural and veterinary guidance in order to encourage work in agriculture in addition to urging banks to offer grants and loans for agricultural investment.

There should be a concern with education in all of its branches. The education should be offered within a regional framework in connection with the Ramallah governate. More schools should be established in the region to serve the increasing numbers of the population taking into account the appropriate methods of construction and heating systems.

A regional plan is needed to build a specialized health center in the village to serve the whole region without the need to travel to Ramallah and Salfeet. Such a medical center should have its own ambulance for traumas and severe injuries.

There should be a fire engine in the municipal council in addition to a post office.

Establishing cultural centers and developing the library of the municipal council and the sports club of the school are priorities. In addition, it is also important to improve the school's playground and connect the whole area with an Internet network for its high importance nowadays.

Encouraging investment projects in the village to increase the job opportunities for women. Only 6% of the females have jobs because of lack of opportunities and because of early marriage and the difficulty to work abroad or outside the village.

5.5. Abween.

Its Location and Name:

It is located northwest of Ramallah at about 37km and at an elevation of 600 meters above sea level. Administratively, it belongs to the municipality of East Bani Zayd. It is reached through a local road, which is about 1.2 km from the main street. The urbanized area of the village is about 1,600 dunums and a municipal council administers it. Its name might have been derived from the Semitic root (*aub*) meaning darkness and obscurity and from the Syrian root (*aab*).

Its area:

The area of Abween is 16,200 dunums planted with olive trees and surrounded by the villages of Amoriyah, East Allibin, Sinjil, Jaljeelyah, Silwad, Utarah Ajul and Arorah. The most famous fruitful trees in the village are olive trees, grapes, fig, apple, peach and palm trees. Different kinds of vegetables are also cultivated in the village for the abundance of water. There are 13 springs in the village and around it.

Its population:

The population of the village in 1922 was 543 individuals, and in 1945, it rose to 880 individuals. After the aggressive war of June 1967, the population amounted to 1,001 individuals according to the Israeli statistics. This number increased to 1,672 individuals by the year 1987. There is a mosque in the village as well as two public elementary and preparatory schools. There are no health services or post office in the village, which is surrounded by a number of other hamlets.

Its households:

Types of families:

Presently, there are profound changes taking place in the social structure. The extended households, which existed once in the past, do not exist now. The extended families used to live in one dwelling place or courtyards forming one domestic unit. However, this old tradition is not valid anymore and families began to live independently in separate houses as nuclear families. Therefore, the percentage of the nuclear families reaches 82%. Some of the remaining extended families changed their way of life. That is, each family lives nowadays in a separate apartment in

a building of 2 to 5 floors, which contains the whole household. Such families have been classified as extended households because they live in the same building, close to each other and respect the authority of the father or mother.

The number of family members according to age categories:

The percentage of the people below the age of 9 is 24%, which is a large number. That is, the average of population growth in the village is high. Therefore, we should consider this in planning for more schools, youth centers, clubs and libraries. The percentage of young people between the ages of 10 and 19 constitutes the great majority in Abween. Therefore, we should consider their needs when we address the regional plan for the village, such as new housing projects. The percentage of the people between the age of 20 and 30 is 17%. These young people in this age category can be used to serve and avail the whole society and region by utilizing their capabilities in various social activities in the village.

The employment sector:

The percentage of those who work in the public sector is 20%. Most of them work in the Ministries of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah or in the security bureaus. However, the percentage of those who work in agriculture is only 9% since agricultural occupations are not considered primary employment enterprises as they used to be in previous times. Thus, in addition to agriculture, people work in other jobs and professions. Agricultural work depends mainly on cultivating olive trees, which offers a considerable source of financial support and a source of income to the people in the village. The percentage of those who work in the industrial sector is 6% working in simple industries because of the absence of a developed industrial area. They work in shops between houses and very often in the Aluminum industry, carpentry or in blacksmith shops. The percentage of those who work in education is 9% and those who work in the commercial sector is 13%. The commercial sector is a simple one and those working in it are often either shopkeepers or street vendors in Ramallah.

The percentage of those who work in construction is about 35%, which is the highest among young workers. This group often does not have fixed places of work and depend on workshops whether in their own village or in Ramallah or in the nearby villages. This sector is the one most affected by the Israeli closures and blockade since most of its workers used to work inside the

Green Line. Therefore, they rarely find work nowadays, and if there is any, they receive very low wages.

Monthly income average:

Most of the people in the village belong to the category of low income. The percentage of those whose income is below 2,000 Shekels per month is 66%. However, those individuals, whose income is between 2,000 and 3,000 Shekels, constitute 22%. The income in general depends on the nature of the work and on the numbers of workers in the same family since those numbers were repeated frequently. Those whose monthly income falls between 3,000 and 4,000 Shekels are 8% only.

Table (28)

Monthly income average of the people of Abween.

The average of the monthly income in Shekels	<1,000	1,000-1,999	2,000-2,999	3,000-3,999	4,000+	Unknown
No. of Families	11	22	11	4	0	2
Percentage	22%	44%	22%	8%	0%	4%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The most important enterprises in the village:

There is one school for females and another mixed gender one containing 24 classrooms in Abween. They accommodate 366 boys and 344 girls in addition to their 15 male and 11 female teachers. There is also a café, a public library, the municipal council and a charitable society. There are also three mosques, a cemetery and one medical clinic.

The buildings in Abween:

Date of construction:

There are many houses, which need access roads because they can be reached only on foot. Such buildings are found in distant places and inside the old city where the buildings are close to each

other. About 86% of the buildings were constructed after 1956. However, after the year 2000, the percentage of the constructed buildings decreased because of the Israeli blockade and closure.

Usage of the buildings:

About 87% of the buildings in Abween are used as housing units, 4% are used for commercial purposes, 1% for industrial enterprises and crafts, in addition to 3% under construction. Thus, we notice that most of the buildings are used as houses and that there are no buildings especially for commercial or industrial uses. However, houses, which are built on the roadsides, are used for industrial or commercial purposes in their ground floors. The ground floors are often used as storage locations in other houses as well.

The condition of its roads:

The field survey indicates that the asphalted roads constitute 54% whereas the timeworn and destroyed roads account for 46%. This high percentage invokes a need for immediate overhaul and maintenance.

Available services:

Daily shopping:

Most people do their daily shopping for foodstuffs and daily needs at the local stores, groceries and vegetable shops of the village. When they need commodities, which are not available in the village, such as kitchen utensils and clothes, they travel to Ramallah. The Al Aqsa Intifada is also one of the factors that increased the level of shopping and the services offered to customers in the village because of the difficulty to reach Ramallah.

Health services:

There is a temporary health center in the village serving people on Thursdays and it is not equipped for traumas. During the rest of the week, the people travel to Jaljeelyah for medical care, where there is a physician. In the case of severe injury, they go to Ramallah for treatment.

Educational services:

Both girls and boys receive their entire school education in Abween, which has enough schools for all stages. Then they pursue their university education in Bir Zeit University, Jerusalem University and the Al Quds Open University.

Water services:

Some 72% of the residents get their water from the public water pipes. In addition, 14% of the houses have wells in order to collect rainwater. The residents of the old city, on the other hand, installed pumps on nearby springs to draw water directly to their houses. Such water is free and does not cost more than the price of the pumps. However, the percentage of those who benefit from such service according to the fieldwork survey is only 14% of the houses, which are close to the spring.

Electricity services:

All of the homes and buildings in the village are connected to the main electricity grid, but they suffer from frequent electrical service interruptions. No one has generators to deal with these problems.

Communication services:

The field survey revealed that 84% of the residents enjoy telephone services, whereas 16% of the residents do not have telephone service. Therefore, they rely on mobile telephones.

Social services:

There are insufficient social services in Abween. The only services available are those provided by a youth center which belongs to the Fatah movement. There is also an inactive agricultural committee in the village, which does not have a center and does not offer services to the residents. Agricultural relief does have a center in the village and offers limited services to the villagers. There are no other societies or organizations in the village.

Recreation services:

There are no recreation or entertainment centers in Abween. However, there is a recently opened Internet center. There are no clubs, gardens, or youth centers either.

Problems and Needs:

There are many problems in the village of Abween. These should be dealt with according to their priority. As shown by the following table, there is a long list of problems requiring solutions and different needs to be fulfilled. We will deal with those problems and needs according to their priority and order in the table.

Table (29)

The main problems and needs in Abween and the percentage of those who endorse them

Problems	Percentage of Supporters
Lack of Health Centers	66%
Lack of Agriculture Associations	26%
Lack of Youth Services	18%
Transportation Problems	54%
The Need for Social Centers	22%
The Need for Cultural Centers	18%
The Need for Job Opportunities	26%
Housing Problems	6%
The Problem of Water	12%
The Problems related to Garbage	8%
Electricity Problems	6%
Lack of an Ambulance	2%

Source: Bir Zeit Univ., Departments of Architecture and Geography, field survey 2002.

The medical center problem:

There is a temporary health center in the village, which works only on Thursdays. During the rest of the week, patients are forced to go to the medical center in the village of Jaljeelyah.

Furthermore, the health center of Abween is a simple one and cannot receive traumatic or urgent cases. The municipality of Abween does not have an ambulance either, and when needed, they call the ambulance of Sinjil village. There is also a medical team, which visits Abween once a month to offer services to citizens. However, because that team does not have a center, its services are not provided efficiently and cannot develop properly.

Problems of transportation:

There is a problem with the internal roads of the village. There is a need to asphalt a section of about 7 km because of the rapid population growth in the village. Houses are expanding to areas where no roads are available.

The Problem of Walls and Embankments:

There are some risky places along the roadsides of Abween, which need retaining walls and embankment of about 200 meters long.

The problem of agricultural guidance:

There is an agricultural committee in Abween, which is inactive because it does not have a center, machines or agricultural directors. This causes big problems for the citizens who will not be able to find help in marketing their plant and animal products. They do not have specialists to provide them with fertilizers and help them recultivate their lands and open agricultural roads.

The need for social centers:

There are no social centers or societies in the village of Abween or establishments for families care. This results in complicating the social problems of the citizens who cannot find local organizations to help them solve their difficult social issues especially those pertaining to the great majority of young people in the village.

The problem of water:

Although there are 18 springs in the village, there is a problem of water shortages. Most of the citizens are connected with the public network of water, which suffers frequent stoppage and cessations of service, especially in summer. Those who benefit from the springs are just the few

who live around them. There are no powerful pumps available capable of pumping water to the whole village and there is no reservoir.

The problems of garbage:

The number of garbage containers in the village is not enough and they are not distributed appropriately. The garbage truck collects refuse every four days. This is not enough for the needs of the community and this creates issues of garbage build up and issues of concern to public health.

The problem of the sewer system:

The village citizens depend on underground holes to discharge their wastewater. These holes cause environmental problems when the effluent mixes with the soil reaching the earth's internal ground water causing pollution. It also pollutes the air with a fetid odor when the holes are full or being drawn off.

5.6. Mazari Al-Nubani

Its area and location:

It is located 27km north of Ramallah city on a northern local coordinate line 161.77 meters and on an eastern local coordinate line 166.00 meters at an elevation of 520 meters above sea level. Its total area is about 9,631 dunums. The area occupied by buildings is about 151 dunums. Farkha, Salfeet, Qays hamlet, Ararah, Der Alsudan, Kufir Ein, and Qarawat Bani Zayd surround the village.

Its population:

Its population was 1,776 individuals according to the 1997 enumeration and count of the population, housing units and establishments. Among them were 890 males and 886 females. The number of families was 294. There are also 321 buildings. There are 360 housing units. The population currently in the year 2003 is 2,300 citizens according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

The families of the village:

Most of the families in the village are nuclear (74%) and very rarely extended (26%) because of the desire of the sons and their new families to live in separate houses. The extended family still often includes the grandfather and the grand mother.

Age categories:

The largest age category in the village is that of children which fall between the ages of 1 and 9 years. The percentage of young people is also relatively high which is a quality distinguishing the Palestinian society. Most old people, on the other hand, do not exceed the age of 60.

Economic and agricultural activities and enterprises:

The number of private economic establishments is 22 according to the count of 1997. They are distributed according to economic enterprises as follows:

1. Transformational industry and the networks of electricity, gas, and water. They are five establishments employing six workers.
2. Retail and wholesale trade, repair facilities fixing machines, motorcycles and vehicles. They are 13 establishments employing 14 workers.
3. Four restaurants employ five workers.
5. There are three farms in the village for raising animals and birds.

Agriculture:

The main problem encountering the agricultural sector is the lack of working hands since most of the people in the village tend to work in other fields nowadays. This is so because of the small revenue from the agricultural investment and its dependence on machines and modern methods of farming and irrigation.

Monthly income:

The monthly income of the families in the village is low when compared with the number of the members of the families. It is barely sufficient to support life and supply necessities because of

the families' low standards of living in the village. There are a high number of unemployed persons in addition to the hard economic conditions and low quality of life.

Table (30)

Relative distribution of families in Mazari Al-Nubani according to monthly income

The average of the monthly income	No. of Families	Percentage
Less than 1,000	7	14%
1,000-1,999	22	44%
2,000-2,999	11	22%
3,000-3,999	6	12%
4,000+	4	8%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field survey, 2002.

Employment sector:

We notice that most of the working persons in the village are workers in construction or they may be working in the public sector as teachers or government employers. There are also those who work in commerce and as drivers. We also notice a high percentage of unemployed people in the village because of the Israeli policies of harassment against Palestinians, the absence of a comprehensive development plan, and few job opportunities.

Table (31)

Relative distribution of employers in Mazari Al-Nubani according to the economic activity sector

Economic Sector	No. of Employees	Percentage'
Governmental	18	26%
Agricultural	4	6%
Industrial	10	14%
Employee	26	38%
Commercial	11	16%
Total	69	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2002.

Level of Academic Achievement:

Males and females have different levels of education in the village. The most surprising figure is that the number of uneducated females is 83% while that of the males is only 17%. As the level of education increases, the percentage of males to females gets closer although the majority remains always for the males.

Table (32)

Relative distribution of population in Mazari Al-Nubani according to the academic level

Academic Level	No. of Population			Percentage	
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Uneducated	3	15	18	17%	83%
Primary	36	30	66	54%	46%
Secondary	32	25	57	56%	44%
Diploma	3	4	7	43%	57%
University Grade	9	8	17	53%	47%
High School Diploma	0	0	0	0%	0%
Total	83	82	165	50%	50%

Source: Field Survey, 2002.

The condition of buildings in the village:**Date of construction:**

Most buildings in the village are less than 30 years old. However, old buildings, which are more than 40 years old, are normally uninhabited and inappropriate for living. The age of the new buildings 30-35 years old indicates that the urbanization movement increased since the 1970's.

Table (33)

Relative distribution of household in Mazari Al-Nubani according to the historical overview

Year	No. of Households	Percentage
1900-1919	0	0%
1920-1939	1	2%
1940-1959	4	8%
1960-1969	3	6%
1970-1979	16	32%
1980-1989	9	18%
1989-1999	16	32%
2000-2002	1	2%
Total	50	100%

Source: Field survey, 2002.

The condition of roads:

All roads in the village are in a deteriorated condition. The main road in the village is asphalted, but timeworn while other roads are completely unasphalted.

Available Services:

Management Services:

A municipal council in participation with the municipality of Abween and Arorah administers the village. The Ministry of Local Government appointed the council and it includes seven members of both sexes. The area of its center is about 500 square meters and it uses 13 male employers and one female. There is only one archaeological site in the village, which is not prepared for tourism and not visited by tourists, called '*Mintaqat Alder*' or the Convent region.

Available services:

Daily shopping:

Most of the people in the village purchase their daily needs of vegetables, fruit and meat from the village itself either at shops or from cars of street venders. As for furniture, clothes, and shoes, since they are not available at the village shops the people travel to Ramallah and Salfet to get them from there.

Health services:

There are no medical or health centers in the village. Therefore, people travel to Arorah village in case of light injuries or vaccinations. In the case of moderate and severe injuries, they go to the nearby cities of Ramallah and Salfet.

Communication services:

Many of the houses of Mazari Al-Nubani are connected to the Palestinian telecommunication network. Many other people own mobile phones, as they are cheap and essential for their daily life.

Garbage:

There is a place in the village that is owned by the municipality of Mazari Al-Nubani and it is used for garbage disposal. It is located about 3km from the residential areas of the village. A special truck is used to collect the garbage, which is then removed from the village and burned.

Electricity:

There is a public electricity network and it was established in 1989. It serves 100% of the residents. However, only 1% of the village streets are illuminated.

Drinking water:

The water network was founded in 1984 and it serves 100% of the citizens.

Educational Services:

There are two schools in the village. One is for males and the other for females. The schools have the twelve grades, but do not include the scientific secondary stream. They are located on the periphery of the village in order to serve the village of Arorah as well. However, the high-school students of the scientific stream have to go to nearby villages like Sinjil or Ramallah city in order to pursue their scientific branch schooling. University and college students, on the other hand, pursue their undergraduate education in the Palestinian cities, especially in Bir Zeit University.

Problems and needs in the village of Mazari Al-Nubani:

Like the other Palestinian cities and villages, the village of Mazari Al-Nubani encounters the problem of lack of services in all respects.

Health services:

There is no health center in the village. Therefore, the citizens are forced to go to the nearby village of Arorah in the case of light injuries or simple things like vaccinations. However, in the case of moderate and severe injuries, they travel to Ramallah and Salfet.

Sewer systems:

There is no sewer system in the village. Instead, the citizens use underground holes near their houses in order to discharge wastewater. Then the holes are emptied in a nearby valley about 3km from the village periphery. This in turn results in health hazards and the spread of mosquitoes, harmful insects as well as offensive odors and the contamination of ground water.

Roads and transportation:

There are no appropriately usable roads in the village of Mazari Al -Nubani. The main road linking Mazari Al-Nubani with other villages is destroyed and the other roads and lanes are not proper or befitting for use by cars or pedestrians. Regarding transportation, it is available until the afternoon hours only. The means of transportation convey people from the villages to Ramallah city through a very rocky and arduous way that was opened to replace the main road that has been blocked by the Israeli soldiers since the beginning of the second uprising on the twenty eighth of September 2000.

Water services:

The village of Mazari Al-Nubani has a water network, but there is a continuous interruption of water service, especially in summer. Therefore, the citizens build their own underground water wells in order to collect rainwater, although not all people have such wells.

Economic situations:

Most of the people in the village suffer from hard economic conditions because of the high degree of unemployment. Because of the difficulty of the workers and employers to reach their work in the nearby villages for security reasons, closures and barriers imposed by the Israeli soldiers. However, the working persons suffer a lot because of their low earnings because they do not supply their daily necessities and expenses.

5.7. Um Safah.**A historical overview:**

The history of this village dates back to late prehistoric Canaanite times. There are some Roman ruins in the village, though the Romans ruins are evident in the hamlet of Biqlah which is a small area falling within the boundaries of Arorah village in addition to the hamlet of Qarqafi south of Um Safah. There are also some Islamic ruins that were discovered in the village of Um Safah. These are the remainders of an ancient mosque and buildings. The village was called Um Safah after the name of the rock that has the old city built on it. Its old name was Kufir Ashoi. Haj Amin Al Hussaini then changed it to its current name 'Um Safah' based on a suggestion.

It's Location:

The village of Um Safah is located 17km north of Ramallah city on a local northern coordinate line 157.30 meters and on a local eastern coordinate line 165.65 meters at an elevation of 620 meters above sea level. Its whole area is about 4,083 dunums, of which 50 of them are used for buildings. The villages of Der Alsudan and Ajul border it from the north. From the south, it borders on the village of Jeebyah. The town of Bir Zeit and Uttarah border it from the east and Al-Nabi Salih from the west. A municipal council of eight male members appointed by the Ministry of Local Government administers the village.

Its Geographic features:

The village is mountainous in nature. It is located on a top of a hill of about 600 meters high. Thus, the widespread agriculture in that mountainous region is olive trees and they cover a large area of the village. There are also trees and a forest reserve near the archaeological sites of the

village. Such woods may be used as parks or natural preserves. However, the expansion of the Israeli settlements places that whole green region under the threats of expropriation.

There are five water springs in the village as follows:

1. Aein Alasal, North of Um Safah
2. Almajroqah, North of Um Safah.
3. Bir Abu Shukrah, North of Um Safah.
4. Aein Serif, West of Um Safah and south of Der Alsudan.
5. Aein Biqlah, West of Um Safah.

Demographic development of the population:

The population of Um Safah in 1922 was 80 individuals, 89 individuals in 1931, 110 individuals in 1945. 252 individuals in 1961 and 400 individuals in 1991 in addition to 550 immigrants living abroad. The population increased to 450 individuals in 1997 and 510 individuals in the year 2000, of which 256 were males and 254 were females. The number of buildings was 89, and that of housing units was 99. The percentage of land area used for buildings constituted 1.2%. The village families are Dar Sabah whose origin is from Ajzam, the family of Tanatirah, which includes the families of Hassan, Badwan, and Dar Abu Qannah who came from the village of Usarah. There is also the family of Arqub who came from Hamamah village south of Hebron. There are also the families of Dar Bahar from Madamah village in Nablus in addition to the family of Alakrad (Kurds). There are extinct families in the village of Um Safah, such as Hiryan and Nofal.

According to the field survey, 50% of the population is below the age of 20. This means that a large percentage of people need a primary provider of income.

Table (34)
Age distribution of the people of Um Safah village

Age	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90+
Percentage	18%	31%	19%	13%	8%	4%	5%	1%	0%	1%

Education:

About 15% of the village's population are holders of university and college degrees. About 76% attended school and 10% are uneducated people. There is one small and old mixed school in the village that reaches until the eighth grade. After that, pupils go to Bir Zeit town or to Ramallah city to complete their high school, especially in the scientific stream. There is also a kindergarten in the village of Um Safah.

Economic conditions:

The number of the operating economic establishments in the village amount to five distributed according to their work as follows:

1. Two transformational industry and construction establishments employing 3 workers.
2. Three establishments for wholesale and retail commerce and for fixing vehicles and motorcycles employing four workers.
3. Six farms for raising animals and birds.

The village suffers from a serious insufficiency of commercial stores and shops that are supposed to provide essential services to the village. Thus, there are only two shops in the village and these do not suffice it. Therefore, the citizens are forced to go to Ramallah to purchase their goods.

The village depends in its economy on cultivating fruitful trees such as grapes, olive trees and vegetables, using the village's springs for irrigation. The second source of the economy in the village is the village immigrants who work abroad and the youths who have their own vocations and workshops.

Like the economy of other villages, the economy of Um Safah has been affected by the imposed Israeli blockade and closure. The resident's movement is restricted and many of them cannot go to their work outside the village.

Monthly income average:

Around 80% of the population in Um Safah receives monthly income less than 2,000 shekels. They are either workers or employers in different sectors of the Palestinian Authority.

Employers according to type of work:

According to the field study, we noticed that the education and governmental sectors have the largest percentage of workers. About 34% of the village's employees work in the private sector and 30% work in the governmental and the educational sectors. As for agricultural sector, 8% work in this field although the village is located in an agricultural region.

Table (35)

The relative distribution of employers in Um Safah village according to type of work

Employment Sector	Governmental	Agricultural	Industrial	Academic	Commercial	Private	Total
Replication	3	3	6	9	5	14	40
Percentage	8%	8%	15%	22%	13%	34%	100%

Source: field survey, 2002.

Number of employers according to place of work:

We notice that most job opportunities are available in Ramallah city (50%), which requires transportation. As for the village itself, it provides only 23% of the available job opportunities.

Architectural style and urban planning:

The architectural style prominent in Um Safah is the traditional one using chalkstones in construction, especially in old buildings. This available substance was used in the village as an efficient building material even in new buildings, which use concrete, and bricks as main construction materials. Even today, stones are used in construction as a sign of wealth and material richness. People with limited income, on the other hand, construct their houses using only concrete and bricks without stones as concrete is cheaper.

The village has been classified as an agricultural area and this renders it a special position in terms of planning. It consisted of houses that were planned to be close to their inhabitants' farms. They were built along the main road passing through the center of the village and this road was once an agricultural lane.

The village constitutes a small percent of the whole area and its buildings and people are few. Most of its buildings are housing units in addition to its mosque and school. The village lands are

appropriate for establishing parks, gardens, and recreation places because of the abundance of green areas and forests.

Infrastructure:

There is a water network in Um Safah that serves about 60 members of its residents. There is also an electricity network that belongs to Jerusalem Electricity Company in addition to telephone lines from the Palestinian Telecommunication Corporation. However, the village does not have a sewer system and its roads need asphalt and overhaul since they are destroyed and timeworn.

Buildings:

Most of the village buildings were constructed during the 1970's because of the political stability during that period. Many of its residents moved to live in Ramallah city seeking job opportunities in the offices of the Palestinian Authority. The following table shows the percentage of buildings distributed over time intervals.

Table (36)
Historical development in Um Safah Village

Date of construction	1950-1959	1960-1696	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	Total
Replication	2	6	10	6	1	25
Percentage	8%	24%	40%	24%	4%	100%

Source: field survey, 2002.

As for the uses of the buildings, most of the buildings in Um Safah are for residential purposes. In a few of the buildings, the first floor is used for storage purposes. This is because of a lack of industrial and commercial activity, except for the only mosque in the village.

There exists a lack of concern with the agricultural land because of the low revenue expected from them. This is because of the absence of centers for agricultural guidance and difficulty of marketing agricultural products. In addition, some lands have been confiscated or under the Israeli commandeer. The Israeli settlement of 'Atarot' occupies a large area of the village's land of about 233 dunums. The settlement, which is classified as a city, was founded in 1981 and

forms a source of threat to the whole region including the environment, the green lands and pastures.

There is a problem of wastewater and the way to discharge it keeping it in underground holes. Then the waste material is emptied into nearby valleys resulting in environmental and health dangers.

There is a transportation problem and this forces a dependence on taxis originating in other villages.

There is no school in Um Safah. There is a problem in Um Safah related to the education system as children are stopped from attending school in other neighboring villages because of curfews, closures and the actions of the Israeli army.

It's Needs:

The village of Um Safah needs the following:

1. A clinic or a medical center.
2. A preparatory and high school.
3. A playground.
4. Street lights asphalt and maintenance.
5. Garbage containers and a place for garbage disposal away from the village (the present place of garbage disposal is at the village entrance).
6. Emancipating the village from the threats of the Israeli settlements, which choke the village.

Suggestions and recommendations:

1. Increasing the number of classrooms in order to solve the problem of overcrowded rooms and increasing the levels of school education at least until the end of the primary stage in order to absorb all the pupils.
2. Improving transportation means to enable the pupils to reach their schools from the neighboring villages.

3. Establishing clinics and pharmacies in the village.
4. Improving and maintaining the electricity wires of the village.
5. Digging underground wells in order to utilize the villages springs water.
6. Establishing centers for agricultural guidance in order to provide agricultural services to farmers.
7. Maintaining worn-out streets, asphaltting destroyed roads and opening agricultural lanes.

5.8. Al-Nabi Salih.

A historical overview:

The village is named after the Arab prophet Salih mentioned in the Holy Koran together with other four Arab prophets. They are: Ismail from Palestine, Hud from Yemen, and Shuaib and Mohammed from Hejaz, 'May peace be upon them all.'

The tribe of the prophet Salih is called Thamud after the name of its ancestral grandfather. The tribe used to live in stony houses in Alqura valley in Hejaz. One of their famous towns nowadays is Madien Salih, which is located about 384 km south of Jordanian border with Saudi Arabia. The tribe used to worship pagan gods when God sent them the prophet Salih to preach to them monotheism. However, they did not believe him and continued in their infidelity and stubbornness until God sent them his punishment of 'violent shock' (see Holy Koran Verse Alaraf 87). The prophet Salih, together with a few of his believers, moved to stay in Palestine after his clan perished. The name of the Palestinian region where he lived and died bears his name until our present day as a commemoration for his name: Al-Nabi Salih. He has also other memorials in Ramle city and in the village of Der Afah in Gaza. His tomb memorial is outside the wall of Akka city.

The citizens of Al-Nabi Salih are descendents of the great companion Ben Aos Altamim Aldari whose family came from Hebron city four centuries ago and lived in the village of Der Ghassaneh, northwest of Al-Nabi Salih. Then the Ottoman state forced the family to leave the village to Nablus city where they lived in Kisra and Jurish and eventually moved to settle in Al-Nabi Salih.

The village also has many archaeological figures dating from different ancient times and periods. Some of them are:

1. The memorial of Al-Nabi Salih in the center of the village. It is an old structure, which is believed that the prophet Salih inhabited it. There is a seasonal anniversary, which takes place every year called 'Al-Nabi Salih season' when people gather for celebrations and blessings.
2. The hamlet of 'Fiddiyat Sitti,' north of the village of Al-Nabi Salih and contains ruins of stony structures.
3. The hamlet of Ras Alam' near Al-Nabi Salih.
4. The hamlet of Ras Salman north of the village of Al-Nabi Salih.
5. The hamlet of Hablatah at about half kilometer south of Al-Nabi Salih. It is confiscated by the Israelis who built on it the settlement of Halmeesh.

Location of Al-Nabi Salih:

The village of Al-Nabi Salih is located 21km northwest of Ramallah city on a local coordinate northern line 158.15 meters and on a local coordinate eastern line 167.97 meters at an elevation of 570 meters above sea level.

Its whole area is about 2,846 dunums and surrounded by the village lands of Kufir Aein, Der Alsudan, Um Safah, Jeebyah, Kobar and Beit Illo. The village has three springs:

1. The spring of Aein Amir east of Al-Nabi Salih, which is an old spring and has a reservoir built on it since the British Mandate.
2. The spring of Aein Alkulliyah east of Al-Nabi Salih and south of Der Alsudan.
3. The spring of Aein Aljarab east of Al-Nabi Salih.

Demographic development of the population:

The population of the village of Al-Nabi Salih was 105 individuals in 1922, 144 individuals in 1935, and 342 individuals in 1997. Of these, 202 of them were males and 169 were females. The population in the year 2000 was 385 individuals in addition to 67 buildings and 73 living units.

The percentage of the land occupied by the buildings is 1.08% of the whole village area. A municipal council of six males appointed by the Ministry of Local Government administers the village. The families of Al-Nabi Salih are: Dar Imarah, Dar Hamdan, Dar Eyup, Dar Shahadah, and Dar Alsheedi which are all descendents of the tribe of Tamim.

Education:

Around 25% of both sexes in Al-Nabi Salih are holders of university or college degrees. About 67% of the citizens attended schools. However, there are a small percentage of uneducated people who are mostly females.

There is one small and mixed school in the village. It is very old. It admits pupils up to the fifth grade and after that the pupils are forced to travel 5km on foot to the neighboring Bani Zayd village in order to continue their schooling or they have to go to Ramallah city for those wishing to pursue their high school education in the scientific stream.

Economy:

The village of Al-Nabi Salih depend in its economy mainly on cultivating fruitful trees such as olive trees, fig trees and grapes. The also cultivate vegetables using the water springs of the village in irrigation. About 50% of the working people depend on their jobs and employment in the public sector which had its opportunities increased after the coming of the PNA. The educated people of the village were given jobs in the different institutes and foundations of the Palestinian National Authority. However, the economic situation has been profoundly worsening because of the Israeli siege and closure imposed on the Palestinian territories. This led to restricted movement and lack of work outside the village, which used to constitute a source of main income and earnings for the citizens.

The inhabitants of the village also suffer a lot because of insufficient stores and shops to provide them with daily necessities. There is only one small shop in the village which cannot provide all needed commodities which forces the residents to travel to Ramallah city in order to purchase their daily needs.

Distribution of people according to sector of employment:

The highest percentage of employed people is found in the public and educational sectors. The reason for that is that those two sectors employ both sexes. The surprising percentage is that of those who work in agriculture is only 6% in contradiction with the agricultural nature of the village. The reason for that low percentage is that the Israelis prevent the Palestinian citizens from cultivating their land and farms, which is close to the boundaries of settlements.

Distribution of employment according to place of work:

Most of the employed persons work in Ramallah city and few of them work in the same village where they live or in neighboring villages. There are also unemployed persons who cannot utilize their lands. A high percentage of the people, in fact, used to work inside the Green Line before the uprising outbreak.

Distribution of families according to monthly income:

The great majority of families receive monthly income between 1,000 and 2,000 shekels. The monthly income percentage of the rest of the families is indicated in the table below, which shows that most of them are poor families.

Table (37)

The relative distribution of families in Al-Nabi Salih according to the monthly income average in Shekels, 2002.

Monthly income average	Less than 1,000	1,000-1,999	2,000-2,999	3,000-3,900	4,000+	Total
%	8	64	20	4	4	100

Source: Field Survey, 2002.

The Buildings in Al-Nabi Salih:

By examining data, we find that most inhabited living units are in fact relatively new and constructed during and after the 1990s. This can be attributed to construction license facilities offered by the Palestinian National Authority as compared with the constraints, which were imposed by the Israeli authorities on construction.

The condition of roads:

Most of the lanes leading to the buildings are well asphalted because all the living units are built along the main road of the village. The village also benefits from the yearly 'festival of Al-Nabi Salih' which was officially adopted by the Palestinian Authority and other private institutes and enterprises as well.

Services:**Management Services:**

The Ministry of Local Government appointed a village council to administrate the matters related to the village. It consists of six male members. The names of the prominent families in the village are: Emarah, Hamdan, Ayoub, Shehadeh and Ashaydi. These families are related to the Tamim tribe.

Health Services:

The village encounters the problem of inferior health services. There are no health centers or specialized physicians living in the village. Therefore, patients are forced to go to Beit Reemah village or Ramallah city for medical treatment.

Commercial Services:

The village lacks in commercial shops providing daily necessities to people. The only small shop existing in the village cannot supply people with all needed necessities. This situation forces the people to go to Ramallah city to get their essential items and provisions.

Water sources in Al-Nabi Salih:

The municipality of West Bani Zayd supplies the whole village of Al-Nabi Salih with water through its water lines. However, the citizens suffer continuous interruptions of water services especially during the summer. Thus, more than 22% of the citizens depend mainly on their wells to secure their drinking water.

Electricity Services:

The village depends in its electricity supply mainly on Jerusalem Electricity Company. However, electricity shuts off happen frequently in winter and it takes the Company a long time to repair the defect.

Communication Services:

About 68% of the population has regular telephone lines and mobile phones. The remaining 32% do not have telephones due to hard economic circumstances.

Sewer Services:

The citizens of Al-Nabi Salih depend on underground holes to discharge wastewater because the village lacks in a sewer system. Therefore, the people suffer the health and environmental consequences of those deleterious holes.

Problems encountered in the village:

1. The village of Al-Nabi Salih encounters many serious problems that hinder its agricultural progress and prevents utilization of its agricultural lands. The village lands are always under the threats of confiscation and destruction by the Israeli authorities. In addition, the village faces the following problems:
2. A lack in currency and working hands. Besides, the village does not have centers for agricultural direction resulting in marketing problems. There is also the problem of confiscated land and lands under the Israeli commandeer. The village is confronted with the dangers of the Israeli settlement of Halmeesh, which was built in 1977 on 400 dunums of the village lands.
3. The place in the village which is used to discard waste water is not sanitary and this leads to hazardous environmental and dangerous health consequences in addition to foul odor, insects, diseases and pollution of the grounds internal water and vegetation. There are also Israeli settlements throwing off their wastewater near the village boundaries.
4. Insufficient classrooms in the village school that takes the pupils up to the fifth grade only.
5. The problem of transportation to Beit Reemah, Bir Zeit and Ramallah.

6. Problems pertaining to the area of the structural plans of the village and the inability to enlarge it because of the Israeli settlements surrounding it.
7. Problems pertaining to shortage of water and its stoppage for long time, especially in summer.

Needs and necessities:

The village needs the following things:

1. Developing its school.
2. Establishing a clinic or a medical center in the village.
3. Building a sewer system.
4. Increasing the number of shops.
5. Supporting the agricultural sector.
6. Offering more job opportunities.

Suggestions and recommendations:

1. Increasing the number of rooms in order to solve the problem of overcrowded classrooms. Increasing the schools' educational levels in order to absorb all its' pupils. Besides, there is a need to provide transportation from the neighboring villages to enable the pupils to reach their schools easily.
2. Establishing a clinic or a medical center in the village.
3. Improving and maintaining the electricity lines of the village through the Jerusalem Electricity Company.
4. Digging water wells to utilize the springs of the village.
5. Establishing an agricultural center capable of providing advice and directions to the village farmers.

5.9. Der Alsudan

Its area and location:

It is located at about 21km north of Ramallah city within the community of the Bani Zayd villages. It borders the villages of Mazari Al-Nubani and Arorah from the north, Al-Nabi Salih from the south, Um Safah and Ajul from the east, and Qarawat Bani Zayd and Kufir Ein from the west. Its whole area is about 4,500 dunums. Buildings use 1,000 of these and the rest constitutes agricultural area. The village was established at the beginning of the Ottoman era and is inhabited by descendents of some Arab tribes who immigrated to the region at that time. The village is also considered as an ancient place of antiquity. In addition, there are two memorials in its center: Alsheikh Alareed and Alsheikh Abu Nashi.

The development of its Population:

The population of Der Alsudan was about 123 individuals in 1922, 243 individuals in 1931, 285 individuals in 1945, 486 individuals in 1961, and 400 individuals in 1991. Some of its main families are Dar Abu Alhaj, Dar Ahmad, Dar Hassan (Abu Duha and Almomani), Dar Alhujj and Dar Salman.

Types of Families:

It is obvious those extended households, which were the basis of families, are fading out in rural communities for different reasons such as the change in life needs and conditions. About 30% of the families in Der Alsudan are extended families while the remaining 70% are nuclear families.

Economical Conditions:

The village depends in its economy on cultivating agricultural lands, especially olive trees. The citizens also rely on their work in their village or in the neighboring villages or in Ramallah or in the Israeli settlements.

Economical Activities:

Employees are distributed over different sectors such as the industrial, governmental or commercial and workshops. A quarter of the employees prefer to work in the governmental

sectors or in the education sectors. 74% work in industrial and commercial sectors and this affects the agricultural sector because many have abandoned this sector in favor of other jobs.

Monthly Income averages:

The monthly income average for one family is about 1,000 to 2,000 shekels because of the current political conditions and the difficult economic situation of the employees. This situation had its impact on all aspects of life in the country. Approximately two percent of the population reaches to a level of 4,000 shekels per month. Seven percent of the population is between 3,000 and 3,999 shekels per month.

Architectural and urban structure:

The architectural shape and structure of the village is longitudinal in its style because of the mountainous nature of the village. This longitudinal shape becomes clear when viewing the new buildings built from 1980 to 1990 along both sides of the main road, which divides the village into two parts. The old city is highly dense with buildings and is excluded from this longitudinal shape.

Most land, which surrounds the buildings, is agricultural and cultivated with olive trees due to the rural nature of the whole region. However, the buildings are kept far from each other especially in the area of new expansion around the entrance of the village.

The shape of the buildings is similar to the pattern dominant in most of the Palestinian rural areas. It is a simple pattern, which does not exceed functional needs without focusing much on the architectural shape. Most of its structures and buildings are constructed using bricks or concrete and mostly consist of two or more floors.

Date of construction:

Most of its buildings were constructed after 1950 and the highest percentages of them were constructed during the period of 1990 to 1999. This may be attributed to political stability and freedom of people from the complicated proceedings imposed by the Israelis. However, after the year 2000, there was a considerable decline in construction because of the current political conditions.

Water sources:

The people of Der Alsudan secure their daily usage of water from their underground wells. They also purchase water tanks from the springs of Aein Samiyah and Aein Dar. There are other tributary sources of water like the springs of Aein Alfoqah and Aein Qasab. In 2003, they connected the village to a new water network.

The condition of roads:

Most of the new buildings in the village are located along both sides of the main road, except for the old city, which was built more densely on branching streets. Most of the roads are unasphalted or asphalted, but worn-out. The number of well-asphalted streets is very small because of the absence of a comprehensive development plan for the Palestinian buildings. This is due to the closure imposed on the Palestinian villages, confiscating the villages' land by the Israeli settlements and constraints imposed on movement.

Services:**Educational services:**

Most pupils of Der Alsudan receive their schooling in their village. However, families who prefer private schools send their children to Ramallah city. There are two mixed gender primary schools in the village consisting of 416 male and female students. One new school is currently under construction. About 52 students are continuing their studies in the neighboring villages. This causes problems in transportation for the students. This has negative consequences on the children and forces some of them to leave school and start working at an early age. Most of the students have their primary education, but some of the population prefers to educate their children in Ramallah. They are approximately 9% of the population. Another 9% have their education in neighboring villages.

Health Services:

The village of Der Alsudan does not have a minimum of health services available. The physician of UNRWA accompanied by a vaccination team visits it only twice a month. There is also no pharmacy in the village either. In the case of injuries or traumas, patients have to endure a long,

tedious and expensive travel to Ramallah or Salfeet, to the Clinic of Arorah, or to the simple services offered in the neighboring villages.

Within the future development plans in the region, there should be a clinic with a medical team in the village of Der Alsudan. The clinic should offer necessary health service to traumatic injuries and urgent cases, such as giving birth. More severe injuries are transferred to Ramallah city for medical treatment. There is also a necessity to establish a hospital in the region to serve the village and the whole area of Bani Zayd. The hospital should be equipped with all modern tools, machines, intensive care and birth rooms in addition to ambulance cars.

Transportation and roads:

The roads need to be asphalted because they are worn-out and destroyed and some of them are unasphalted. There are many narrow passages leading to houses in the old city. Children are exposed to dangers because they play on streets and roads in front of their houses because there are no open areas, parks or playgrounds for them. In addition to maintaining the village internal roads and streets, the external roads and highways that connect all the villages together should be embanked and maintained because they have been destroyed by Israeli tanks, bulldozers and heavy machines.

Water services:

There is no public water network in the village which forces people to depend on wells from rainwater. Some of them buy water from trucks. 50% of the families depend on springs, which are located nearby the village.

Electricity service:

Most of the people in Der Alsudan are connected with the Jerusalem Electricity Company.

Communication services:

Most of the citizens in Der Alsudan depend on mobiles in their communication (38%), and few of them (6%) depend on the public telephone network because of its frequent imperfections.

Shopping and commercial stores:

Nine small shops in the village do not suffice the necessities of the citizens. For instance, there are no shops for vegetables, meat, or chickens therefore the village depend on cars of street vendors and on the neighboring villages to secure their foodstuff and essential needs.

General services:

The village of Der Alsudan lacks in most general services, such as garbage collection and disposal. There is no special place to dispose of the garbage and there are no garbage containers. Every family discharges their garbage randomly which results in widespread environmental and health problems.

We should work on solving that problem by means of connecting the village of Der Alsudan with all other villages with transportation and roads. There should be enough garbage containers distributed in all the villages under the supervision of a municipality or a group of municipalities from the region.

5.10. Qarawat Bani Zayd**Its area and location:**

The village of Qarawat Bani Zayd is located 21km northwest of Ramallah city. The village name, as described by Aldabbag, was derived from the Greek word (Chore), which meant province and country. Henceforth the name country or 'Balad Bani Zayd' in Arabic. However, the old people of the village explain the origin of the name of their village differently. They say that Qarawat is taken from the Arabic word, Qeera, which means 'hospitality.' The village borders Farkhah from the north, Kufir Ein from the south, Borqeen from the west and Mazari Al-Nubani from the east. Its area is about 5,001 dunums covered mostly with olive, grapes and fig trees.

Population development in Qarawat Bani Zayd:

Its population was 274 individuals in 1922, 500 individuals in 1931, 928 individuals in 1961, and about 2,000 individuals in 1992. The village contains two main tribes: Arar family which involve the following families; Dar Abd Alahmad, Dar Ruzmuq, Dar Salman, Dar Salih, Dar Abd Aljaleel, and Dar Nahlun. The other tribe of the village includes the following families: Dar

Alhajji, Shareef Taha Almalokh, and Maali. There is an additional small family of Alshareeah whose origin is from Kufir Anah.

Types of families:

The percentage of nuclear families in Qarawat Bani Zayd is about 94% of the whole families for the following reasons: the abandonment of agriculture as a major source of income as well as the old homes are not available to welcome new families with new electrical equipment and furniture.

Economic Situation of the village:

The village depends in its economy on cultivating olive trees, grapes, fig trees, and other fruitful trees. The citizens of the village also depend on their immigrant sons who work abroad. There are also two factories in the village: one for ready clothes and one for wool. The village also has strong water spring, which supports agricultural projects and vegetation cultivation.

Employment Sector:

We also notice a decline in the percentage of work in the agricultural sector. Currently, the number of workers in this sector does not exceed 7% of the whole number of working persons. Although the village's lands are appropriate for corn cultivation, they are not utilized in this respect to promote the economic level of the village. We also notice a drop in the percentage of those who work in the public sector (17%) and in the educational sector (16%) of the whole number of the employed people. This can be attributed to different factors, such as low salaries and wages of the public jobs in comparison with jobs in other sectors. Another reason is the low percentage of university degree holders who receive low salaries. Therefore, 60% of them work inside the Green Line as workers with wages higher than the salaries of employers in their villages.

Employed persons according to their monthly income average:

We notice from the table that 38% of the working persons receive monthly salaries of 2,000 shekels or less, which is relatively low income when compared with the number of family members and their necessities and needs of modern life. About 18% of the working persons have

monthly income above 4,000 shekels working mostly in private sectors like trade and in the Palestinian cities.

Table (38)

The relative distribution of families in Qarawat Bani Zayd according to the monthly income average in Shekels 2002

Monthly income average	Less than 1,000	1,000-1,999	2,000-2,999	3,000-3,999	4,000+	Unknown	Total
%	6	32	26	12	18	6	100

Source: Field Survey, 2002.

Buildings:

The percentage of old antique buildings does not exceed 2% of all the buildings in the village. The citizens of the village did not concern themselves with the history and heritage of their village as evident from the demolished buildings and structures. They destroyed ancient buildings and historical structures and figures and replaced them with new modern living units which negatively affected the village in the following ways:

1. The village lost its archeological and historical significance.
2. It lost its importance as a place of tourism.
3. Decline of job opportunities in the field of tourism in the village.

The village witnessed a process of active urbanization during the period 1990 until 1999, which constituted 32% of all constructed buildings. This indicates that the monthly income average and percentage of married individuals increased in that period. In addition, the constraints imposed by the Israeli authorities on construction were eased relatively.

The modern buildings and structures in the village were constructed on lands planted with olive trees. Therefore, this necessitates developing a new urbanization expansion plan in order to save those trees, which constitute a main source of economic support in the village.

We also notice a sharp decline in the percentage of newly constructed buildings after the year 2000, to 6%. This may be an indication of a decline in the monthly income of the citizens due to

the hard political situations, which predominated after the fall of 2000. About 29% of all employed persons used to depend on their work inside the Green Line, which started to be lost because of the current political conditions.

The condition of its roads and basic services:

The conditions of the roads leading to the village buildings are deteriorated because they need asphalt and paving. The village also lacks in good sewer system and a developed networks of water, electricity and telephone lines. All of this can be viewed because of the drop in the general economic level of the village.

Services:

The village has two schools on the borders with the neighboring village of Kufir Ein for both males and females. This combined school for preparatory and high levels is the only one in the region. The village also contains a kindergarden and a medical center, which belongs to the society of Qarawat Bani Zayd and the society of the Lutheran Union. The medical center has a physician and a nurse who work all week in addition to a dentist who attends twice a week.

Shopping:

The citizens of Qarawat Bani Zayd get their daily necessities and merchandise from the village shops. As for clothes and other needs, they purchase them from Ramallah city. This explains the high percentage of people who do their shopping from the center of the community, which reaches 38% of the whole population.

Health Services:

The people of Qarawat Bani Zayd travel to Ramallah and Salfet in order to get medical care. In case of severe injuries or traumas, they go to Salfet city at about 8km from the village. There is also a weekly medical team, which visits the village in order to provide medical treatment to its people.

Academic Services:

Most of the pupils go to one of the following three schools in the village:

The school of Qarawat Bani Zayd for boys has 45 pupils per room.

The school of Qarawat Bani Zayd for girls has 45 girls per room.

The school of Kufir Aein located on the village periphery and has 45 pupils per room.

Several of the high school boys go to Der Ghassaneh village by bus to complete their high school education.

Water Services:

Most of the citizens of Qarawat Bani Zayd (82%) get their water services from an old water line that needs maintenance. The remaining 18% depend on wells for their water due to not being connected to the main water network.

Electricity:

The Jerusalem Electricity Company provides electrical services to the village. However, this network is very old and it is always subject to power irregularities. 98% of the homes in the village are connected to the network and 2% of the houses depend on generators for power.

Communication Services:

Communication services were connected to the village a few years ago. Half of the population depends on these services for telephone and the remaining depend on mobile phones.

5.11. Kufir Ein

It's Location:

It is located 25km northwest of Ramallah governate and its area is about 21,000 dunums. It borders the village of Borqeen from the north and west, Der Ghassaneh, Beit Reemah and Al-Nabi Salih villages from the south, and Der Alsudan, Qarawat Bani Zayd and Mazari Al-Nubani from the east. It was called so because of its location by a water spring (Ein). The term Kufir on the other hand, meant the hidden or invisible thing. The springs of the village are covered with

stones. Therefore, the springs are located in small pits. It was also called so because of the abundance of springs around the village such as: Ein Masrur, Albaqum, and Danlees.

The nucleus of Kufir Ein:

The nucleus of Kufir Ein consisted of buildings constructed of clay and stones as evident from the ruins, which were discovered under buildings near the mosque. The village location was carefully chosen to be as close to water springs. Houses used to be close to agricultural lands, which separated them from the springs so that animals would not pollute their water.

There exists a separate and old house far a way from the gathering of the village houses because one of the ancestral fathers preferred to live by a different spring. He utilized the agricultural lands there and his sons built their houses around the area.

As for land allocation, it followed the traditional ways of the past by using *Tabo* (certificate of estate ownership). The land borders were marked using trees or a series of rocks. Those who owned lands not utilized in agriculture used to build their houses on it in order to ensure his ownership to that land. The names of the families in Kufir Ein are: Abu Harman, Addaherah, Al Ais, Arefayee, and Al Barguthi.

Demography of its population:

The population of the village was 1,370 individuals according to the statistics of 1997. Considering the normal population growth including number of births, deaths and immigrants, we can estimate the population number to be 1,500 individuals in 2003. The population growth development can be understood from the following table:

Table (39)
Population distribution in Kufir Ein Village

Year	No. of Population
1922	367
1931	494
1945	550
1961	1,095
1997	1,370
2003	1,500

Source: Field Survey, 2002.

Family Type:

We notice that more than three quarters of the families (81%) in the sample are nuclear in the village. The number of living units in the village equals 210. The number of families is 270. This means that some of the families share the same homes.

Economic situation:

The economic situation in the village of Kufir Ein varies. Agriculture was the first selected way of making a living thirty years ago. Over time, the occupations that people selected changed. Recently, about 38% of the population work in the general government or in the education sectors. In addition, people are employed in agriculture, commerce and other crafts. Before the recent Intifada, most of the villagers worked inside the Green Line. Following the beginning of the Al Aqsa Intifada, these work opportunities disappeared due to closures and curfews enacted by the Israeli army.

Buildings in Kufir Ein:

We notice that most buildings (80%) in this sample were constructed in the period from 1970 until 1999. 38% were constructed from 1990 to 1999. This rise is attributed to the cheap cost of building that the PNA helped to bring to the citizens.

Condition of Roads:

The percentage of buildings, which are reached through unasphalted roads, is higher than those that are reached through asphalted roads. This is the general situation in all small villages with small populations. Such villages are lacking in development and infrastructure projects. This requires financial assistance to maintain the village's roads.

Places of Employment:

The villagers depend on governmental and agricultural employment, especially in cultivating olives, as the village is located near Beit Reemah. The percentage of educated people is high. 85% have primary and secondary education. Half of the population (48%) work in the cities and the other half work in the village (22%) or other nearby villages (30%).

Monthly Income:

The monthly income of about 65% is less than 2,000 shekels per month. This is attributed to the siege and closure imposed by Israel and due to the low income levels at the PNA government sector jobs.

Table (40)

Relative distribution of families of Kufir Ein according to the monthly income average

Monthly income average	Percentage
Less than 1,000	24%
1,000-1,999	41%
2,000-2,999	22%
3,000-3,999	7%
4,000+	6%
Total	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2002.

Services:**Daily shopping:**

We notice that the great percentage of the citizens of Kufir Ein obtain their goods from the city and a small number of them do their shopping in the village. This is attributed to the few number of commercial shops in the village.

Health services:

The highest percentage of people in Kufir Ein travel to the city for medical treatment. This is because of the low health services in their village clinic. They also go the central clinic of Beit Reemah for treatment.

The village also contains a medical center, which provides medical services 3 days per week. In general, the population of the village does not suffer from chronic diseases.

Educational Services:

The village contains a primary school, which accommodates both genders. It starts at the first grade and continues until the fourth grade. The female classes continue until the tenth grade and it has a kindergarden.

The field survey shows that more than half the population receives their school education in their village. Then, 30% of them go to the Beit Reemah schools to finish their high school education. The remaining 15% move to the city to continue their university education.

Water Services:

Most housing units are served through a public water network. In addition, this network is very old and frequently is subject to water stoppages, especially in the summer months. People in the village use wells in their homes to collect water. A small percentage of the village (4%) is totally dependent on water wells for their water needs.

Electricity Services:

There is an electricity network serving all houses in the village, except for one home that depends on a generator.

Sewer Services:

There is no sewer system in Kufir Ein. Therefore, most of its citizens use underground absorption holes. A small percentage (8%) of the homes do not have even these facilities.

Telephone Services:

The people in the village depend on PALTEL, the Palestinian Telecommunication Company and on mobile phones for service. The general network covers 56% of the homes in the village and 14% of the homes do not have this service. Few houses do not have telephone lines or mobiles.

Problems and Needs:

1. The monthly income of the residents is not sufficient and does not supply necessities.
2. There is no agricultural guidance available to the residents or any supervision of this sector. There is little or no guidance offered to farmers.
3. There is a problem of marketing agricultural products, especially olive oil.
4. There is a shortage of water, especially in summer.
5. There is a lack of recreation and cultural centers, clubs, or libraries especially for young children and women.
6. There are new houses in the village not connected with the electricity network because of high subscription fees and delayed electricity licenses.
7. No football playground available.
8. No sewer system in Kufir Ein.
9. Not all necessary foodstuff and commodities available in the village forcing the citizens to go to Ramallah for shopping.
10. Not enough means of transportation available in the village.
11. There is no place special for garbage disposal and no truck to collect the garbage.
12. There are problems pertaining to land ownership. A few persons own the land located along the street sides, which restricts population and urban expansion.

13. Lack of efforts to work on solving these problems.

Temporary needs:

1. Solving the water problem where people buy water tanks or depend on springs water or wells to secure their daily needs of water.
2. Solving the Electricity problem, where some people are illegally connected with their neighbor's own lines or illegally takes electricity from the public network.
3. The problem of garbage which forces the citizens to collect it and throw it off away from their houses or to bury it in order to transform it into a fertilizing material.

Chapter Six

General Problems and Needs of the villages of Bani Zayd



General Problems and Needs of the villages of Bani Zayd

There are many problems and needs pertaining to the services of health, education and infrastructure in the Bani Zayd region. There are also the problems of sewerage, garbage disposal, water and electricity service interruptions as well as many other problems. Those problems can be classified into general and special. We have explained most of those problems in tables.

Basic and General problems and needs:

1. Health problems and needs.
2. Education problems and needs.
3. Electricity service interruptions and water shortage problems.
4. Main roads problems and the need to asphalt them.
5. Sewerage problems and the need for sewer system.
6. Negligence of agricultural lands and the need for agricultural direction.

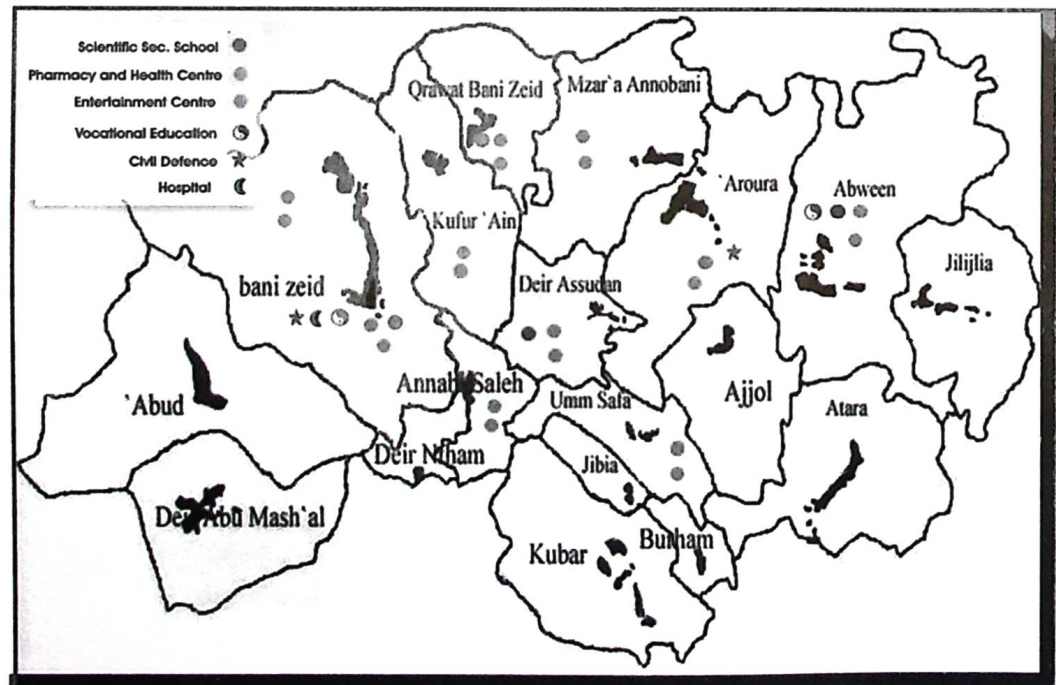
Secondary general problems and needs:

1. Problems pertaining to issuing construction licenses.
2. Lacking of job opportunities.
3. Absence of street lights.
4. Problems of daily shopping.
5. Absence of recreational and entertainment centers.
6. Marketing problems.
7. The need for a bank.
8. There is a need for civil defense services.

Special problems and needs:

1. There is a need for sufficient medical services and expertise.
2. Problems pertaining to internal migration.
3. A problem of neglecting architectural heritage.
4. Problems pertaining to lack of concern on behalf of responsible people.
5. There is a need for transportation system between villages and cities.
6. Environmental problems.
7. Social problems.
8. Planning problems.
9. There is a need for care centers for the disabled, elderly, and children.
10. There is a need for care centers for women and mothers.

Map 4: The Suggested services for the Bani Zayd Region 2002.



Suggested Services for the Bani Zayd Area

6.1 General basic problems and needs

6.1.1. Educational problems and needs:

The most important educational problems facing the villages are the insufficient number of classrooms, which results in overcrowdedness in schools. Some of those schools still do not have all levels of school education. Some of them have only the primary stages and some others have all levels up to high school. However, since they do not have all streams of education, such as scientific and vocational, pupils are forced to continue their education in the nearby villages and cities. This exposes them to all kinds of troublesome and transportation difficulties particularly under current conditions when they are confronted with Israeli barriers. Some of those villages do not have permanent transportation means. As an example, we mention here the school of the village of Al-Nabi Salih, which has only classrooms up to the fifth grade. Its rooms are also overcrowded and its pupils are forced to continue their schooling in the schools of Bani Zayd village after the fifth grade. Therefore, they encounter all kinds of hardships including walking a distance of about 7 km on foot everyday to and from their schools since their parents cannot afford any transportation.

Table (41)
Academic stages in Bani Zayd Schools, 2002

Village's Name	Last Class in school
Beit Reemah & Der Ghassaneh	Tawjihi Arts & Science
Ararah & Abween	Tawjihi Arts & Science
Mazari Al-Nubani	Tawjihi Arts
Um Safah	8th Grade
Al-Nabi Salih	5 th Grade
Der Alsudan	Tenth Grade
Qarawat Bani Zayd	Tawjihi Arts
Kufir Ein	Tenth Grade

Suggested solutions for the educational sector:

The most important things to be done in order to reduce the problems of education are the following:

1. Increasing the number of classrooms in order to solve the problem of overcrowdedness.
2. Increasing the stages of education in the schools at least to the last primary grade in order to absorb all pupils.
3. Establishing transportation systems from the nearby villages in order to enable the pupils to reach their schools easily.

6.1.2 Health problems and needs:

The health problems and needs are the most important of all in the villages of the Bani Zayd region and they can be summarized as follows:

1. There are no health services in some villages like Um Safah, Der Alsudan, and Al-Nabi Salih. Those villages do not even have a medical center, a physician or a pharmacy.
2. Some other villages have at best a clinic or health center like West Bani Zayd and Arorah, which suffer from lack of services and specialized physicians.
3. There is a lack of medical laboratories, pharmacies, ambulances, and emergency centers.

Table (42)
Health Services in the villages of Bani Zayd

Village's Name	Medical Center	Clinic	Doctor	Pharmacy
Beit Reemah	1	4	1	1
Der Ghassaneh	0	1	1	0
Arorah	1	1	1	1
Abween	0	1	0	0
Mazari al-Nubani	0	0	0	0
Um Safah	0	0	0	0
Al-Nabi Salih	0	0	0	0
Der Alsudan	0	0	0	0
Kufir Ein	0	1	1	0
Qarawat Bani Zayd	0	0	1	0

Source: field survey, 2002.

Suggested solutions for the health sector:

1. Establishing medical centers and pharmacies in the villages, which do not have such services.
2. Developing the existing health centers by adding to them new services, emergency section, birth sections, and ambulances.
3. Establishing a hospital in Bani Zayd, which provides all health services to all villages in Bani Zayd.

6.1.3. Road problems:

In general, the roads are destroyed and require maintenance, especially the main roads and the roads between the villages. The roads are also narrow and there is a need for new ones.

There are many unasphalted and destroyed roads requiring maintenance, such as the roads that link villages together. Table (43) indicates the condition of the roads that lead to each village separately.

Table (43)
The state of passages that lead to Bani Zayd Villages, 2002

Village's Name	State Of Passages
Beit Reemah	Need to be asphalted
Der Ghassaneh	Need to be asphalted
Arorah	Well asphalted
Abween	Well asphalted
Mazari al-Nubani	Timeworn asphalted
Um Safah	Unasphalted
Al-Nabi Salih	Timeworn asphalted
Der Alsudan	Timeworn asphalted
Kufir Ein	Unasphalted
Qarawat Bani Zayd	Timeworn asphalted

Suggested solutions:

1. Asphaltting and widening the existing roads and constructing new throughways and agricultural roads.

6.2 Problems special to each village:

1. The village of Beit Reemah:

1. The existence of workshops close to housing units.
2. The existence of animal farms close to homes.
3. The absence of industrial projects to employ people despite the existence of a dairy.
4. The absence of an agricultural guidance center.
5. The absence of a care center for women and children.

2. Der Ghassaneh village:

1. It lacks in sufficient health expertise.
2. There is a need for clothes shops, utensils shops, a pharmacy and clubs.
3. There is a need for public places and recreation centers.
4. There is a need for a network of throughways in the old part of the village.
5. The problem of permanent migration from the village.
6. Lack of care with the old part of the village, which resulted in the collapse of its historical and antique buildings.

3. Arorah village:

1. Soil erosion during winter in mountainous areas.
2. Increasing number of mental problems among its people because of repeated marriage among relatives and the absence of health centers.
3. Planning problems.

4. Humid houses in the region of Alein and water leaking under homes' foundations in the area of Jabal Alaein.
5. Some houses on the village periphery do not have services.
6. There are no direct passageways to the houses in Jabal Alaein, which can be accessed only through stairs.
7. Lack of care with archaeological sites of the village, particularly in its center.

4. *Abween village:*

1. The village encounters environmental problems represented in overflowing of water onto houses during winter.
2. The roads of the Israeli settlements pass through the village lands.
3. Lack of care with the old part of the village.

5. *Mazari Al-Nubani village:*

1. The village lacks in good roads. Its main road connecting it with other villages is destroyed. Other passageways and entrances are not appropriate for pedestrians or vehicles movement.
2. The village lacks in sewer systems. This forces its residents to use underground holes, which are eventually emptied into the nearby valley at about 3km from the village's houses. This in turn may result in health hazards, the spread of mosquitoes and insects close to houses, in addition to an offensive smell.

6. *The village of Um Safah:*

1. The village lacks in garbage containers and a special location for garbage disposal. They discharge its garbage at the entrance of the village, which may lead to dangerous health and environmental consequences.
2. The streets do not have lights.
3. It is hard to get construction licenses because of the small structural plan of the village.

7. The village of Al-Nabi Salih:

1. The area of the structural plan of the village is small and cannot be enlarged because of the surrounding Israeli settlements.
2. There are problems impeding agricultural production, such as the lack of money and working hands and the problem of marketing. In addition, some of the village lands are confiscated by the Israeli settlements.
3. Insufficient number of commercial stores to provide people with necessities.

8. The village of Der Alsudan:

1. The village does not have water lines.
2. Its streets are either unasphalted or destroyed and require paving.
3. There is a lack of stores. The village has only three small shops.

9. The village of Qarawat Bani Zayd:

1. It needs a truck to collect garbage daily. The municipal council of the village hires a truck, which collects the garbage only on Mondays and Thursdays.
2. There should be a center for old people to spend their leisure time.

10. The village of Kufir Ein:

1. This village does not have centers for agricultural guidance.
2. There is a problem of marketing of plant products such as olive oil.
3. The village does not have a place for garbage disposal and does not have a garbage truck either.

6.3. Diverse Problems related to different sectors:

1. There is the problem of frequent electricity interruptions in those villages during the winter because they are distant from the city therefore the electric current gets weaker there. The solution lies in developing the infrastructure and improving the electricity services in those villages.
2. There is also the problem of water shortage during summer. Therefore, people are forced to use underground wells or drink from springs.
3. The villages also suffer from a scarcity of transportation means to and from the nearby cities. The transportation is available only in the early morning and in the evening.
4. There is also the problem of scarcity of job opportunities and unemployment, especially under the present conditions. Therefore, there is a need for projects to employ the unemployed, reduce unemployment and develop infrastructure.
5. There is the problem of throwing garbage where there are no garbage containers and there are no garbage trucks available in some villages.
6. In all of the Bani Zayd villages, there is no sewer system and people depend completely on absorption underground holes to get rid of waste.
7. There is the problem of a lack of concern with agricultural lands and the absence of agricultural awareness.
8. There is a lack of recreation and services centers.
9. Some villages do not have parks, clubs, gardens and cafes. There are no Internet cafes in all villages. There is a need for commercial stores and extinguisher cars or centers, which belong to the municipalities.
10. There is the problem the lack of daily shopping needs.
11. People suffer the difficulty of getting their daily necessities and goods because of the insufficient number of shops, such as vegetables, bread and meat.
12. There is the problem of absence of authority or police to implement laws and impose security.

13. There is a need for a bank to facilitate transactions.
14. There is a need to establish a court and a branch for the Ministry of the Interior.
15. There is a need for an industrial area.
16. The region does not have public libraries except for the municipality of West Bani Zayd, which has a small library with a few hundreds of books only.



Civic Forum Institute

Civic Forum Institute (CFI) is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental Palestinian organization that works to build and strengthen the foundations of democracy in Palestine and develop Palestinian civil society organizations.

CFI is dedicated to democratic development so as to raise citizens' awareness of democratic principles and processes, and to empower local leaders and organizations through meaningful and consistent programs and activities organized in local communities throughout Palestine.

CFI works in cooperative efforts to build and strengthen ties between local, Arab and international organizations to build a stable democratic society that benefits all citizens.

CFI pursues three main objectives:

- To increase citizens' awareness of democratic concepts and institutions.
- To develop community leadership skills and enhance the role of the citizen in Palestinian society.
- To encourage local organizations to play a role in the public policy decision-making process in order to encourage democratic development through responsive and accountable governance.



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