

Halhul Town Profile



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Background

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the 'Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment'; a project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The 'Village Profiles and Azahar Needs Assessment' was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Hebron Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Hebron Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile/>

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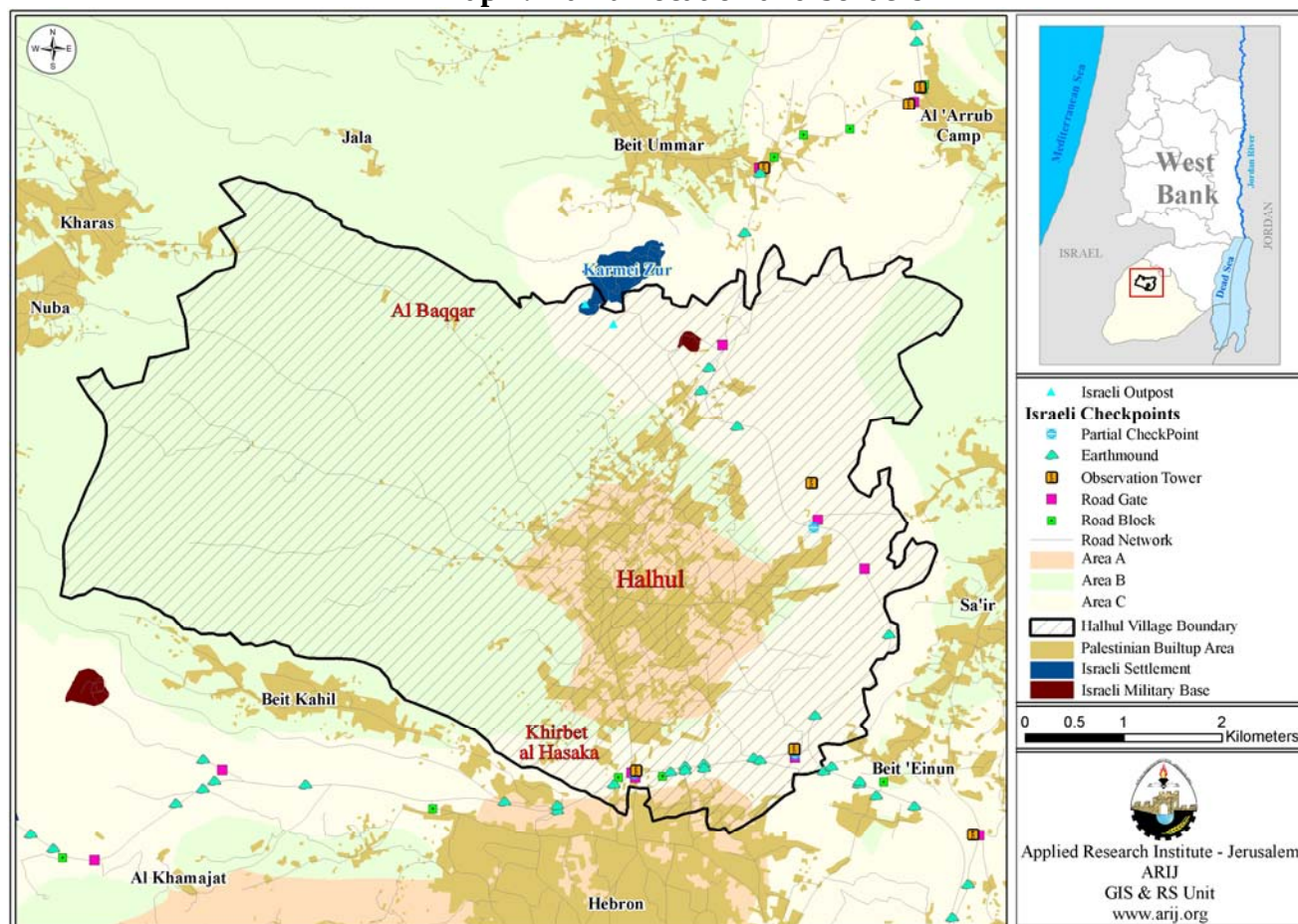
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Halhul Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Halhul is a town in Hebron Governorate, located six km north of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Sa'ir and Ash Shuyukh towns to the east, Beit Ummar and Al Arrub Camp to the north, Kharas and Nuba to the west, and Hebron city and Beit Kahil to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Halhul location and borders



Halhul is a beautiful and attractive area and is considered the highest inhabited place in Palestine. It extends over a mountainous area north of Hebron Mountains at an elevation of 916 m above the sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Halhul town is 583 mm, the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

According to Ministry of Local Authority classifications, Halhul municipal boundaries include the following localities: Halhul, Al Baqqar and Khirbet al Hasaka.

From 1964 to 2005, Halhul was governed by a municipal council; however, in 2005, a new council was elected comprising 13 members and 49 employees. The municipal council operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning, development and issuing building licenses;
2. Infrastructural maintenance of water, electricity, solid waste collection, open and paved roads and the distribution of social services;
3. Building health and educational institutions; and,
4. Social development services.

History

The history of Halhul dates back prior to 3000 B.C. Discovery of what is considered to be the oldest engravings in all of Palestine indicates that Halhul is estimated to be about 5,000 years old. It was named Halhul by the Canaanites meaning "to tremble" (It probably means to tremble from cold, since it is located on a high mountainous area and known to have a relatively cold weather compared to other parts in the region). As for the Romans, they called it Alulos. (Arraf, 1996)

However, according to residents and historical narratives, the name Halhul is related to prophet Yunis who lived in the town for one year. In Arabic, it is said (حل حولاً) meaning "lived a year", though it was later converted to the word Halhul (حلحول).

Photos of Halhul

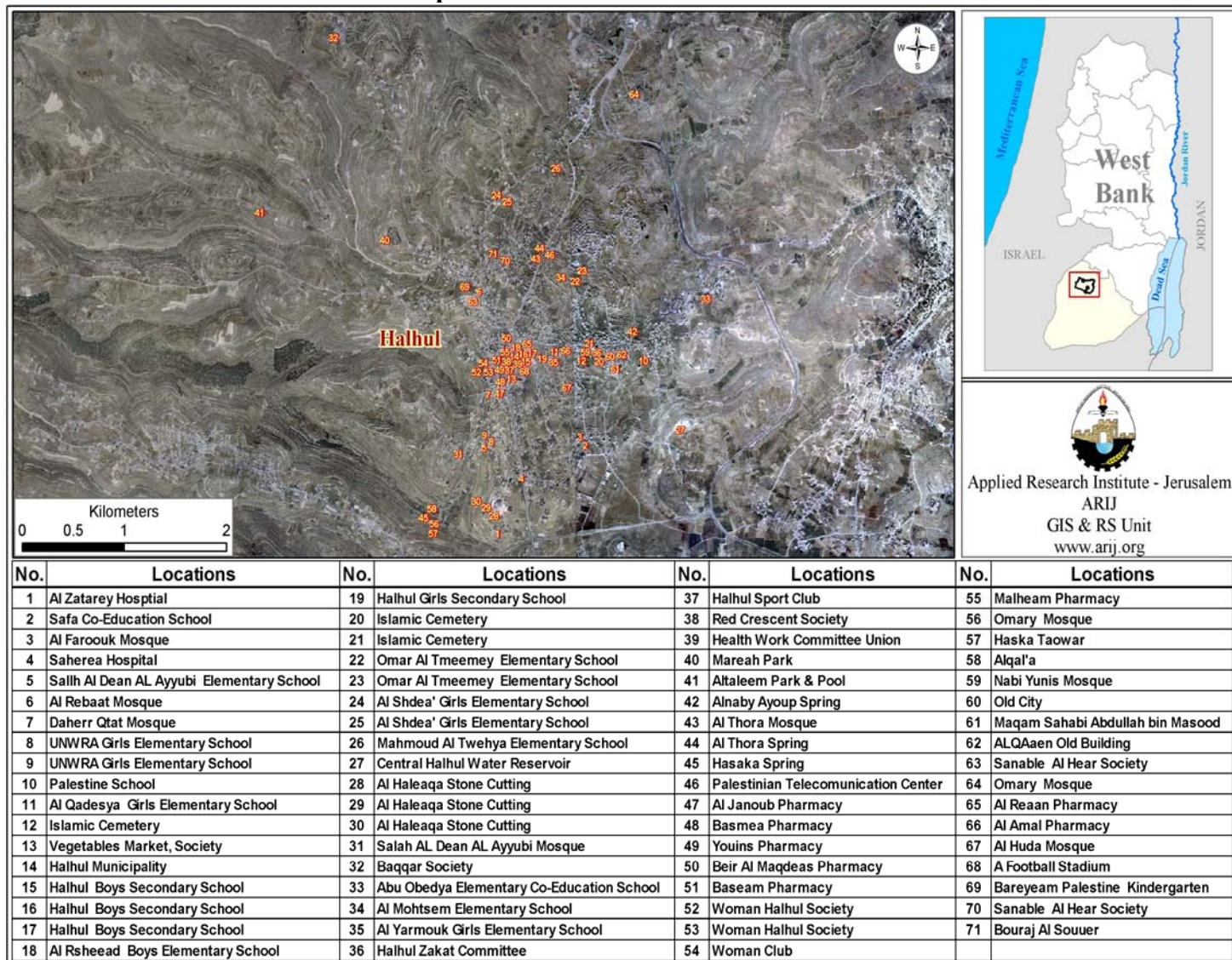


Religious and Archeological Sites

There are 11 mosques in Halhul and Haska town: Nabi Yunis Mosque, Maqam Sahabi Abdullah bin Masood Mosque, Omary Mosque, Al Therwa Mosque, Al Rebaat Mosque, Dherr Ektat Mosque, Salah AL Dean AL Ayyubi Mosque, Al Hwawer Mosque, Al Huda Mosque, Al Farouk Mosque and Al Nuor Mosque.

There are also several historical and archeological sites in the town, including: Maqam Sahabi Abdullah bin Masood Mosque, Maqam Al Nabi Ayoob, Bouraj Al Souuer and the Old Town of Halhul.

Map 2: Main locations in Halhul town



Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Halhul in 2007 was approximately 22,128, of whom 21,872 were living in Halhul and 38 were living in Al Baqqar and 218 in Khirbet al Hasaka. There were 3,961 households residing in 4,550 housing units. Table 1 reveals the population of Halhul town by locality and sex in 2007. The population of Halhul village constituted 4% of the total population of Hebron Governorate.

Table 1: Halhul population by locality and sex			
Locality	Male	Female	Total
Halhul*	11,147	10,726	21,872
Al Baqqar*	25	13	38
Khirbet al Hasaka*	102	116	218
Total**	11,274	10,854	22,128

*Estimated numbers based upon the 1997 Census

** Source: PCBS 2008, Population, Housing and establishment, Census -2007, Final Results

The population of Halhul is classified as an urban area, constituting approximately 4% of the total population of Hebron Governorate.

Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census analyzed the classification of population of Halhul town by age groups and sex, showing 40.2 % of the population is less than 15 years of age, 55.2 % are between 15 and 64 years old, and 4 % are 65 years and older. The sex ratio in the town is 104 males (50.9%) for every 100 females (49.1%).

Families

The population of Halhul is comprised of four main families: Al Sa'deh, Karjah, Al Zma'ra and Al Doudah. The remaining are Palestinian refugees and renters.

Migration

Data collected from Halhul Municipality indicates that there were about one thousand migrations from the town due to the political and economic situation.

Education

According to the 2007 Census, about 5.7% of the residents were illiterate, with women comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men do, 71.6% and 28.4% respectively. Of the literate population, 10.7% could read and write, 20.6% completed elementary education, 31.3% completed preparatory education, 15.4% completed their secondary education and 16.3% completed their higher education. Table 2 shows the education status in Halhul by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 2: Halhul population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment											
Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	250	875	1,640	2,473	1,218	614	730	23	70	30	7,923
F	628	786	1,541	2,371	1,166	465	560	10	23	2	7,552
T	878	1,661	3,181	4,844	2,384	1,079	1,290	33	93	32	15,475

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

The field survey data indicated that there are three levels of education in Halhul town: pre-school (kindergartens), elementary and secondary education. The data also reveals that there are 15 schools, of which 6 are for males, 7 are for females, and 2 are for co-education. 12 schools are supervised by the public sector, 2 schools are supervised by the private sector, and 1 by the UNRWA. The schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority are shown in table 3.

Table 3: The schools in Halhul by name, stag, sex and supervising authority				
No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1	Halhul Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2	Al Rsheed Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3	Al Mutaseem Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4	Omar Al Tmeemey Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
5	Mahmoud Al Twehya Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
6	Salah Al Dean Al Ayyubi Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
7	Halhul Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
8	Al Qadesya Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
9	Al yarmouk Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
10	Al Shuhada' Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
11	Palestine Girls Elementary school	Elementary	Female	Governmental
12	Abu Obedya co-education Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
13	Halhul Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	UNRWA
14	Al Amale Society Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Private
15	Al Rafedeyan Private	Elementary	Co-education	Private

The data of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) reveals that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year, there were 6,136 students, 187 classes and 249 teachers in Halhul (see table 4).

Table 4: No. of schools, classes and students by sex in Halhul town					
		Government	Private	UNRWA	Total
Male	No. of Schools	7	0	0	6
	No. of class	91	0	0	91
	No. of Teachers	121	0	0	121
	No. of Students	2,902	0	0	2,902
Female	No. of Schools	5	0	1	6
	No. of class	71	0	16	87
	No. of Teachers	96	0	20	116
	No. of Students	2,541	0	518	3,059
Co-education	No. of Schools	0	2	0	2
	No. of class	0	9	0	9
	No. of Teachers	0	12	0	12
	No. of Students	0	175	0	175

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

In 2007, there were five kindergartens in and around Halhul. These kindergartens provide pre-school education services to 120 children. Table 5 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

Table 5: The kindergartens in Halhul by name, number of classes, children, teachers and supervising authority					
No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1	Abu Baker Kindergarten	2	15	1	Private
2	Halhul Ladies Charitable Society Kindergarten	4	90	5	Society
3	Al Are's Al Namuthajeah Kindergarten	3	60	3	Private
4	Bareyeam Palestine Kindergarten	3	60	3	Charitable Society
5	Jeel alamal Kindergarten	7	190	9	Charitable Society

Health Status

There are many clinics and health centers that provide health services in Halhul town; Al Zatory Hospital and Shahera Hospital provide maternity services. In addition, there are two health clinics: the Red Crescent Society and the Halhul Health Center. 17 physician clinics serve the Halhul population, including 1 public clinic, 11 private clinics, and 5 clinics through charitable societies. Table 6 shows the health status in Halhul.

Table 6: Number of health institutions in Halhul by supervising authority				
Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	1	11	5	-
Dental Clinic	-	2	-	1
Health Clinic	-	2	-	-
X- Ray Centre	-	1	-	-
Medical Lab	-	5	-	-
Maternity & Pediatric Center	-	1	-	-
Pharmacy	-	8	-	-
Other (Physiotherapy)	-	-	-	-
Total	1	30	5	1

There are also three ambulances available in the town providing services for patients. In emergencies, the residents of Halhul go to hospitals and health centers in Hebron City.

Halhul health services suffer from many problems including:

1. Shortage of hospitals in the town,
2. Lack of an X- ray centre,
3. Shortage of emergency services, and

4. Shortage of medicine and drugs in the governmental clinics, especially expensive medicine and modern medical tools.

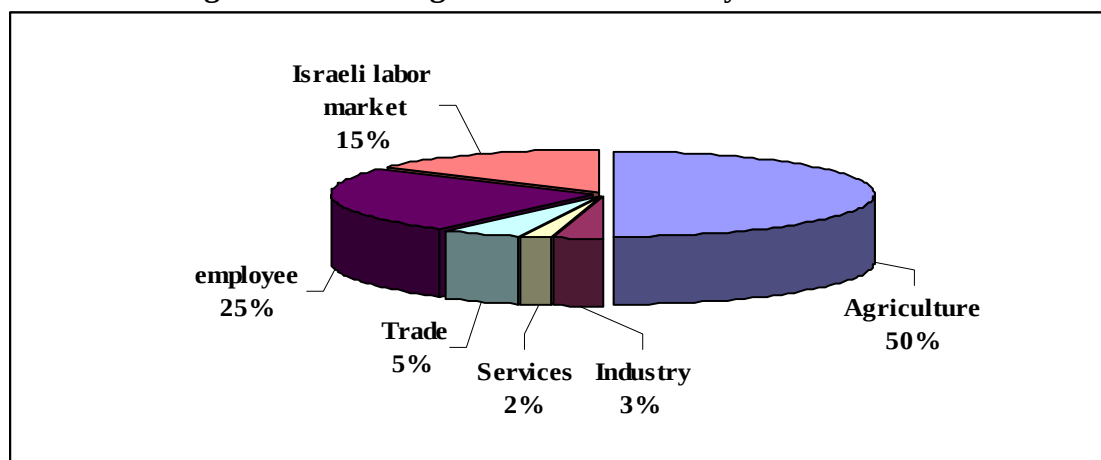
Economic Activities

Halhul is an agricultural area known for its vineyards and fruit trees. As indicated above, Halhul has a vast agricultural land estimated at 19,000 dunums, an area both fertile and suitable for planting fruit trees and vegetables, with nearly half (50%) the population of Halhul engaged in agriculture activities.

The data collected from the municipality revealed the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy. It is listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 50%,
- The employee sector 25%,
- Israeli labor market 15 %,
- The service sector 2%,
- The industrial sector 3%,
- The trade sector 5 %.

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Halhul town



The economic base of Halhul is also dependent on many economic institutions in the town, including the stone-cutting industry, aluminum industry and iron industry. Additionally there are about 70 groceries, 20 clothes shops, 11 butchers, 30 blacksmith workshops, 20 carpentry workshops, 22 services shops and more than 97 other small shops.

Based on the survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate localities, the social groups in the town that has been most affected by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada are: 1) previous workers in Israeli labor and markets, 2) families of six or more, 3) small-scale farmers, 4) small- scale traders, and 5) housekeepers and children.

Labor Force

The 2007 Census analyzed the labor force statistics in Halhul, Al Baqqar and Khirbet al Hasaka. The data showed that approximately 72 % of the population of Halhul was within the working age group (defined as 10 years and above). Out of 15,475 people of working age, 5,215 (33.7%) were economically active and 10,260 (66.3%) were not economically active. Of the economically active, 83 % were males and 17% were females. The largest groups of non-economically active people are students and housekeepers, who constitute 55.2% and 33.2% respectively. Table 7 shows the labor force status in Halhul town as it was in 2007.

Table 7: Halhul population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	3,655	320	352	4,327	2,868	9	493	137	89	3,596	7,923
F	704	32	152	888	2,793	3,401	400	32	38	6,664	7,552
T	4,359	352	504	5,215	5,661	3,410	893	169	127	10,260	15,475

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

Agricultural Sector

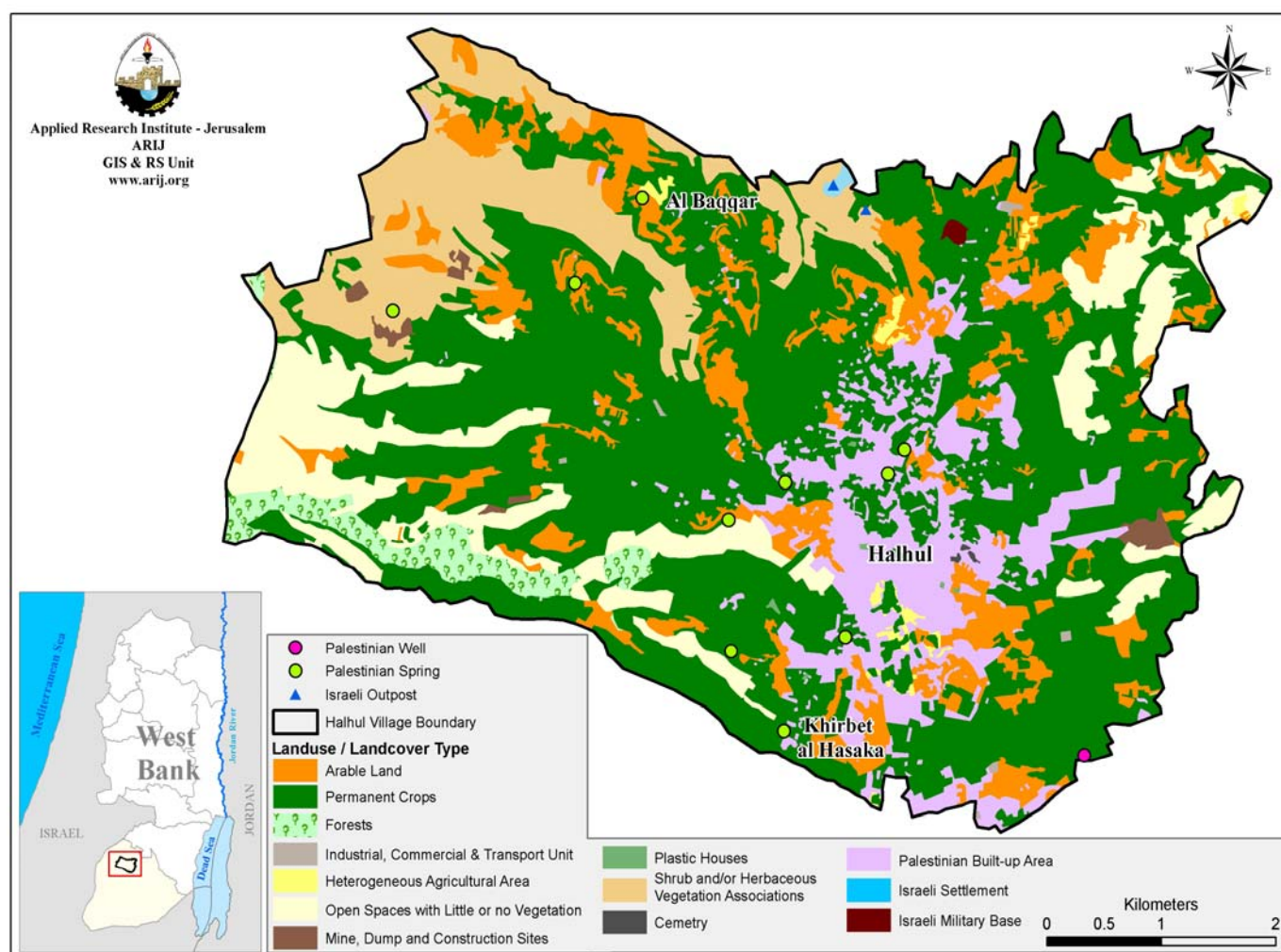
Halhul is an agricultural area in which 50% of the residents are engaged in agriculture activities. Halhul town lies on a total area of 38,500 dunums. 19,000 dunums are considered arable land; however, only 10,987 dunums are cultivated. About 8,000 dunums are uncultivated due to Israeli procedures (land confiscation and settlements), shortage of capital, shortage of water, and land unfeasible for agriculture.

Table 8: Land Use in Halhul town (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
38,500	10,987	8,013	9,000	1,400	9,100

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover in Halhul town



There are about 18 dunums of greenhouses. Of these, 11 dunums are used for growing cucumber, and seven dunums are used for growing tomato.

Most of agriculture in Halhul is rain-fed, but the field survey data indicates that farmers also depend on the water network and cisterns to irrigate crops. Table 9 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of Halhul. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated with an area of about 162 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are tomato and squash.

Table 9: Total area of rain fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Halhul town (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
162	59	2	50	8	20	0	16	30	47	202	192

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are two types of aromatic medical plants in Halhul, thyme and mint, spread over a total area of about 4 dunums.

In Halhul, there is a total area of 1,997 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are grape vines, stone fruits, and other fruit such as apricot trees and fig trees.

Table 10: Total area of horticulture and olive tree in Halhul town (dunum)											
Olives		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
1,997	0	2,096	0	129	0	83	0	5,815	0	10,120	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 11 shows the total of field crops cultivated in Halhul. Cereals, in particular wheat, white corn and barley, are the most cultivated crops within an area of about 420 dunums. In addition, the cultivation of dry legumes crops, mostly lentils, and forage crops is common in Halhul.

Table 11: Total area of Field crops in Halhul town (dunum)													
Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Field area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
420	0	8	0	265	0	57	0	10	0	0	0	760	0

RF: Rain-fed, IRR: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Halhul are dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock, such as cows, sheep, goats and chickens, in addition to about 308 bee hives. About 20% of the residents breed domestic animals.

Table 12: Livestock in Halhul town									
Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
155	6,000	2,000	0	10	120	20	300,000	11,000	308

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

There are approximately 30 km of agricultural roads suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machines. However, current roads are insufficient and the town needs new road construction to cover the vast agricultural area in the town.

Institutions and Services

Halhul has several national institutions and ministerial offices. These include a Post Office, a Ministry of Labor office, a Ministry of Agriculture office, a Ministry Social Affairs office, a Police office and a security office. For other services, residents go to Hebron city, the main city in the Governorate.

In addition to the national institutions, Halhul has six local societies, which are:

1. Halhul Municipality: Established in 1964. In 2005, a new council was elected with 13 members. It provides public services to the residents such as water, electricity, solid waste, organizing and issuing building license and other services.
2. Halhul Zakat and Sadaqat committee
3. Halhul Women Society
4. High Education Society
5. Al Baqar Agriculture Cooperation Society: Established in 1965 in Baqar, it provides small funds and agriculture wages to its members.
6. Agriculture Lender Society

Table 13 shows the number of institutions in Halhul by type.

Table 13: No of institutions in Halhul by type						
Type of institution						
Governmental	Charitable	Women	NGO	Agriculture	Sports	Religious
6	2	1	1	2	0	11

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Halhul is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 50 % of the households have a telephone line.
- **Water Services:** Halhul has been connected to the water network since 1974. Almost 85% of the households are connected to the network. The Israeli Water Company (MECROT) is the main source of water in the town. Cisterns provide alternative resources to water networks and there is a water reservoir in Halhul with a capacity of 500 m³, which is used during the summer season. The town has additional springs used in agriculture, specifically for vegetables and livestock. Water services in Halhul are suffering from many problems such as:
 1. Shortage and unavailability of water;
 2. Old and deteriorated water networks; and
 3. Weakness of water flow because of Halhul's high location.
- **Electricity Services:** Halhul connected to the electricity network in 1965. Approximately 90% of houses in the town are connected to the electricity network. Halhul Municipal Council manages the distribution of electricity, which is supplied by the Israeli Electric Cooperation. As with many other localities, Halhul suffers from many problems in the electricity services, including:
 1. Weakness of electricity current in some areas;
 2. Old and deteriorated electricity networks which need rehabilitation;
 3. New Built up areas are not connected to the electricity network; and
 4. Shortage of electricity regulators.

- **Solid Waste Collection:** Solid waste management in Halhul is managed by Halhul Municipality in cooperation with the Joint Services Council for Planning and Development-North West Hebron. Solid waste produced in the town is collected from the residential areas and sent to a dumping site 30 km from the town, which is operated by the Joint Services Council.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Halhul is not connected to a sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** Public transportation in Halhul consists of 20 taxis registered in one taxi office. In terms of roads, there are about 92 km of roads in Halhul, 15 km are paved and in good condition, 12 km are paved yet not in a good condition, and 65 km are not paved at all. The main obstacles facing transportation of passengers in the town are:
 1. Israeli checkpoints and barriers, and
 2. Road deterioration.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Halhul is surrounded by the Israeli settlement Karmeil Zur to the north, a military base to east, and a bypass road to the south and east. Since the beginning of the Second Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli Forces have confiscated about 1500 dunums from Halhul town. Halhul is continuously subjected to closures by the Israeli military. There are iron gates and many checkpoints around the town

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

Halhul Municipality established a development plan that includes numerous infrastructure and education related development projects. Since 2004, the municipality implemented several projects funded by both foreign and national donors; these projects include the following:

Table 14: Development plans and projects in Halhul town			
No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Rehabilitation Al Nabi Younas Street	Infrastructure	Halhul Municipality
2	Building Halhul Boys Elementary School	Educational	Safe children
3	Building Omar At Tamemey School	Educational	Arabic fund
4	Open and Rehabilitation Internal Roads	Infrastructure	Municipalities funds

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Halhul Municipality, the town suffers from a shortage of health, education and agricultural services, as well as significant infrastructure needs. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Halhul						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads				*	
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				5 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*		
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas		*			12 km
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network			*		
Health Needs						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*		
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools			*		
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands			*		
2	Building Cisterns	*				30
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*		15
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		
7	Field Crops Seeds			*		
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		

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