

Kafr Thulth Town Profile (including ‘Arab al Khawla Locality)



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Background

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

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Qalqiliya Governorate.

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

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

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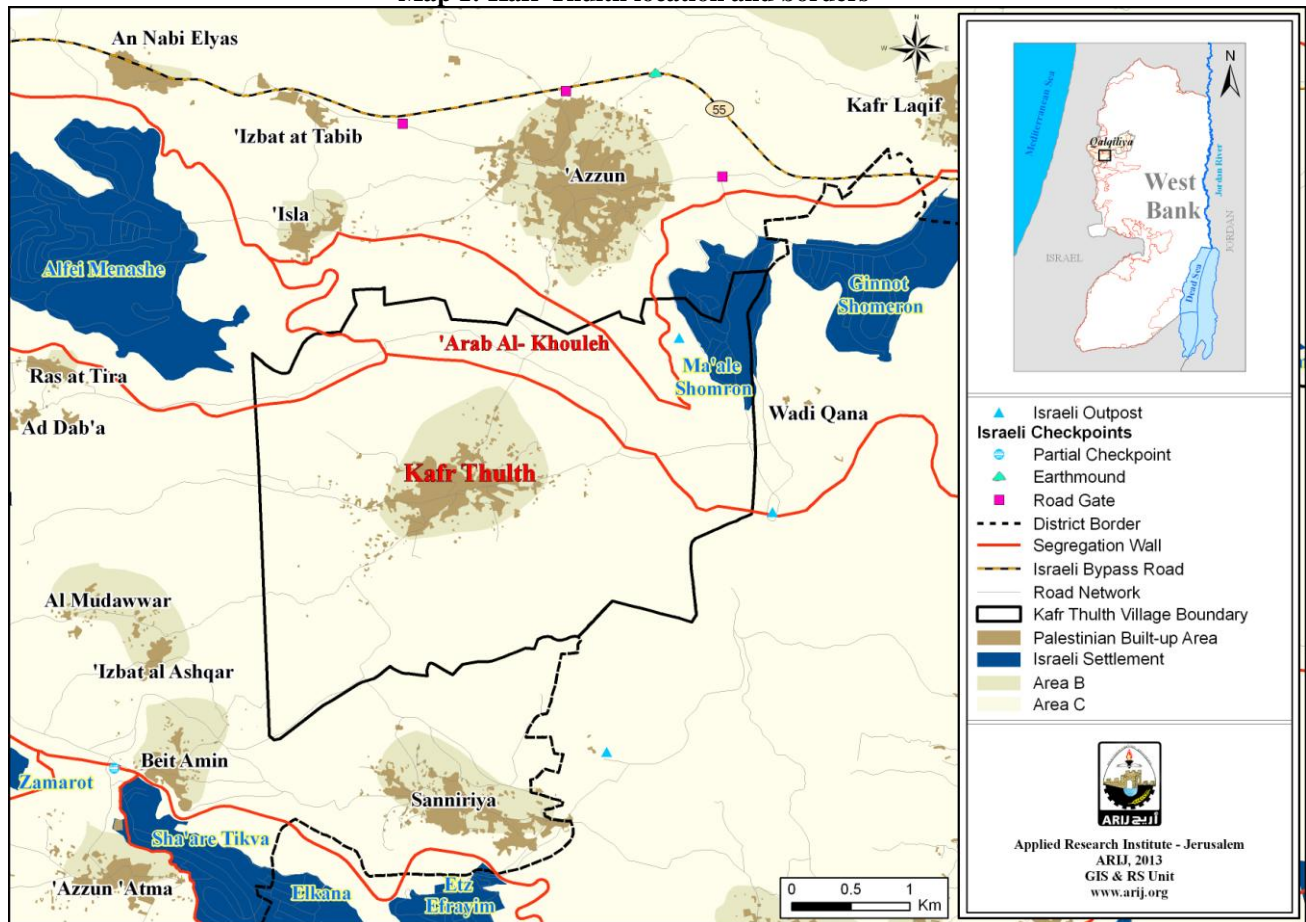
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Kafr Thulth Town Profile¹

Location and physical characteristics

Kafr Thulth (including ‘Arab al Khawla locality) is a Palestinian town in Qalqiliya Governorate, located 88.6km southeast of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Wadi Qana (in Salfit Governorate) to the east, Bidhya (in Salfit Governorate) and Sanniriya to the south, ‘Izbat al Ashqar to the west, and ‘Azzun and ‘Isla to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Kafr Thulth location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Kafr Thulth is located at an altitude of 273m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 595mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Until 2012, ‘Arab al Khawla locality had been governed by a Projects’ Committee. However, in 2012, upon a decision by the Palestinian Ministry of Councils and the Ministry of Local Government, ‘Arab al Khawla locality was merged with the bigger locality of Kafr Thulth town under Kafr Thulth Municipal Council.

¹ The information listed in this profile includes the information of both Kafr Thulth town and ‘Arab al Khawla locality; based on the Local Government's decision in 2012 to merge the two localities under one local council.

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

Since 1965, Kafr Thulth has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 7 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 14 employees working in the council, whose permanent headquarters is included within the Middle Joint Services Council. The Council does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste, but it owns a pick-up car and a small hammer truck. (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

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

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection and street cleaning.
- Provision of road networks and road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Organization of license processes.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Provision of offices for governmental services.
- Provision of transportation.

(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

History

Kafr Thulth town name derives from two words; “kafr” which means the agricultural town, and “thulth” (from the word “thalath” meaning three), which people believe is derived from the original word related to a Canaanite god named “Ba’l Shalisha” which means the husband of three or the lord of three. However, some people believe that the town was established on Sirisa land in Az Zawiya town in Nablus. As for ‘Arab al Khawla locality; it was named after Al Khawla family from which many tribes descend.

The town was established between 1447 and 1501 B.C., with its residents being of a Canaanite origin in addition to some families descending from “Muqbil Odah” and “Al Khawla” families; both of which are refugees of the 1948 (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

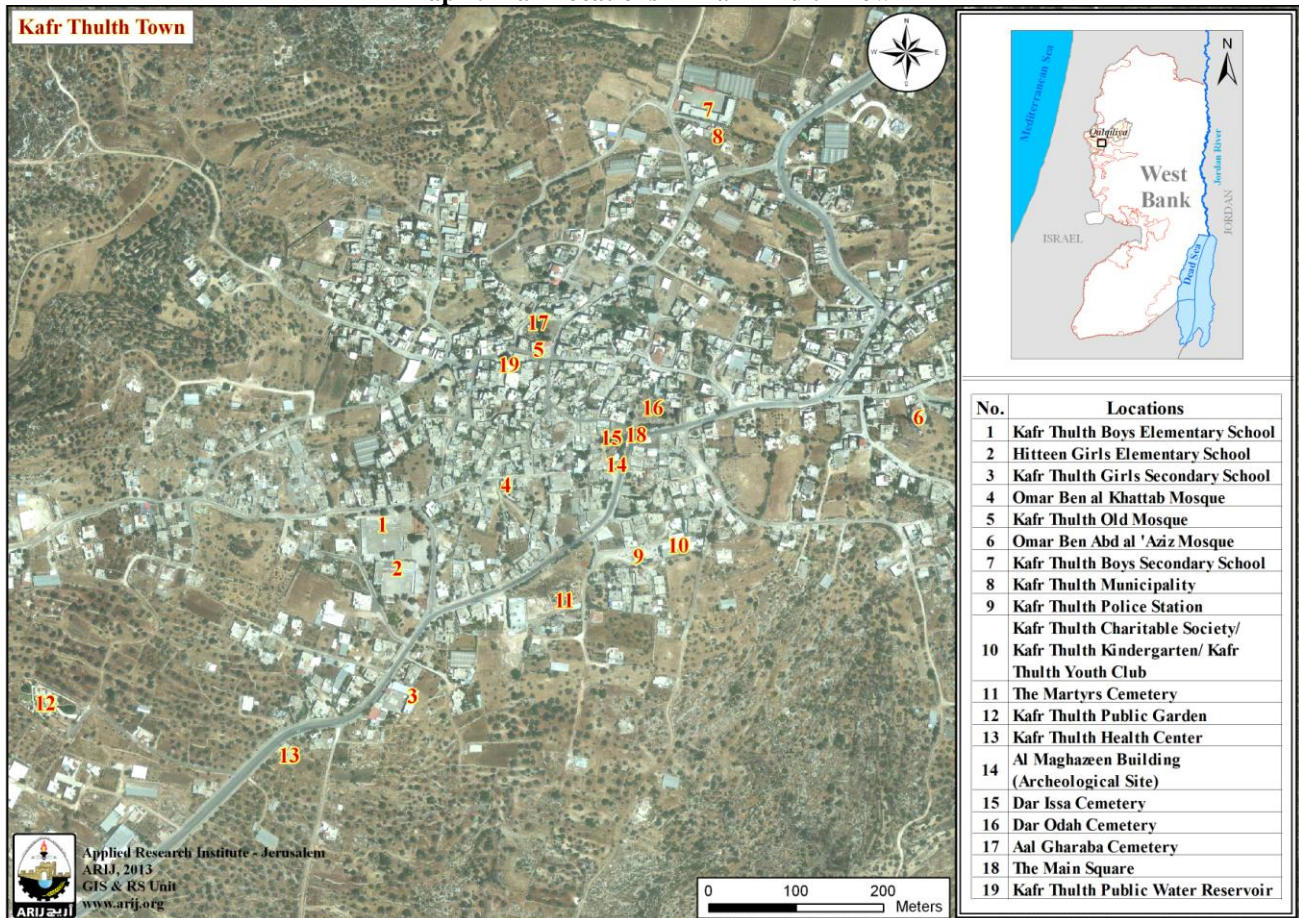
Photo of Kafr Thulth



Religious and archaeological sites

There are three mosques in the town (Omar ben al Khattab, Omar Ben Abd al ‘Aziz and Ash Shuhada’ Mosques). The town has several sites of archaeological interest including Kafr Qare’ water springs and Al Maghazeen area. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to be suitable as tourist sites, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Kafr Thulth Town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Kafr Thulth in 2007 was 3,832, of whom 1,923 were male and 1,909 female. There were 702 households registered as living in 756 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Kafr Thulth was as follows: 40.7% were less than 15 years of age, 54.3% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the town was 100.7:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.2% and 49.8% of the population, respectively.

Families

Kafr Thulth residents are from several families, including Odah, Shawahna, Gharaba, Mara'iya and Al Khawla (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among the Kafr Thulth population is approximately 9.1%, of whom 78% are females. Of the whole population, 11.9% could only read and write, with no formal education, 20.1% had elementary education, 20.8% had preparatory education, 21.6% had secondary education, and 16.5% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Kafr Thulth by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

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

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	55	149	280	288	343	73	198	1	11	0	0	1,398
F	195	176	269	281	248	47	115	0	5	0	1	1,337
T	250	325	549	569	591	120	313	1	16	0	1	2,735

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are four public schools in the town, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012) (see table 2).

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

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

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 1,195 students, 76 teachers, and 47 classes in the town. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 25 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There are also 2 kindergartens in Kafr Thulth town which are run by different private organizations (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012) (see table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Kafr Thulth town by name and supervising authority

Name of kindergarten	No. of classes	No. of teachers	Supervising authority
Kafr Thulth Charitable Society Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Bara'em al Ghadd Kindergarten	1	1	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

The educational sector in Kafr Thulth town faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of schools, particularly for the middle age group.
- The overcrowded classrooms.
- The low standard of education provided by some schools.
- The lack of land to construct new schools.
- The Israeli forces and settlers' continuous harassment towards students.

The lack of transportation vehicles for students. (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

Health status

Kafr Thulth has several health facilities; Kafr Thulth Health Center, a governmental general physician clinic, a private dental clinic, a private internist clinic, a governmental medical lab, a governmental mother and child care center and two private pharmacies. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital in Qalqiliya city (13km away), the National Hospital or Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus city (28 and 26km away respectively), or to the Martyr Omar al Qasem Specialized Hospital and the Health Center in ‘Azzun town (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

The health sector in the town faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of specialized doctors.
- The unavailability of some medicines.
- The lack of equipment for some tests at the medical lab.
- The lack of private and governmental medical staff.
- The lack of an ambulance service.
- The lack of health services available in ‘Arab al Khawla locality.

(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

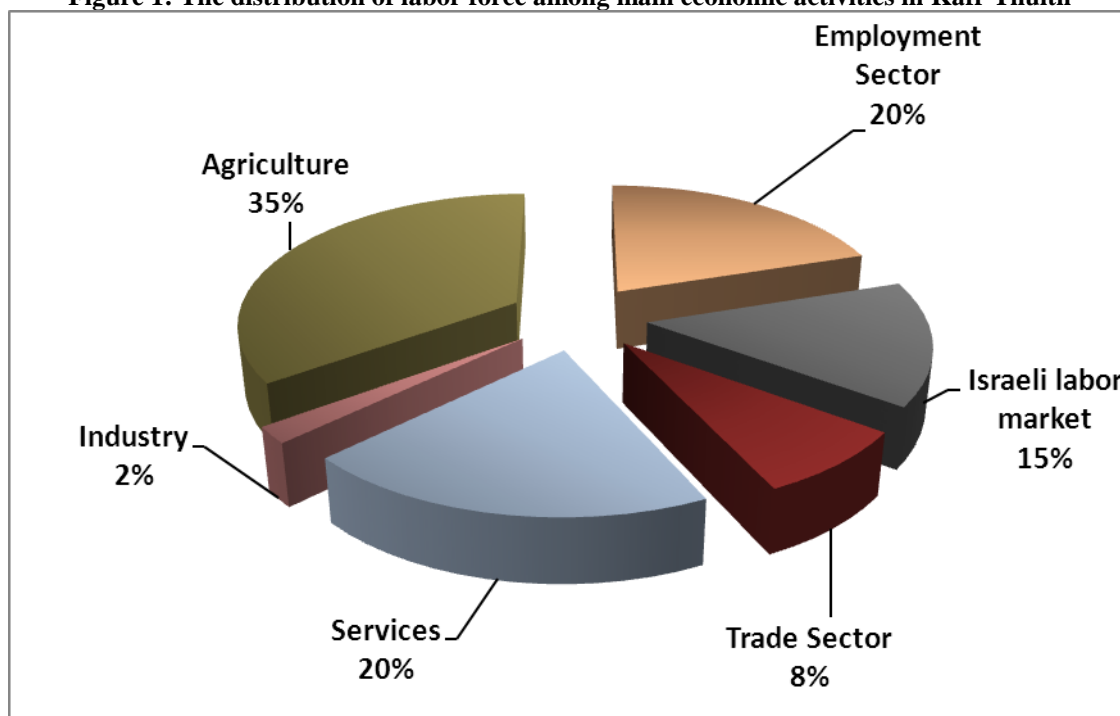
Economic activities

The economy in Kafr Thulth is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 35% of the town’s workforce (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

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

- Agriculture sector (35%)
- Services sector (20%)
- Government or other employees sector (20%)
- Israeli labor market (15%)
- Trade sector (8%)
- Industry (2%)

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



Source: Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012

Kafr Thulth has 80 groceries, 1 fruit and vegetable store, 1 bakery, 1 butcher, 6 service stores, 4 different professional workshops, 2 olive oil presses, 2 stores for agricultural tools and 1 agricultural nursery (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Kafr Thulth reached 42%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

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

(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 34.2% of Kafr Thulth's labor force was economically active, of whom 90.7% were employed, 65.8% were not economically active, 53.6% were students, and 34.1% were housekeepers (see table 4).

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

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	713	36	39	788	505	0	70	22	13	610	0	1,398
F	136	2	10	148	460	614	98	1	16	1,189	0	1,337
T	849	38	49	936	965	614	168	23	29	1,799	0	2,735

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

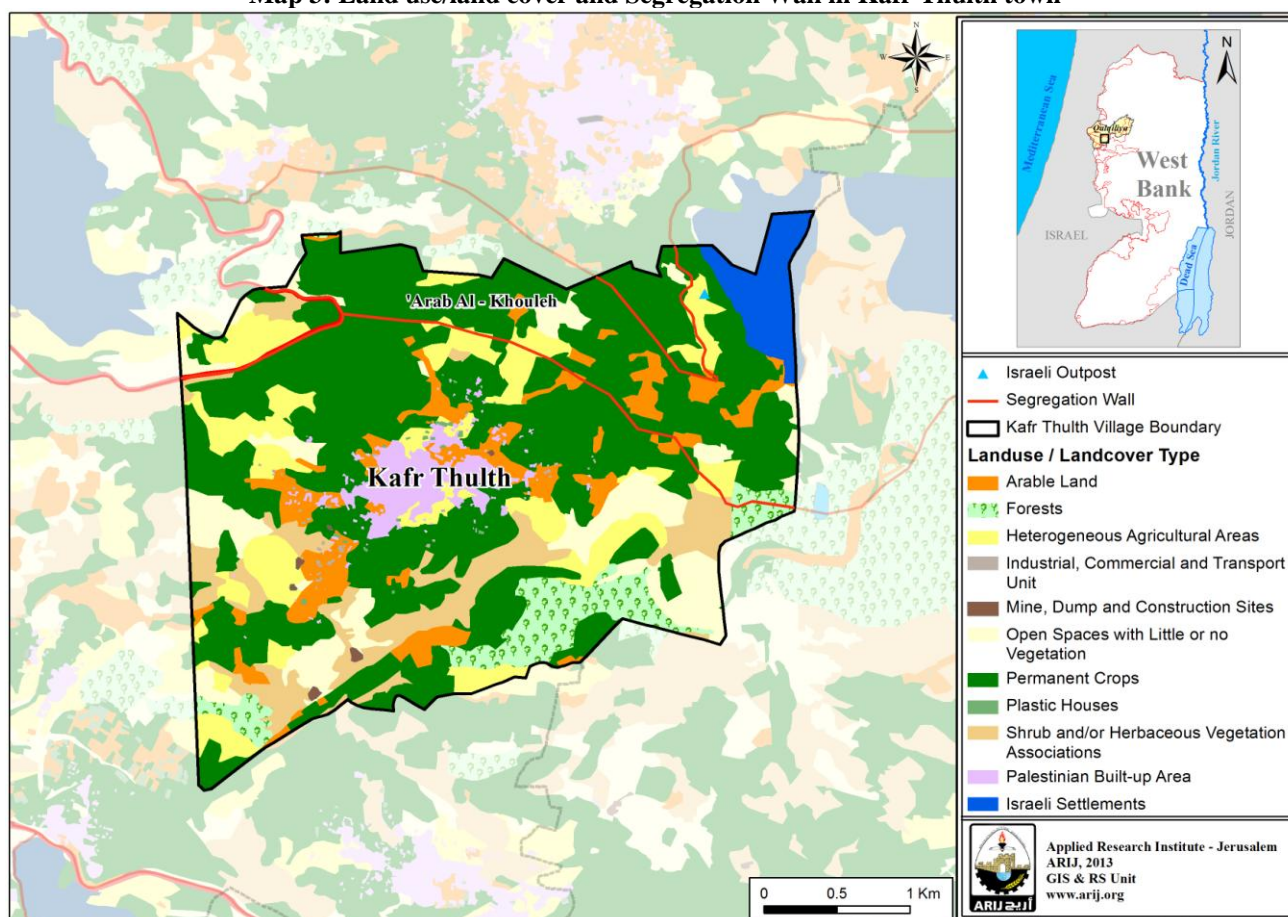
Kafr Thulth has a total area of approximately 11,530 dunums of which 8,942 are arable land and 415 dunums are registered as residential land (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Kafr Thulth town (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (8,942)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
11,530	415	7,045	15	953	929	0	661	1,060	33	420

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Kafr Thulth town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

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

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

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
35	5	0	0	40	0	10	0	0	0	85	5

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Kafr Thulth is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 9,780 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the town.

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

Olives		Citrus		Stone fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
9,780	0	0	20	8	5	0	0	25	0	35	7.5	9,848	32.5

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Kafr Thulth, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 170 dunums (see table 8).

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

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
170	0	4	12	6	0	4	0	50	0	0	0	5	0	239	12

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 43% of the residents in Kafr Thulth rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Kafr Thulth

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
69	2,395	1,136	0	0	0	0	35,000	11,900	279

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 32km of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows:

Table 10: Agricultural roads in Kafr Thulth town and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	10
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	16
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	3

Source: Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012

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

- The confiscation of land by the Israelis.
- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.

- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of laborers.
- The high price of water.
- The lack of agricultural roads leading to the agricultural lands.
- The weak ability to marketing agricultural and livestock productions.
- The lack of interest given by the Ministry of Agriculture to farmers.

(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

Kafr Thulth town has a post office division and a police station, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include

- **Kafr Thulth Municipal Council:** Founded in 1965 and is currently registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the town and providing various services and infrastructure to its residents.
- **Kafr Thulth Charitable Society:** Founded in 1984 and is currently registered by the Ministry of Social Affairs, concerned with providing social, cultural and educational services.
- **Kafr Thulth Sports Club:** Founded in 2000 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports with the aim of providing sports, social and cultural activities.
- **The Rural Women Development Society:** Founded in 2001 by Kafr Thulth Municipality and the Agricultural Development, with the aim of proving care for women and children.
- **The Organic Oil Society:** Founded in 2005 by the Agricultural Development, to provide farmers with guidance and marketing services.
- **The Livestock Society:** Founded in 2006 by Agricultural Relief. The Society aims to provide guidance and marketing services in addition to supporting the agricultural sector.

(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication Services:

Kafr Thulth has been connected to a public electricity network since 2007, served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company,. This is the main source of electricity in the locality and approximately 95% of the housing units are connected to the network. However, the town still suffers from some obstacles in the electricity sector, primarily:

- The weak electrical power supplied to the town.
- The high amount of electricity wastage.
- The shortage in the number of transfer stations.

(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012)

Kafr Thulth is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 40% of the housing units within the locality's boundaries are connected to phone lines (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

There are 8 taxis and a taxi office in Kafr Thulth, but these are considered insufficient, hence residents use their own private cars. The lack of vehicles in the town, the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints, the high cost of transport, the poor road infrastructure and the existence of the Segregation Wall are considered to be the main obstacles faced by the town's residents (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

There are 20km of main roads and 12km of secondary roads in Kafr Thulth (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Kafr Thulth town

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved and in good condition	2	8
2. Paved and in poor condition	11	2
3. Unpaved	7	2

Source: Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012

Water resources:

Kafr Thulth is provided with water through wells owned by the Kafr Thulth Municipality, which supplies the residents of Kafr Thulth and 'Arab al Khawla with water through the public water network established in 2006. Approximately 95% of the housing units are connected to the network (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Kafr Thulth town in 2012 was recorded as approximately 119,000 cubic meters/year (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 74 liters/day. However, no Kafr Thulth citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 10% (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012). These losses happen at the main source, along major transport lines, in the distribution network and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Kafr Thulth is more likely to be 66 liters per day (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Kafr Thulth residents is very low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

The town also has 610 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns and a water reservoir of 500m³ cubic meters. There are also two water s[rings located in 'Arab al Khawla called the Kafr Qare springs, but they are unqualified and are rarely used for livestock drinking water. There are also 9 wells privately owned by citizens in the town which are used for agricultural purposes; for the irrigation of citrus and fruit trees, and greenhouses (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

The Kafr Thulth and 'Arab al Khawla localities lack a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as the main means of wastewater disposal (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 234 cubic meters, or 85,500 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 53 liters per day. The

wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. It is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment as well as to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid waste management:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 18 NIS per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Kafr Thulth benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 55 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the town. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zaher al Finjan dumping site in Jenin Governorate, 65km from the town, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Kafr Thulth is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Kafr Thulth residents is nearly 4.6 tons, or 1,691 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Kafr Thulth experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water crisis

Water is cut off by the Municipality for long periods of time during summer because the quantity of water available does not meet everyone's needs. The price of water is very high and a new public water network needs to be established to serve 'Arab al Khawla locality.(Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012).

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that Kafr Thulth residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. The untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is then disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid waste management

Kafr Thulth town does not suffer any problems concerning the management of solid waste. This is due to the adequate organization and management of waste disposal services by the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste. Waste is disposed of in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate which is the main environmentally sound landfill serving the town as well as most of the other localities in the Qalqiliya Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh were divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,238 dunums (10.7% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security, as area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth noting that all of the residents of Kafr Thulth village live in area B, whilst Arab Al Khouleh residents live in area C. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 10,292 dunums (89.3% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited without prior consent or authorization from the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C in Kafr Thulth village and Arab Al Khouleh are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements built on the village’s territory (see table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,238	10.7
Area C	10,292	89.3
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	11,530	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli occupation practices in in Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh village

Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh have been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the village territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan realized through the Segregation Wall. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have had a negative impact on Kafr Thulth village:

Throughout the years of occupation, Israel has confiscated 367 dunums of land from Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh village (3.2% of its total area) to establish the Karne Shomron, Ginot Shomron, Ma'ale Shomron and Emmanuel settlements. It is worth noting that part of these settlements are established over Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh lands as well as those of other villages including Deir Istiya, 'Azzun, Kafr Laqif and Jinsafut. These settlements constitute a part of the settlement bloc Ariel Kedumim which Israel is seeking to incorporate within its borders by building a wall of racial segregation on the territory of the West Bank.

In 2005 Israel announced a plan to annex all Israeli settlements in the West Bank into Israel, considering them to be an essential part of the Israeli state as they "... *contribute to security, to political standing, to the economy and to the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel*", as stated by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American President George Bush (11th April 2005).

When the Segregation Wall is completed in 2014, Israel will annex 107 settlements into its borders including all of the large settlement blocs and other settlements in the Western Segregation Zone.

During the last two decades, Israel has established 232 outposts across the West Bank. Typically mobile caravans established by settlers on stolen lands, outposts often form the nuclei of new settlements and tend to be an extension of a nearby 'mother settlement'. The epidemic of Israeli outpost construction began with a Sharonian call for Jewish settlers to take control of Palestinian hilltops in order to prevent them from being transferred to Palestinians during negotiations. Although consecutive Israeli governments have not officially sanctioned these illegal outposts, the state provides them with military protection and infrastructure services, facilitating their permanent existence and encouraging further expansion. After 2001, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon implicitly sanctioned the expansion of outposts, leading to an increased number being built. Israeli Occupation Forces assist the Israeli settlers in moving to and settling in these outposts, in addition to protecting them and providing infrastructure to guarantee their continuing survival. In Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh village, an Israeli outpost has been established, lying to the west of Ma'ale Shomron settlement (ARIJ – GIS, 2013).

Segregation Wall plan in Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Kafr Thulth village. According to the latest amendments to the Israeli Segregation Wall plan published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30th April 2007, the Wall extends 3km on to the village's lands, in addition to Israeli planners to continue building 4.7km from the Wall on the village's lands, to the north east of the village. The Wall will isolate 2,861 dunums (24.8% of the village's total area) and will confiscate more lands for Israeli settlements. Isolated lands include Israeli settlements built on the village's land in addition to agricultural lands, forests and open spaces (see table 12).

Table 12: Classification of land confiscated by the construction of the Segregation Wall in Kafr Thulth and Arab Al Khouleh

No.	Land classification	Area in dunums
1	Agricultural land	2,190
2	Open spaces	214
3	Israeli settlements	367
4	Segregation Wall zone	41
5	Forests	49
	Total	2,861

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Case study: Israeli occupation attacks on Arab Al Khouleh nature reserve

The Israeli Occupation Authorities have banned Palestinian farmers living in Arab Al Khouleh, east of Kafr Thulth, from accessing their lands, as they are close to the Israeli settlements of the Ariel bloc (Ma'ale Shomron, Ginot Shomron, Karne Shomron, and Novimoyakir). The Israeli Authorities have classified this area as a nature reserve and hence prohibit any access to it or any work on the land that may change its features. The Israeli Authorities, along with groups of settlers, continually harass the Palestinian farmers who visit their lands by attacking their herds, destroying their cultivations and harvests, uprooting the trees and polluting water resources with toxic substances in order to prevent the Palestinian farmers from using them again. Israeli settlers also discharge their waste water in the area to destroy the crops, so as to force Palestinian farmers to abandon their lands and leave the area for good, making the land an easy target for further settlement expansion.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab Al Khouleh community is very poor and lacks the basic facilities of water, electricity and sanitation, etc., but it is very rich in its vegetation cover and biodiversity including forest and medicinal herbs and vegetation, making it an important resource for the surrounding Palestinian villages and the whole governorate (Network Hona Al Quda for the Media Community)

Israeli occupation attacks on land and properties in Kafr Thulth village

On 20th September 2010, the Israeli Civil Administration's local planning and licensing sub-committee handed notices to six Palestinians living in the Khamat Attashtish area in Kafr Thulth village, ordering them to halt the construction work on their houses and agricultural facilities. The notice was issued under the pretext of building without an authorization permit in area C, which is under Israeli civil and security control. The targeted facilities belonged to Raed Farid Othman Muqbel, Rateb Hasan Muhammad Ghannam, Ayman Said Ahmed Gharaba, Thaeer Kamal Hasan, Ali Deeb Ali Gharaba, and Abdul Qader Muhammad Ghannam.

Israeli military orders in Kafr Thulth village

On 24th March 2005, the Israeli Occupation Authorities handed Palestinians living in Kafr Thulth and Azzun villages military order no.65/05/T, confiscating 224 dunums of the two villages for undefined security reasons. However, the map attached with the order clarified the Israeli plan to confiscate the Palestinian lands to complete the construction of the Segregation Wall in the area.

On 26th September 2002, the Israeli Occupation Authorities handed Palestinians living in Kafr Thulth, Habla and Azzun villages military order no.40/02/T, confiscating 894.5 dunums of land in the aforementioned villages for the construction of the Segregation Wall. It is worth mentioning that in the following year, the Israeli Authorities published several amendments to military order no.65/05/T to modify the route of the Segregation Wall in accordance with Israeli objectives and the settlements in the area.

In October 2010, a group of Israeli settlers living in the ‘Matan’ outpost close to Kafr Thulth on the eastern side, attacked the agricultural lands in the Wadi Al Qarei’ area to connect their outpost with the electricity network in the Karne Shomron settlement.

On 25th December 2002, the Israeli Occupation Authorities handed Palestinians in Kafr Thulth and Sanniriya military order no.35/02/T to confiscate 280 dunums in the aforementioned villages for the construction of the Segregation Wall.

On 18th July 2005, the Israeli Occupation Authorities handed Palestinians in Kafr Thulth military order no.120/05/T to confiscate 1.2 dunums in the village to construct a new Israeli bypass road to serve the Israeli settlements built on the village’s lands.

Israeli military checkpoints in Kafr Thulth village

Since the outbreak of the second intifada in September 2000, the Israeli Occupation Forces have increased the number of military checkpoints across the West Bank and imposed numerous restrictions on Palestinians’ movement. Palestinians from all walks of life (including students, teachers, patients, health workers, and others) undergo many types of humiliation and abuse at these checkpoints, such as beating, verbal humiliation, strip searching, and detention for hours under the sun or in cold weather before they are granted permission from the soldiers to cross the checkpoint to their destinations.

This suffering has had an impact on social relations among Palestinians. It has also led to social and economic separation between Palestinian communities, high unemployment, internal immigration and disruption of daily life. Moreover, Israeli soldiers often check and detain doctors and medical staff before allowing them to cross the checkpoints, even in emergency cases. At many checkpoints, soldiers impose time restrictions on Palestinians for crossing during the day or night which causes a lot of suffering.

In accordance with what was described previously, Palestinians in Kafr Thulth suffer from the existence of checkpoints which prevent travel from the village to other areas. With the completion of the Segregation Wall in the north west of the village, the Israeli Occupation Forces have established a checkpoint within the Wall between Kafr Thulth and Azzun. Palestinians farmers are only allowed to pass through this gate to visit their isolated lands with a permit issued by the Israeli Civil

Administration. These permits only allow access for the farmers during specific harvesting periods in the year.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

Kafr Thulth Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Kafr Thulth during the past five years (see table 13).

Table 13: Implemented development plans and projects in Kafr Thulth during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing an alternative line for electricity	Infrastructure	2007	Power Authority
Furnishing the police station	Public Services	2008	Kafr Thulth Municipal Council
Installing street lighting on Kafr Thulth/‘Azzun road	Infrastructure	2010	Abu Dhabi Development Fund
Constructing an additional floor in the girls’ secondary school	Educational	2010	ANERA
Establishing an internal water network	Infrastructure	2010	Abu Dhabi Development Fund
Purchasing a small hammer	Public Services	2011	The Municipal Fund
Expanding the public forum building	Public Services	2011	Kafr Thulth Municipal Council & UNRWA
Paving Kafr Thulth – ‘Izbat al Ashqar – ‘Izbat Salman road	Public Services	2011	African Development Fund

Source: Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012

Proposed projects

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

1. Establishing a sewerage network (35km).
2. Establishing a wastewater treatment unit on land classified as area C, along with a pumping tank of 10m³capacity, in order to exploit the refined water for the planting and cultivation of 3000 dunums of lands surrounding the town that are threatened with confiscation.
3. Constructing, paving and adding retaining walls to secondary roads (8km long and 6 – 10m wide).
4. Constructing two middle schools; one for boys and one for girls (land for the purpose is available).
5. Developing the health center and establishing an emergency center to operate 24 hours a day.
6. Constructing a services complex.
7. Expanding the water network (7.3km) and the electricity network (8km) and providing it with additional electrical adapters.
8. Motivating Kafr Thulth Women’s Center through the implementation of food manufacturing projects, awareness and education programs, among others.

Locality development priorities and needs

Kafr Thulth suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the Municipal Council's perspective:

Table 14: Development priorities and needs in Kafr Thulth

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			59km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			15km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			3km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs	*			Rehabilitating an underground well and 2 springs
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			1,500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			23km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			8km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			100 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools		*		Middle level; for boys and for girls
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Elementary level
3	Purchasing new school equipment		*		
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			4,200 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			64 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			14 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			800 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			5 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			25 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 14km main roads, 17km secondary roads and 28km agricultural roads

Source: Kafr Thulth Municipal Council, 2012

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