

**Bethlehem Area Conservation and Management Plan**

*Research on the Economy of Bethlehem Area  
( Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour)*

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**List of abbreviations:**

BCCI	Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
PNA	Palestinian National Authority

## Chapter 1

### 1.1 Introduction

In spite of the modest growth over the past 41 years, serious imbalances have occurred in the economic structure in the Palestinian Territories. At present, the economy is facing many challenges; income levels have largely stagnated over the past decade; unemployment is rising rapidly and public infrastructure and social services appear largely inadequate. Above all, the fragile natural resource base is threatened with irreversible damage and a rapid population growth could worsen the already weak economy, which remains highly vulnerable to external developments.

The economies of the Palestinian Territories are mainly service-oriented with agriculture accounting for about 20%, and services 50% of GDP. Private sector activity dominates the economy of the Palestinian Territories, accounting for about 75% of GDP. An important characteristic of the economy in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank is the heavy dependence on the Israeli economy.

Small, underdeveloped enterprises dominate the production and service sectors; only 4% of enterprises employ more than 20 persons. Only the more labor intensive garment industry is an exception. Due to political uncertainty, tenuous property rights, entry barriers and a restrictive legal framework, private investment in productive assets has remained extremely low.

Despite the historical significance and the glory that attracted tourists and pilgrims from all over the world since the birth of Jesus Christ, the economic performance of the Bethlehem area tends to be similar to that of the Palestinian Territories.

Bethlehem, a city that was once filled with life and activeness, and frequented by many foreign and local tourists, has become a dull and dreary place, due to the many and different measures and policies practiced by Israel. Bethlehem area is being isolated from

the world and from its twin –city Jerusalem by the Segregation Wall which is also isolating different areas and villages within the area. The Israeli measures also include building and enlarging settlements, checkpoints, barriers, and bypass roads that thwart the daily movement of people and urge them to struggle for their daily survival.

## **1.2 Geographic Location**

The Bethlehem area is one of the 16 Governorates in the Palestinian Territories, with a total area of 607, 8 km<sup>2</sup>, whereas the total area of Bethlehem city is 21 km<sup>2</sup>, Beit Sahour city is 5600 dunums and Beit Jala city is 14337dunums. The Bethlehem area stretches from the south of East Jerusalem to the Hebron Area in the south and the Dead Sea in the East. It stands at an elevation of about 775m (2,510 ft) above sea level, thus 30 meters (100 feet) higher than Jerusalem.

## **1.3 Population distribution**

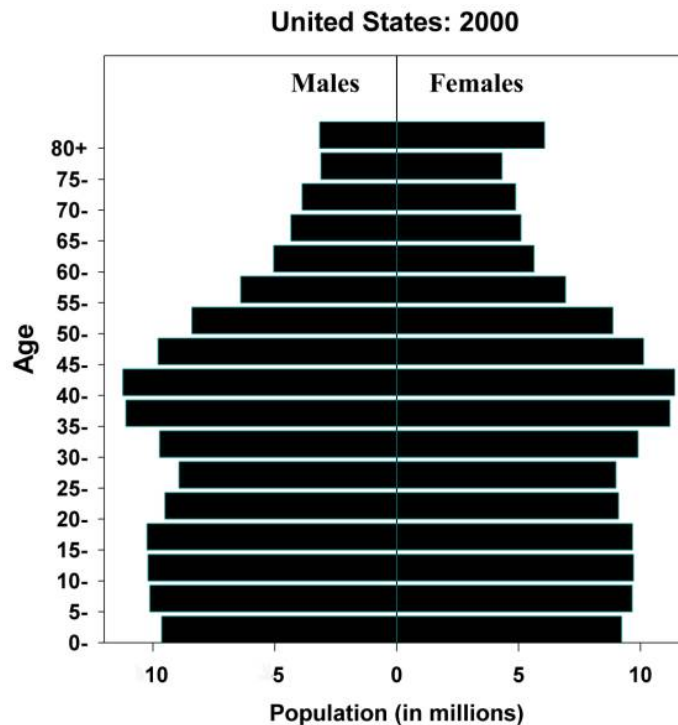
According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the population of the Governorate of Bethlehem was 180,116 in mid-year 2006 and 188,306 in mid 2007. The total population of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour cities were 29,927, 16,689, 15,388 in mid 2007 respectively (PCBS,2007). The population of the area of Bethlehem forms about 4.7 % of the total population of the Palestinian Territories, and about 7.3 % of the population of the West Bank.

- Average annual growth rate is estimated to be 3.6 %.
  
- The population of the Governorate of Bethlehem is distributed as follows:
  - 34.3% are classified as urban citizens.
  - 57.6 % are classified as rural citizens.
  - 8% are classified as refugee citizens.

- Male percentage to female percentage in the area was 104, 8 males to 100 females in 2005 (ARIJ, 2005).
- Percentage of males: 51.2 % (Ibid).
- Percentage of females: 48.8 % (Ibid).

#### 1.4 Analyses:

The population pyramid<sup>1</sup>, also called age-sex pyramid and age structure diagram is flat from the bottom and gets a bit larger in the middle for the Bethlehem area. The population pyramid for the Bethlehem area looks roughly like that of the United States in the year 2000 but with a narrower edge from 65 years and up for both males and females.



Source: Population pyramid - United States (2000) Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, [http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbpyr.html IDB Population Pyramids] Graph created by User:Kmf164 Category: Demographics in the United States Category:Kmf164-maps [[Ca]

<sup>1</sup> The population pyramid, also called age-sex pyramid and age structure diagram is a graphical illustration that shows the distribution of various age groups in a population (typically that of a country or region of the world), which normally forms the shape of a pyramid. It typically consists of two back-to-back bar graphs, with the population plotted on the X-axis and age on the Y-axis, one showing the number of males and one showing females in a particular population in five-year age groups (also called cohorts). Males are conventionally shown on the left and females on the right, and they may be measured by raw number or as a percentage of the total population.

This means that the population in the Bethlehem area is considered young and middle aged in general. Following is a detailed age classification for the area:

- Percentage of inhabitants (0-14 years old) is estimated to form about 43.3% of the total population of the governorate<sup>2</sup>.
- Percentage of inhabitants (15-64 years old) is estimated to form about 52.4%.
- Percentage of inhabitants (64 + years old) is estimated to form about 4.2 %.

Population pyramids can be used to find the number of economic dependents being supported in a particular population. Economic dependents are defined as those under 15<sup>3</sup> (children who are in full time education and therefore unable to work) and those over 65 (those who have the option of being retired). Economic dependents under 15 form about 43.3 % of the total population. The young feature of any society usually accounts for:

- An increase in dependency.
- An increase in population density.
- An increase in consumption.
- Increasing the burden on the government to provide essential social services such as building schools, health centers, and providing other public services.

In normal cases, the high percentage of middle age population -which is usually considered productive- can make up for the increased numbers of young dependents in any society. However, this general rule does not apply in the Bethlehem area because of the deteriorating economic situation and high percentages of unemployment among the middle age population.

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<sup>2</sup> This percentage is considered relatively high when compared to the percentage of youth in developed countries which rarely exceeds 22 % of the total population.

<sup>3</sup> In some less developed countries children start work well before the age of 15 and can thus decrease the dependency burden, nevertheless, Bethlehem area registered the lowest percentages of child labor 1.8% (PCBS, 2004).

On the other hand, it is noticed that the percentage of old dependents is considered relatively low (4.2 % of the total population of the area). In developed countries, this low percentage is considered a blessing because it is translated in less burden on the government shoulder to provide social services for this category of the population. In the Palestinian Territories -and the same is the case in Bethlehem area- where there is no social security system, this category of the population is considered a burden for the bread winners who must substitute the government in supporting the old age dependents. Therefore, despite the decreased number of old age dependents in the Bethlehem area; this category is still considered an economic burden on the shoulders of middle aged category.

It is worth to note here that a huge number of the Bethlehem area middle aged population has immigrated to different parts of the world because of the poor economic conditions. Many families from Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour cities have immigrated to the United States of America, Latin America and a few immigrated to Europe. Therefore, in spite of the bleak picture of the above mentioned demographic analyses, the money that comes in forms of remittances has helped some families survive and -in some cases – make some little investments. On the other hand, the sharp increase in the number of immigrants usually affects the expected population growth rate.

### ***1.5 Conclusion and recommendations:***

The Bethlehem area has increased numbers of youth dependents and the cons of this phenomenon far exceeds its pros. Suggestions for improvement include the following:

- Awareness campaigns for the importance of birth controls in improving the quality of life.
- A basic solution for the problem of poverty and unemployment.
- Establishing a social security system.

## Chapter 2

### 2.1 Distribution of work force & women participation

According to the PCBS, 2007 the percentage of workforce participation from 15 years and over in the Governorate of Bethlehem for years 1999 – 2006 was as follows:

**Table 2.1**

<b>Governorate of Bethlehem</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Both females and males	45.4	45.6	44.4	37.3	40.7	39.1	39.3	40.9
Males	71.5	75.2	73.2	62.0	69.1	67.9	67.5	67.3
Females	17.9	14.6	12.9	10.2	12.0	10.2	10.8	13.5

The percentage of unemployment among participants in the work force in the governorate of Bethlehem for years 1999-2006 was a follows:

**Table 2.2**

<b>Governorate of Bethlehem</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Both females and males	12.0	9.7	11.5	20.6	18.4	21.1	13.5	13.7
Males	12.7	10.5	12.4	23.0	20.0	23.4	14.2	13.7
Females	8.7	5.8	5.5	4.6	9.1	5.7	8.6	13.5

Unfortunately, figures or studies concerning the percentage of workforce participation from 15 years and over for Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour cities separately are unavailable. Therefore, based on the available statistics from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, some calculations and projections have been made by our specialized and qualified team at DATA to get the following estimations for the percentage of workforce participation:

**Table 2.3**

<b>Bethlehem city</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Both females and males	10.3	10.9
Males	18.6	18.9
Females	2.8	3

**Table 2.4**

<b>Beit Jala city</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Both females and males	5.6	5.8
Males	9.7	10
Females	1.7	1.8

**Table 2.5**

<b>Beit Sahour city</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Both females and males	12.4	12.9
Males	20.2	21
Females	4.8	5

As for the **unemployment percentage** for the three cities, it is estimated to be as the following:

**Table 2.6**

<b>Bethlehem city</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Both females and males	2.2	2
Males	2.5	2.3
Females	2.1	1.9

**Table 2.7**

<b>Beit Jala city</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Both females and males	3.1	2.9
Males	3.4	3.2
Females	1.5	1.5

**Table 2. 8**

<b>Beit Sahour city</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Both females and males	1.5	1.4
Males	1.8	1.6
Females	1	1

**2.2 Analyses:**

From the abovementioned tables it is noticed that the workforce participation percentage was in its peak in the Governorate of Bethlehem in the years 1999 and 2000 for both males and females. However, this percentage started to drop sharply since the start of the Second Intifada in year 2000 and continued to deteriorate after the construction of the Separation Wall that started in the second half of 2002. This scenario applies for the Bethlehem area (Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour).

The main factors behind the increase in unemployment in Bethlehem area is that many of the workers who used to work in Israel lost their jobs because of the restriction of movement. Unfortunately, the local workforce market could not absorb the increasing number of the unemployed. A drop in the share of permits for the Governorate of Bethlehem for the workers who work in Israel further contributed to the size of the problem.

The separate tables for the Bethlehem area cities project the highest workforce participation percentages and the least unemployment rates among other cities and

villages in the governorate. It is noticed as well that Beit Sahour has the highest workforce participation rate<sup>4</sup> and the least unemployment rate followed by Bethlehem and Beit Jala respectively. Moreover, the tables also project higher women participation in the workforce in the three cities than other cities and governorates. Nevertheless, it is still considered low in comparison to developed countries. The reason for this relatively low participation of women in the workforce is due mainly to social reasons<sup>5</sup>. Education was never the problem since the percentage of education among women in the area is high. However, this phenomenon is decreasing nowadays and women participation is getting larger due to the deteriorating economic conditions. For any family to survive, the daily life demands and circumstances force women to be as responsible for providing food on the table as men. It is worth to note that usually the percentage of women participation in the workforce is underestimated because they engage in the informal working sector. Many women work as house cleaners and helpers, baby sitters, and many produce and sell homemade products such as embroidery, jam, pickles, dairy products, and other consumable products.

### ***2.3 Recommendations:***

The PNA should dedicate the efforts and invest in strategic planning that can lead to sustainable economic development by creating job opportunities and encouraging vocational training to eliminate the poverty resulting from unemployment.

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<sup>4</sup> Mainly because most of the factories and workshops are concentrated in Beit Sahour area.

<sup>5</sup> Unemployment rate among women remains high because of lack of opportunities, gender discrimination, and family restrictions.

## Chapter 3

### 3.1 Work types and locations

The Governorate of Bethlehem has always been famous for producing premium quality handcrafted products, which include olive wood and mother of pearl items as well as embroidery. However, people tend to forget that the Governorate of Bethlehem has many other prosperous industries that reached the peak in the year 2000. Unfortunately, there are no figures or studies concerning the per capita Gross National Product (GNP) or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Bethlehem area for that year. However, based on the available statistics from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, some calculations have been made to make economic indicators available.

Overall, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Bethlehem area in year 2000 accounted for around 12% of the total GDP of the Palestinian Territories. Output of Manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, real estate and business services, tourism construction, public services, transportation and communication approximated 85% of the GDP.

However, output of electricity and water supply, hotels and restaurants, education and health services, agriculture accounted only 15% of the total GDP.

**Table 3.1**  
*Estimated Gross Domestic Product by type of Economic Activity*  
*(In US\$ million) for Bethlehem Area (2000)*

<b>Economic Activity</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>% in comparison to the GDP</b>
Manufacturing	75	16.5
Agriculture	10.5	2.3
Electricity and Water supply	1.35	0.3
Construction	38.8	8.5
Wholesale and retail trade	50.7	11.2
Services	101	22.3
Transport and Communications	26	5.7
Real Estate and Business Services	83	18.3

Hotels and Restaurants	9.2	2.5
Education and Health	8.37	1.8
Public Services	48.3	10.6
Total Gross Domestic Product	452.23	

*Number of Establishments and Persons Engaged in these Establishments in the Bethlehem Governorate and Status (2007)*

Governorate	Number of persons Engaged	Establishments Status		
		Others	In Operation	Total
Bethlehem	18,543	670	6,302	6,972

The picture of the industries in Bethlehem area is not as bright as it was in year 2000. Many factories have shut down and released many employees and shifted from large or medium size to small enterprises of which most are family businesses since the start of the Second Intifada.

It is worth mentioning that the centers of the metropolitan areas of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour have maintained their old status and glory and still host a very active fruit and vegetables market and some retail shops. In other words, 95% of the activities in the old core of those cities are classified as commercial.

In the Governorate of Bethlehem 27.1 % of the people within working age (15 and above) in year 2005 and who were in the labor force were employed in services and similar branches, 25.2 % were working in the construction sector, 20.5 % were working in mining, quarrying and manufacturing sectors, 7.7 % were working in agriculture, hunting and fishing, 14% were working in commerce, hotels and restaurants, while 5.5 % were working in transportation, storage and communication (Arij, 2007).

### **3.2 The main industries in Bethlehem area include:**

- Marble and stone industry – concentrated in Bethlehem, Dheisheh, Wad Rahhal, Beit Fajjar, Wad el Nis, and Jurat el Sham'a.
- Handicrafts- concentrated in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour.
- Clothes and textile industry- concentrated in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour.
- Furniture industry- concentrated in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, and Khalayl el Loze.
- Chemical industry (paints, plastic, rubber, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, adhesives, and detergents)- concentrated in Beit Jala, Doha, Beit Sahour, and Bethlehem.
- Construction Materials- concentrated in Doha and Khader.
- Metal industry – concentrated in Husan, Doha, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala and Bethlehem.
- Food industry (spaghetti, macaroni, confectionery ...etc) - concentrated in Beit Sahour and Doha.
- Agro products- concentrated in Walaja, Battir, Husan, Wad Fukeen, Nahalin, Khader, Artas, Wad Rahhal, Beit Tamar, and Zatara.

It is worth to note that those industries are mostly family businesses as mentioned earlier and do not have the capacity to solve the problem of unemployment.

## Chapter 4

### 4.1 Financial condition of family income provider

Since the start of the Second Intifada, the Palestinian economy started to worsen a lot, and the deterioration continued for several reasons related to restriction of movement of Palestinians within the PT and between the PT and Israel, confiscation of agricultural lands, and the destruction of physical capital. More than 60 percent of Palestinian households fell below poverty during the crisis relative to 21 percent before the crisis (PCBS, 2002(a)). Unemployment rose severely because most people who were working in Israel became jobless; almost 316,000 Palestinians became unemployed in the last quarter of 2000 as compared to 170,000 in the third quarter of the same year (PCBS, 2001). The economic situation continued to worsen more and more because of the construction of the Separation Wall that started in the second half of 2002. Real GDP growth in the West Bank declined substantially in 2000, 2001, and 2002, and increased modestly in 2003 and 2004; about a third of the wall had been completed by late 2005. The embargo that took place after the 2006 elections worsened the situation and increased level of poverty. After the parliamentary elections in January 2006, most direct financial aid to the Palestinian Authority was suspended. Israel also froze the transfer of custom tax revenues it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, depriving it of a major revenue source. As a result, over a majority of Palestinians, 58% reported a decline in their household incomes. 38% of Palestinians said their household incomes remained steady during the same period. Only 4% said their household income increased (UNDP, 2007).

Bethlehem Governorate was not an exception for this dark scenario; poverty rate was estimated to be about 50%, whereas the hardship cases were estimated to be 24% (Ibid).

#### **4.2 Analyses:**

The poor financial conditions of family income providers in the OPT in general and the Bethlehem Area in particular, has obliged many families to rely on coping mechanisms. Many families were obliged to spend most of their small savings, while others had no savings at all and relied on food baskets distributed by some NGOs. Other families preferred to immigrate. Despite this tragedy, it has been noticed that the economy in Bethlehem area is moving towards maturity; the BCCI annual report on the economy of Bethlehem reported that many new businesses and stores were opened especially in the old city centers. It reported as well that the number of the newly opened businesses overshadowed the number of those that closed. This phenomena is very interesting within the limited resources because it means less dependence and is considered a vital step towards economic development.

## **Chapter 5**

### **5.1 Taxes**

In an effort to improve the income tax system and reduce the tax burden on individuals, the Palestinian Authority passed new legislation on income tax brackets for individuals and companies in April 2008. For companies, this is a change from a 38.5% rate to a 20% flat rate. For individuals, this is a significant change from a progressive bracket of 5-48% to 5-20%. The following sections briefly outline the taxation laws.

#### **5.1.1 Individual Income Tax Rates**

A new income tax law has been drafted and was passed in 2001 and a new amendment passed in April 2008. Income tax is withheld at source from salaried employees and individuals earning wages. Personal credits and other deductions, which the employee may be due, are factored into the calculation. If the annual income of the individual taxpayer is below the low-income tax-exempt status (adjusted annually), the taxpayer is exempt from filing an annual tax report.

Special exemptions and/or credits are given to the unemployed, spouses, children, dependents and university students. Employers are required to withhold tax from salaries paid to employees. The employer is required to report and to remit the withholding tax on a monthly basis.

#### **5.1.2 Corporate Income Tax Rate**

Palestinian companies and businesses are primarily subject to a 20% tax on income. Losses, equipment depreciation, and business expenses are also factored into the calculation of taxes.

### 5.1.3 Foreign Dividend Tax

A 20% tax is withheld at source from dividends distributed in Palestine to shareholders of a foreign company. There are, however, no taxes due on dividends distributed to shareholders of Palestinian companies regardless of where they live or their nationality, and regardless of whether they are an individual or a company. An automatic deduction at the source of 25% is withheld from companies, unless companies or individuals obtain a Deduction at the Source Certificate, which grants a reduced rate that ranges between zero and five percent. Applications for these certificates are available from the area tax offices.

### 5.1.4 Value-Added Tax (VAT)

VAT is a consumption-based tax imposed on all local goods and services at a rate of 14.5%.

VAT Categories:	VAT Refunds:	VAT Exemptions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large companies employing more than one employee with annual sales in excess of U.S. \$50,000 pay 14.5% VAT. Companies that fall under this category can issue a VAT invoice.</li> <li>• Small companies employing more than one employee and whose annual sales do not exceed U.S. \$50,000 pay 14.5% VAT. Small companies do not have the right to issue a VAT invoice.</li> <li>• Companies with annual revenues that do not exceed U.S. \$12,000 are exempt from VAT payments. These companies must declare their sales, on a self-assessed report, at the end of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large companies are authorized to collect the VAT with their sales and deduct an equal amount from the VAT remitted to the government for their purchases.</li> <li>• Small companies are authorized to collect the VAT and deduct an equal amount from the VAT to be paid on purchases from large companies.</li> <li>• All VAT paid for business start-up costs will be refunded within one to six months of submission of the receipts.</li> <li>• If there are no sales transactions during the month, the business is not required to remit the VAT.</li> <li>• All refunds can be in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exemptions from VAT are given to projects supported by the Palestinian Authority such as investments in financial institutions, preschool education, research and development projects, transportation projects, infrastructure projects, and food processing projects.</li> </ul>

the tax year. form of either cash or  
 •Financial institutions such credits.  
 as banks and insurance •There is no VAT on  
 companies pay a 14.5% exports.  
 VAT on employee salaries  
 each month, and a 14.5%  
 VAT on profits generated  
 semi-annually or annually.  
 •Non-profit organizations  
 are exempt from paying  
 VAT.  
 •Importers pay 14.5% VAT  
 on the value of imported  
 goods. This may be  
 deducted as input tax when  
 the VAT is declared to the  
 VAT administration.

## ***5.2 Other Taxes***

### ***• 5.2.1 Capital Gains Tax***

Businesses and companies are not assessed for capital gains tax.

### ***• 5.2.2 Tax for Service Contracts***

Income generated or earned from contracts entered into for the provision of services is taxable.

### ***• 5.2.3 Dividends, Leases and Royalties***

Dividends paid out of profit are taxable. Dividends paid after redistribution of capital are exempt. Royalties are not exempt. Lease payments are not exempt. Retained profits are exempt only if reinvested.

### ***• 5.2.4 Purchase Tax***

Purchase taxes are payable by manufacturers or importers at the port of entry on certain consumer products specified by law. Products that are manufactured for export are exempt from the purchase tax. Purchase tax is imposed at a rate of 5% to 95% depending on set rates and the type of good.

### ***• 5.2.5 Gift and Inheritance Tax***

There are no taxes paid on gifts or inheritance in Palestine.

## Chapter 6

### 6.1 The Commercial Sector

The business dictionary defines the commercial sector as Firms that are not engaged in farming, manufacturing, transportation or other types of industrial activity (mining, or construction)<sup>6</sup>. Commercial establishments include hotels, motels, restaurants, wholesale businesses, retail stores, laundries, and other service enterprises. The commercial sector is also referred to as the business or private sector.

Economic and industrial activities in Bethlehem city are listed below not alphabetically, but by the total number of these establishments, from most frequent to least of the total establishments. This means that tourism, whole and retail sale and services are the prevailing sectors.

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/commercial-sector.html>

**Table 6.1**

*Nature and Number of establishments*

Name of Industry	Total in Bethlehem City (2000)	Total in Bethlehem City (2008)	Total in Beit Sahour City	Total in Beit Jala City
Aluminum Fabricating	9	27		
Bakery	23	12		
Banks	7	12		
Billiards and Drinking	3	3		
Biscuit Factory	1	1		
Blacksmithing	3	40		
Canteens	2	9		
Car upholstery work	1	1		
Carpentry	25	25		
Cement	1	1		
Chemical Manufacturing	8	6		
Cigarette selling	52	150		
Confectionery	7	7		
Dental Laboratory	4	4		
Detergents	4	4		
Electrical Equipment	30	30		
Frozen Food	15	35		
Fruit and Vegetables	82	30		
Fuel Station	5	17		
Furniture Manufacturing and Selling	36	37		
Garages	22	22		
Gifts	26	2		
Glass Manufacturing	6	6		
Grocery and Drinking	26	216		
Hotel	9	28		
Jewellery Manufacturing	4	18		
Knitwear and knitted goods	112	112		
Library	11	9		
Macaroni Factory	3	2		
Mother of Pearl Handicraft	(not registered) 1	8		
Olive Wood	25	65		
Paint, Varnish and	4	4		

Lacquer				
Pharmaceutical	22	22		
Photo Studio	19	8		
Plastic Molding	2	4		
Printing	5	9		
Refrigerators Repair	2	2		
Repairs Electrical Products	12	12		
Restaurant	66	73		
Salon	21	21		
Sanitary Equipment	10	10		
Sculpting	3	3		
Sewing Machine Repair	1	2		
Shoe Repair	4	4		
Shoe Sale	31	30		
Socks Factory	1	1		
Stone Cutting	8	18		
Tailoring	19	26		
Textile	3	12		
Touristic Handicraft Production Company	42	42		
Turnery	3	3		
Upholstering	5	5		
Watches Repairs and Sale	11	4		
Wholesaler and Retail	18	18		
Others	380	450		
Total	1255	1722		

**Note: 1) All these are licensed enterprises in Bethlehem area.  
2) There are additional establishment.**

**Following are some additional information on two important commercial sectors in the area:**

### ***6.2 Tourism Sector***

Tourism may be defined as the business providing access to places and sites that are attractive for reasons of history, religion, leisure, pleasure, shopping, climate, etc. This includes the arrangements of tours, transport, accommodation and hotels, restaurants, leisure areas, but also providing guides, documentation, access to sites, etc. It involves

close co-operation between the public (policy, standards, promotion etc.) and the private sector.

Palestine's comparative advantage in tourism rests mainly with its unique religious sites, particularly for the Christian world, for which there is no substitute. Any attractions based purely on providing leisure will have to compete on price and distance with the rest of the world. Tourism can be a great economic asset with spin-off to many associated industries and services, both public and private. We strongly believe that by establishing in Bethlehem area a responsible and economically viable local tourist industry, it can contribute to a positive regional development as well as to the political stability in the region.

The holy places the natural resources of the area and the developing urban society are asset for the growth of tourism in the city.

The 29 hotels, hostels, inns and guest houses in the three cities employ 300 permanent workers with 3000 rooms approximately. The estimated total number of restaurants is around 75 registered and 20 unregistered.

Tourism development as an economical asset for the Bethlehem area will involve the development of many fields such as infrastructures, transportation facilities, accommodation, information and training, cultural activities and entertainment, etc.

### ***6.3 Handicraft sector***

The area is specialized and well known through handicraft industries. Production includes a wide range of hand fashioned items made of olive wood, mother of pearl and embroidery. Most of these products are manufactured locally in small workshops using labor intensive techniques.

Only 61% of the handicraft workshops are officially licensed and only 49 % are registered as members in the BCCI (BCCI, 2004). This indicates that these workshops are unorganized and 93 % of them are privately owned and run by family members.

The following table provides a demographic distribution of factories and workshops of olive wood and mother of pearl<sup>7</sup> (Ibid):

**Table 6.2**

City	No. of workshops	percentage	No. of workshops
	2004		2007
Beit Jala	33	23	3
Bethlehem	34	24	24
Beit Sahour	75	53	95
Total	142	100	122

Intricate and colorful hand embroidered Palestinian traditional costumes are produced in a number of Bethlehem area villages and domestically in form of unregistered establishments. Many benevolent associations and women unions encourage embroidery and employ some women in the three main cities.

Many joint problems face olive wood and mother of pearl industries, such problems and obstacles include (ibid):

- 1- The political situation.
- 2- The economic situation.
  - a. Value added tax.
  - b. Lack of local markets.
  - c. Difficulty of obtaining raw materials and an increase in their prices “especially for mother of pearl”.
  - d. Competency from the Chinese market.

<sup>7</sup> Please note that this table does not include unregistered workshops that mainly operate at home.

- e. Very few producers have trademarks on their products.
- f. Ineffective marketing and administrative strategies.
- g. Lack of a coordinating body acting to promote the branch.
- h. The overpricing of produced items in order to cover commissions for brokers, tour guides, tourism offices, and souvenir shops markups.
- i. Low educational level, fear and resistance to change by utmost majority of the craftsmen and workshop's owners.

## Chapter 7

### 7.1 Comprehensive analyses of the NGOs in Bethlehem area

According to the MAS, there are 128 PNGO in Bethlehem area; about 9.2 % of the total number of PNGOs in the West Bank and Gaza (MAS, 2007). About 43.28 % of charitable societies are concentrated in Bethlehem area, 21.9 of youth and sports clubs are concentrated in Bethlehem, 34.4 are new organizations. About 57.7 % of NGOs are situated in urban areas in Bethlehem, 32.8 in rural areas, and 9.4 are in camps.

In a survey conducted by MAS in 2007 that included 99 NGOs of the 128 in Bethlehem area regarding the percentage of aid, the following results were available:

63.3 % of the NGOs in Bethlehem get their aid from external sources, 21.8 % depend on self aid, 0.6% rely on governmental aid, 10% depend on local aid, 0.8 depend on aid within the green line, 3% depend on aid from Palestinians in the West, and 8.2 % depend on other sources.

Number of NGO's operating in Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour are 110 some of them are not active. While number of paid employees working in NGOs in Bethlehem area are 1274.

### 7.2 Needs and limitations of the NGOs in Bethlehem Area

A phone survey was conducted with the contact persons of some NGOs in Bethlehem area to probe their main needs and limitations. The needs include institution building , fundraising, new equipments and technologies, networking and the cooperation of local society. It was noticed from the survey that fundraising is the highest compared to other needs since NGOs are non profit and depend on funds for sustainability and delivery of its services, programs and activities. Fundraising became almost impossible after the Legislative elections took place in 2006. It was then when donors decided to freeze their donations and aid to some local NGOs. The officials of some NGOs reported even that

donors permanently cut their donations and thus had to look for other sources for fundraising.

Officials of NGOs stated that they suffer from restrictions which limit their efficiency and ability to deliver services and run their programs. The main restrictions these organizations suffer from are as follows:

- Restrictions from donors: The restrictions from donors include interfering in the design and funding allocation of programs, and in directing these toward certain priorities.
- The Israeli occupation: The restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation include: limiting the free movement of workers, hindering the receipt of donations, closure or invasion of headquarters, and the confiscation of equipments and belongings (during previous years).
- Restrictions from local society: The restrictions from local society are due to weak cooperation and interaction between the local community and the programs of the NGOs. In the case of cultural organizations, this limits the ability of the organizations to reach out to their target groups.
- Restrictions from the PNA: The restrictions from the PNA include the implementation of security measures mainly regarding the financial aspects.

Following are the profiles of the main NGOs operating in Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour respectively. The profiles contain a background, services, and activities.

### *Main NGOs in Bethlehem*

#### ***Applied Research Institute- ARIJ***

Address: P.O.Box 860 Al Karitas St.

Tel: 02-2741189

Fax: 02-2776966

Website: [www.arij.org](http://www.arij.org)

E-mail: [jad@arij.org](mailto:jad@arij.org)

Contact person: Mr. Jad Ishaq

Staff: 42, volunteers: 2

Arij is a non profit research NGO that was founded in 1990. Arij aims to promote technology, sustainable development and carry out applied research. The institute implements its programs with a focus on natural resources in the Palestinian areas. The institute has four units: Agricultural Research Unit, Environmental and Water Unit, Geographical Information and Remote Unit and Computer and Information Unit. The institute receives funding from the Swiss Development cooperation to cover its work and research activity expenses.

#### Programs and activities:

- Impact of urbanization on lands , economic and social conditions in the West Bank.
- Food security project- implemented in a number of botanic gardens in 10 Bethlehem villages which aim to improve field crops in the West Bank.
- A study on the impact of different gases resulted from urbanization on air quality and its transboundaries.
- Assessing waste management policy in Palestine.
- Monitoring Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories and their impact on land.
- The future of the Dead Sea: options for more sustainable water management.
- A study on policy tools towards sustainable land use and urban environmental management at municipal level under a transitional political context.
- Job creation project establishing a number of greenhouse and botanic gardens in Bethlehem.

#### ***Arab Women Union Society***

Address: P.O.Box 19, St. John Paul II, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2742589

Fax: 02-2766035

E-mail: [bawu@hotmail.com](mailto:bawu@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.arabwomenunion.org](http://www.arabwomenunion.org)

Contact person: Ms. Julia Dabdoub  
Staff: 21, volunteers: 58

The Arab Women Union Society is a local non profit NGO that was established in 1947 to provide first aid services to the wounded. The union was then registered officially as a charitable organization in accordance with Jordanian law. The The society previously provided medical treatment to the wounded and nourishment to the babies and school pupils in cooperation with UNRWA and other charitable organizations.

Programs and activities:

- Embroidery Center (creates job opportunities for 100 women)
- Nutrition project
- Folklore museum
- Charitable activities for needy children
- The Bethlehem City History Museum

### ***Basma Cultural and Art Society***

Address: P.O.Box: 868, Jerusalem – Hebron Road, Bethlehem.

Tel: 02-2747021

Fax: 02-2747021

Staff: 8, volunteers: 15

Contact person: Mr. Osama Al Essa

Established in 1995, the Basma Cultural and art Society is a non profit NGO that seeks to promote culture, art and folklore. Women are a main focus and are encouraged to participate in art and cultural activities. Awareness programs for women and children are also available.

Programs and activities:

- Theatre performances
- Training in acting and directing
- Production of fiction and documentary videos and educational programs for children.
- Music courses and participation at national festivals.
- Educational program- story narration, poetry, reading and literature courses.
- Library.

### ***Caritas Hospital for Children***

Address: P.O.Box: 84, caritas St., Bethlehem.

Tel: 02-2741171

Fax: 02-2741175

Contact person: Mr. Edward Dabdoub  
Staff: 175

The Caritas hospital for Children was established in 1949 by Caritas International, a Swiss organization, with the aim of helping Palestinian refugees. In 1952, a temporary hospital established with only 14 beds, in 1978 a permanent hospital was completed and officially opened with over 80 beds and children's nursery.

Programs and activities:

- children's hospital
- Nursing school offering 2 year pediatric nursing courses.
- Social services for patients' parents, the poor and the elderly in Bethlehem.
- Primary health care program
- Antenatal care and health education programs
- Sewing workshops

### ***Child Training and Counseling Center***

Address: P.O.Box: 51399, Al Mahed, Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2770489  
Fax: 02-2770488  
E-mail: [gtc@p\\_ol.com](mailto:gtc@p_ol.com)  
Contact person: Dr. Fifica Hazboun  
Staff: 12, volunteers: 2

Child Training and Counseling Center was established in 1994 to provide psychological health care for children and adults. It provides diagnosis for psychological diseases and therapy and healing plans. The center organizes training sessions aiming at creating a qualified cadre in psychological and social health.

Programs and activities:

- Organize training courses in psychological therapy
- Psychological interference healing program
- Psychological education awareness
- Conducting analysis of reasons and size of psychological disease in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

### ***Children's Cultural Center***

Address: P.O.Box 100, John Paul VI St., Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-274 2617  
Fax: 02-2744053

Contact person: Mr. Zaydoun Al Issa  
Staff: 10

Established in 1993, the Children's Cultural Center is a local non profit NGO that was set up in cooperation with the Arabic Society for Rehabilitation. The center's main aims are to provide education , art, and cultural activities to children between ages 6-14 years old. The center has a theatre group that performs dabka and folklore songs.

Programs and activities:

- Library, includes books both English and Arabic.
- Visual Library.
- Educational and recreational games division: games that promotes children's creativity.
- Compute Section.
- Fully equipped workshop for drawing and handcraft.
- Karate,dabka, chess and handcraft.
- Hakaya dabka group.

### ***Cultural and Creative Club***

Address: John Paul VI St., Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2742826  
Fax: 02-2742826  
Contact Person: Dr. Jamal Salsa'a  
Staff: 2

The cultural and Creative Club was established in 1993 as an initiative of some Palestinian writers, in order to work to join their efforts and have their researches published in cooperation with related organizations.

Programs and activities:

- Literature lectures
- Book exhibitions
- Cultural and heritage festivals.
- Cultural evenings

### ***Dentist's Association***

Address: Al Mahed St., Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2740637  
Fax: 02-2777770  
Contact person: Dr. Adnan Safa  
Staff: 3

The Dentist's Association was established in 1995. Its main goals are to improve the scientific and practical skills of its members by offering courses, workshops, and scholarships for higher education.

Programs and activities:

- Enhancing dental health awareness by conducting visits to schools , offering therapy and free medication.
- Promoting doctors scientific potential through courses and lectures in dental health awareness and skills in dealing with patients.

### ***Ein Karem Benevolent Society***

Address: P.O.Box 639, Qunneis Building, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-274 1516

Fax: 02-2776496

E-mail: [rock@palnet.edu](mailto:rock@palnet.edu)

Volunteers: 7

Founded in 2003 the Ein Karem Benevolent Society seeks to achieve social development and provide medical, social, sport, and child nursing programs to the village residents.

Programs and activities:

- Sport activities
- Health activities, kindergartens and social solidarity programs

### ***Al Ehsan Charitable Committee***

Address: P.O.Box 198, Al Qita'a St. < Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2767739

Fax: 02-2767740

E-mail: [elehssan@yahoo.com](mailto:elehssan@yahoo.com)

Contact person: Mr. Khalil Abu Aker

Staff: 24, volunteers:2

El Ehsan Charitable Committee is a non profit health NGO that was founded in 2000 to improve the status of health in the region by providing services through its specialized clinics, Al Ehsan Clinic and the diabetic patients' center. The committee has 7 branches in the Gaza and the West Bank.

Programs and activities:

- Establishment of a center for diabetic patients
- Providing health clinics with new medical equipment
- Health and medical awareness programs

***FAFO – Institute for Applied International Studies***

Address: P.O.Box: 21751, Al Mahed St., Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2760232

Fax: 02-2760233

E-mail: [fafo@netvision.net.il](mailto:fafo@netvision.net.il)

Contact person: Mr. Akram Issa

Staff: 3

FAFO – Institute for Applied International Studies is an independent Norwegian non profit NGO that was established by the General Union of Laborers' Syndicates in Norway in 1981. The main aim of FAFO is to carry out studies and research concerning the Norwegian community in particular and Scandinavian communities in general. FAFO established an international department to participate in the development of international community and Norwegian role.

Programs and activities:

- Two years study of Palestinian living conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Answers on the changes, a study carried out after the Israeli policy of closure in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Several studies on other Arab countries
- People to people program.

***Future Generation***

Address: P.O.Box 957, Khamashta Complex, Bab Zkak, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2740229

Fax: 02-2740229

Contact Person:

Mr. Hisham Fararjeh

Staff: 2, volunteers: 2

Established in 1997 in Bethlehem, the Future Generation is a non profit NGO that aims at encouraging young people in the fields of education, society and culture. These aims are implemented through providing numerous activities and programs that aim at enhancing the young people's skills and potentials.

Programs and activities:

- Material aid for youth
- Educational activities

### ***Holy Family Children's Home***

Address: P.O.Box: 8, Paul VI St., Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2744142

Fax: 02-275 4277

E-mail: [crcchc@p-ol.com](mailto:crcchc@p-ol.com)

Contact person: Ms. Soffi Boweri

Staff: 35, Volunteers: 1

The Holy Family Children's Home is a Christian non profit NGO that was established in 1986 to provide services to three sectors of the society: infants and newlyborns to children of five years old , abused women who get pregnant outside marriage, and families living under poverty line.

Programs and activities:

- The "Holy Family Nursery" Creche
- Boarding department accommodates children aged up to five years old.
- Nursery house, day care center
- Social services section.

### ***Holy Family Hospital***

Address: P.O.Box: 8, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2741151

Fax: 02-2741154

The Holy Family Hospital was built in 1884 to serve the public. It was forced to close its doors in 1985 due to financial difficulties. However, in 1990 the hospital reopened and served as maternity hospital only, and by the year 1996, the hospital had over 113 beds, as well as a premature baby unit. The hospital was also refurbished by the Maltese government, the European Union and the local donations.

Programs and activities:

- Medical services, child and mother care services and care for premature babies.

### ***Holy Land Trust:***

Address: P.O.Box 127, All Mahed St., 529, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2765930

Fax: 02-2765931

E-mail: [Palestine@holylandtrust.org](mailto:Palestine@holylandtrust.org)

Website: [www.holylandtrust.org](http://www.holylandtrust.org)

Contact person: Sami Awad

Staff: 14, volunteers: 1

Established in Bethlehem in 1988, the Holy Land Trust (HLT) is a local, non profit NGO whose objective is to strengthen, encourage and improve the Palestinian community through working on an individual or group basis. HLT implements its goals via three main programs that aim to lobby and support Palestinians locally and internationally. In addition, HLT creates joint networks and programs at the national and international levels.

Programs and activities:

- Palestine News Network
- Justice and equality program (training courses on settling disputes).
- Travel and knowledge program (arranges foreign delegations to undertake fact finding missions, also used for political awareness.

### ***Women's Activity Centre Bethlehem***

Address: Al Sinama area, Bethlehem  
Tel: 0522-777 853  
Contact Person: Ms. Soha Abu Ghosh  
Staff: 4

The Women's Activity Centre in Bethlehem, established in 1957, is a local non-profit NGO that aims at providing training services to women, and educate them in several fields of life.

Programs and Activities:

- Beauty care training.
- Tailor training
- Gym.

### ***Water and Environment Development Organization***

Address: PO Box 421, Khalil St, Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2747 948  
Fax: 02-2745 968  
E-mail: wedo@p\_ol.com  
Contact Person: Mr. Nader Khatib  
Staff: 15, Volunteers: 2

Established in 1998, the Water and Environmental Development Organization conducts research and studies related to the environment and water development. It also disseminates health education information and organizes workshops.

Programs and Activities:

- Recycling solid cinders project in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Governance.
- “Society’s role in environmental conservation” (project executed in Bethlehem).

### ***The Elderly’s House***

Address: PO Box 252, Al Mugtarebeen St., Beit Jala

Tel: 02-2766 370

Fax: 02-2766 371

Contact Person: Mr. George Al Tureh

Staff: 7

Established in 1948, the Elderly’s House is a local non-profit NGO that provides social and health care assistance to the elderly. The House includes a hall, day club and a garden where activities for the elderly are usually held. Social services, guidance, entertainment and visits to members and their families are some of the activities that take place.

Programs and Activities:

- Food Manufacturing Project.
- Beit Jala Heritage Center.
- Elderly’s garden.
- Special well for the House.

### ***Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry***

Address: PO.Box 59, Alkarkafa, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2764 401

Fax: 02-2764 402

E-mail: bcham@palnet.com

Contact Person: Mr. Nabil Bandak

Staff: 10

The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in 1952 to activities the institutional infrastructure for merchants and to improve the international trade by implementing various programs and projects.

Programs and Activities:

- Provide services for merchants and participate at local and international exhibitions.
- Organize training courses and workshops.
- Providing economic data and statistical information.
- Register exporters at the Municipality.

***Terre Des Hommes- Ard. Al Insan***

Address: PO Box 20180, Old Caritas Str, Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2742 485  
Fax: 02-2747 549  
E-mail: [tdhpal@palnet.com](mailto:tdhpal@palnet.com)  
Contact Person: Mr. John Christophe Gerard  
Staff: 22

Terre Des Hommes- Ard Al Insan – is a benevolent society that looks after needy children suffering from malt nutrition. The Society initiated its activities in 1973 in Bethlehem and Hebron and is funded by the Swiss organization Terre Des Hommes. The organization has increased its activities to focus on nutrition, vaccination and health education programs. The Society exerts its efforts by networking with individuals and organizations that work in similar fields with an aim to achieving a concerted effort against malnutrition.

Programs and Activities:

- Hebron centre- features a malnutrition clinic, breast feeding counseling services, health education programs, and home visits.
- Dura and Yatta Centres offer similar services.

***The Charitable National Orthodox Society***

Address: Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2742 001  
Fax: 02-2776 920  
E-mail: [orth-beth@palnet.com](mailto:orth-beth@palnet.com)

The Charitable National Orthodox Society is a local non-profit NGO that was established in 1919. It provides charitable and humanitarian services since its beginnings.

Programs and Activities:

- Support needy families.
- Offers Humanitarian.

***Center for Conflict Resolution- CCRR***

Address: P.O.Box 861, Jerusalem-Hebron St, Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2767745  
Fax: 02-2767745  
E-mail: [ccrr@palnet.com](mailto:ccrr@palnet.com)  
Contact person: Ms. Maysoon Barahma  
Staff: 6, volunteers: 2

The Center for Conflict Resolution- CCRR was established in 1999. The center is a local non profit NGO that is committed to an alternative approach to dealing with conflict. The center works to establish the principles of peace and social tolerance as a contribution to building an independent liberated Palestine, that is free of violence. In this regard, the center works with marginalized communities to enable them to make decisions that influence their lives. CCRR seeks to bring about genuine democratic reconciliation to the Palestinian community and works to enhance the respect for human rights and justice being the basis of any permanent and just peace.

Programs and activities:

- Young political leaders program implemented at eight universities.
- Junior negotiator program implemented in 10 schools
- Media and its role in conflict
- Young leaders program

### ***Holy Land Youth Society***

Address: Al Mahed St., Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2743029

Fax: 02-2743029

Contact person: Mr. Michael Zoghbi

Volunteers: 15

Established in 1989, the Holy Land Youth Society is a non profit NGO that aims to tackle social problems of youth. It encourages young people to remain part of their community with an aim to protect and preserve Palestinian heritage.

Programs and activities:

- Annual distribution of donated gifts at Christmas
- Family meetings and home visits
- Drug prevention program
- Workshops to support small projects
- Lectures and films

### ***Orphan Care Society***

Address: Al Saf St., salah Al Dein Mosque, ground floor, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2744984

Fax: 02-2741534

E-mail: [admin@orphanbethlehem.org](mailto:admin@orphanbethlehem.org)

Contact person: Mr. Ahmed Al Sharof

Staff: 18

The Orphan Care Society is a local benevolent NGO that was established in 1997 to provide comprehensive and quality care to approximately 1300 orphans in Bethlehem and its suburbs. The society cooperates with international, governmental, and NGOs and is administered by a non staff board of directors of 11 members.

Programs and activities:

- Omar Bin Al Khattab Orphan's Residence and Al Nokhba School
- The Orphan's Care Society library
- Al Amal Women's Center
- School bag project- 800 school bags are distributed each year
- Orphan's sponsorship project
- Distribution of food parcels and other in kind aid.

### ***Ibrahimi Benevolent Society***

Address: P.O.Box: 255, Al Karkafa St. Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2744551

Fax: 02-2744551

Contact person: Mr. Emad Al Natsha

Staff: 2

The Ibrahimi Benevolent Society, established in 1985, is a local non profit NGO that provides social, medical, sports and educational services for residents of the area. It is run by a voluntary administrative committee.

Programs and activities:

- Kindergarten
- An infirmary and public library
- Boy scouts

### ***International Center of Bethlehem***

Address: P.O.Box 162, 109 Paul VI St., Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2770047

Fax: 02-2770048

E-mail: info@annadwa.org

Contact person: Mr. Mitri Raheb

Staff: 47, volunteers: 4

The ICB is a local non profit NGO that works in the fields of culture, education, health, media and women's sector. ICB actively promotes the building of a civil society in Palestine by encouraging future leaders., developing human resources , introducing awareness campaigns, vocational training and education.

Programs and activities:

- Al Khaf Arts and crafts Center- the activities involve vocational training in ceramics, stained glass, glass fusing, glass blowing, mosaic and jewelry.
- Music program- introducing musical concerts and music lessons
- The bright star program- targets children and youth aged 6-16 years old, these children learn to express their emotions , fears, thoughts, and visions in a context of increased violence.
- Health and wellness program
- Elleyyeh restaurant and Kuz Café
- Cultural house and conference center- used for all types of art performances.

***Palestinian Prisoner's Association***

Address: Karkafeh, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2747555

Fax: 02-2747555

Contact person: Mr. Issa Qaraqu'e

Staff: 15

Established in 1993, the Palestinian Prisoner's Association is a non profit NGO that was founded by a group of prisoners in response to the needs for a national organization to support this sector of the Palestinian society and their families.

This NGO provides prisoners with financial, social and educational services, in addition to preserving prisoners' rights in accordance with international human rights law. The association has branches throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Programs and activities:

- Financial aid programs for prisoners and their families
- Festivals , workshops and study days on prisoners and their cause
- Media activities and press conferences
- Rehabilitation programs for ex- prisoners

***Palestinian Society for the Development of Rural Areas***

Address: P.O.Box: 988, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2747808

Fax: 02-2770231

Contact person: Mr. Ibrahim Al Sha'er

Volunteers: 3

Established in 1993, the Palestinian Society for the Development of rural Areas is a non profit NGO that provides services to remote and marginalized areas in the West Bank. The society strives to promote better planning and encourages collective effort to serve the needs of rural areas.

Programs and activities:

- Rehabilitation of agricultural roads
- Land cultivation, well digging and rain water harvesting
- Planting saplings
- Educational , rural and folklore activities

### ***Palestinian Translation Society***

Address: P.O.Box: 9, Al Freir St., Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2773957

Fax: 02-2773957

Contact person: Mr. Qustandi Shomali

Staff: 2, volunteers: 11

The Palestinian Translation Society, established in 1992, is a local non profit NGO that aims to strengthen ties between translators in Palestine. The society seeks to network with organizations with similar aims to foster cooperation.

Programs and activities:

- Organize seminars , workshops and study days on the topic of translation
- Book exhibitions related to translation
- International translation day celebrations
- Translation services- oral, written

### ***Peace Center***

Address: P.O.Box: 1166, Al Mahed Court, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2766677

Fax: 02-2741057

E-mail: [info@peacenter.org](mailto:info@peacenter.org)

Contact person: Ms. Jihan Anstas

Staff: 35

The Peace Center is a cultural association that was established in 2000. The center aims at enhancing the spirit of the democracy and respect for religions, promoting peace and culture through conducting related activities.

Programs and activities:

- educational and cultural programs
- Activities directed at youth and women
- Children's activities

### ***Retired Employees Society***

Address: Al Quds St., Al Kasem Mall, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2753733

Fax: 02-2753773

Contact person: Mr. Michael Saad

Volunteers: 9

Retired Employees Society is a local non profit NGO that was founded in 1999 to provide services to retired government employees from Bethlehem. It organizes numerous cultural and educational courses particularly in subjects related to computer and internet.

Programs and activities:

- free medical days
- Cultural and scientific lectures
- Retirees' club that provides cultural and social services
- Demand retiree's rights and monitor their issues

### ***SOS***

Address: 137/227, Herman Jamainer st., Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2742267

Fax: 02-2745179

E-mail: [sosbeth@p-ol.com](mailto:sosbeth@p-ol.com)

Contact person: Mr. Mohammed Al Shaladeh

Staff: 71

Austrian based SOS is an international non profit NGO, founded by the Austrian Dr. Herman Jamainer after World War II. The main objective of this organization is to enhance the family approach through long term childcare, in particular for orphans, homeless, and abandoned children. There are 442 SOS villages in 131 countries worldwide.

Programs and activities:

- Hosting and serving 105 children and 13 young girls
- SOS school for primary education including science and computer labs
- SOS kindergarten
- Youth hostels for people 14-18 years
- University student hostel
- Mobile medical and psychological center , offers free services to children
- Community development center to avoid the abandonment of children

***Wi'am center***

Address: Herman Jamainer st., Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2777334  
Fax: 02-2777334  
Contact person: Mr. Zughbi Zughbi

Wi'am as a grassroots organization, strives alongside other democratic forces present in the larger Palestine community to build a democratic and just society. The Center aims to improve the quality of relationships by: addressing injustices rather than avenging them; dignifying persons on both sides of the conflict; promoting human rights and advocating for peace among all people.

***Zakat Committee for Bethlehem city***

Address: P.O Box 291, Al Quds- Al Khalil Str, Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2744 325  
Fax: 02-2742 407  
Contact Person: Mr. Omar Al Harroub  
Staff: 14

Establishment in 1985, the Zakat Committee for Bethlehem City is a non-profit NGO that provides social and medical services to the needy. This NGO carries out several social programs that serve all sectors of the local community.

**Programs and Activities:**

- Schools and kindergartens.
- Developing Committee's local clinic.
- Social and medical services.
- Computer center.

***The Antonian Charitable Society***

Address: P.O Box 35 – Bethlehem – West Bank – Via Israel

Tel: 02-2742573

Fax: 02-2777010

Contact Person: Mr. Anton George Salman

Staff: 13

The Antonian Society is the first institution of its kind in the Bethlehem area, and its work benefits the citizens of various areas in Palestine.

In the beginning, the activities of the Antonian Society centered on social and welfare programs. The Society helped by covering schooling tuition, medical cost, and food expenses for the poor and needy. The impoverished, the orphans and widows received regular cash donations.

In 1942, the Society established the Antonian Home for the Elderly, with the purpose of serving helpless widows and older women lacking family care – all in the absence of any governmental social program to fulfill these needs.

### *Main NGOs in Beit Sahour*

#### *Young Men Christian Association*

Address: PO Box 73, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem  
Tel: 02-2772 713  
Fax: 02-2772 203  
E-mail: ymearp@shepherdfieldymca.org  
Contact Person: Mr. Nader Abu Eishsha  
Staff: 93

The Young Men Christian Association is a non-profit NGO that was established in 1965. It aims to achieve comprehensive youth development and promote principles of justice, peace and tolerance within the local community. Its main programs include rehabilitation services offered by teams that aim to improve social resources development within the Palestinian community.

#### Programs and Activities:

- Psychological, social, and individual guidance program
- Vocational guidance program
- Guidance program for violence and trauma
- Therapeutic program that uses play and drawing to rehabilitate stressed psychological cases.
- Academic rehabilitation.
- Adjusting disabled people's houses to meet their needs.
- Awareness campaigns on disabled people's issues.
- Training services to empower the social services systems.
- Cultural, sports and social activities to integrate the disabled in the community and defend their rights.
- Summer camps and youth programs.

#### *Al Rowwad Art Center*

Address: P.O.Box 228. Women's Union St. Beit Sahour  
Tel: 02-22742113  
Fax: 022742154  
Contact Person: Mr. Majdi AlShomali  
Staff: 3, volunteers: 40

Established in 1989, Al Rowwad Art Center is a local non-profit NGO that seeks to promote Palestinian heritage, in particular "dabka" (traditional dance) and traditional songs. The center has formed two dabka groups that often participate at local events.

Programs and activities:

- Production of national songs
- Palestinian Dabka program and Palestinian wedding songs
- Music lessons
- Cultural and art seminars
- Hosting of art bands for performance in Palestine

***Alternative Information Center***

Address: P.O.Box 111, Main Road, Beit Sahour

Tel:02-2775444

Fax: 02-2775445

E-mail: [nassar@alt\\_info.org](mailto:nassar@alt_info.org)

Contact person: Mr. Nassar Ibrahim

Staff: 4, volunteers: 2

The Alternative Information Center was established in 1984 at the initiative of a group of Palestinians and Israelis. AIC's efforts focus on resisting colonization, supporting citizen's right of return and establishment of the independent state. The AIC defends citizen's rights against racist Israeli policies. AIC has also a branch in Jerusalem.

Programs and activities:

- Youth program – promotes youth's awareness and skills through training courses.
- Women's program: activates women's role in local society by conducting lectures, seminars and other facilities.
- Facing colonization: produces reports on Israeli violations in the west Bank and Gaza.
- Media project: Provides alternative information from Israeli official media to the local media.

***Alternative Tourism Group***

Address: P.O.Box: 173, 174 Al Bahra St, Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2772151

Fax: 02-2772211

E-mail: [info@atg.ps](mailto:info@atg.ps)

Contact person: Mr. Rami Qassis

Staff: 6

Alternative Tourism Center was established in 1995 to increase international awareness of the Palestinian issue. This NGO also offers tours in Palestine that promote and identify Palestinian heritage.

Programs and activities:

- Tours in Palestine
- Tours that involve olive harvest and tree planning

***Arab Orthodox Club***

Address: P.O.Box 5, City Center , Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2772247

Fax: 02-2772247

E-mail: [club@aoc\\_beitsahour.org](mailto:club@aoc_beitsahour.org)

Staff: 9, volunteers: 25.

Established in 193, the Arab Orthodox club, a youth, social, cultural and scouts club that participates to improve and develop the general services provided to the local community, with a special focus on youth.

Programs and activities:

- Sports, social and cultural activities.

***Arab women's union – Beit Sahour***

Address: P.O.Box: 159, Haroun St., Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2775507

Fax: 02-2775507

E-mail: [arabwomenunion@yahoo.com](mailto:arabwomenunion@yahoo.com)

Contact person: Mrs. Arij Qasis

Staff: 17

The Arab women's union established in 1956 is a local NGO that provides services to those with mental disabilities. The union has a kindergarten that serves 30 children whose monthly fees almost cover some of the union's expenses. Additionally, the union coordinates with a number of benevolent agencies to alleviate families' hardship by providing in kind aid. The union is headed by a non staff board of directors.

Programs and activities:

- Olive wood handicrafts workshop for those with special needs.
- A loom workshop
- A kindergarten that serves 30 children

***Beit Sahour Cooperative Society for Health Assurance***

Address: Al Nijma St., Beit Sahour  
Tel: 02-2775093  
Fax: 02-2775091  
E-mail: [isammusleh@hotmail.com](mailto:isammusleh@hotmail.com)  
Contact Person: Mr. Isam Musleh

Established in 1959, Beit Sahour Cooperative Society for Health Assurance is a local non profit NGO that provides services to all the society's communities. It endeavors to raise the level of health awareness and provides medical services to patients for affordable fees.

Programs and activities:

- Delivery Department
- Surgery Department
- External clinics department – serve all areas of specification.
- Emergency department.

***National Islamic Benevolent Society***

Address: Beit Sahour  
Tel: 02-2744984  
Contact person: Mr. Yousef Sh'ebat  
Staff: 12

Established in 1931, the National Islamic Benevolent Society is a local non profit NGO that was founded to provide services to the residents of Bethlehem. The society arranges financial support programs and provides social and educational services and also plays a role in setting social disputes.

Programs and activities:

- Kindergarten and school
- Karate and self defense training
- Small project loans

***Palestinian Center for Inter-relations among people***

Address: P.O.Box:24, Al Nijma St., Beit Sahour  
Tel: 02-2772018  
Fax: 02-2772018  
E-mail: [info@rapprochment.org](mailto:info@rapprochment.org)  
Contact person: Mr. George Rishmawi  
Staff: 4, volunteers: 1

The Palestinian Center for Inter-relations among people, established in 1988, is a local non profit NGO that aims to defend the Palestinian cause locally and internationally. The center works with lobbying groups to familiarize youth with the political atmosphere. The center highly considers the role of media through International Middle East Media Center in supporting the Palestinian cause.

Programs and activities:

- The International Middle East Media Center
- Palestinian cause defend program- targets the youth
- Peace to the city project
- Reconstruction of Beit Sahour project
- Coordination with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in several areas in the West Bank.

### ***Palestinian Center for Public Opinion Polls***

Address: P.O.Box: 15, Municipality St., Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2772034

Fax: 02-2772034

Contact person: Mr. Nabeel Kokali

Staff: 19

The Palestinian Center for public opinion Polls was established in 1994 by a group of Palestinian academics and intellectuals. Its principal aims are to strengthen democracy and build a constructive Palestinian civil society. The center focuses on several social, economic and political issues of great importance in Palestine.

Programs and activities:

- Survey and public opinion polls on social, economic, and political issues.
- Implementation of a number of economic feasibility studies
- Lecture and workshops

### ***Palestinian Center for Research and Cultural Dialogue- PCRDR***

Address: P.O.Box: 396, St.Joseph St., Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2774707

Fax: 02-2774707

E-mail: [pcrd@p-ol.com](mailto:pcrd@p-ol.com)

Contact person: Mr. Walid Shomali

Staff: 7

Established in 2003, the Palestinian Center for Research and cultural Dialogue is a non profit NGO whose mission is to promote cultural and religious dialogue, trusting that this is an ideal way to bridge gaps between nations. PCRDR works on four major tracks: dialogue, education, research, and voluntary work. Women, children, and youth are the

target groups of PCRDR's goals in order to create a fertile ground for mutual understanding. PCRDR exerts its utmost effort to contribute to the achievement of peace in the Middle East.

Programs and activities:

- studies
- Workshops
- Talk shows
- Seminars
- Surveys
- Educational classes

### ***Islamic Benevolent Society***

Address: P.O.Box 16, Al Madares St., Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2772040

Fax: 02-2772040

Contact person: Mr. Khalil Jubran

Staff: 16, volunteers: 7

Established in 1958, the Islamic Benevolent Society is a non profit NGO that aims to meet the needs of the community. In 1985, a new elementary school has been established.

Programs and activities:

- Kindergarten
- Sports – Karate and self defense
- Rehabilitation programs for ex prisoners

### ***Jadal Center for Culture and development***

Address: Main road, Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2774444

Contact person: Mr. Jalal Barham

Staff: 1

Established in 2001, the Jadal Center for Culture and development formed to improve the social awareness of local society. In this regard, the center offers a variety of activities including workshops, literature evenings, summer camps, films and training courses.

Programs and activities:

- youth leadership- conducts training courses in Bethlehem
- art and music : arranges musical evenings in Bethlehem
- Social and cultural program: offers courses, lectures and workshops.

### *Main NGOs in Beit Jala*

#### *Arab Benevolent Society*

Address: P.O.Box: 5, Al Evarest St., Beit Jala.  
Tel: 02-2742268  
Fax: 02-2742268  
Contact person: Mr. Nabeel Mesleh  
Staff: 17

The Arab Benevolent Society was establishment in 1962. It subsequently assumed the responsibility of running Al Amal Secondary School which was originally established by the Manonite Benevolent society.

Programs and activities:

- Al Amla Secondary School

#### *Arab Orthodox Benevolent Society- AOBS*

Address: P.O.Box 294, St. Nicolas Church St, Beit Jala  
Tel: 02-2742398  
Fax: 02-2742398  
E-mail: [alihsan@palnet.com](mailto:alihsan@palnet.com)  
Contact: Mr.Bishara Kharoufa  
Staff: 2, volunteers: 11

The Arab Orthodox Benevolent Society- AOBS is a local non profit NGO that was established by a group of people that believe that strong commitment and respect for human rights and maintaining dialogue in a democratic atmosphere is obtained by reducing the suffering of the community. Since its establishment, AOBS has been providing numerous services to the Beit Jala Community.

Programs and activities:

- Provides financial support for needy students
- Financial support for Orthodox scouts
- Housing projects for new couples
- Establishment of new building for the society
- Cultural activities.

***Arab Society for Rehabilitation***

Address: P.O.Box 100, Kreimizan St, Beit Jala

Tel: 02-2744050

Fax: 02-2744052

E-mail: [basr@palnet.edu](mailto:basr@palnet.edu)

Contact person: Mr. Musa Darweesh

The Arab Society for Rehabilitation established in 1960 is a local non profit NGO which provides services to those with special needs. The society also provides vocational training programs and cultural activities for children in cooperation with local organizations.

Programs and activities:

- Training centers for children with special needs.
- Home visits rehabilitation programs for those unable to access the centers.
- Vocational training courses for adults with special learning needs
- Workshops and lectures on preventative safety at work to prevent accidents in the workplace.

***Beit Al Noor Society for the Blind***

Address: Issa Al Najjar St., Al Sahel, Beit Jala

Contact person: Dr. Bahij Khayyat

Staff: 6

The Beit Al Noor Society for the blind is a branch of the national Society for the Blind in Jerusalem. It was established in 1981 with the aim of improving the social and educational conditions of the blind. It seeks to develop the situation of the blind by providing educational equipment and materials. The Beit Al Noor Society was the first to establish the first Arabic Braille library in the Arab World.

Programs and activities:

- Program to integrate the blind into schools.
- Provision of equipment for the blind
- Printing of children school and cultural books in Arabic and English Braille.

***Beit Jemima Special Needs Home***

Address: P.O.Box 1568, 117 Al Sider St., Beit Jala

Tel: 02-2777922

Fax: 02-2750044

E-mail: info@beitjemima.org

Website: [www.jemima.nl/eng](http://www.jemima.nl/eng)

Contact person: Mr. Rikko Lauwers

Staff: 31, volunteers: 12

Beit Jemima Special Needs Home was established in 1984 and is a Christian organization originally founded in the Netherlands to support Beit Jemima in Beit Jala. Beit Jemima is an institution for people with special needs. The foundation provides its care and education services to people with mental and psychological disability.

Programs and activities:

- Jemima care group – approximately 30 residents with physical and or mental handicaps are provided care and support in six separate living groups.
- Jemima Day Care Classes and Workshop program-approximately 30 beneficiaries, partially Jamima residents and partially children who still live at home or at another institution, receive training and support through class activities that are directed to their specific mental and physical handicaps.

***Palestinian Child's Club***

Address: P.O.Box 316, Martyr Jeries Qunqar St., Beit Jala

Tel: 02-2751780

Fax: 02-2751780

Contact person: Ms. Odette Rezeq

Staff: 2, volunteers: 3

Established in 1993, the Palestinian Child's Club in Beit Jala is a local non profit NGO that was founded by a group of volunteer women who devoted their spare time to care for children. The club also aims to enhance children's skills and talents by hosting cultural, art, and entertainment shows. In addition the club seeks to encourage women's participation in the cultural field by holding lectures, meetings and workshops.

Programs and activities:

- Vocational training on embroidery works and glass painting
- Cultural and art competitions
- Medical and cultural lectures and first aid training courses.

### ***Women's Society for Child Care***

Address: PO Box 313, Al Kanis, Beit Jala  
Tel: 02-2742 507  
Fax: 02-2742 507  
Contact Person: Ms. Lydia Al-Araj  
Volunteers: 18

The Women's Society for Child Care started functioning in 1944 through providing health care to women and children. In 1948 and 1967 the society provided food and health care for the wounded and refugees. The Society aims at encouraging women to educate themselves in order to increase their chances of employment, and therefore the society offers training at a number of its centers.

#### Programs and Activities:

- Housing project-implemented in 1972 for newly married couples.
- Maternity and Child Care Center.
- Embroidery and Heritage Center-provides job opportunities for many women to work at home.
- Training programs for women and girls.

### ***Charitable Society of Saint Nicolas Home for the Elderly***

Address: P.O.Box 99, Al Amayer St., Beit Jala  
Tel: 02-2740893  
Fax: 02-2740893  
E-mail: [stnicolashome@yahoo.com](mailto:stnicolashome@yahoo.com)  
Contact person: Sami Abu Dayyeh  
Staff: 3, volunteers: 3

The Charitable Society of Saint Nicolas Home for the Elderly is a non profit NGO that was established by a group of charitable persons in 1976. The society provides care services for the elderly in Bethlehem and Palestine in general. The number of the elderly residents at the home decreased during both the first and second Intifada. The society's building was severely damaged due to the Israeli shelling during the second Intifada, but was reconstructed and furnished by funds received from the British Consulate in Jerusalem.

### **7.3 Credit and loans financial institutions**

Financial institutions operating in form of loans and credit in order to develop the local economy and improve housing situation in Bethlehem area include the following:

- Faten Institution
- Caritas
- Hope
- Latin patriarchate
- CHF
- Palestinian Development Fund
- Sabreen
- UNRWA- MMD
- YMCA
- PARC- Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee
- ASALA
- ACAD- Arab Center for Agricultural Development
- The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry (temporary program)
- Banks

## Chapter 8

Additional information on Bethlehem Area

### **8.1. Infrastructure**

#### **8.1.1 Water supply system**

99.2% of all housing units are connected to public water network.. Even if most of the housing units are connected to the public network, the water supply is irregular. Interruptions in the water supply resulting from the occupation last for days especially in summer. For that reason, many houses have a cistern for collecting rainwater and a tank on the roof for keeping water. Each house is linked via a pump system to the public water supply. The Bethlehem Governorate is located above Eastern and western Basins of the west Bank Mountain Aquifer. The available renewable water resources in Bethlehem consist primarily of groundwater and surface water; however, due to the political situation, Palestinians have little access to these resources. The total water consumption of Bethlehem governorate is nearly 7.761 Million Cubic Meters (MCM), whereas only 2.599 MCM is locally provided, this lead to shortage of nearly 5.162 (PWA, 2005).

#### **8.1.2 Sewage Disposal Facilities**

Most of the population in Bethlehem City have their homes connected to the sewerage system. The nearby villages, however, are still not connected to sewerage networks and depend mainly on cesspits for the disposal of their wastewater. More precisely, 50.2 % of all housing units are connected to the public sewage system, 49.6% of housing units are connected with cesspits, and 0.3% of housing have no sewage system. The wastewater production is based on per capita water consumption rates. It is assumed that 80% of water consumed for domestic purposes enters into sewerage system. Thus, the average sewage production per capita including also the commercial wastewater is expected to increase from 123 e/d in the year 2000 to 190 e/d in the year 2020.

### ***8.1.3 Solid Waste Disposal***

The system of solid waste disposal in the Bethlehem Area is similar to that of other areas in Palestine. A comprehensive master plan for the whole region is essential to allow appropriate and effective management of solid waste. Solid waste collection in the Palestinian communities, where present, is the responsibility of the municipalities, town or village councils, or UNRWA in the refugee camps. Today, there are three sites for solid waste disposal: waste collected by municipal and village councils is disposed of at the El-Eizariya (Bethany) waste dump; waste collected by municipal and village councils is disposed of at open dump sites where waste is often burnt at random; and individuals dispose waste in nearby open spaces and road sides. This latter method is very common.

### ***8.1.4 Domestic Waste***

The quantity of the domestic solid waste generated in the Bethlehem Area is estimated at 140 tons/days, excluding the refugee camps.

**Table 8.1**  
**Domestic Waste Disposal Sites**

<b>Type of Dump</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Public dumps	54
Local dumps	11
Vacant land and Road sides	35

### ***8.1.5 Electricity Services and Power***

The Jerusalem Area Electricity Company is the main supplier of energy to the Bethlehem Area. Electric supply is erratic, particularly in rural areas, with less than 50% of rural households receiving electricity 24 hours/day. Every household in Bethlehem city is served by the local electricity system.

There are three in feeds from the Israeli system in Bethlehem area. The first, Gillo (1) to Bethlehem main substation at al Quba; the second, Gillo (2) to Beit Sahour main station and Jarrad substation. From these substations, power is distributed at 6.6 KV to Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour and the villages to the west of Bethlehem. The Israel

Electric Corporation (IEC) has advised that the maximum capacity that can be supplied from Gillo is 25 MVA. The third bulk supply from the Israeli system distributes power to the south of Bethlehem by 33 KV lines fed from the IEC infeed at Efrat. Consumers are fed directly via 33/0.4 KV transformers.

The feeders to Bethlehem are quite loaded. In March 1997, the peak demand on Gillo feeders 1 and 2 reached 23 MW.

Many overhead lines, underground cables, circuit breakers and transformers are operating close to or above their rated capacities. There is a poor quality of power to the areas that derive their supplies from the 6.6 KV lines. The IEC feeders (Gillo1+2) will soon be overloaded by 30% unless the main feeders be changed, as already requested, to 35 MVA. Losses amount to 6% of feeder peak demand.

The most immediate requirement in this area is the upgrading of the sections between Gillo station and Bethlehem Main Street (this stretch has 95mm<sup>2</sup> all under ground cable) and the section between Um Tuba and Beit Sahour. This short stretch of 32 mm<sup>2</sup> copper lines is the cause of poor voltage downstream and accounts for 50% of losses on the line.

The capacity of the IEC Gillo feeder from Jerusalem C, constrains the load growth in this area and also the number of possible development options. All the development options can be met by an additional 10 MVA to the IEC infeed and will accommodate the growth of the loads in Bethlehem area by the year 2000. The Efrat infeed will still be capable of supplying the expected loads in this area.

The reduction in losses due to the 6.6 KV system upgrade and associated improvement would provide a negligible increase in available capacity.

The expected load growth to the year 2000 forecasts a demand of 50 MW in Bethlehem area. This is beyond the limits of the 25 MVA declared capacity of Gillo.

99.3% are connected to the public electrical networks.

#### ***8.1.6 Road Network***

The city possesses a dense road network. The streets are often narrow, permitting traffic only one direction.

#### ***8.1.7 Traffic flow on the regional and urban level***

A study of daily vehicular traffic flow within Bethlehem Area was performed by the Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation (MOPIC) during late 1995, where flow on a number of main and regional roads was measured. The data include daily volumes, hourly volumes (including peak hour volumes), and classification counts.

These data reveal that the main highway south of Bethlehem has a daily traffic volume of 21,349 vehicles with a percentage of trucks reaching 12.9%, which is a considerably high rate. It should be indicated that just after these counts were performed, the Israeli authorities opened the Highway no. 60 Bypass which lies to the west of Bethlehem and was intended to accommodate Israeli vehicles traveling from Jerusalem and north to the Israeli settlements in Bethlehem and Hebron Areas after the implementation of the redeployment agreement. This has caused a slight reduction in the volumes of traffic along Highway no.601 passing through Bethlehem city.

The MOPIC traffic volume data on regional highways in the area indicate that 4,023 vehicles per day passed through highway no. 398 at Wadi An-Nar section with a percentage of trucks reaching 12.2%, which is a considerably high rate. It should be indicated that due to tightened restrictions by the Israeli authorities on Palestinians to travel through Jerusalem, considerable increase in traffic volumes have been recently noticed along this highway.

Finally, the regional highway no.375 was found to carry 4,325 vehicles per day at its eastern end close to highway no. 60. The percentage of trucks reached the highest figure of 17.4%.

One-way flow patterns are mostly predominant within and around the Central Business Area, especially in Bethlehem. Two-way flows are mainly in the peripheral areas and on main roadways such as Manger Street, Beit Sahour Street and Highway no. 60. It should be noted that several dead end streets exist due to width limitations and these operate as one-way street, but due to restraints and in order to provide access, these facilities operate as two-way streets.

#### ***8.1.8 Traffic circulation***

Paul VI Street continues to the Manger Square Area and is the spine of this historical and market area and cross the core of the city to Hebron Road. Manger Street connecting with the Jerusalem Road (Route 60) and Manger Square. Beit Sahour Street connecting with the Manger Street near the Square and extending to the east to Beit Sahour and beyond. It connects with the road along the eastern limits of Jerusalem. Hebron Road is the main route on the west and generally forms the boundary between the municipalities of Beit Jala and Jerusalem.

Paul VI Street connects with Hebron Road and is the major route to the western portion of the study area. Secondary access routes include Midan Street to the south and Children Street to the north. There are few opportunities for vehicular connections between these routes; the narrow width and steep grade in the Central Market Place and residential/commercial areas in the north, combined with high pedestrian volumes, lead to suggest a one way system.

However, due to the circuitous routing required and the relatively low volumes, it is common for motorists to go counter to the indicated direction of traffic flow. Obviously, this presents significant problems on the narrow one way routes as one has to yield by backing up or finding a place wide enough to pass.

## **8.2 Health Care Sector**

The health sector comprises more than 9% of total GDP in the West Bank. In the Bethlehem Area, the following health services exist.

### **8.2.1 Primary health care clinics:**

There are thirty-two primary health care clinics in the Bethlehem Area, of which 16 are sponsored by NGO's, 14 by private-for-profit, and two are associated with UNRWA (PRC, 1994).

### **8.2.2 Hospitals:**

There are seven hospitals in the Bethlehem Area; three are maternity, one psychiatric, one pediatric, and a general hospital and another one private. An Orthopedic hospital, which had operated for more than 25 years, was recently closed in the area (PRC, 1994). In addition, to another 3 small chartable or NGO medical centers.

The total number of hospital beds in the six hospitals of the area is- estimated at 800. Although this number seems sufficient for the area's population, several of these hospitals are the only providers of specialized health services in the whole West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus, these hospitals are crowded, often giving appointments several weeks ahead to seekers of specialized services. The health institutions in the Bethlehem Area, as well as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lack the funds needed for their development and to maintain their services. Moreover, the area lacks some essential specialized clinics, thus forcing people to travel to other areas to get the needed services. There are ten ambulance vehicles in the Bethlehem Area.

## **8.3 Educational sector**

The educational institutions in the Bethlehem Area are operated by the government, private (mainly church) organizations, and the UNRWA (Heiberg & Ovansen, 1993).

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the total number of schools in the year 2003/2004 in the Bethlehem. Out of these, 99 are primary (elementary and intermediate) and 32 are secondary schools. The remaining 62 schools are either Kindergarten or community colleges. In Bethlehem city they have 25 different schools.

The Bethlehem University, a leading educational institution in Palestine, is also located in the area. Although governmental schools comprise the largest educational institutions in Palestine, in Bethlehem / Jericho area private schools are dominant.

All schools in the Bethlehem Areas host approximately 9,189 pupils. Table 8.2 shows the distribution of these students by school type and number of pupils per teacher (PCBS, 2004).

**Table 8.2**  
**Indicators about education in Bethlehem area for the schoolistic year 2003/2004**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Bethlehem Area</b>	<b>Bethlehem Area</b>
Total	24	124
Government	9	87
UNRWA	0	7
Private	15	30
Total number of students	9,189	46,152
Male	4,585	23,202
Female	4,604	22,950

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