

Nablus Municipality... for better life

**Prepared and written by
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May 2016





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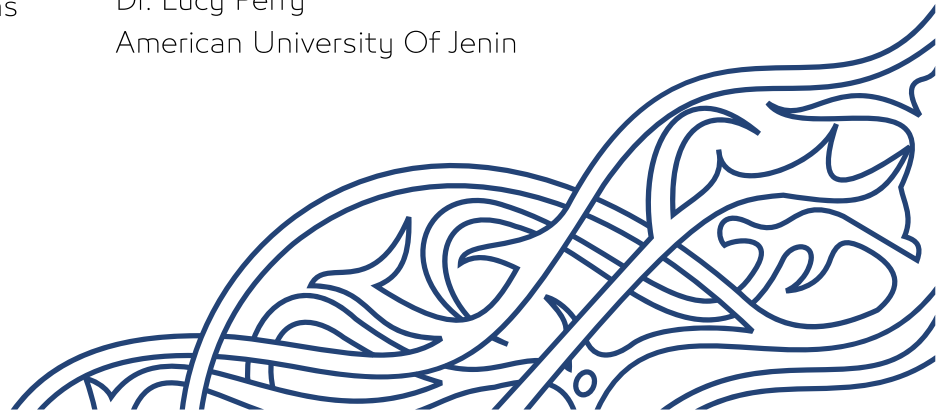


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Nablus Municipality .. process of inception

Nablus Municipality was founded in the second half of the 19th century, chaired by Sheikh Mohammad Toffaha Huseini, a renowned figure in the city, between 1869 and 1872. It was one of the first municipalities to be founded in Palestine, established during one of the most critical and defining historic eras the country ever witnessed: the Ottoman reign (1516–1917). The creation and subsequent development of the municipality at this time is indicative both of the perceived status and prestige of Nablus, and of the Ottoman authorities' clear interest in a city already regarded as a civilized hub for scholars and intellectuals in the arts and sciences. Consequently, the mayor of Nablus cultivated great respect in the city and was held in high regard both within the city and in the surrounding localities.

Over the succeeding decades, each of the forty four mayors of Nablus have worked towards a common vision in building an institution committed to progress, prosperity, and modernity, as well as offering services to help improve the daily lives of the citizens. As such, Nablus municipality is regarded as a major, influential Palestinian institution long-established within the culture of the city, whose status and importance is recognised at the national level.

The condition of the municipality is intimately connected to and influenced by that of the city in particular, and of course the country in general. The municipality has endured tremendous cultural







Nablus Municipality .. process of inception

upheaval and many significant challenges due to the adverse conditions of the Israeli occupation. The services offered to local citizens were severely compromised during the mandate of Israeli authorities between 1982 and 1985, during which time citizen services were perceived by Israeli officials as a low priority. Thus, the political climate at that time, and many times since, restricted any potential for improvement and growth in the municipality in terms of the quality of services available to the citizens of Nablus.



Legal Status

Defined as a semi-governmental public institution, Nablus Municipality works in accordance to specific rules and regulations, which have been set and developed over the years, with the aims of rendering the best possible public services to its citizens. Hence, Nablus Municipality is now considered a civil society organization, inasmuch as it is directly involved in the lives of local citizens.

Important Phases

Over the last century, Nablus, like other Palestinian cities, was mired in a state of instability and insecurity at the political level, further impeding its development and improvement –and of course that of many other Palestinian local authorities. Despite the fact that more than 140 years passed, with forty four successive mayors who managed the municipal affairs, Nablus Municipality has only been through six electoral phases. The first of which was during the British Mandate in Palestine in 1925 when Mr. Sulaiman Adel Razzaq Toukan won the election and became the first elected mayor of Nablus, of which mandate extended till 1951; and the second and third during Jordanian rule in Palestine between 1951–1963 when Mr. Naim Abdul Hadi won in

1951 elections, and Mr. Hamdi Kanaan in 1963. After the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, municipal elections took place in 1976 when Mr. Bassam Shakaa became the first elected mayor after the 1967 war. Mr. Shakaa was the target of an attempted assassination by Zionist regime in 1980 when explosives were placed in his car, resulting in the amputation of his both legs. In 1985, Mr. Zafer Masri took over municipal affairs until his assassination three months later by as yet unknown assailants. However, after the succession of Mayor Mr. Hafez Toukan between 1986–1988, Nablus city witnessed unprecedented expansion from a total area of 27,800 Dunoms to 18,000 Dunoms.

In the aftermath of the Oslo accords signed between Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel in 1993, and with the inception of Palestinian National Authority (PNA) institutions in 1994, former Palestinian president Yaser Arafat assigned Mr. Ghassan Shakaa, member of the Executive Committee of PLO, to run municipal affairs, with his assignment extended for a period of 10 years. In December 2005, the first municipal elections took place under the PNA's autonomous government. Mr. Adly Yaish won and became the mayor of Nablus for a period of seven years. The last municipal elections were carried out in October 2012 when Mr. Ghassan Shakaa won, and carried out his mayoral duties until he and the municipal council resigned on August 11th, 2015. Thereafter, the Palestinian government assigned Mr. Sameeh Tubaila, Minister of Traffic and Transport to chair the administrative committee, and run the municipal affairs for a transitional period, at least until the new municipal elections are due.





Nablus Municipality, during the PNA's governance, has seen a pronounced transformation in many different fields of services, and is still considered a major Palestinian institution in terms of number of services rendered to the public, the number of strategic projects being implemented, and the human resources' expertise who are behind its success.

The Municipality employs about 1860 fixed term technical and administrative staff members, in addition to about 380 members who benefit from the pension fund. Hence, Nablus Municipality is currently regarded as the driving force behind economic development in the city and remains one of the major employment sectors in Palestine.

Former Mayors



Mohamad Toffaha-Husseini
1869-1872

Hassan Abdul Hadi
1873-1874

Ahmed Helmy
1874-1876

Abdul Fattah Agha Nimer
1876-1878

Hassan Abdul Hadi
1879-1885

Sharif Toukan
1886-1887

Abdul Latif Abdul Hadi
1887-1893



Bashir Toukan
1894-1896

Badawi Ashour
1896-1897

Abdul Latif Abdul Hadi
1897-1900



Bashir Toukan
1901-1902



Tawfiq Hammad
1902-1906

Mohammed Abdo
1907-1908

Abdul Latif Abdul Hadi
1908-1910



Haidar Toukan
1911-1912



Kamal El Din Arafat
1912-1913

Yosef Tamimi
1913-1913



Hasan Hammad
1913-1915

Bashir Sharabi
1915-1915



Kamal El Din Arafat
1915-1916

Ahmed Mukhtar
1916-1917

Yosef Tamimi
1917-1917



Haidar Toukan
1917-1917



Omar Zuaiter
1917-1918

Nimer Hammad
1918-1918

Sulaiman Smadi
1918-1918



Haidar Toukan
1918-1918



Omar Zuaiter
1918-1924



Omar Johari
1924-1925



Bahjat Tabbara
1957-1959

Occupation Authority
1982-1985



**Local Government
Committee chaired
by Hussein Araj**
2004-2005



Sulaiman Toukan
1925-1951



Ahmad Srouri
1959-1963



Zafer Masri
1985-1986



Adly Yaish
2005-2012



Ahmad Shakaa
1951-1951



Hamdi Kan'aan
1963-1969



Hafez Toukan
1986-1988



Ghassan Shakaa
2012-2015



Naem Abdel Hadi
1951-1955



Mazuz Masri
1969-1976

**Self Governance by
Department Heads**
1988-1994



**Government
Committee chaired
by Sameeh Tubaila**
August-2015...



Mazuz Masri
1955-1957



Bassam Shakaa
1976-1982



Ghassan Shakaa
1994-2004





Vision

A modern, developed, and civilized municipality at both services and institutional levels that aim to achieve a decent and prosperous life for its local citizens.

Mission

Comprehensive and distinctive services including infrastructure, health, environmental and cultural services through an investment in financial and human resources, while preserving the historic and cultural heritage of the city.

Institutional Values

Employees: The driving force behind our success.

Citizens: Partners in planning and organization to help achieve sustainable development.

Performance: Offering services with fairness, clarity, loyalty to both the institution and the city, and making services accessible to all citizens.

Transformation: Managing the continued development of the municipality, and adapting to modern trends in different fields.

Integration: Believing that the continued development, modernization, and ultimate success of the municipality is attained through partnership and consultation with other parties.

Creativity: Accepting and adopting new and innovative initiatives, thus offering a relevant and distinctive service in many different spheres.





Key Services

Drinkable Water Provision



Drinkable water is one of the most vital services offered by Nablus Municipality to all local citizens residing in the city, in addition to the fifteen neighbouring villages and four refugee camps (New Askar, Old Askar, Balata and Ein Beit El-Maa). The overall number of water subscribers totalled 45,000 including households, commercial and industrial subscriptions, with a total of 100% of beneficiaries. Moreover, it is the responsibility of Nablus Municipality to extend water networks across the entire

city, and of course to carry out periodic maintenance works. The length of Nablus water network amounts to 500 km with 1 inch diameter, while that of the rainwater network is 10 km. The Municipality is currently in the process of developing the rainwater networks to address the potential problem of accumulating flood water in the city in the winter months. Average of daily produced water reaches 32,000 m³, with consumption average of 67,7 litre/individual per day (2015 statistics).





Waste Water Services

Nablus Municipality is responsible for extending and maintaining the waste water networks within municipal city boundaries. The length of the waste water network is 230 km including the transfer line extended from Wadi Toffah to West Water Treatment Plant in Wadi Zomer. The waste water network covers about 93% of the total area of Nablus city, and thus 96% of total population benefit from this service.

Solid Waste Management



Solid waste management is among one of the major responsibilities of Nablus Municipality. It involves collecting solid waste from different parts of the city and the surrounding refugee camps, and transferring it to Serafi transfer station in the east part of the city and then to the final land fill site "Zahret Al-Finjan" in Jenin. Nablus city produces

approximately 220–250 tons of solid waste daily. Undoubtedly, the solid waste disposal process is a significant financial burden on the municipality with a total annual cost for the overall process amounting to NIS 4,481,260, in addition to operations and administrative costs.

Road Construction and Public Utilities

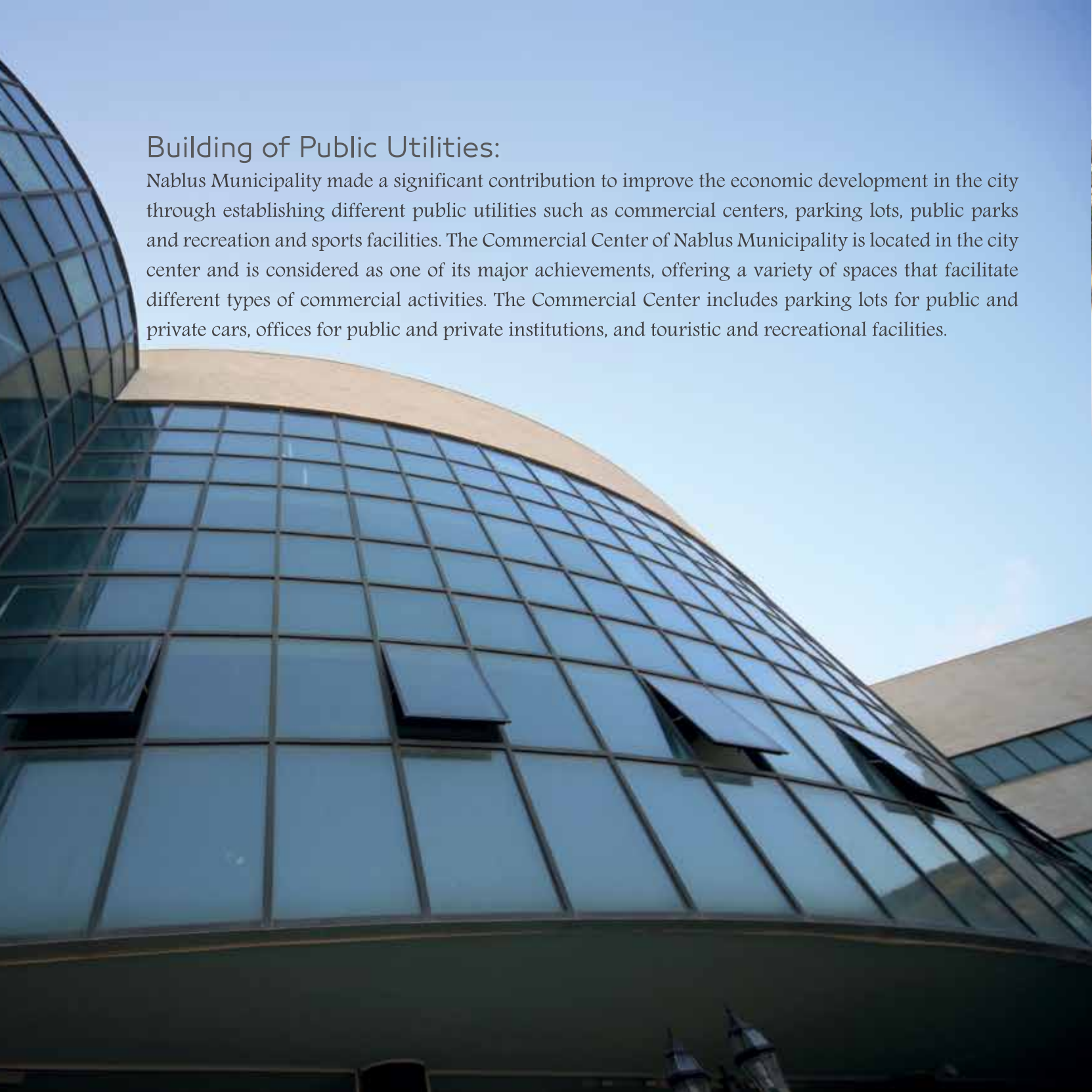
Road construction and pavement:

Road construction and pavement along with improvement of streets, such as installation and maintenance of traffic lights and signs are among main responsibilities of Nablus Municipality.



Building of Public Utilities:

Nablus Municipality made a significant contribution to improve the economic development in the city through establishing different public utilities such as commercial centers, parking lots, public parks and recreation and sports facilities. The Commercial Center of Nablus Municipality is located in the city center and is considered as one of its major achievements, offering a variety of spaces that facilitate different types of commercial activities. The Commercial Center includes parking lots for public and private cars, offices for public and private institutions, and touristic and recreational facilities.





Recreation Facilities:

Nablus Municipality plays a pivotal role in promoting and developing the tourism sector in the city, providing the requisite facilities to enable and encourage investment opportunities within partnerships with the private sector. The Municipality has developed a number of touristic sites including Sama Nablus, located on Eibal mountain summit. The site has been improved significantly with a number of restaurants and coffee shops, in addition to a number of green open areas which have been redeveloped and redesigned for public visitors from different parts of Palestine. Furthermore, the Mini World Park Project located in Jamal Abdul Naser Public Park is currently under construction. The Mini World Park will include a number of international landmarks in miniature –landmarks from famous cities around the world –so to further inject a diverse and modern charm in the heart of the city. The Municipality intends, for this project, to contribute in promoting the tourism sector, and thus invigorate further economic development in Nablus. Other mini parks have been established and developed in different residential areas, and are currently used as safe play areas by children and families.



Schools' Building



The construction of schools, along with all the necessary maintenance works, is a major priority and responsibility of Nablus Municipality, of which costs being settled from the collected education tax. In order to achieve this goal, Nablus Municipality provides the land and contributes in preparing engineering plans, drawings, designs, full supervision, and excavation works. Direct expenditure pertaining to contraction works are being obtained in the form of grants from businessmen both within the community and in the Diaspora.



Preservation of Cultural Heritage of the City

The old city of Nablus is particularly distinctive as it encompasses several archaeological and touristic sites that belong to past historic civilizations dating back to more than four thousand years. In order to maintain this invaluable treasure, Nablus Municipality made considerable efforts and implemented numerous restoration projects to preserve and

maintain palaces, mosques, arches, water streams, and squares that, to this day, characterise old city. All these efforts aim at preserving the cultural heritage, the archeological sites and historic buildings, transforming the old city into an attractive tourist centre that embraces both the ancient and the modern.

Khan Wakala historic site before and after restoration





Social and Cultural Services

Nablus Municipality is a major hub for social and cultural activities, catering for the needs of various social circles in Nablus and reflecting the changing demographics of the city.

In order to achieve a just and fair service provision, the Municipality has always taken into consideration the geographic location of these centers, covering communities living in the east, west, central areas of the city, in addition to those living in the old city. The aim of these programs is to nurture target groups through a diverse range of social and educational activities, for example in sports, arts, cultural, social and music sectors, in addition to festival, exhibitions and celebrations for local, national, and international events in cooperation and coordination with local institutions.

Choir of Child Cultural Center.

City Organization

In order to promote tourism and encourage visitors from 1948 occupied territories, other Palestinian cities, as well as international visitors, Nablus Municipality made tremendous efforts to help restructuring and improving the city, with special focus on the city center.

The Municipality is in close coordination with concerned parties to prepare alternative locations for fruit and vegetable stalls to reduce overcrowding on the street, as well as reduce traffic violations, and monitor and organize traffic movement especially during rush hour. In this regard, necessary provisions were made for the establishment of a popular market close to the city center, as well as the development of the popular market located in the eastern part of the city. A provision of parking lots within the commercial centre of the city, parking meters, and two taxi stations in the east and west of Nablus were amongst other plans to help improve and better organise the city.

West public transport station.





Zoning and Building Regulations

Zoning and building regulations services are among the top priorities for Nablus Municipality, due to their direct impact on the aesthetics of the city.

These services cover the following: issuance of buildings' licenses; concrete casting permits; occupancy permits pertaining to water and electricity subscriptions for different utilities; certificate of clearance; building control certificates, industries and profession licenses; and placards and pavement construction.





Fire Fighting and Rescue Operations

Nablus Fire Brigade is of high importance, due to its role in maintaining public safety in Nablus city and the surrounding governorates and villages. The services of the Fire Brigade are not limited to fire fighting, but also include rescue works when incidents and natural disasters occur.



Slaughter House

Monitoring and health supervision on edible red meat is part of Municipality responsibilities. Live animals including goats and sheep are received at the Municipal Slaughter House after being examined by a veterinarian. The meat is then marked with blue stamp for young animals, and red for older animals, so that the consumer can readily identify the product. Thereafter, edible meat is stored in fridges for 15 hours, and subsequently distributed among butchers to be sold to end consumers.





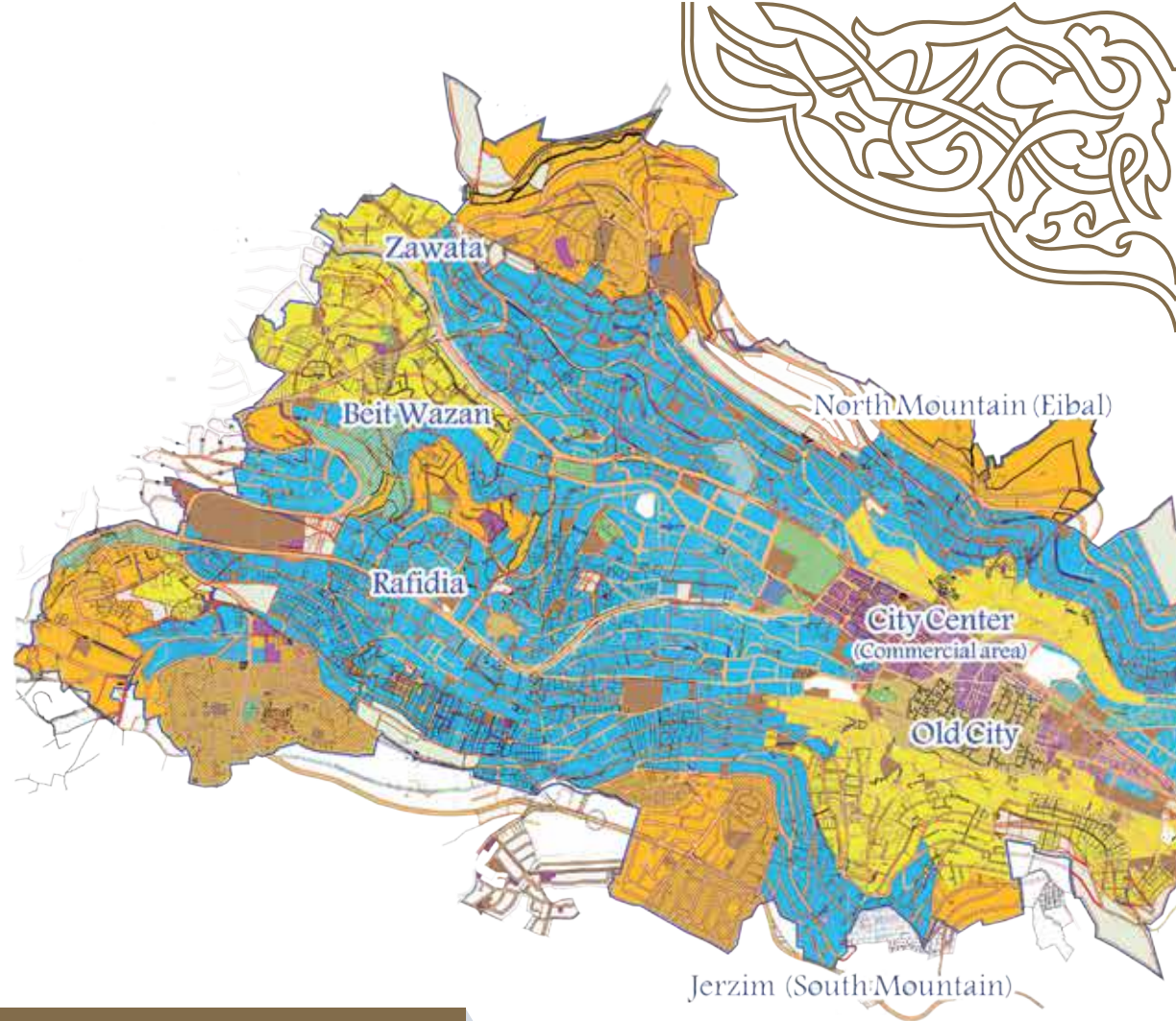
Central Vegetable Market

The Central Vegetable Market located in the east part of the city, sells a variety of fruits and vegetables received from farmers on daily basis. Nablus Municipality secures special fridges to be used as storage spaces for vegetables, and banana ripening chambers by wholesalers in the

form of Daman. The goods are then sold to retailers who sell them to end consumers. The Municipality supervises the receiving and despatching of goods, organizes the selling process, and works to ensure the good quality of these products before being sold to the public.



Organizational Structure

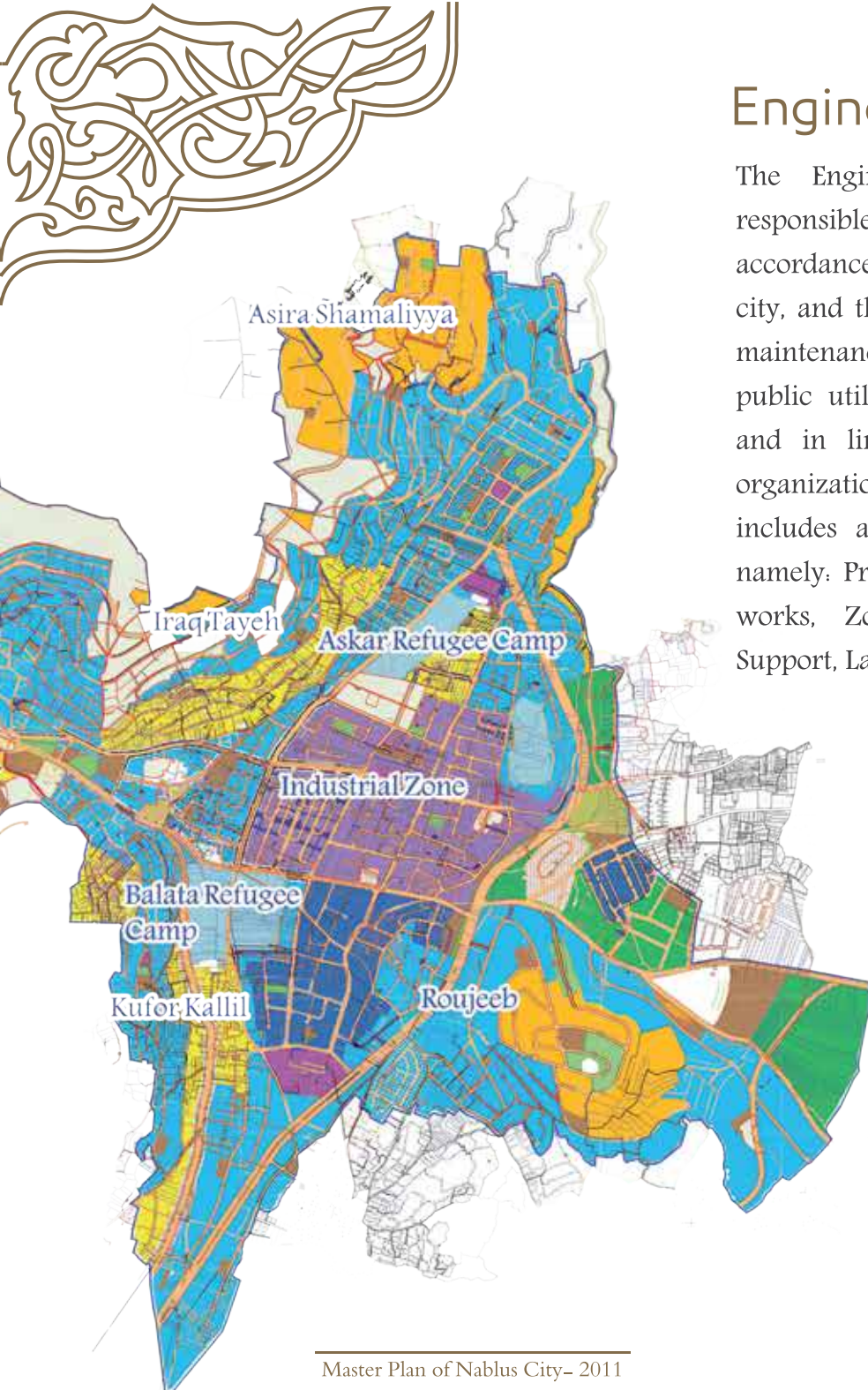


The Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of Nablus Municipality includes six major departments, each of which encompasses a number of administrative and technical divisions/units which are hierarchical in nature. The six departments form the main point of reference for all units and divisions, while the main point of reference to all major departments is the mayor and municipal council.

Engineering Department

The Engineering Department is mainly responsible for developing strategic projects in accordance with the Master Plan of Nablus city, and this includes road construction and maintenance, and the building of schools and public utilities necessary for city expansion and in line with population growth. The organizational structure of this department includes a number of divisions and units, namely: Projects, Urban Development, Public works, Zoning and Licensing, Technical Support, Landscape Divion, and Old City Unit.





Water and Waste Water Department

This department is responsible for a drinkable water provision to the citizens living in the city and surrounding refugee camps. Furthermore, the department carries out duties such as the installation and maintenance of waste water networks within the city boundaries including the surrounding refugees camps, covering about 96% of the entire served population and areas. The department also contributes to improving the environmental status through establishing waste water treatment plants used for agricultural purposes. The Department includes four main divisions, namely: Administrative and Financial Division, Projects, Water Operations and Strategic Planing Division.

Western purification plant.







Health and Environmental Department

This department is responsible for monitoring the health and environmental status of the city through working to combat epidemics, conducting environmental awareness campaigns, offering health counseling, and maintaining solid waste management. It also offers help and support for funeral services affairs in accordance with

Islamic Shari'a, and occupies a supervisory function on the Slaughter house and the central vegetable market. The department comprises of five major divisions: Health and Environment, Slaughter House, Central Vegetable Market, Awareness and Counseling, and Funeral services.



The Financial Department

The Financial Department is responsible for the management of the entire revenues, financial budget and balance sheets, in addition to the management of proposed budgets allocated for different projects in line with the donor community's guidelines. The department encompasses a number of divisions, including: Accounting and Revenues, International Audit, General Treasure, Insurance and Public Safety, Financial Studies, Inventory and Municipal Property Division.







Department of Public Services

This department includes a number of divisions that support the work of other departments and division within the Municipality, namely; the Mechanics Division that carry out requisite maintenance works to the vehicles and heavy lifts owned by the



Municipality; the Vehicle's Division which has a supervisory function with regards to vehicles' mobility, and follows up insurance affairs and accidents in coordination with the Insurance and Public Safety Division; the Fire Brigade and Guarding and Inspection Divisions (as indicated previously in this booklet)





Administrative Department

This department plays an essential role in managing municipal affairs. It is responsible for monitoring the overall performance through new management system, building capacities of staff, and coordinating on day-to-day issues with other departments. The administrative department is the main reference point for other departments and divisions on issues

pertaining to administrative affairs. It encompasses various divisions and units, including: Human Resources, International and Public Relations Division, Information and Technology, Cultural Centres, Legal affairs Division, Procurement and Tenders Division and Clerks, and Customers' Service Center.

Cultural centres



Public Library



The Public Library was founded in 1960 and located in Shweitreh Street close to the city center. It incubates several Arabic and foreign-language books and references, in addition to mini libraries for Palestinian authors and intellectuals, in addition to the Palestinian prisoners' library. The Public Library includes an exclusive section for historic scripts and documents, and registries of Waqf Department dating back to the British Mandate in Palestine. Another section is dedicated for people of special needs, whilst another offers a multimedia system. This distinctive library includes 125,000 books and 1,200,000 documents and scripts, for which deserves to be considered as one of the best nationally.





Child Cultural Centre



Located in Shweitreh Street, the center was founded in 1998 in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, and funded by the Swedish Government. The Center offers a diverse range of activities for children through multi-sectoral facilities such as; the information technology center, library, theatre, arts and handcrafts workshop, music center and choir. It also hosts several performances for Arab and foreign bands being organized in partnership with local institutions.





Nablus Cultural Centre (Hamdi Manko)

Located in Jafa Street, the center was established in 1996 and funded partially by the Palestinian businessman Mr. Hamdi Manko in cooperation with Welfare Association. The Center addresses the needs of different segments of local society with special focus on youth, in areas such as arts, sports, creative thinking, and scientific initiatives. It hosts cultural and national festivals which are conducted in cooperation with local and international organizations, as well as those from 1948 occupied territories.





Child Happiness Center

Founded in 1998 in cooperation with the Welfare Association, the center is located in the eastern part of the city and works to serve marginalized groups within Nablus city and surrounding localities. The center includes safe play areas for children, a public garden furnished with outdoor games, theatre, sports games and health facilities. It receives women and children throughout the week, and hosts several festivals and summer clubs in cooperation with local organizations.



Multipurpose Community Resources Center (MCRC)



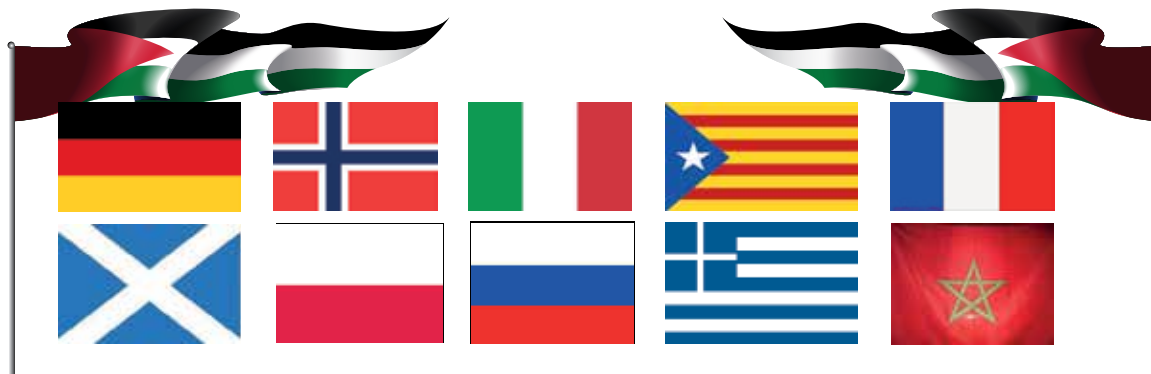
The MCRC is located in the heart of the Old City, and was founded in 1998 according to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Nablus Municipality and UNESCO. The center provides diversity of social services and conducts capacity building programs, awareness sessions, and cultural activities that address the needs of youth and women living in the old city and

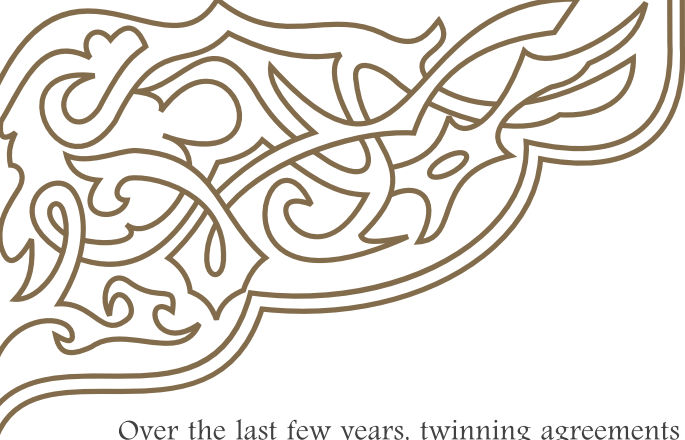
surrounding area. MCRC incubates a Kindergarten, and a Medical Center that offers treatment through clinics specialized in dental care and gynaecology, a medical laboratory, and a clinic for general medicine. The medical center is philanthropic in nature, providing services to the citizens of the old city against symbolic fees.



International Cooperation and Twinned Cities

Nablus Municipality has a very strong network of international relations with a number of European cities through twinning agreements, and works to build bridges of trust and confidence with the international community. These twinning have played a fundamental role in achieving cultural exchange programs, strengthening mutual understanding, and opening dialogue on issues of concern between people irrespective of their cultural background.





Over the last few years, twinning agreements have given birth to a new initiative Euro-Nablus Network founded in and chaired by Lille/France, in mid-2007. The first conference took place in Lille in February 2009, followed by another two conferences held in Stavanger/Norway, and Naples/Italy. The Euro-Nablus Initiative aimed at launching a campaign to support Nablus and assist in implementing a bundle of projects that address needs of high priority to Nablus, in areas such as Urban Development and Strategic Planning. The Euro-Nablus Initiative helps foster and develop a network of international cooperation through joining other European countries.

Among European cities twinned with Nablus is Lille, France, with which the municipality works in areas like urban planning, health, and cultural sectors, whilst the twinning with Stavanger/Norway, focuses on educational, cultural, and environmental programs. Naples, Italy, gives high priority to medical

treatment for children who suffer from heart impairments, as well as fostering democratic and citizens' rights issues. As for Dundee, Scotland, and Como, Italy, youth and arts exchange programs are areas of interest for both cities, while the Tuscany Region and Florence Province in Italy give priority to women empowerment, tourism promotion, and environmental programs. Stavanger, Norway, focuses on the environmental and educational programs through exchange of expertise between different institutions in both cities. During the last two years, Nablus Municipality signed cooperative agreements with Barcelona/Catalonia Spain, Nurnberg/Germany, Khalandry/Greece, and Safona/Italy through which technical assistance and expertise in health and environmental programs are to be exchanged, with special focus on solid waste, renewable energy, and capacity building activities.









The Nationalist Role of Nablus Municipality



The Nationalist Role of Nablus Municipality



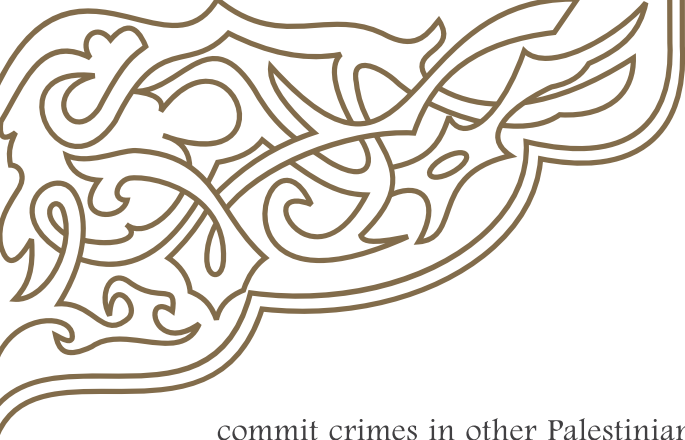
Besides playing an important nationalist role, Nablus is also known for its unionist leaders, as indicated by the number of its representatives in the Arab Government in Damascus, which was announced in Damascus under the leadership of King Faisal.

The famous poem ‘Mawtini’ by Ibrahim Touqan that was composed by Mohammed Fulayfel in Beirut, and sung by Moroccan youth, later became the national anthem of Iraq, and is one of the most visible indications of the national role of Nablus and its contribution to Arab unity.



As Nablus Municipality is a leading civil institution, it had always a prominent role in different occasions and events. Sheikh Omar Zuayter, mayor of Nablus in 1918, established a local government to manage the city and protect it from disorder following the end of Ottoman rule in Palestine. In 1948, mayor of Nablus Sulaiman

Touqan headed a national committee that replaced the British Mandate, which ended on May 5th of the same year. This committee was engaged in different responsibilities, such as providing wheat, rice and fuel, and safeguarding the entrances of Nablus from infiltration by Zionist infidels that attempted to



commit crimes in other Palestinian cities and villages. Moreover, the National Committee of Nablus offered logistic services to Iraqi army units that were placed in Nablus, as well as to the Salvation Army that was based in the village of Jaba' to the north.

Mayor Touqan also headed a relief committee for refugees who fled to Nablus following the Catastrophe (Nakba) in 1948. Nablus municipality offered shelter, food and health care for tens of thousands of refugees, before delegating responsibility to the International Committee of the Red Cross, and later to United Nations Relief and Working Agency (UNRWA) in 1950.

Nablus Municipality was forced to face the Israeli occupation after the setback (Naksa) in 1967. Mayor, staff, and workers of Nablus Municipality led the municipality side by side

with local leaders and public figures, prioritizing the city and its citizens beyond their political or personal disputes.

This spirit of steadfastness inspired other cities and villages, and encouraged Qalqilya citizens who were displaced to Nablus by Israeli occupation forces to return home. Nablus Municipality has also played a role in protecting Al Makased Hospital in Jerusalem from Israeli plans to take it over. The municipality sent professional staff to finish all necessary works before operating it. Nowadays, Al Makased hospital is considered the largest Arab institution in Jerusalem, providing medical services to Palestinians countrywide. The nationalist role of Nablus was acknowledged by Palestine Royal Commission (Peel Commission) in a report that was published in July 1937, which described Nablus as a pure Arab nationalist





city. Yet, Nablus Municipality was not spared from Israeli harassment during the bombing of the Nablus Mayor's car in June 1980. Mr. Bassam Al Shakaa lost his legs as a result of the assassination attempt.

The nationalist role of Nablus Municipality can

be summarized in two words: rationality and steadfastness. Its aim has always been to keep Nablus and Palestine as a homeland for Palestinians who planted the olive trees thousands of years before.



Donor Institutions ..
A Message Of Thanks



Donor Institutions .. a message of thanks

The list of donors, be it international institutions or Palestinian individuals, who secured the necessary fund and support to Nablus city, proved that Nablus city gained a great trust and confidence by these institutions. Such long years of strong bonds of relations with donor community reinforced concrete basis for mutual work with homogeneous common vision and goals towards achieving success. To this end, we convey a message of thanks for the trust you bestowed on us, pledging to remain upon such trust and confidence

The International Institutions :

- German Development Bank (KfW)
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- United Nation Population Fund Agency (UNFPA)
- Welfare Association
- European Union (EU)
- World Bank (WB)
- Norwegian Agency for Development and International Cooperation
- United Nations for Science, Culture and Education (UNESCO)
- The Danish Government
- Turkish Cooperation Foundation (TIKA) and the (IHH) Foundation
- Global Communities (former CHF)
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Medina Foundation/Italy
- Umbria District and Perugia Municipality/Italy
- Italian Foundation (COOPI)
- Peace and Freedom Movement/Spain
- Oxfam (UK) OXFAM



- 
- Federation of French Cities
 - The ANERA Foundation
 - Malaysian Government
 - Municipality of Stavanger/Norway
 - Municipality of Lille/France
 - Municipality of Naples/Italy
 - Municipality of Florence/Italy
 - Tuscany Region/Italy
 - Municipality of Barcelona/Catalonia

Arab Institutions:

- The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF)
- Palestinian Investment Fund
- Al Aqsa Charity Fund under the administration of the Islamic Bank for Development
- Palestinian Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR)
- Arab Bank for Economic Development
- Save the Children Foundation
- Islamic Development Bank
- Oman Authority for Charity
- Palestinian Telecommunication Group (Paltel Group)
- Jawwal Company



Palestinian Figures:

- Mr. Hasib Sabbagh
- Mr. Hamdi Manko
- Mr. Naim Abdul Hadi
- Mr. Abdul Rahim Jaradaneh
- Dr. Munib Rasheed al Masri
- Mr. Mahmoud Mohammad Abu Ghazaleh
- Dr. Omar Naim Abdul Hadi
- Mr. Riyadh Burhan Kamal
- Sons of Munib Rasheed Masri
- Mr. Mohamed Fahmi Leddawi
- Mr. Fouad Qaraman
- Jamal Amar Masri Company
- Mr. Rawhi Abdul Hamid Malhas
- Mr. Rami Rawhi Malhas
- Mr. Samir Naim Abdul Hadi
- Mr. Mohamed Qaraman
- Mr. Iyad Fahmi Seifi
- Haj Ali Al-Tibi
- Mr. Marwan Al-Sayeh
- Mr. Muhannad Jamal Masri
- Mr. Tarif Hamdi Qasas
- Mr. Abdel Hameed Wajih Sharaf
- Mr. Bassam Hamdi Aker
- Heirs of late Mr. Omar and Mrs. Tamador Aloul
- Mr. Mohammad Amin Al-Saadi





Nablus
Through History



Nablus Through History

Nablus was built over a hill named Tall Balata, located at the eastern gate of Nablus city near Balata Village. Historical documents indicate that the city was founded in 2500 B.C. by the Canaanite tribes who named it Shekem, which means high land or shoulder.

In 1550 B.C. Shekem was brutally vandalized by Pharaohs, and then was invaded by Hebrews, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians and Greeks until it was conquered by Romans in 63 B.C. During the period 69–72 A.D., The Roman Emperor Vespasian dismantled Shekem, built a new city to the west, and named it Neapolis, which means ‘the new city’, later renamed Nablus. After adopting Christianity as the official religion in the fourth century, Romans built two cathedrals in Nablus, Jacob's Well near Tall Balata, and Virgin Mary over mount Jerzim.

Like other Palestinian cities, Nablus was invaded by Persians in 615 A.D., but Romans, led by Heracles, ended their rule in 628. A few years later, Muslim conquerors led by Amr Ibn El-Ass defeated the Romans in the battles of Yarmouk and Ajnadin, and controlled the city that became a melange of different religious groups, including

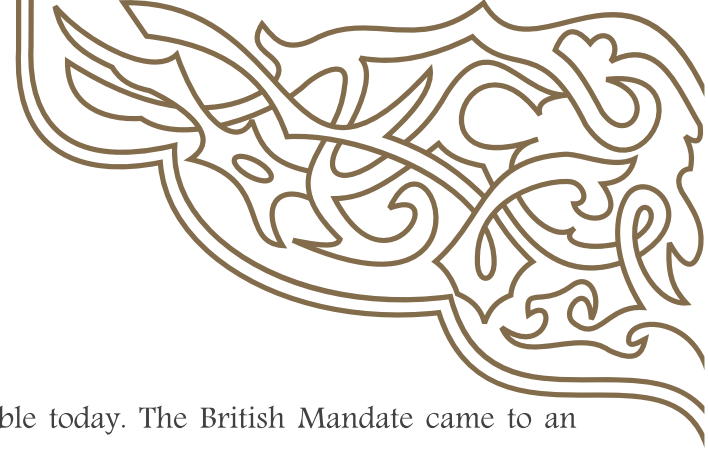


Nablus in 1890





Arab soldiers in Nablus in 1941
Junction Fatimid



Muslims, Christians and Samaritans. During the Islamic reign, Arabic language dominated in Nablus as it was the language of Holy Quran. In 968, Nablus was subject to the Fatimids rule, who were defeated by crusades in 1099. Muslims led by Saladin managed to regain Palestine in 1187. After 1197, Nablus flourished and witnessed great development and prosperity under the Mamluk rule in different fields of science and arts. The Mamluks rule ended when Ottomans defeated them in 1516 in the battle of Marj Dabek. During the Ottoman era, Nablus witnessed renaissance in construction and restoration of historic buildings, and during this period Nablus Municipality was established in 1869.

Following the fall of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, Nablus was subject to the British Mandate in 1918, and nine years later, the city was hit by a devastating earthquake in 1927, destroying many of its buildings the effects of which are still

visible today. The British Mandate came to an end in 1947, when Zionists occupied Palestine in 1948 and expelled Palestinians from 400 cities and villages, on which the state of Israel was established.

In April 1950, the Jordanian parliament annexed the West Bank to East Jordan Emirate and announced the inception of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan until 1967 when Israel



occupied West Bank and Gaza until this day.

In December 1987, the First Palestinian Intifada out broke, engaging Palestinians from all West



Bank and Gaza areas. Nablus was actively involved in this intifada which led to the Oslo Accords signed between Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel in 1993, paved the way towards establishing the Palestinian National Authority on 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

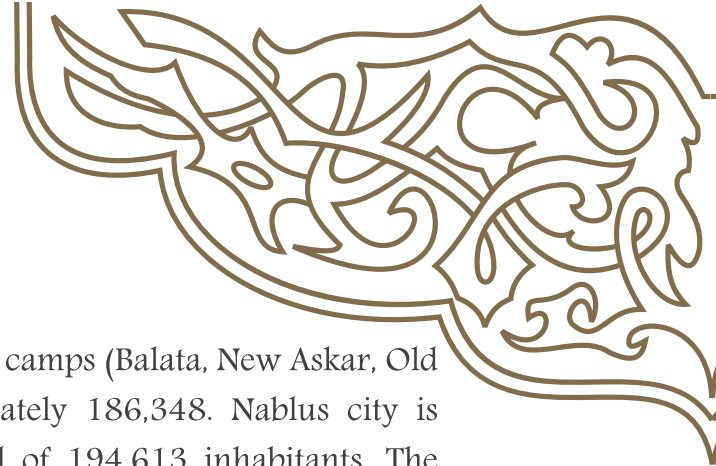
But the Israeli denial of the terms of Oslo, and the Palestinians right to establish their own independent state raised tension between Palestinians and Israel, and led to the Second Intifada out broke in late 2000, during which the Israelis invaded all Palestinian cities, caused significant damage to the public infrastructure, killed and injured countless of innocent people.





Geographic Location

Nablus city located in a significant strategic location linking north with the south. It is located on the main road that extends from Nazareth to Jenin in the north to Hebron in the south, and from Jafa in the west to Jericho in the East. The city is 69 km from Jerusalem, 114 km from the Jordanian capital (Amman), and 42 km from the Mediterranean sea with 35,16 longitude and 32,13 latitude.



Population

The total population of Nablus city including refugee camps (Balata, New Askar, Old Askar, and Ein Bet-Elma) in 2015 was approximately 186,348. Nablus city is surrounded by 58 towns and villages with a total of 194,613 inhabitants. The number of the total population of Nablus governorate is about 380,961, according to population estimates published by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics .

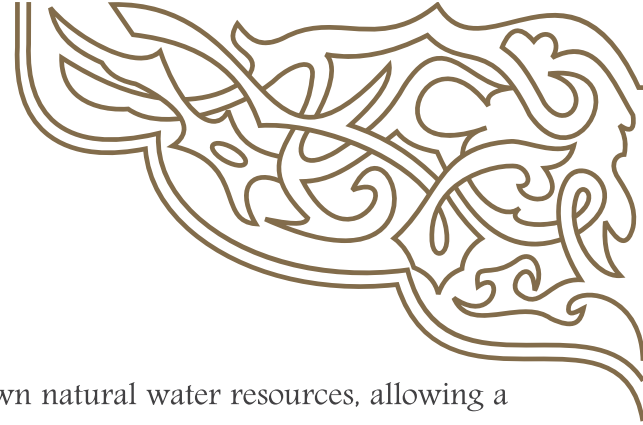
Land area

The total land area of Nablus governorate reaches approximately 605 km², while the total land area of city measures up to 29 km². The built land area, it reaches to approximately 8,700 km², representing 30% of the total land area.

Climate

Located within the Mediterranean region, Nablus enjoys a moderate climate with average maximum temperature reaching 13.1 centigrade during the coldest month (January), and the minimum temperature reaching 6.2 centigrade. As for the month of August, the average maximum temperature reaching 29,4 centigrade, while the minimum reaching 19,5 centigrade. North-westerly winds predominate, with an average speed of 10 km/hr, while humidity average is approximately 61%.





Water Resources

Unlike other Palestinian cities, Nablus is distinctive for having its own natural water resources, allowing a relative degree of self-sufficiency and enabling access for drinkable water to all citizens living in the city, refugee camps and surrounding villages. Nablus has six natural water springs (Ras El-Ein, Qaryon, Ein El-Asal, Ein Dafna, Ein Beit El-Maa, and Qawarin), representing about 14% of produced water. The remaining quantity of water is produced in and distributed from five water wells located in different parts of the city (Sabastia, Deir Sharaf, Al-Badan, and Odala), representing 77% of total produced water. The rest comes from three wells (Beit Eba, Juneid, and Rujeeb), representing 9% of overall produced water quantity. The daily shortage of water quantity amounts to 4500 m³, while average of daily individual consumption counts to 69,3 ltr.



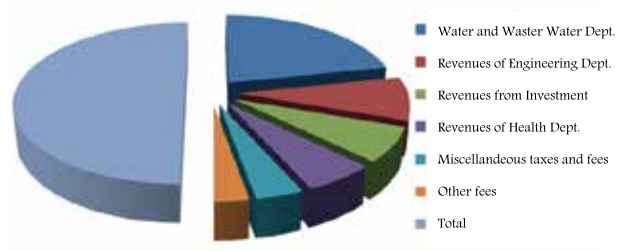


Land Use

The overall land size of Nablus city is 29 km², classified and distributed according to the nature of usage, of which 42.9% of total lands reserved for different types of residential areas. About 22,3% is being used for streets and proposed roads, while public parks, gardens, green areas and public utilities occupy 11,1% of total land area. The old city of Nablus occupies 1,4%, with a similar percentage for the refugee camps. The remaining land area is classified as agricultural, industrial, commercial, cemeteries, and stone crushers zones.

Municipality Revenues

Nablus Municipality revenues come from a number of taxes and fees levied from local citizens for service provisions in different sectors. The majority of revenues represented in fees collected from water and waste water services, and citizens' contribution in connecting to the main waste water networks which amount to 43,42%. Revenues pertaining to the engineering department, including licenses' fees, fees for organization returns, public transport stations, and car meters with a total of 17,26%. Investment returns include revenues collected from shares, real estate and municipal properties, rental fees, and those charged by Central Vegetable Market; all of which amounting to 13,87%. Additionally, revenues charged by Health and Environment Department such as solid waste and slaughter house fees with total of 11,90%, while other miscellaneous fees including industries and profession licenses, and signs fees amount to 13,56% including Municipality shares from NEDCO and Pal Aqar companies

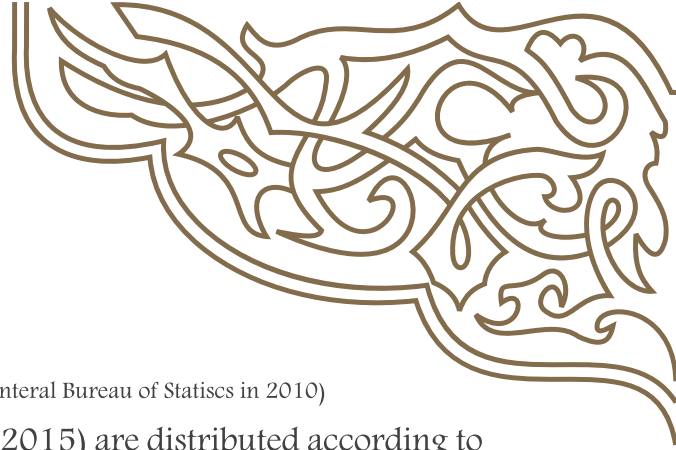


Numbers and Statistics

Demographic Statistics

(The following statistics are according to the census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2010)

- Population of Nablus Governorate (estimates for the year 2015) are distributed according to place of residence as follows:
 - Urban areas 210,285 people
 - Refugee Camps 36,612 people
 - Rural areas 134,065 people
- The total area of Nablus governorate is 605 km², while the area of the Nablus city 29km². The total built area size is about 5% of the total area of Nablus governorate.
- Population growth in Nablus governorate is 2.4%.(year 2014)
- The number of Nablus governorate families total 58,759 families, with average number of family members is 5.4. (year 2014)
- The male to female ratio of Nablus governorate reached 50.5% males, and 49.9% females (year 2014)
- The male manpower ratio versus female of Nablus governorate reached 76.4% males and 23.7% females, with average manpower for both at 50.2% (year 2014)
- The unemployment rate of Nablus governorate reached 17.6% (year 2014)
- The electricity subscribers of Nablus city and surrounding areas reached 56,825 (households), 1237 (industrial), 13,191 (commercial), the total subscribers extending to 71,253 subscription for the year 2015.
- The total water subscribers for Nablus city reached 40,962 for the year 2015.





Education Sector

(The following statistics are for the year 2015)

- The total number of public and private schools in addition to the UNRWA schools in Nablus governorate is 258 schools with 95,700 students distributed as follows:
 - Number of public schools in Nablus governorate is 217 schools with 79,39 students.
 - Number of UNRWA schools in Nablus governorate is 14 with 4500 students
 - Number of private schools in Nablus governorate is 27 schools with 6800 students.
- There are two universities in Nablus governorate:
 - Najah National University with 21,359 students
 - Al-Quds Open University with 8500 students
- There are 4 colleges in Nablus governorate:
 - Hisham Hijjawi with 537 students, and Najah College with 740 students
 - Al-Rawda College with 877 students
 - Andaleeb Amad Nursery College with 225 students
 - Ibn Sina for Health Science College (Huwwara) including 300 students
- There are 128 Kindergartens in Nablus Governorate, which include 9828 children, while the number in Nablus city is 65 including 5000 children.
- Illiterate rate in Nablus Governorate counts to 3.7%



Industrial Sector

(The following are list of industries which are registetered officially)

Food stores and factories	130
Wood and metal furniture factories	70
Textile factories	150
Marble and stone crushers factories	177
Brick and tiles factories	80
stone, asphalt and concrete	50
Paper, plastic and animal feed industries	80

Health Sectors

Hospitals	7 (2 pubic, 2 private, 3 charity/private)
Number of beds	587
Primary Health Care Centers	68
Incubators	72
(Doctors) General practioners	283
Specialists doctors	174
Pharmacies	182
On-job dentists	324
Pharmaceuticals Companies	21
Medical laboratories	18
Optical centers	17



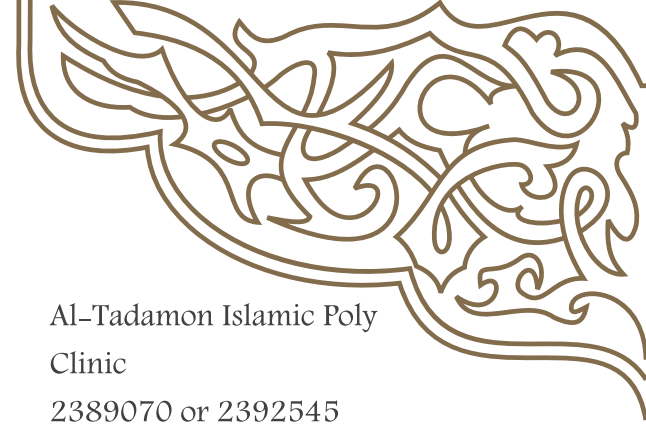
Dental laboratories	18
Cosmetics factories and veterinary drugs	8
X-Ray Centers	7
Physiotherapy	13

Tourism Sectors

Hotel and motels	7
Restaurants and coffee shops	389
Baths and swimming pools	2 swimming pools and 3 baths
Transport taxi officers	41
Travel and tourism offices	9

Archaeological and Historic Sites


Archaeological sites	7
Historic mosques	11
Islamic shrines	8
Christian sites	4
Historic Palaces	25
Turkish baths	8
Soap Factories	23
Souqs and Khans	5
Public spaces	7



Important contacts

Nablus Municipality
2390000 or 2379313

Fire Brigade
2381011 or 102

Claim Center
From land phone 115, from Jawwal
112
Email: Nablus@nablus.org
www.nablus.org
 Nablus Municipality

Nablus Governorate
23844134

Nablus Chamber of Commerce
2380335

Nablus Business Forum
2349590

Nablus Police Department
2383040 or 100

Ministry of Health Directorate
2345601 or 2384773

Nablus Speciality Hospital
2341505

Arab Speciality Hospital
2344312

Women Union Hospital
2371491

Saint Lukes Hospital
2383578, 2386257

Al-Watani Hospital
2383599

Rafidia Surgical Hospital
2390390

An-Najah National University
Hospital
2331471

Patients Friendship Society
(Al-Rahma Poly Clinic)
2381345

Al-Tadamon Islamic Poly
Clinic
2389070 or 2392545

Palestinian Red Crescent
2380215

Military Medical Services
Askar Refugee Camp
2312258

Balata Refugee Camp
2325303

Ein Beit Elma Refugee Camp
2387385

Najah National University
2345560 – 2345260

Al-Quds Open University,
Nablus Branch
2342971

Directorate of Education
2389495