

Ash Shuyukh Town Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar program

2009

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process, and to the local institutions who helped review the data.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

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

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

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

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

Table of Contents

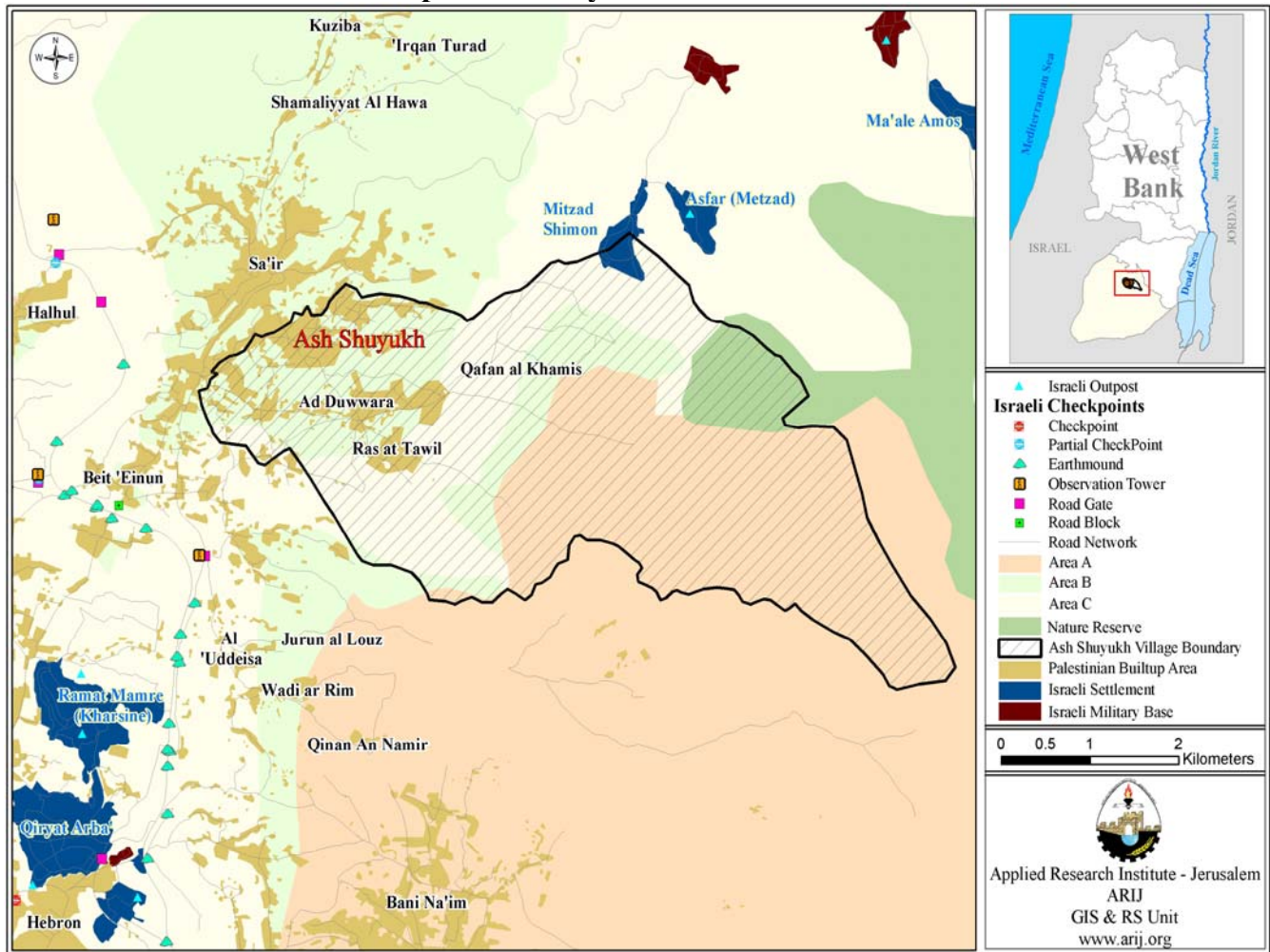
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>History</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Religious and Archeological Sites</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Population</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Education</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Health Status</i>	<u>9</u>
<i>Economic Activities</i>	<u>10</u>
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	<u>12</u>
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	<u>14</u>
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	<u>14</u>
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i>	<u>15</u>
<i>Implemented Development Plans and Projects</i>	<u>16</u>
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	<u>17</u>
<i>References</i>	<u>18</u>

Ash Shuyukh Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Ash Shuyukh is a town in Hebron Governorate located 6 km northeast of Hebron City in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Sa'ir town from three sides, the north, the west, and the south, and by open spaces to the east (See map 1).

Map 1: Ash Shuyukh location and borders



Ash Shuyukh extends over a mountainous area northeast of Hebron Mountains at an elevation of 965 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Ash Shuyukh is about 400 mm, the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

According to the classifications of the Ministry of Local Authority, Ash Shuyukh town includes the localities of Ash Shuyukh and 'Qafan al Khamis.

From 1993 through mid 1999, a Village Council of 11 appointed members governed Ash Shuyukh. In mid 1999, the Palestinian Authority appointed a Municipal Council, which was newly elected in 2005, and is comprised of 11 members .There are 24 employees in the municipality. The Municipal Council is responsible for:

1. Administration, planning; development and issuing building licenses.
2. Infrastructure maintenance of water, electricity, solid waste collection, and construction of and paving roads.
3. Establishing educational, cultural and health centers.
4. Social affairs and welfare.
5. Opening of agricultural roads and land reclamation.

History

Ash Shuyukh is an ancient town tracing its roots to the period of the pre-Islamic era. However, during the Islamic era, its strategic location was a pathway for the Islamic armies and one of the trading routes at that time. The name of the town is derived from the name of Sheikh al Hudmi, one of the leaders of the Islamic armies led by Salah-addin at the time of the Crusades, who settled in this town after the Islamic conquest. He was buried in the town, and a mosque was built on his burial site to honor him. (Dabbagh, 1991).

Photos of Ash Shuyukh Town



Religious and Archeological Sites

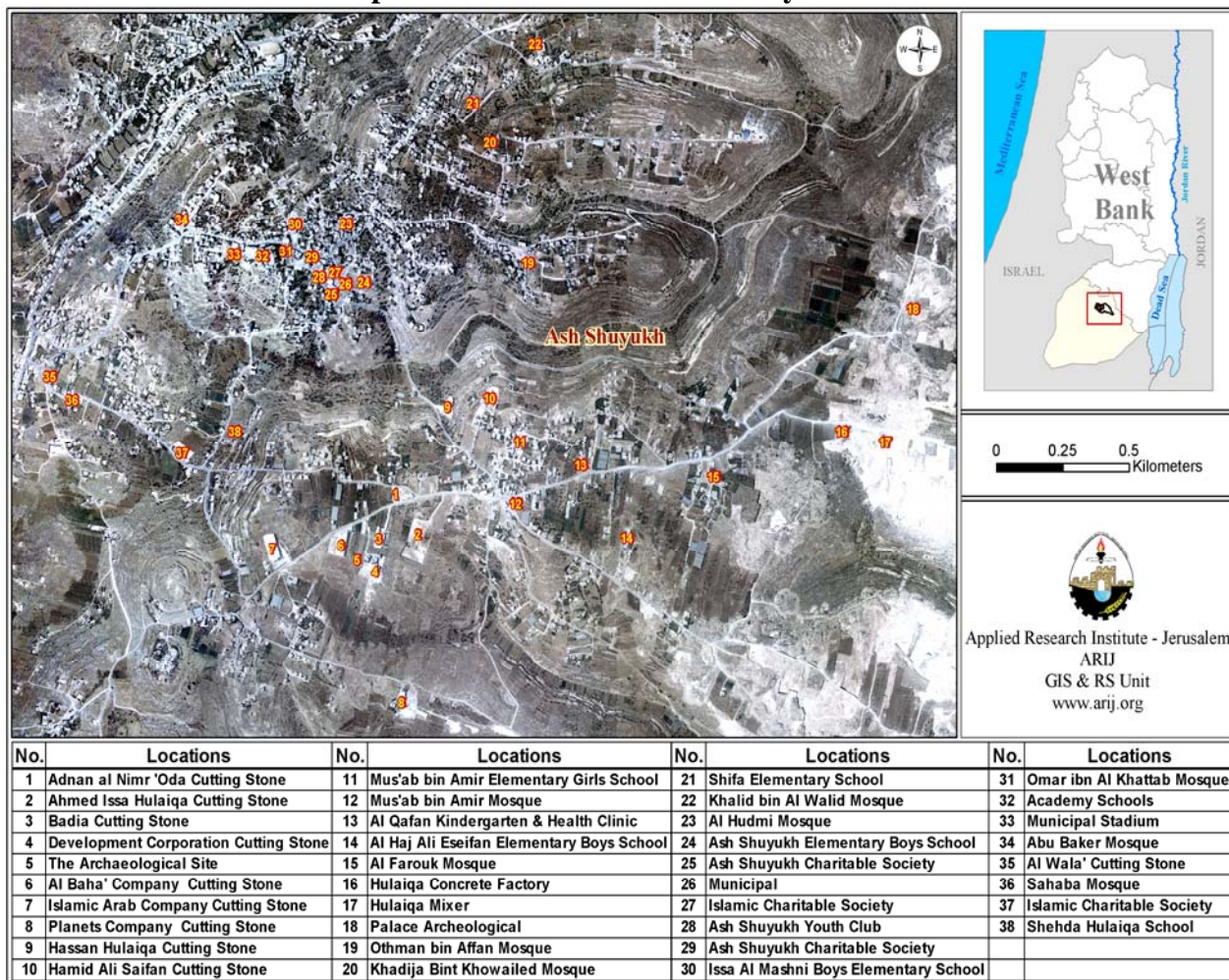
There are two Islamic shrines and a number of mosques within Ash Shuyukh and Qafan al Khamis boundary:

- Al Hudbi Shrine
- Abu Safar Shrine
- Al Hudbi Mosque

- Al Atqeiya' Mosque
- Al Nasser Mosque
- Mus'ab bin 'Amir Mosque
- Abu Bakr al Saddik Mosque
- Amr bin al Jomouh Mosque
- Othman bin Affan Mosque
- Khadija Bint Khowailed Mosque
- Al Farouq Mosque

There are many historical and archeological sites in the town as well. Many ruins existing in the town are traced back to the Roman and Byzantine Eras, such as the ruins in the Qaisariyah area, ruins of a Church in Abu Ghnaim area, and a monastery (Deir Suwada). There are also ruins that date back to the Islamic period such as the Omarrian Mosque and two of the Caliph's palaces and Rajm el Qaser place.

Map 2: Main locations in Ash Shuyukh town



Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Ash Shuyukh, in 2007, was 8,811; of whom 4,503 were males and 4,308 were females. There were 1,438 households resident in 1,754 housing units. Table 1 shows the population of Ash Shuyukh by locality and sex in 2007.

The population of Ash Shuyukh constituted 1.84% of the total population of Hebron Governorate in 2007.

Locality	Male	Female	Total
Ash Shuyukh*	3,802	3,654	7,456
Qafan al Khamis*	701	654	1,355
Total **	4,503	4,308	8,811

*Estimated numbers based upon the 1997 Census

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

Age groups and gender

The 2007 census data shows the population distribution of Ash Shuyukh by age groups and sex. The census data showed that 45.1% are less than 15 years of age, 52% are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.9% are 65 years old and above. The sex ratio in the town was 104 males for every 100 females with males constituting 51.1% of the population and females 48.9%.

Families

Five main families make up the population of Ash Shuyukh: Al Halaykah, Al 'Ayaideh, Uwaiydhah, Al Worassenah, and Al Hassasnah.

Education

According to the 2007 census, 7.6% of residents were illiterate; women comprised a greater percentage (78%) of the illiterate population than men (22%). Of the literate population, 13.8% read and write, 24.2% had completed elementary education, 28.6% had completed preparatory education, 17% completed their secondary education and only 8.9% had achieved a higher education. Table 2 shows the education status in Ash Shuyukh by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Master	Ph. D	Total
M	96	376	756	910	553	101	209	24	2	3,027
F	357	446	687	791	458	73	116	1	-	2,929
T	453	822	1,443	1,701	1,011	174	325	25	2	5,956

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

Three levels of school education are available in Ash Shuyukh town: pre-school (kindergartens), elementary and secondary education. Field survey data revealed that of the nine schools in Ash Shuyukh, four are boys' schools, three are girls' schools and two are co-educational schools. Eight schools are governmental and only one school is supervised by the private sector. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 3.

No.	School name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Dalal Al Moghraby Secondary Girls School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
2.	Ash Shuyukh Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
3.	Mus'ab bin Amir Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	Governmental
4.	Ash Shuyukh Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
5.	Shuhada' Ash Shuyukh Elementary Boys School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
6.	Al Hadj Ali Eseifan Elementary Boys School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
7.	Al Hadj Issa Al Mashni Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
8.	Ash Shefa Elementary Co-education School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental
9.	Al Hudmi Elementary Co-education School	Elementary	Co-education	Private

The data from the Ministry of Higher Education showed that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 3,079 students (1,533 males and 1546 female), 89 classes and 117 teachers in Ash Shuyukh town (See table 4).

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	4	0	4
	No. of class	39	0	39
	No. of Teachers	51	0	51
	No. of Students	1,366	0	1,366
Female	No. of Schools	3	0	3
	No. of class	39	0	39
	No. of Teachers	53	0	53
	No. of Students	1,417	0	1,417
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	1	2
	No. of class	5	6	11
	No. of Teachers	6	7	13
	No. of Students	124	172	296

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

In 2007, there were two kindergartens in Ash Shuyukh. These kindergartens provided pre-school education services to 415 children. Table 5 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Children	Supervising Authority
1.	Ash Shuyukh Charitable Society	200	Charitable Society
2.	Al Manar Kindergartens	215	Charitable Society

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2006

Education in Ash Shuyukh town suffers from many obstacles. For example, there are not enough classrooms to accommodate all students from the town and the schools are located far from the residential areas in the town.

Health Status

There are several health facilities and centers within the town boundaries. These health centers are mainly private, though there are some governmental and charitable health institutions in the town. Table 6 shows the number of health centers in Ash Shuyukh town.

Table 6: Number of health institutions in Ash Shuyukh by supervising authority.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	1	6	1	1
Dental Clinic	-	3	-	2
Health Clinic	2	-	-	1
X- Ray Centre	-	-	-	1
Medical Lab	-	-	-	1
Maternity & Pediatric Center	2	-	-	-
Pharmacy	-	3	-	-
Other (Physiotherapy)	-	3	-	-
Total	5	15	1	6

There is no ambulance available in the town, and in the case of emergencies, patients are sent to hospitals and health centers in Hebron or in Bethlehem, 15 and 30 km away, respectively. Israeli closures and procedures have affected the health sector in Ash Shuyukh; due to the town location on Route 60 (Israeli bypass road) and the construction of a permanent checkpoint at the main entry point of the town, patients face many problems and delays in reaching health facilities outside the town.

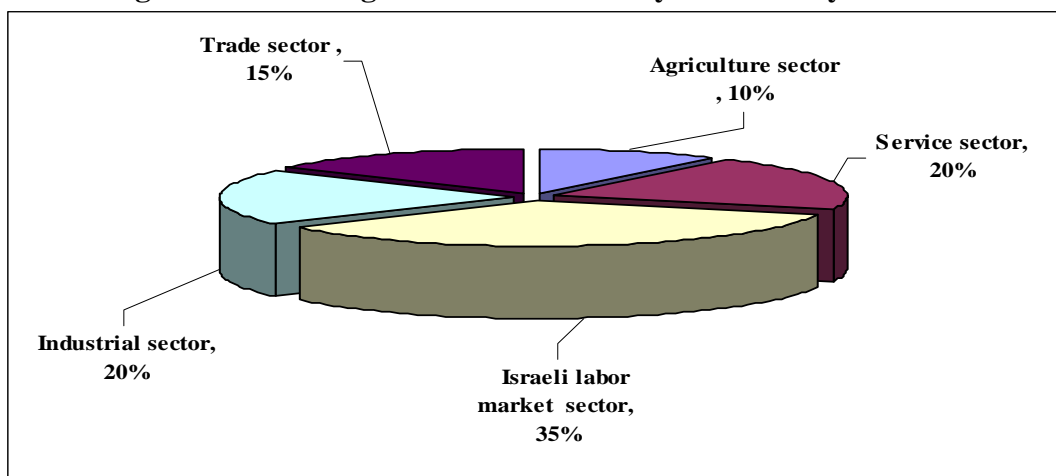
Shortages of many medicines and drugs in the health centers, lack of a radiology center and well-equipped emergency room, and the need for a well-established hospital within the town boundaries are all obstacles holding up the development of the health sector in Ash Shuyukh.

Economic Activities

Ash Shuyukh town enjoys a diversity of economic activity. A high percentage of the population works in the Israeli labor market. However, some residents are engaged in industry, agriculture and trade, as well as work in the public and private sectors. From Municipality data, the percentages below show the population division by sector:

- The agriculture sector 10%
- The service sector 20%
- Israeli labor market 35%
- The industrial sector 20%
- The trade sector 15%

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Ash Shuyukh town



The economic base of Ash Shuyukh town depends mainly on 15 stone-cutting factories, 2 stone mixers, 8 mechanical garages, 7 clothes shops, 12 butchers, 4 blacksmith workshops, 4 carpentry workshops, and more than 53 service shops and groceries.

Based on a survey conducted by ARIJ in 2007 in the Hebron Governorate, the social groups most affected in the town by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada are:

- 1) Previous workers in Israeli labor market
- 2) Families of six individuals and more
- 3) Small traders
- 4) Small farmers
- 5) Housekeeping and children

Labor Force

The 2007 census labor force statistics for Ash Shuyukh and Qafan al Khamis show that 58.6% of the population was within the working age group (10 years and above). Of the 5,956 people within the working age range (10 years and above), approximately 1,747 (29.3%) were economically active (in the labor force), and 4,189 (70.3%) were not economically active (outside the labor force). Of the economically active, 95.2% were males. The largest groups within the non-economically active population were students and housekeepers persons, constituting 32.7% and 44.5% of that population respectively. Table 7 shows the labor force statistics from Ash Shuyukh town in 2007.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Students	House keepers	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	1,371	74	114	1,559	1,184	5	180	45	38	1,452	3,027
F	171	4	13	188	1,221	1,364	139	5	8	2,737	2,929
T	1,542	78	127	1,747	2,405	1,369	319	50	46	4,189	5,956

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

Agricultural Sector

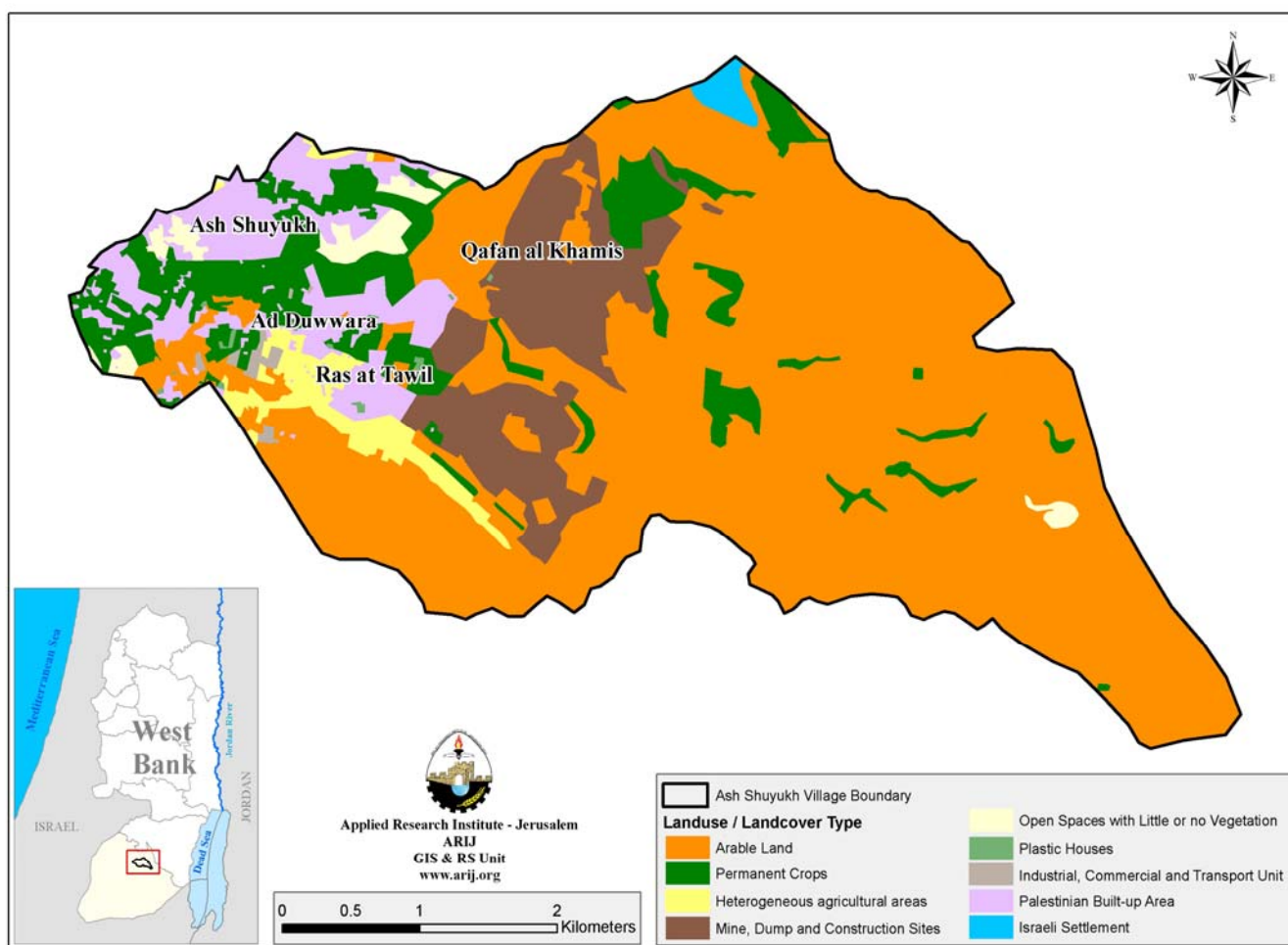
Ash Shuyukh town is considered an agricultural town. Lying on a total area of 32,000 dunums, of which 5,000 dunums are considered arable land, the cultivated area in Ash Shuyukh is 3,758 dunums, while there are about 4,000 dunums uncultivated due to Israeli procedures (either through confiscation or settlement expansion), shortage of capital, and shortage of water. (See table 8 and map 3)

Table 8: Land Use in Ash Shuyukh Town (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
32,000	3,758	1242	3,500	100	23,400

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Ash Shuyukh town



Most agriculture in Ash Shuyukh is rain-fed; however, the field survey data indicated that farmers also depend on water networks and cisterns for irrigation. In addition, special greenhouse varieties

of certain crops extend over 24 dunums of Ash Shuyukh town. About 18 dunums of this area are used for growing cucumbers, and 6 dunums are used for growing tomatoes.

Tables 9 and 10 show the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivation of vegetables and fruits in the town. The irrigated leafy vegetables, such as white cabbage, parsley, and spinach are the most cultivated vegetables covering an area of about 50 dunums. In addition, fruity vegetables are commonly cultivated within this area, such as zucchini, tomatoes and snake cucumber.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
18	36	2	50	3	9	0	13	6	20	29	128

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

A total area of 1,338 dunums of land is planted with olive trees, and other fruit trees planted in the area include mostly plum trees, apricot trees, almond trees, fig trees and grape vines (Table 10).

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
1,338	0	0	0	383	0	92	0	68	0	1,200	0	3,081	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are two very well known and widely used aromatic medicinal plant species in the town, thyme and sage, which are spread over a total area of three dunums.

The primary cultivated field crops in Ash Shuyukh are cereals, in particular wheat and barley. They are cultivated over an area of 265 dunums (Table 11). The cultivation of dry legumes, such as lentils, is also common in the town.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
265	0	11	0	55	0	50	0	5	0	0	0	386	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Data collected from ARIJ survey in Hebron Governorate in 2007 indicates that some residents of Ash Shuyukh town, comprising 1% of the total town population, are dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock, such as sheep, goats and chickens.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
16	1650	1200	35	15	300,000	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The agricultural sector's pursuits continue to develop, necessitating agricultural support programs, in addition to extension services and trainings, in the community. There is also a need to construct and rehabilitate the agricultural roads in the town to cover the vast agricultural area, as there are only 22 km of agricultural roads in Ash Shuyukh that are only suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery.

Institutions and Services

Ash Shuyukh has many institutions that manage the affairs of the town. For services unavailable in the town, residents utilize national institutions and ministerial offices in Hebron City, the main city in the Governorate. The main offices and institutions include:

- A Post Office
- Ash Shuyukh Municipality: Established in 1993, a new council of 11 members was elected in 2005. Currently, the municipality provides public services to the residents such as water and electricity, solid waste management, organizing and issuing building license, etc.
- Ash Shuyukh Municipality Public Library: Established in 2006, it provides books, workshops and seminars for the public as well as other educational services.
- Ash Shuyukh Charitable Society: Established in 1965, it has seven members and provides health, educational, training and social services.
- Ash Shuyukh Zakat Committee: Established in 1987 with seven members, its main objectives are to take care of the poor families, distribute humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable and support poor students.
- Islamic Charitable Society: Established in 1998, it provides services for orphans, as well as summer camps for children.
- Ash Shuyukh Youth Club: Established in 1995 with nine members, it provides sport activities, training courses and summer camps.
- Ash Shuyukh woman Club: Established in 2002 to foster social development for women.
- Savings and Credit Society: Established in 2004 to help college students.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Approximately 40% of the households living in Ash Shuyukh town are connected to the telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** Almost 80% of the housing units in Ash Shuyukh town have been connected to a water network since 1978. Currently, the Palestinian Water Authority is the main provider of water in the town. There is a water reservoir in Ash Shuyukh with a capacity of 500 m³ that is used in the summer season, in addition to cisterns, which are used as an

alternative water resource, and a water spring that is used mainly for agricultural activities. Despite such water resources, Ash Shuyukh town water services suffer from many problems including the continuous water shortage especially in summertime, an old and rotting network, and the lack of enough water tanks owned by the municipality. The network was rehabilitated in 2008/2009; however, it needs extension to reach new neighborhoods and the industrial and stonecutting areas.

- **Electricity Services:** Ash Shuyukh connected to an electricity network in 1980, though in 2000, a new electricity network was constructed, and approximately 98% of the housing units in the town are currently connected to the network. Ash Shuyukh town council manages the distribution of electricity, which is supplied by the Israeli Electric Company. The network was expanded and new generators were provided.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Ash Shuyukh Municipality manages solid waste collection in the town. According to the ARIJ field survey data, approximately 12 m³ of solid waste is produced daily in the town, which is disposed of at a dumping site owned by the Hebron municipality. Burning is the primary method used in solid waste disposal. There is a shortage in dumpsters and disposal trucks.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** The sewage disposal system in Ash Shuyukh town is chronically under-funded. There is no sewage disposal network, and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits. This causes ground water pollution.
- **Transportation Services:** There are about 42 km of roads in Ash Shuyukh town; 7 km are paved and in a good condition, 10 km are paved yet not in good condition and 25 km are unpaved. The transportation system in the town is poorly developed and there are no public transport services, though 10 vehicles serve as informal taxis. Residents face many obstacles while moving from the town to other localities due to the existing Israeli checkpoint and barriers, and the bad condition of the roads.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Due to its location on the bypass road and adjacent to Israeli settlements, Ash Shuyukh town is subjected to many Israeli aggressions. For example, numerous Israeli temporary checkpoints and earth mounds surround the town, and approximately 200 dunums of the town lands have been confiscated for Israeli settlements (Metsada Asfar to the northeast and Metsada Shem'oun to the northeast) and bypass road construction. Moreover, since the beginning of the second Intifada in 2000, around nine houses have been demolished by Israeli forces.

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

Ash Shuyukh Municipality has established a master plan for the town, which includes numerous development projects, some of which have been implemented since 2004 (Table 13). The Municipality, in addition to outside donors and agencies funded these projects. For further information, see Ash Shuyukh website: <http://www.shyoukh.org>

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Construction of Al Haj Ali S'efan elementary school	Educational	Municipality and the Contribution of Local Community
2	Building the Municipality headquarters	Infrastructure	USAID and Ash Shuyukh Municipality
3	Opening and Rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	Municipalities' funds
4	Construction on an internal water network	Water	Municipality and Water Authority

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Ash Shuyukh Municipality, the town still has many development priorities and needs. Table 14 shows the needed infrastructural, health, educational and agricultural services for the town.

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Ash Shuyukh Town						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				47 Km
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				17 Km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			2000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network	*				
Health Needs						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*				
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools			*		
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*				
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				500 dunum
2	Building Cisterns	*				100
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			
7	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			
Other Needs						
1	Renovation of the Old City	*				
2	Finishing and opening of already constructed schools	*				
3	Establishing of an agricultural products market	*				

References:

- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing and Establishment Census-Final Results*. Ramallah, Palestine. 1997 -2007.
- Ad Dabbagh, Mustafa. *Palestine Our Homeland.*: Kufr Qare', Palestine: Dar Al Huda Press, 1991. (*In Arabic*)
- Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ). *GIS Database*. 2006-2009.
- Ministry of Agriculture. *Agricultural Status Database in Hebron Governorate*. 2006.
- Ministry of Higher Education. *Educational Status Database*. 2006-2007.