

# At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta Profile



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## *Background*

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

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

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

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

## *Table of Contents*

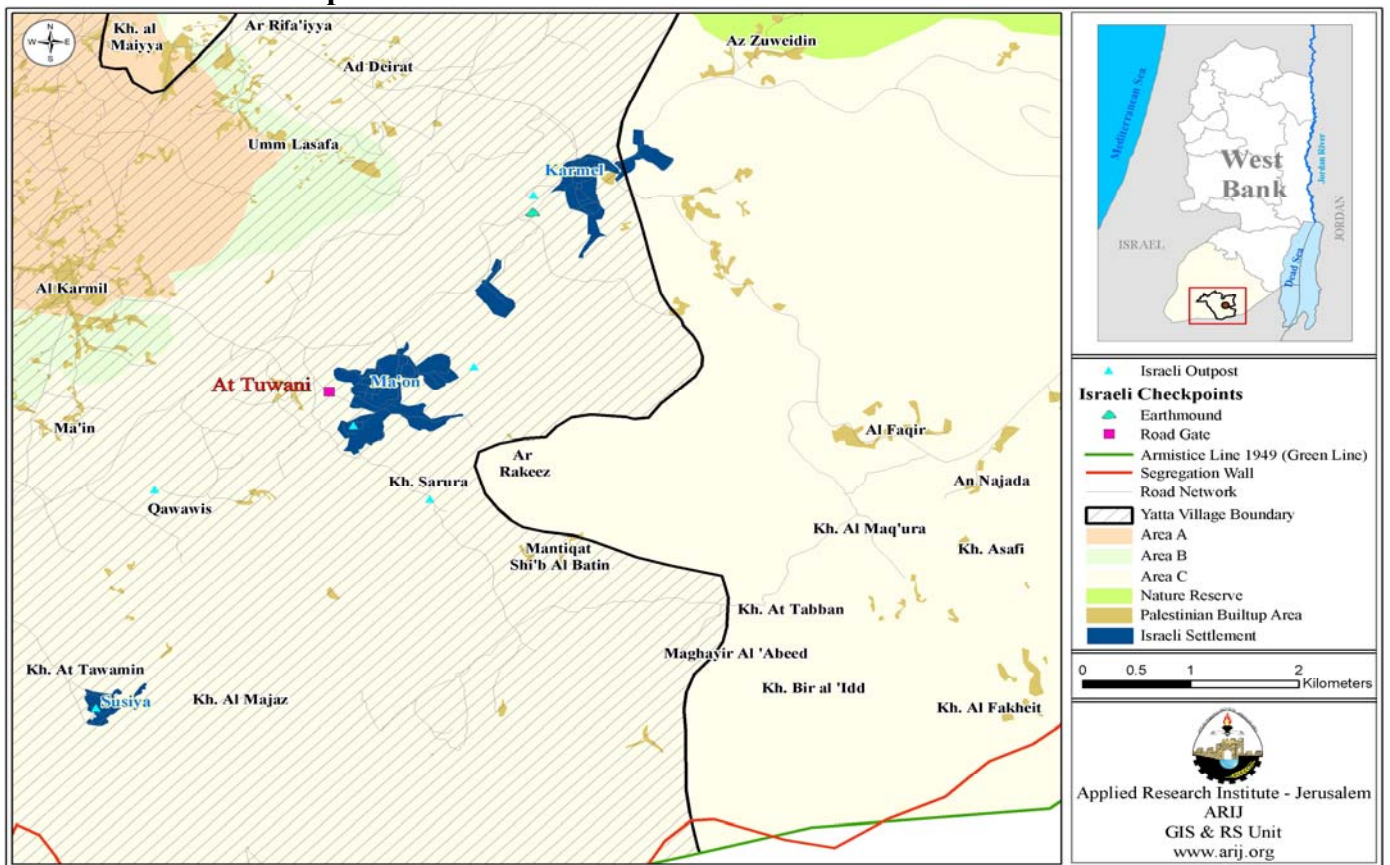
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>History</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Demography and Population</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Education</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Health Status</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Economic Activities</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	<u>10</u>
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	<u>11</u>
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	<u>11</u>
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i>	<u>12</u>
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	<u>13</u>
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	<u>13</u>
<i>References</i>	<u>14</u>

## *At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta Profile*

### Location and Physical Characteristics

At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta are localities within the Yatta Village Boundary (Under the British Mandate in 1948). They are located 14 and 24 km south of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. At Tuwani includes two localities and Mosfaret Yatta includes 19 small Bedouin localities. Due to its location middling between Yatta city and these localities, At Tuwani is considered as a center of all the localities. These are bordered by Armistice Line 1948 (Green Line) to the East and South, Yatta and As Samu' (separated by bypass Road No. 60) to the West, Yatta Bedouins to the North (See map 1).

**Map 1: At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta location and borders**



The total area of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta amounts to 37,500 dunums (1,500 dunums in At Tuwani and 36,000 dunums in Mosfaret Yatta), of which 1,015 dunums are classified as 'built up' area, 26,200 dunums as agricultural areas, 200 dunums open space and forest area and 10,200 dunums has been confiscated by Israeli forces.

The localities are located on moderate hills to the southeast of Yatta city, at an elevation between 518 m and 805 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall is 303 mm and 369 mm and the



average annual temperature is 18 °C. The average annual humidity in the village is 60% (ARIJ GIS).

According to the local authorities data; At\_Tuwani village comprises of At Tuwani, Faqra, and Tuba villages, whereas Mosfaret Yatta comprises 19 small localities which are: Janba, Al Markez, Al Halawa, Khirbet al Fakheit, Khirbet at Tabban, Khirbet al Majaz, Khirbet Asafi (Al Fouqa and At Tahta), Maghayir al 'Abeed, Mantiqat Shi'b al Batim, Qawawis, Khirbet Bir al 'Idd, Al Baqla, Khirbet Al Maq'ura, Ar Rakeez, Khalet Ed Dabe' , Sadat Eth Tha'la, Sarura and Al Tuba.

At Tuwani has been governed by a village council since 1994 which consists of seven voluntary members, whereas; Mosfaret Yatta is governed by a project committee appointed by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Authorities, the committee consists of seven members and provides infrastructural services in addition it follow up of the Israeli courts about the land ownership.

## **History**

According to the data collected from the localities, the history of the area dates back to Canaanite period, where there are many archeological remains in the area. Regarding the name Mosfaret Yatta, one narrative said that "Mosfaret" derives from travelling in Arabic, which comes from its distance from Yatta and the need to travel distance long way to reach it. Another narrative said that "Mosfaret" is derived from (nothing or zero) in Arabic because it was not suitable for anything, and there were no activities in the area. The residents of the area originally came from Yatta City.

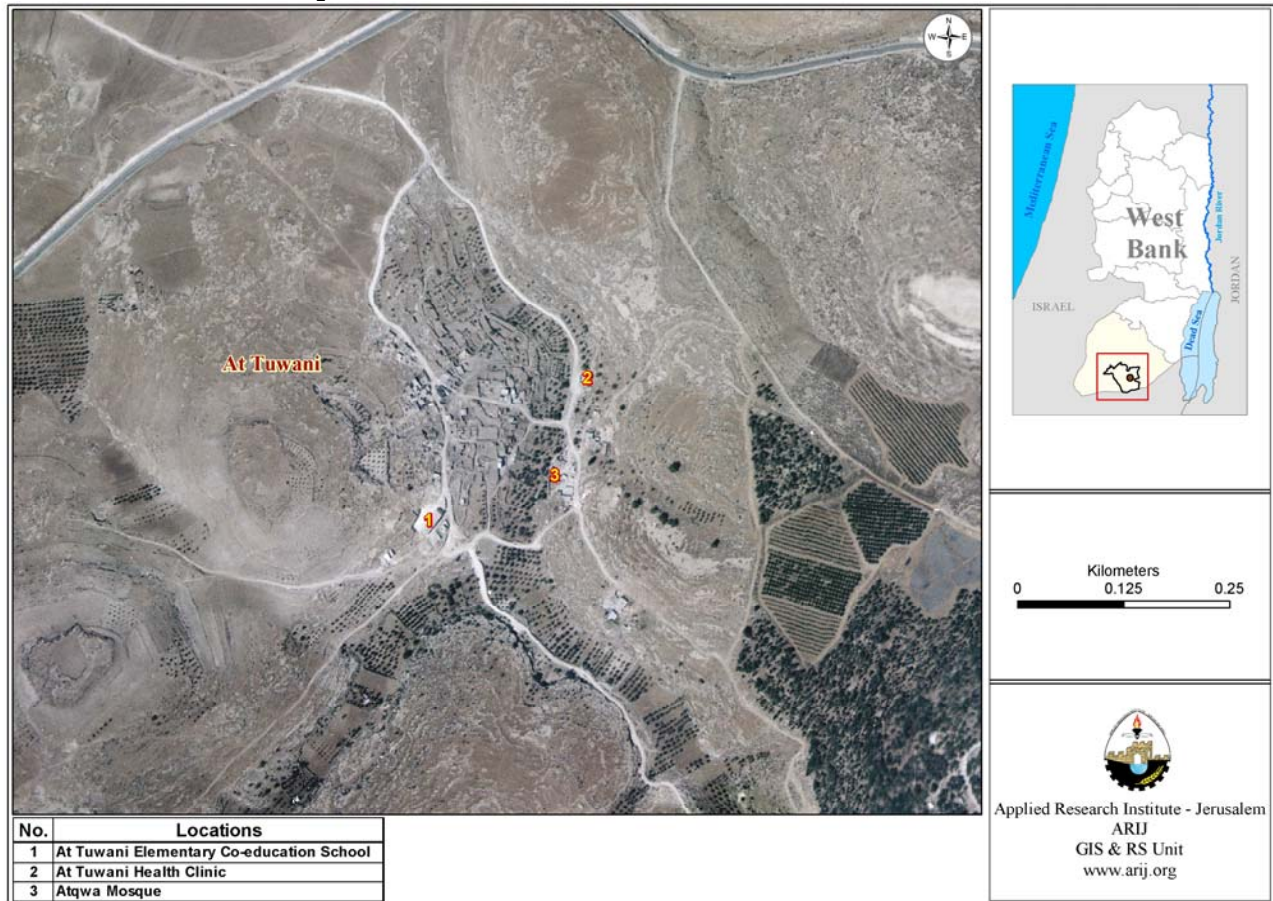
**Photo of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there is one mosque in At Tuwani which is “Atqwa Mosque” and there is one holy site in the village. In Mosfaret Yatta also there is one mosque in the form of a tent. Additionally, there is one historical site “Janba Pool”, but it is not used.

**Map 2: Main locations in At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta**



## Demography and Population

According to the 2007 Census conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta was 1,094 people, of which 576 were males and 518 were females, (326 people in At Tuwani and 768 people in Mosfaret Yatta). There were 174 households resident in 245 housing units (See table 1).

locality	Male	Female	Total
<b>At Tuwani</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>326</b>
Khirbet Asafi	53	42	95
Mantiqat Shi'b al Batim	71	66	137
Khirbet Tawil ash Shih	100	82	182
Maghayir al 'Abeed	2	2	4
Khirbet al Fakheit	114	117	231
Khirbet Bir al 'Idd	65	54	119
<b>Mosfaret Yatta</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>768</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>1,094</b>

### Age Groups and Gender

The 2007 Census data revealed the classification of population of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta by age group and sex. Census data showed that 45% were less than 15 years, 51.4% were in the age group 15-64 years and 3.6% were 65 years and above .

The sex ratio in the localities was 111.8 males for every 100 females. Males constituted 52.8% of the population (females constituted 47.2%). ((This data includes population figures from the villages of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta, Mosfaret Yatta includes: Khirbet Asafi, Mantiqat Shi'b al Batim, Khirbet Tawil ash Shih, Maghayir al 'Abeed, Khirbet al Fakheit and Khirbet Bir al 'Idd.))

### Families

The population of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta is comprised of the following main families: At Tuwani has: Al\_'Omour, Hamamda, and other small families. Mosfaret Yatta has: Jebreen, Abu 'Aram, Mohammad, Zian, Housheya, Sha'abeen, Rabe'I and Other Families.

### Migration

According to field survey data, there have been 50 migrations from At Tuwani due to Israeli procedures during the second Intifada, and the data collected from Mosfaret Yatta indicated that there were 350 migrations from the village due to the ongoing political and economic situation.

### Education

According to the (PCBS), Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007 results, about 23.7% of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta residents were illiterates, of whom women comprised 67% of the total illiterates in the localities, which is a greater percentage than that of men. Of the literate population, 32.2% of residents could read and write although they had not received formal education, 25.6% had completed elementary education, 12.4% had completed preparatory education and 5.5% had completed secondary education. Table 2 shows the education status in At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta by sex and education attainment in 2007.



**Table 2: At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment**

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PHD	Total
M	55	123	109	49	25	2	3	-	-	-	366
F	110	101	69	37	13	0	0	-	-	-	330
<b>T</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>696</b>

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

This data includes population figures from the villages of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta, Mosfaret Yatta includes :( Khirbet Asafi, Mantiqat Shi'b al Batim, Khirbet Tawil ash Shih, Maghayir al 'Abeed, Khirbet al Fakheit and Khirbet Bir al 'Idd.)

The field survey data indicated that there is only one governmental school in At Tuwani “At Tuwani Elementary Co-education School”. The data reveals also that there is no school in Mosfaret Yatta and that the students in Mosfaret Yatta are forced to travel 24 kilometres to reach Yatta schools so as to complete their elementary and secondary education.

According to the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data, by the end of the scholastic year 2006/2007 there were 74 students (47 males and 27 females), 6 teachers, and 5 co-educational classes in “At Tuwani Elementary Co-education School”.

As there are no preparatory and secondary schools in At Tuwani village, most of the students are required to complete their school education to Al Karmil schools, which is about 4 km a way.

The education status in the village suffers from many problems such as: of the distance to Al Karmil village for the students and the lack of suitable transportation, the violence of settlers against students and absence of any educational services in the schools.

## Health Status

At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta are remote localities; however there is only one health center in At Tuwani supervised by the Palestinian Medical Relief which is visited by a medical team once a week to provide health services and medical care to the residents, otherwise there are no health institution in the area. Mosfaret Yatta is visited by “Medecins Sans Frontieres” once a month.

The village’ officials state that the residents in the area are suffering from the lack of health centers, ambulances, pharmacies, medicines, and full-time duty doctors. Residents are forced to travel 10 or 24 kilometers to reach Yatta health centers and hospitals

The main problem of health status in the area is that the non-availability of health centres in the villages with full time physician.

## Economic Activities

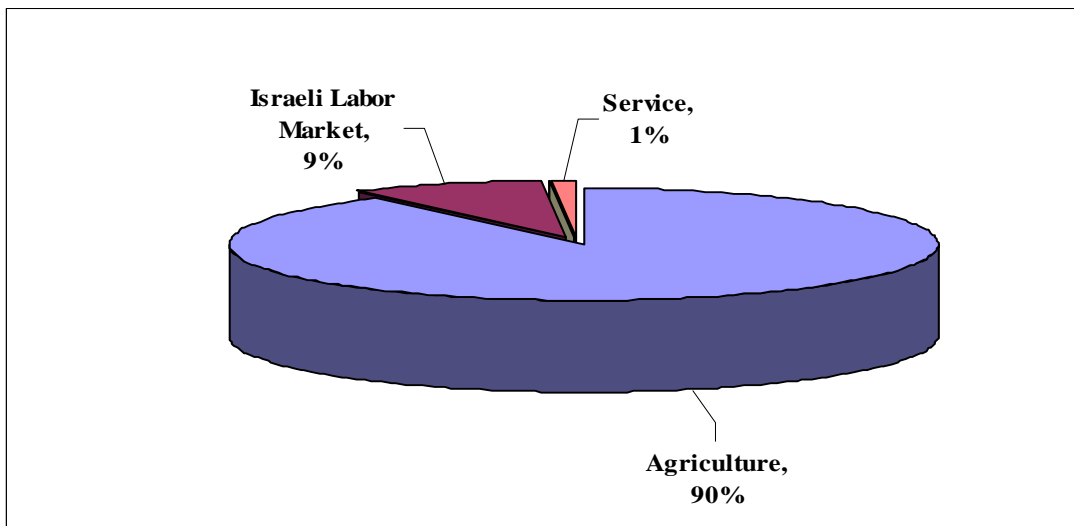
The economic base of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta is mainly dependant on the agricultural sector; nearly 90% of the total population in the working age of At Tuwani are engaged in

agricultural activities. Less than 10% of the population works in the Israeli labor market and is employed in the public and private sectors, and the whole population of Mosfaret Yatta are mainly depending on agricultural activities.

The data collected from the localities revealed that the shares of the population working in various sectors of economy, in Mosfaret Yatta all the residents engaged in the agricultural sector whereas in At Tuwani the various sectors listed below:

- The agricultural sector (90%),
- Israeli labour market (9%).
- Employees in governmental or private institutions (1%),

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in At Tuwani village**



Since At Tuwani is considered to be a center of the localities, it has one grocery to provide food and provisions to residents of all localities; otherwise the residents should go to Yatta to get their goods and services.

Based on the ARIJ survey conducted in 2007 in Hebron Governorate localities, the survey data indicated that the social groups most affected in At Tuwani by Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) Families maintaining 6 or more individuals, 2) Workers previously employed in the Israeli market, 3) Small farmers, 4) Housekeeping and children, and 5) Others, and in Mosfaret Yatta data indicated that the social groups in the village most affected by Israeli activities since the Second Intifada are small-holder farmers

**Labour Force**

According to PCPS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007 results, 67.1% of the total population of At Tuwani were of working age (i.e. 10 years and over); 223 people (32%) were economically active (in the labour force), and 473 people (68%) were economically inactive (outside the labour force). The economically active people were 99% males, and around 82.5% of

them were involved in work and activities. Of the economically inactive, 31.7% were students and 53% were housekeeping (See Table 3).

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Un Employed	Unemployed Never Worked	Total	Students	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	181	5	34	220	87	6	35	0	18	146	366
F	3	0	0	3	63	244	13	0	7	327	330
<b>T</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>696</b>

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, results  
 This data includes population figures from the villages of At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta, Mosfaret Yatta includes :( Khirbet Asafi, Mantiqat Shi'b al Batim, Khirbet Tawil ash Shih, Maghayir al 'Abeed, Khirbet al Fakheit and Khirbet Bir al 'Idd.)

## Agricultural Sector

At Tuwani is a small agricultural village and the bulk of residents depends on agricultural activities (90%), otherwise all the residents in Mosfaret Yatta are engaged in agricultural activities and rearing animals.

The total agricultural area in At Tuwani reaches 1,100 dunums, of mainly cultivated field crops and olive trees. According to the data collected from Mosfaret Yatta, the agricultural land forms about 96% of the area (about 25,000 dunums), mainly cultivated in field crops.

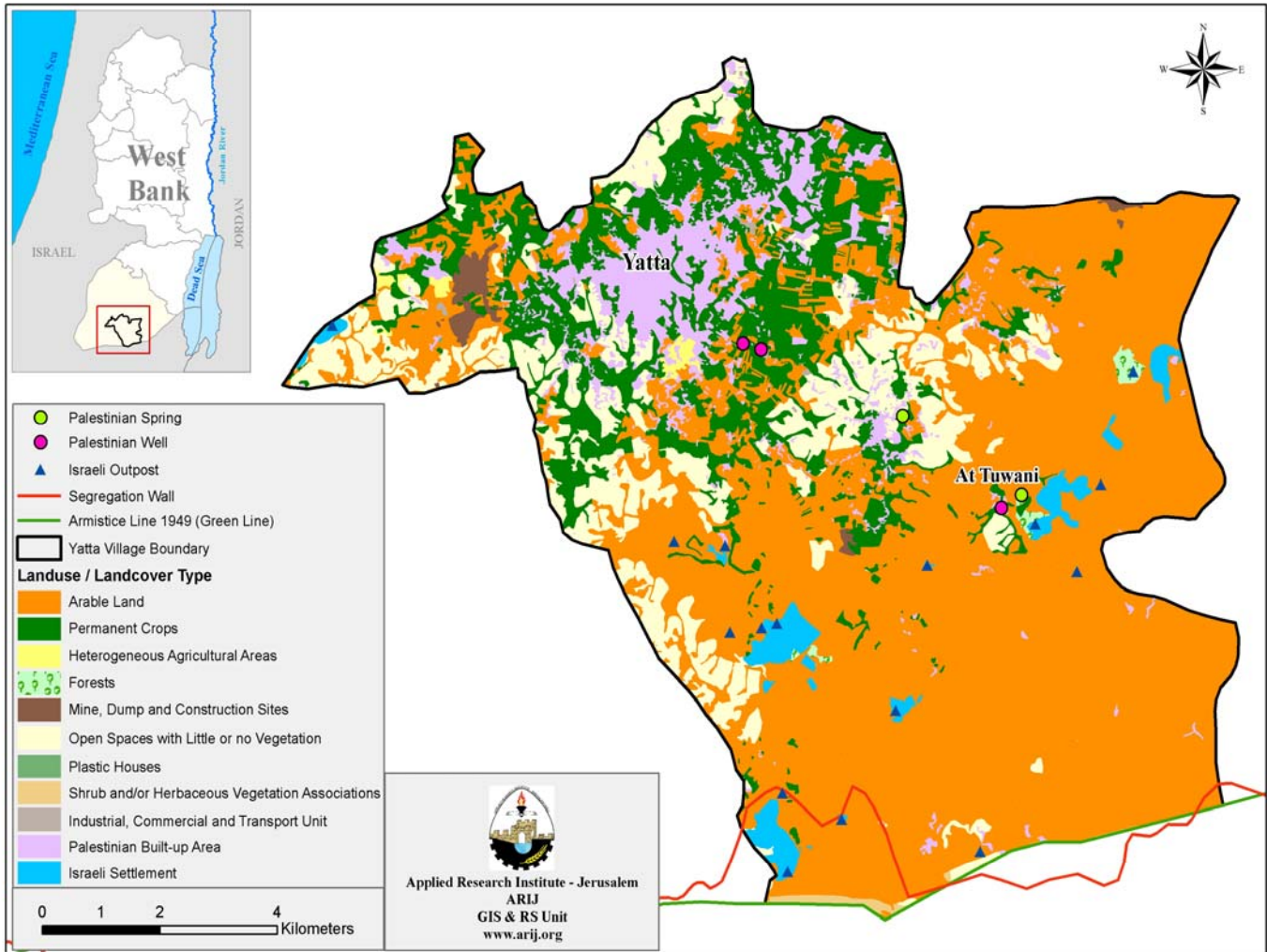
In spite of there being about 12 km of agricultural roads in At Tuwani suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery but they are insufficient and the village in need of construction of new roads to cover the vast agricultural area in the village.

In Mosfaret Yatta, the total length of agricultural roads is 18 km; these roads are suitable for driving tractors and other agricultural machinery but are insufficient.

The data of the field survey indicated that the localities' residents are rearing and keeping livestock; approximately all of the households keep local animals and depend on their dairy production. In At Tuwani village there are about 2,000 sheep and 500 goats. In Mosfaret Yatta, all the people keep sheep and goats with numbers equalling 14,000 and 2,000 respectively.

The village officials state that the agricultural sector in the area is suffering from the lack of agricultural equipment, high prices of feed and a lack of water, in addition to the Israeli activities where the Israeli Forces have confiscated about 100 dunums of the localities and the residents are suffering from Israeli closures.

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta



## Institutions and Services

The main institution in At Tuwani is the At Tuwani Village Council which was established in 1994. The Council oversees the social welfare and public services in the village. On the other side the preeminent institution in Mosfaret Yatta is the project committee, founded in 2002.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Both At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta have not yet been connected to a telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** Also all the localities in the area are not yet connected to a water network. The alternative resources of water in the villages are cisterns and one spring which is "At Tuwani Spring". The village officials cite several obstacles faced the water

conditions which are: shortage in water and the pollution of water because it is collected from lands.

- **Electricity Services:** Also the localities are not connected to an electricity network; the localities rely on a private generator owned by village residents. Regarding the problems facing the villages, the high operation costs of generators, inability of residents to pay their commitments and Israeli forces rejecting the village's demand to construct an electricity network.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** The localities are not connected to the sewage network and the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed of in cesspits.
- **Solid Waste Collection Services:** there is no solid waste management system in the villages and each household disposes its generated solid waste individually.
- **Transportation Facilities:** There is no formal transportation system in area. The people their use animals or illegal vehicles or walk on their foot to access to near villages.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Due to their remoteness, At Tuwani & Mosfaret Yatta are subject to Israeli aggression, on one side Israeli forces have confiscated 200 dunums from At Tuwani village and 200 dunums from Mosfaret Yatta. On the other side the localities surrounded by many Israeli settlements and bypass roads; At Tuwani is surrounded by three Israeli settlements and one bypass road from four sides. Mao'on settlement to the Southeast, Hafeat Mao'on settlement to the East, other Israeli settlement to the South and by bypass road (Route 60) is surrounds the village from South to North.

Also there are four settlements surrounding Mosfaret Yatta, "Ma'oun" and "Karmae'l" settlements which are located on the North side of the localities and each settlement occupies 2,000 dunums of land. There is "Yaqoub Dali" (Umm Al 'Arayes) settlement located in the East side with an area equal 5,000 dunums and there is also "Lifna settlement" on the Southeast side with an area equal 1,000 dunums

Also the localities are closed by four Israeli checkpoints, Mnazel (Sosa) checkpoint, another checkpoint between Yatta and Al Karmel village and the third checkpoint near Karmael settlement, Mosfaret Yatta is exposed to one permanent checkpoint "Lifna Checkpoint" and one flying checkpoint "At Tawani Checkpoint". These checkpoints and the bypass road have made restrictions on the movement of the residents to their land, workplaces and markets.

In terms of the Segregation Wall, its construction was stopped by the Israeli court and there are discussions in the court about changing its route.



## Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, the village council in At Tuwani were working on a project, to build a village council building in 2007, funded by the European Union. Otherwise, Mosfaret Yatta has not conducted any project.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to the local authorities, the villages are suffering from shortages in many infrastructural and service requirements. Table 4 shows the development priorities and needs in the villages.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				Two: 3000 and 5000 m <sup>3</sup>
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas				*	
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network			*		
<b>Health Needs</b>						
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				*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Schools	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*		
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools			*		
<b>Agricultural Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns	*				115 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				360
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

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