

# Beit 'Amra Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem  
ARIJ

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.*

*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*

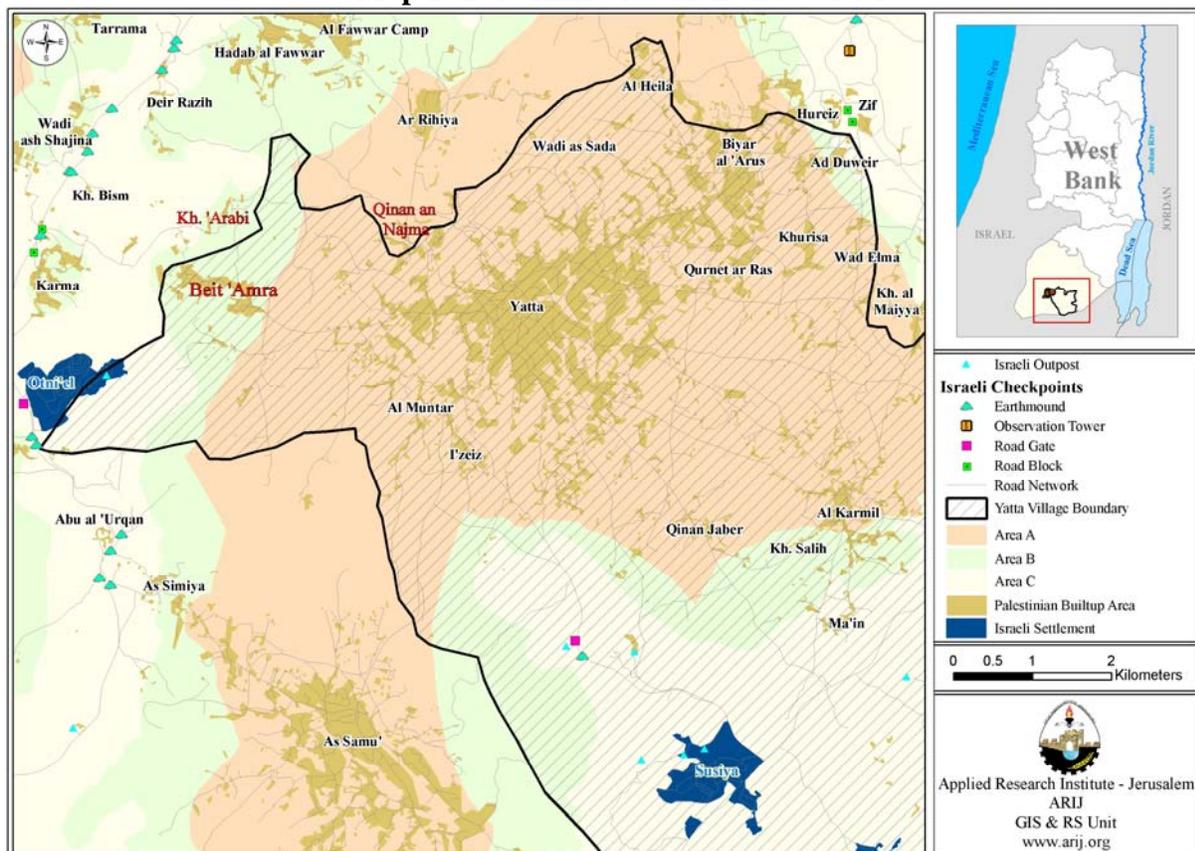
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	<u>4</u>
<i>History</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	<u>5</u>
<i>Demography and Population</i>	<u>6</u>
<i>Education</i>	<u>7</u>
<i>Health Status</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Economic Activities</i>	<u>8</u>
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	<u>10</u>
<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>12</u>
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	<u>13</u>
<i>References</i>	<u>14</u>

# Beit 'Amra Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit 'Amra is a village to the West of the Yatta area; it is located 18 km south of Hebron city in southern West Bank. It is bordered by Yatta city (Al Mahajer) to the East, Al Hadab village to the North, Al Karma village to the West, and As Samu' to the South (See Map 1).

Map 1: Beit 'Amra location and borders



The total area of Beit 'Amra village is estimated at around 10,000 dunums, 2000 dunums are Palestinian built-up areas. Agricultural land constitutes 7,000 dunums, and a further 1,000 include forests and open spaces; while the total area of Khamlet 'Arabi village is 3000 dunums, 1000 dunums are Palestinian built-up areas and 2000 dunums are agricultural land.

The village of Beit 'Amra lies at an elevation of 717 m above Sea level. The mean annual rainfall in Beit 'Amra village is 303 mm; the average annual temperature is 18°C, and the average annual humidity is 60% (ARIJ GIS).

Beit 'Amra village is considered to be rural as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas. The village is governed by a village council, established in 1980; currently the council consists of seven members, with one paid employee and a formal building. The council provides infrastructure services including electricity, water, and solid waste disposal.

Khallet 'Arabi is represented in Beit 'Amra village council and for the arrangement of the duties between the two localities, the residents of Khallet 'Arabi established a Project committee consisting of two members but it is not formally recognized by the government, and it has no formal building.

According to the Ministry of Local Authority classifications; Beit 'Amra locality comprises both Beit 'Amra and Khallet 'Arabi localities.

## **History**

The history of Beit 'Amra dates back to Canaanite period, while Khallet 'Arabi dates back only to 1950; It is said that the first person who lived in the area was called Arabi (عربي), and it is for this that the village is called "Khallet 'Arabi". The residents of Beit 'Amra village come from this area, while the origin of the people in Khallet 'Arabi is from Yatta city.

According to the ministry of the local authority Beit 'Amra includes villages like Al Mahajer, Abu El Fool, Khelet Arabi and Majd Albaa' villages.

**Photo of Beit 'Amra Village**



## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

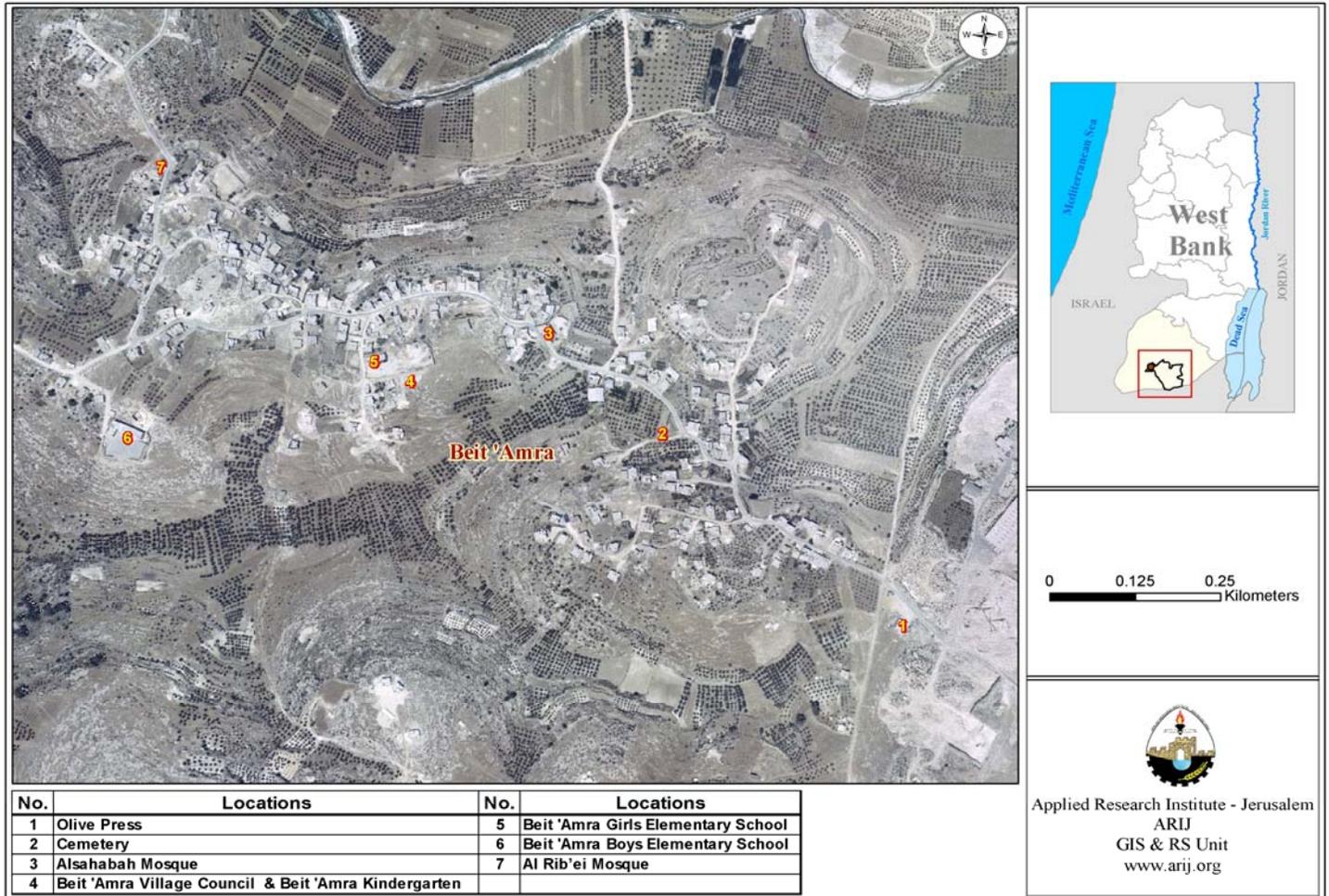
There are four mosques serving the village:

- Al Sahabah Mosque
- Al Rib'ei Mosque
- Omar Ebn Al Khatab Mosque
- Um El'amad Mosque;

There is only one mosque in Khallet 'Arabi, Omar Ibn Al Khataab mosque.

In terms of historical sites, there is Majd Albaa' pool, but it needs restoration.

**Map 2: Main location in Beit 'Amra village**



### Demography and Population

The total population of Beit'Amra, in 2007, is estimated to be 2,369. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997, of which 1,232 were males and 1,137 were females, of whom 2,165 people were lived in Beit'Amra and 204 people were living in Khallet 'Arabi. (See table 1).

Village	Male	Female	Total
Beit 'Amra	1,116	1,049	2,165
Khallet 'Arabi	116	88	204
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>2,369</b>

## Age Group and Gender

The 2007 Census shows Beit 'Amra village distribution of population by age group and sex. Results indicated that the 0-14 year group constitutes 51.2% of the total population, 15-64 age group, constituting 47.1% of the total population. While 65 years and above constitutes about 1.7% of the total population.

The sex ratio in Beit 'Amra is 106.4 males per 100 females, in terms of percentage; males constitute 51.5% of the total population.

## Families

There are five families in Beit 'Amra village. These are: Id'eis , Al Masry , Al Sha'hatet, Al Shawaheen , Beheas . In addition, there are two families living in Khallet 'Arabi village: Id'ies , and Rumi .

## Education

According to the 2007 PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census final results, about 135 persons (10 years and above) were illiterate. Of these 71% were female. 21.7% of the population could read and write but received no schooling. 32.5% had completed elementary education; 23.4% had completed preparatory education; 10.6% had completed secondary education and 2% had completed higher education (See table 2).

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	39	147	241	180	86	2	16	-	2	-	713
F	96	155	211	145	62	1	7	-	-	-	677
<b>T</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,390</b>

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results  
The data of educational attainment include Beit 'Amra and Khallet 'Arabi villages.

According to the arij Survey 2006, Most students in Beit 'Amra village go to Yatta city which is 8 km away to complete their secondary education, or go to Hebron city (18 km away) for higher education, while students in Khallet 'Arabi go to Beit 'Amra elementary schools for their elementary education (2 km) or to Yatta city (8 km) for their secondary and higher education. Table 3 below shows the schools in Beit 'Amra village by stage, sex and supervising authority.

No.	Name of School	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Beit 'Amra Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
2.	Beit 'Amra Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Co-education	Governmental

The data of the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education reveals that at the end of year 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 720 students, 22 classes, and 28 teachers.

		Government	Private	Total
<b>Male</b>	No. of Schools	1	0	<b>1</b>
	No. of class	11	0	<b>11</b>
	No. of Teachers	14	0	<b>14</b>
	No. of Students	362	0	<b>362</b>
<b>Co-education</b>	No. of Schools	1	0	<b>1</b>
	No. of class	11	0	<b>11</b>
	No. of Teachers	14	0	<b>14</b>
	No. of Students	358	0	<b>358</b>

Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education –Hebron Directorate -2006/2007

As of 2006, there is only one kindergarten (Beit 'Amra kindergarten) in the village, funded by the private sector. This kindergarten provides pre-school education to about 25 children.

The educational sector in the village is suffering from the following problems:

- The lack of schools
- The lack of classes in the schools
- The lack of labs and libraries in the schools.

## Health Status

There is only one simple Health center and one maternity and pediatric centre run by the governmental sector. The village lacks health centers, ambulances, and pharmacies.

In the event of emergency residents of Beit 'Amra travel to Hebron city (18 km from the village) or Yatta (8 km from the village) hospitals and health centers to receive health services.

Khallet 'Arabi lacks any kind of health services.

Beit 'Amra suffers from many obstacles and problems in the health sector and services including: the lack of clinics and full time duty doctor, the lack of an ambulance, and the lack of doctors.

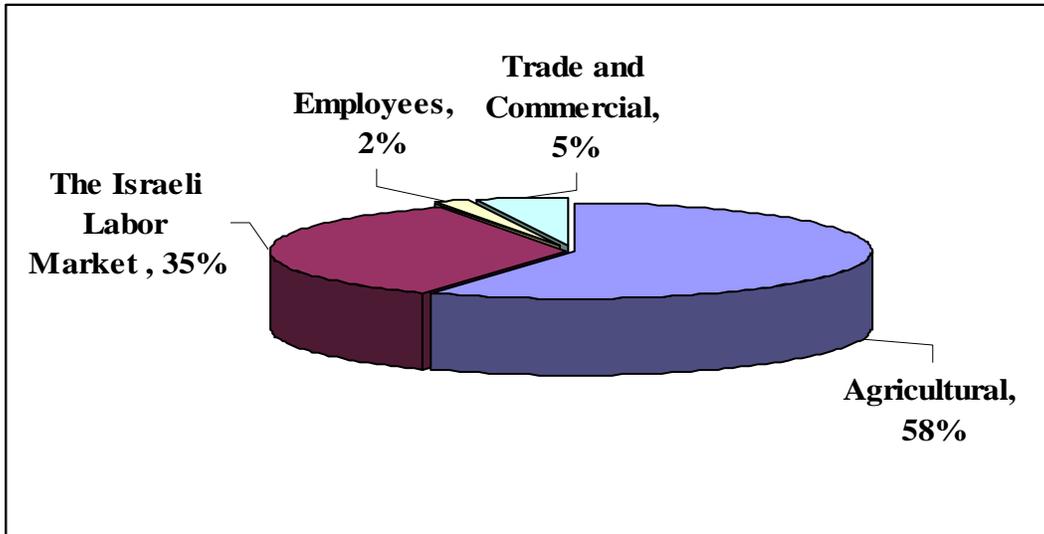
## Economic Activities

According to Hebron localities survey conducted by ARIJ, Beit 'Amra residents depend mainly on agriculture. Approximately 58% of the workers in the village are engaged in such activity. In addition, there were also a significant proportion of Beit 'Amra residents depending on the Israeli labor market (35%). Also, the residents depend on the trade sector (5%) and the public and private sector (2%). The village has a number of industrial institutions serving Beit 'Amra residents and the neighboring village. These include 7 groceries and 2 services shops. Khallet 'Arabi has only one grocery.

According to village officials’ estimates, the economic base of Beit ‘Amra consists of the following sectors:

- Agricultural Sector (58%)
- The Israeli Labor Market (35%)
- Government or Other Employees (2%)
- Trade and the Commercial Sector (5%)

**Figure 1: Percentage of economic activities in Beit 'Amra village**



The survey also indicated that the most affected social groups in Beit ‘Amra village as a result of Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada were: 1) Workers previously employed on the Israeli labor market, 2) Families maintaining 6 individuals or more, 3) Small-holding farmers, 4) Small-holding traders, 5) Housekeeping and children.

However, the most affected of social groups in Khallet ‘Arabi village were:

1. Small-holding farmers
2. Workers previously employed in the Israeli labor market.

**Labor Force**

According to the 2007 PCBS, Population, Housing and Establishment Census, there were 343 economically active persons in Beit 'Amra village, of whom 78.4% were employed. Of 1,047 economically inactive persons in the village, 59.3% were students, 33.7% were housekeeping and 7% was unable to work, see table 5.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never work)	Total	Student	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for Work	Others	Total	
M	263	44	24	331	331	6	39	5	-	382	<b>713</b>
F	6	1	5	12	289	347	28	-	1	665	<b>677</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>1,390</b>

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results  
The data economic activities status includes Beit 'Amra and Khallet 'Arabi villages.

## Agricultural Sector

Beit 'Amra is agriculture village, located on 7000 dunums of arable land; approximately 58% of the workers in the village are engaged in agriculture. In Beit 'Amra village there is a portion of land not utilized due to the shortage of water and unfeasibility of agriculture production. Most of the agriculture production in the village is rain fed but residents cultivate some crops which are irrigated by cisterns. The main crops cultivated in the village are olive trees, field crops and vegetables.

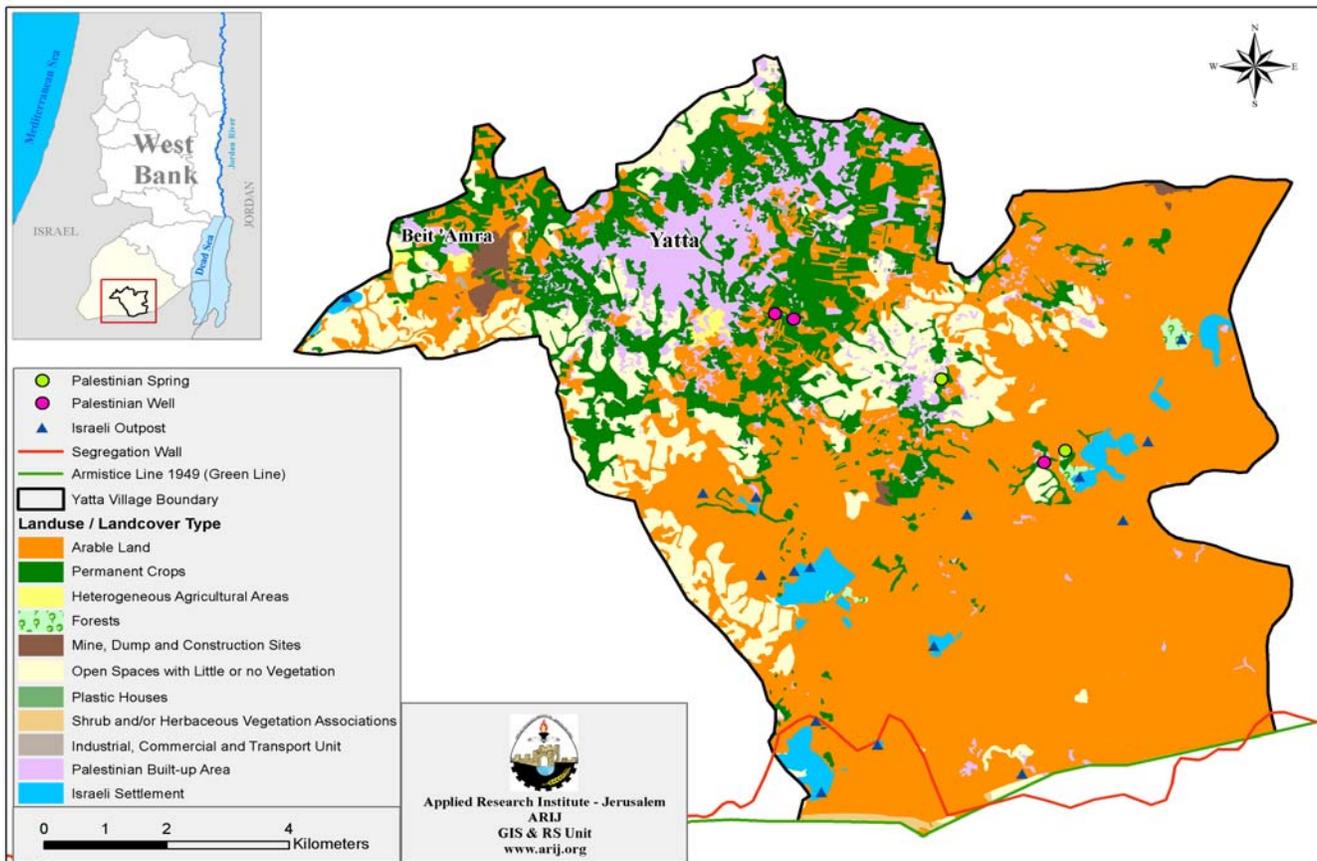
In spite there being about 2000 meters of agriculture roads in Beit 'Amra, but its not sufficient and these roads are only suitable for tractors and agriculture machines.

The field data indicated that the residents of Beit 'Amra rear and keep livestock and local animals, in the village there are about 70 cattle, 9000 sheep and 1200 goats, in addition there are 3 chicken farms with 4000 broilers.

The agricultural sector in Beit 'Amra faces many obstacles of which:

1. Shortage of water and difficulties of bringing it to agriculture area.
2. Absence of suitable agricultural roads.
3. There is a channel of waste water crossing the village lands.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Beit 'Amra village



## Institutions and Services

The main institute in the village is the village council, established in 1980. However the main institute in Khallet 'Arabi is the Project committee.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

**Telecommunication Services:** Beit 'Amra village is connected to the telecommunication network, but about only 5% of the housing units are connected to the network, while it reaches 55% in Khallet 'Arabi.

**Water Services:** Beit 'Amra village has been connected to the water network since 2006; Yatta Municipality provides the water through Israeli water company (MECOROT). According to village officials, about 90% of the housing units are connected to the water network. Alternative resources of water in the village include cisterns. Village officials cite main problem in the village as regarding water status, including the non availability of a reservoir.

**Electricity Services:** The village has been connected to the electricity network since 1991. Approximately 80% of households in the village are connected. Southern Electric Company

manages the distribution of electricity, supplied by the Israeli Electric Cooperation. Beit 'Amra is suffering from many problems in the electricity services which are:

- Weakness of electricity regulators.
- Lack of maintenance.

**Sewage Disposal Facilities:** As the village is not connected to the sewage disposal network, wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

**Solid Waste Collection Services:** Solid waste management in Beit 'Amra is operated by the village council and the Joint Services Council. According to ARIJ field survey data, the village produces 5 tons of solid waste daily. This is collected from residential areas and sent to a dumping site (Al Deirat site) operated and managed by JSC. The dumping site is approximately 15 km from Beit 'Amra village. Dumping and burning are the main methods used to dispose of solid waste.

**Transportation Facilities:** The village lacks a formal transportation network, the available transportation is composed of ten private illegal cars; otherwise residents have to walk. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are the poor maintenance of main roads and the lack of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, 3 km of road are surfaced and in good condition (main roads) and 10 km are unpaved (8 km are internal roads and 2 km are agricultural roads).

### Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Beit 'Amra is affected by Atna'eel Israeli settlement, which is located to the south west of the village, which occupies about 1000 dunum of Beit 'Amra area.

### Development Plans and Projects

Beit'Amra and Khallet 'Arabi village council has established a development plan for improve the situation in the village, the plan includes several development projects. Since 2006 the village council has implemented many projects funded by external donors, these projects include:

<b>Table 6: Development plans and projects in Beit'Amra village</b>			
No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1.	Construction of water network -2006	Water	Italian project- GVC
2.	Building a second floor for the Elementary school 2006	Educational	Italian project-GVC
3.	Building the village council and a clinic a kindergarten -2007	Services	German
4.	Building and finishing a second floor and a wall for the Girls school 2006	Educational	Save Children
<b>Development plans and projects in Khallet 'Arabi village</b>			
No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1.	Construction of water network 2006	Water	European Union (EU)

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Beit'Amra council the village has suffered from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 7 below shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

<b>Table 7: Development priorities and needs for Beit 'Amra village</b>						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				10 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				
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	*				Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				
2	Building Cisterns		*			100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				150 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 4000 m. main roads, 4000 m. internal roads, and 2000 m. agricultural roads

**References:**

- 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.
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. *Population, Housing and Establishment Census- Final Results*. Ramallah, Palestine. 1997 -2007.