

Beit 'Awwa Village 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/>

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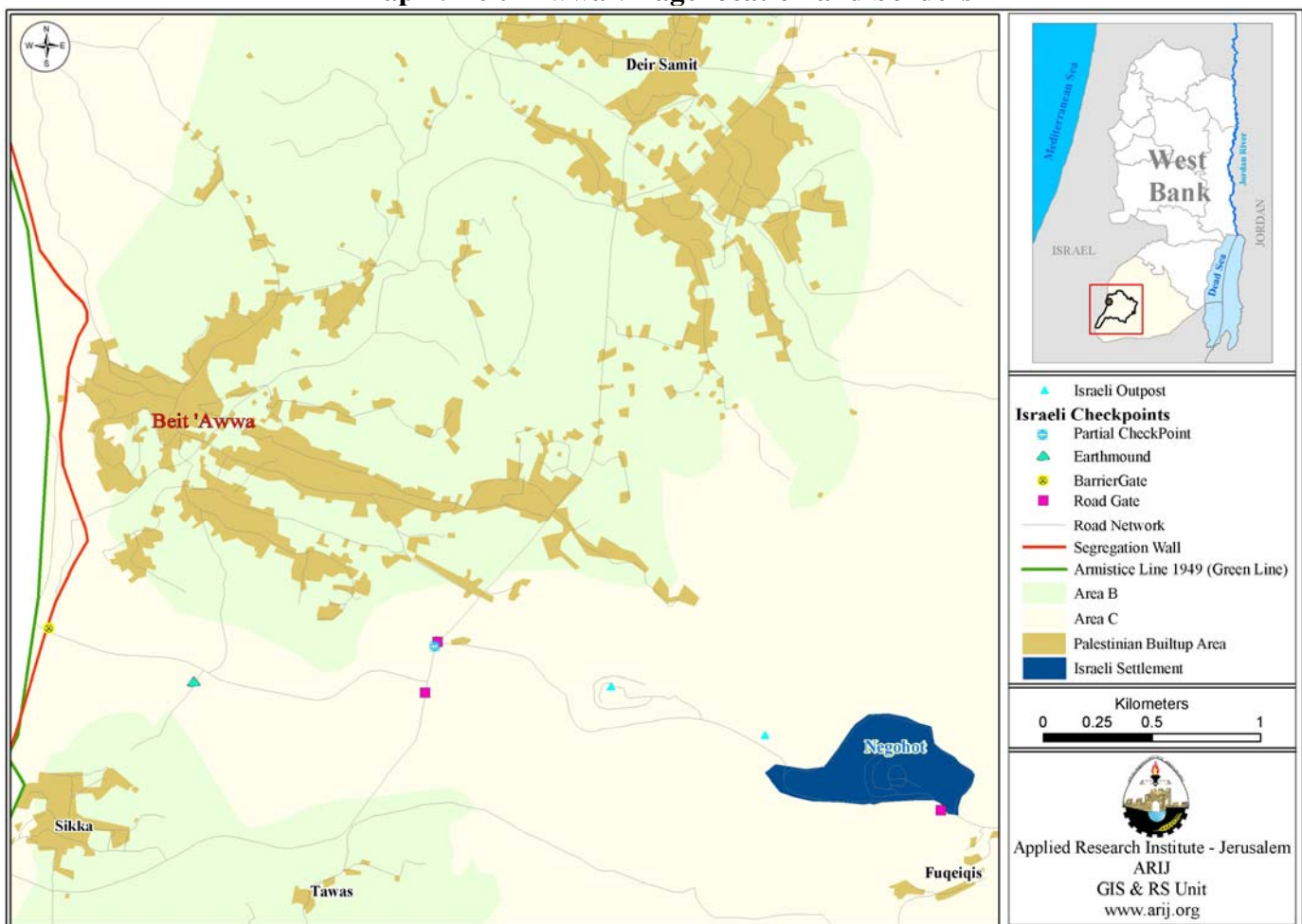
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Beit 'Awwa Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit 'Awwa is a village located 14 km west of the city of Hebron in the southern part of the West Bank. It is bordered by Dura to the east, Deir Samit village to the north, Sikka and 'Tawas to the south and Green line to the west.

Map 1: Beit 'Awwa village location and borders



The total area of Beit 'Awwa village is 16,000 dunums, 1,100 dunums are classified as 'built up' area, 9,550 dunums are agricultural land, 1,618 dunums are forests and open space land and 1,000 dunums had been confiscated by Israeli forces (MOA, Dura directorate-2006).

Beit 'Awwa village is located on the west of the Mountains of Hebron city (Al Kahilil). Though it contains some valleys it sits at a moderate elevation of 430 m above sea level. Beit 'Awwa

village is has a moderate climate. The mean annual rainfall in Beit 'Awwa village is 436 mm; the average annual temperature is 16 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61 % (ARIJ GIS).

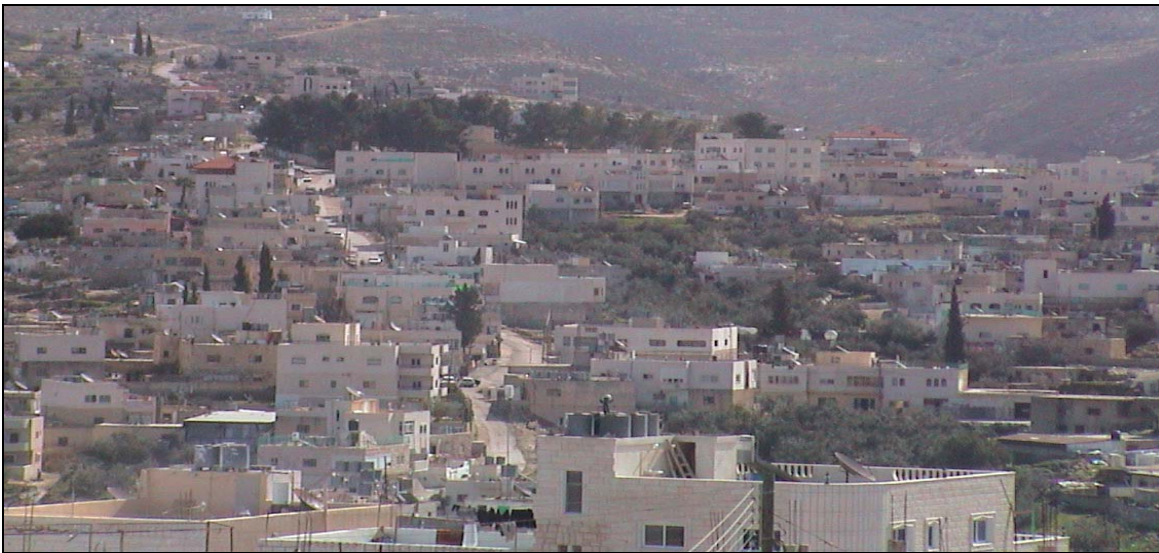
Beit 'Awwa village has been governed by a municipal council since 1999, which today consists of 3 appointed members as well as 15 employees. The municipal council responsibilities include:

- Administration, planning and development;
- Social development services;
- Infrastructure maintenance including; water, electricity, solid waste collection, and the distribution of social services.

History

The village name derives from the wolves which lived in the graves in the village that have been there since Roman times. Its original name was Beit Oa'a (عواء), which in Arabic means howling, though this was changed to Beit 'Awwa. The modern history of the village dates back to 1930s.

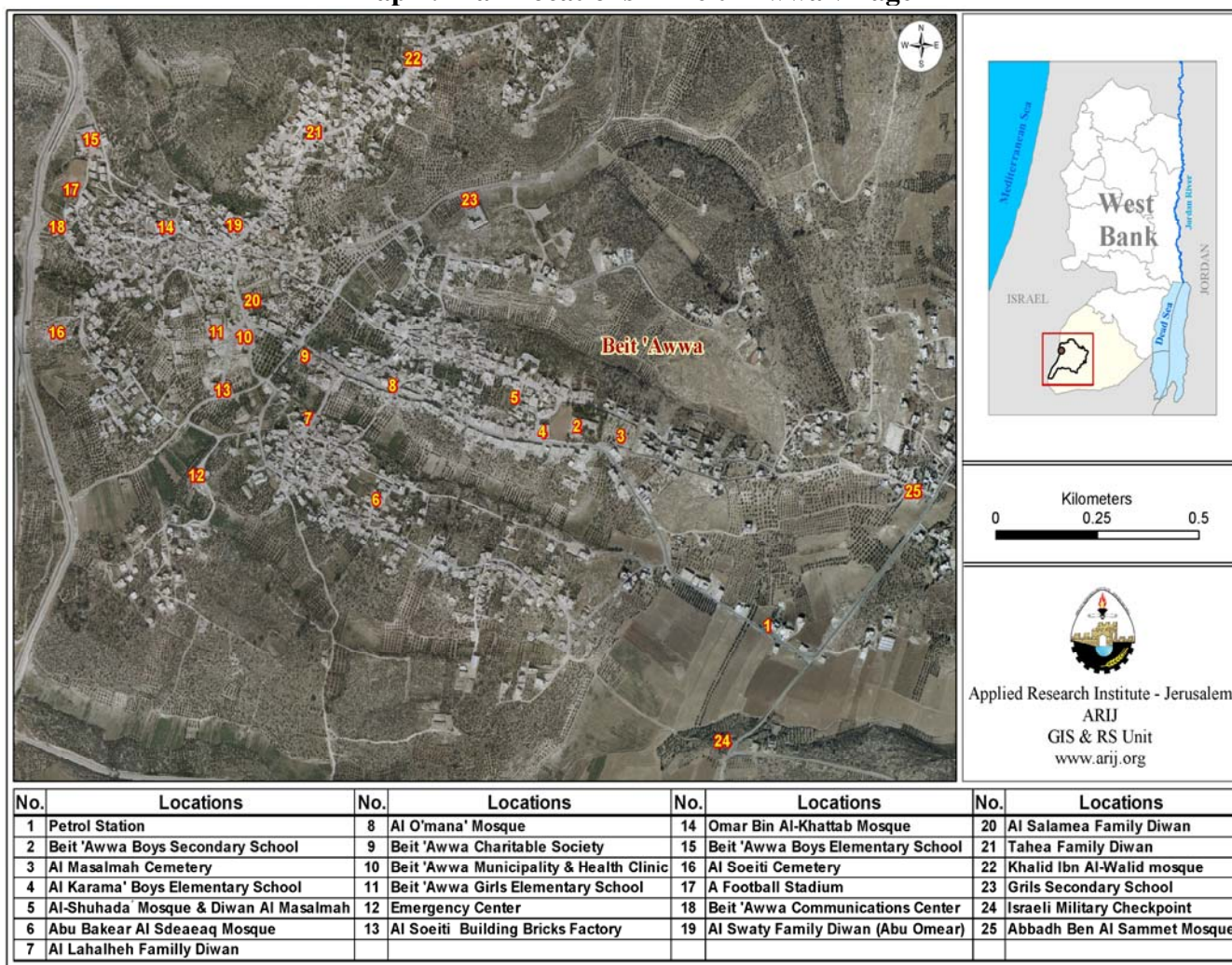
Photo of Beit 'Awwa



Religious and Archaeological Sites

Mosques: There are six mosques in the village: Abbadh Ben Al Sammet Mosque, Omar Bin Al-Khattab Mosque, Al Amana' Mosque, Khalid Ibn Al-Walid mosque, Abu Bakear Al Sdeaeq Mosque and Al-Shuhada' Mosque.

Map 2: Main locations in Beit 'Awwa village



Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Beit 'Awwa in 2007 was approximately 8,064 people, Of the total population, 3,998 were males and 4,066 were females There were 1,295 households resident in 1,355 housing units (2007 census).

The population of Beit Awwa village constitutes about 1.46% of the total population of the Hebron Governorate which is considered as a rural area.

Age groups and gender

The 2007 census reveals the classification of population of Beit 'Awwa village by age groups and sex. The census data showed that 44.6% are less than 15 years, 52.7% are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.5% are 65 year and above . The sex ratio in the village was 98.3 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 49.6% of the population and females constitute 50.4%.

Families

The residents of Beit ‘Awwa are comprised of two main families: Al Masalmea and Al Sweatey, the remaining are other families.

Education

According to 2007 census, about 8% of the residents were illiterate, with women (70.3%) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates individuals than men (29.7%). Of the literate population, 15.1% of residents could read and write, 27 % completed elementary education, 31.1% completed preparatory education, 12.8% completed their secondary education and 6% completed their higher education. Table 1 shows the education status in Beit ‘Awwa by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	132	432	789	849	346	79	102	3	3	3	2,738
F	313	405	711	882	366	48	92	1	1	-	2,819
T	445	837	1,500	1,731	712	127	194	4	4	3	5,557

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

The field survey indicated that there are three levels of education in Beit ‘Awwa village: preschool (kindergartens), basic and secondary education. It also revealed that there were 5 schools in the village, of which three schools are for males, and two schools for females. All the schools in Beit ‘Awwa are supervised by public sector, the number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 2.

School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1. Beit ‘Awwa Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2. Beit ‘Awwa Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3. Al Karama Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4. Girls Beit ‘Awwa Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
5. Beit ‘Awwa Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Female	Governmental

The Ministry of Higher Education reveals that at the end of the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 77 classes, 98 teachers and 2456 Students in the Beit 'Awwa village (See table 3)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	3	0	3
	No. of class	40	0	40
	No. of Teachers	49	0	49
	No. of Students	1,210	0	1,210
Female	No. of Schools	2	0	2
	No. of class	37	0	37
	No. of Teachers	49	0	49
	No. of Students	1,246	0	1,246

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2007

In 2006, there were four kindergartens in Beit 'Awwa village. These kindergartens provided pre-school education services to 215 children. Table 4 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	A Sohadea' Kindergarten	2	65	2	Private
2.	Zohoor Beit 'Awwa Kindergarten	2	65	2	Charity
3.	Beit 'Awwa Kindergarten Society	2	69	2	Society
4.	Al Sea'ad Kindergarten	1	16	1	Private

Health Status

There are two branches supporting the health sector in Beit 'Awwa village, these are the government and the private sector. The health services are provided by the public sector through one clinic, the 'Beit 'Awwa Health Centre'. The village also has three pharmacies providing medicines to the residents.

The health sector in Beit 'Awwa faces many problems, these include; a lack of medical services, emergency services, laboratories and ambulances.

The residents of the village are forced to travel to Dura City (10 km from the village) or Hebron City (20 km from the village) to get treatment as a result of a severe shortage of health services in the community.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	1	2		
Dental Clinic				
Health Clinic		1		
X- Ray Centre				
Medical Lab				
Maternity & Pediatric Center				
Pharmacy		3		
Other (Physiotherapy)				
Total	1	6	0	0

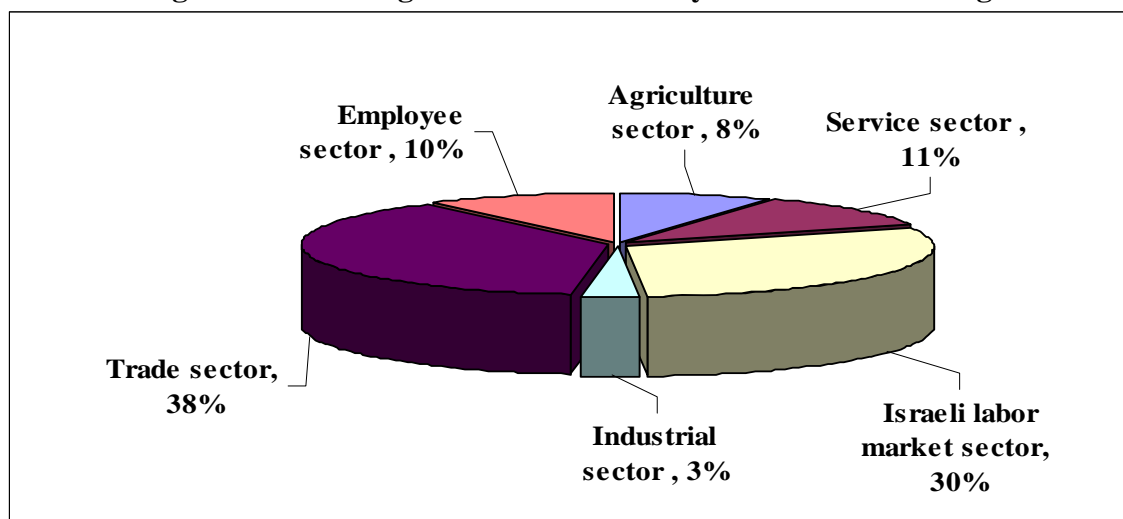
Economic Activities

Beit Awwa is famous for trading new and second-hand merchandise, for tens years Beit Awwa's residents engaged in trading second hand commodities with Israel. They also buy second hand items from Israel, repair them and sell them in Palestinian markets. In 2006, about 38 % of Beit Awwa residents were engaged in this sector. Working in Israeli labor market is considered to be the second important sector Beit Awwa residents depend on, about 30 % of the residents work in the Israeli labor market. Traditionally villages like Beit Awwa (that border Israel) go to work in Israel leaving their lands and farming, principally due to the higher wages found there. In addition to the Israeli labour market the economy of Beit ‘Awwa depends highly on the trade and agricultural sector, as about 38% of the villagers work in this area.

The survey also indicated the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy; listed below by percentage:

- The agriculture sector 8%,
- The service sector 11%,
- Israeli labour market 30%.
- The industrial sector 3%,
- The trade sector 38%,
- The employee sector 10%,

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Beit ‘Awwa village



Small economic institutions can also be found in the village. These include an Olive Press, a Brick Factory and a marble factory.

Based on a survey conducted in November 2006 by ARIJ for the Hebron Governorate localities, the social groups most affected in the village by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were: 1) families comprising of 6 individuals or more, 2) Previous workers in the Israeli labour market, 3) small-scale traders, 4) small-scale farmers, 5) Housekeeping and children.

Labour Force

The 2007 census revealed that in Beit ‘Awwa about 70.7 % of the population were above the minimum working age (age 10 years and above). Out of 5,557 people within the working age, 1,684 people (30.3%) were economically active people, currently in labor force- and 3,873 people (69.7%) were not economically active persons, currently outside the labor force. Of the economically active people 91.1% were males and 8.9% were females. 81% of this total was employed in the village, 9% was currently unemployed and 10% had never worked. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housekeeping, who constitute 51 % and 34.2 % respectively. Table 6 shows the labor force status in Beit ‘Awwa village.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Students	House keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for Work	Other	Total	
M	1,245	148	142	1,535	925	6	128	22	122	1,203	2,738
F	118	4	27	149	1,051	1,320	143	11	145	2,670	2,819
T	1,363	152	169	1,684	1,976	1,326	271	33	267	3,873	5,557

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

Since September 2000, the Israeli procedures against Palestinian people have increased dramatically and this has severely affected the economy of Beit ‘Awwa residents. Historically, Israeli forces have imposed restrictions on the residents' movements, not allowing them to access their lands, or cultivate and harvesting their crops. Similarly, farmers were unable to market their productions. A lot of areas, crops and trees have been destroyed or uprooted. As a result, the residents have lost their primary source of income and many have become unemployed.

Agricultural Sector

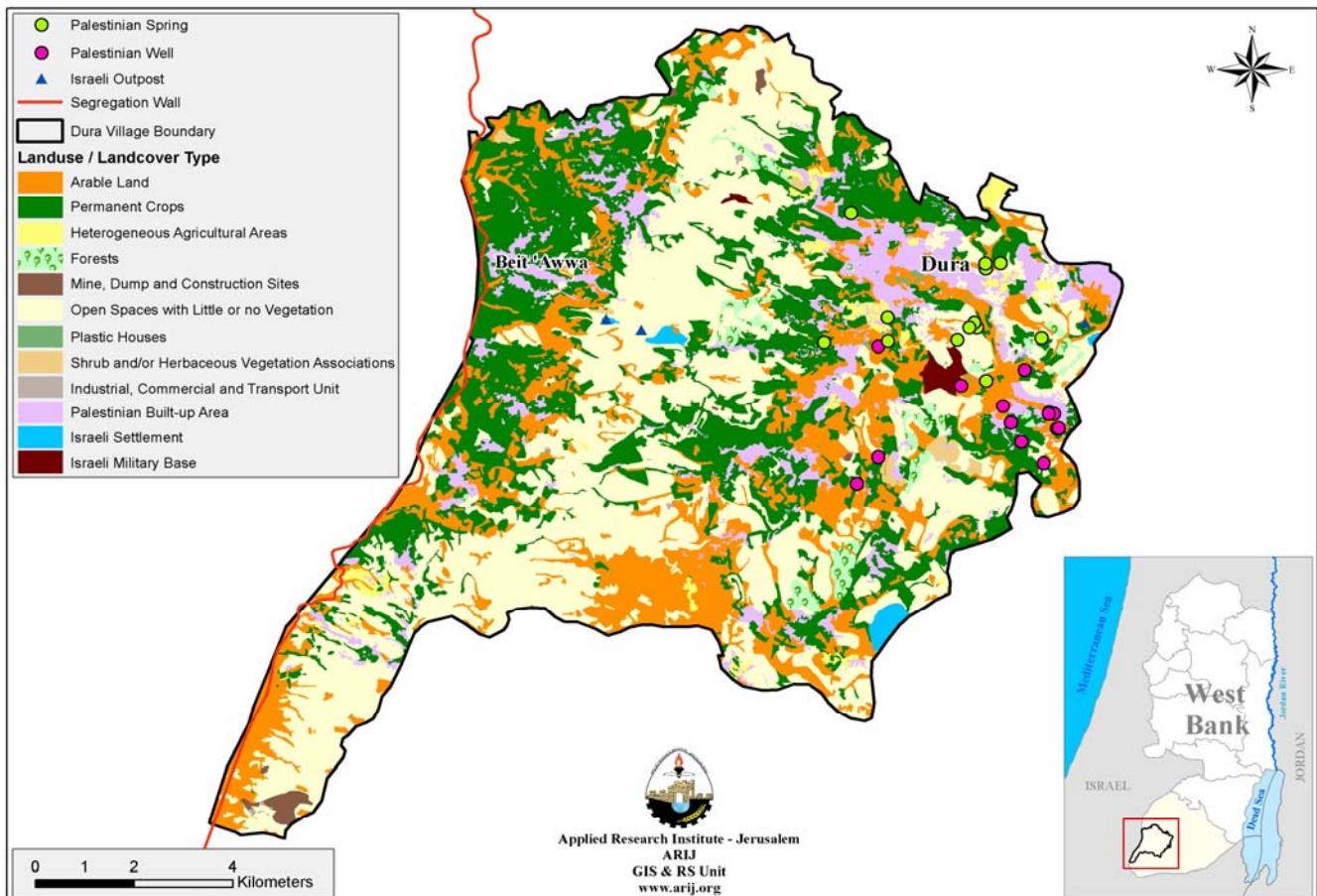
Beit 'Awwa village lies on a total area of 16,000 dunums. 9,550 dunums are considered arable land, however only 7,359.5 dunums are currently cultivated.

Table 7: Land Use in Beit 'Awwa Village (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Cultivated Area	Uncultivated Area			
16,000	7,360	2,190	1,100	18	1,600

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in Beit ‘Awwa village.



There are about 4 dunums of plastic houses. About 3 dunums of these are used for growing cucumbers and tomatoes.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the village of Beit 'Awwa. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most commonly cultivated with an area of about 43 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are squash and snake cucumber (Faqous).

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
43	0	0	0.5	12	0	0	0	3	4	58	4.5

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

There are 3 types of medical plants in the village of Beit 'Awwa which constitute a total area of about 4 dunums. These plants are thyme, mint and sage.

In the village of Beit 'Awwa, there is a total area of 4,965 dunums Olive Tree plantations. Other trees planted in the area include almond trees, fig trees and grape vines.

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.
4,965	0	0	3	13	0	0	0	159	0	89	0	5,226	3

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the village of Beit 'Awwa. Cereals, in particular, wheat and barley, are the most commonly cultivated crops with an area of about 1,950 dunums.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Seeds		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
1,950	0	2	0	60	0	0	0	2	0	40	0	2	0	4	0	2,060	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The data also indicates that the residents of Beit 'Awwa village also depend upon rearing livestock, such as cows, sheep, goats and chicken. Beit 'Awwa village also has about 86 bee hives.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
401	1,990	665	0	5	45	1	44,900	---	86

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Beit ‘Awwa is agricultural village and as mentioned previously consists of mostly arable land. 9550 dunums are arable land and 8% of the residents are engaged in some sort of agriculture activity. Beit ‘Awwa is famous for its agricultural land, in particular its vineyards and fruit trees.

According to a recent survey there is approximately 45 dunums of cultivated area in Beit ‘Awwa. However, there is about 100 dunums of uncultivated land due to Israeli procedures (confiscation of land and expansion of Israeli settlements). There is also a shortage of capital and a shortage of water that makes farming almost impossible.

Most of agriculture in Beit ‘Awwa is rain-fed, but the survey indicates that the farmers also depend on the water network and cisterns to irrigate their crops.

There are about 20 km of agricultural roads in Beit ‘Awwa that are suitable only for tractors and other agricultural machines. The village is in need of new roads that will allow easier access throughout the village.

Institutions and Services

Residents have to travel to Dura city to receive the major social services, as it is the main city in the area. However Beit ‘Awwa does have many smaller institutions and societies, these include:

1. Beit ‘Awwa Municipality: Established in 1999, it provides public services to the residents like water, electricity, solid waste, organizing and issuing building license and other services. In 2005, 11 new members were elected by the council.
2. Beit ‘Awwa Charitable Society: Established for providing health and educational services.
3. Beit ‘Awwa Sports Club: Established for providing and developing physical and cultural services for youth.

Table 12 shows the number of institutions in Beit ‘Awwa by type.

	Type of institution						
	Gov.	Charitable	Women	NGO	Agriculture	Sports	Worship
Beit ‘Awwa	1	1				1	5

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Beit ‘Awwa village is connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 70 % of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water Services:** Beit ‘Awwa has been connected with the water network since 1982. Less than 50 % of all households are connected to the network. The main source of water in the village is provided by Israeli Water Company (MECOROT). The village does have cisterns

that are used as an alternative source to water network. The water services in Beit ‘Awwa are suffering from many problems including:

1. The shortages of water in summer season.
2. Old and deterioration of water network

- **Electricity Services:** Beit ‘Awwa has been connected to the electricity network since 1982. Approximately 70% of housing units in the village are connected to the electricity network. Beit ‘Awwa municipal council manages the distribution of electricity throughout the village. The electricity is supplied by the Israeli Electric Cooperation. As with many localities Beit ‘Awwa are suffering from severe problems in the electricity services these are:
 1. Old and deteriorating electricity networks, which need repairing or replacing.
 2. New Built up areas are not connected to the electricity supply. Thus hampering any development or expansion of the village.
 3. Shortage of electricity regulators which distribute and increase the capacity of the electricity network.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** The solid waste is managed by Beit ‘Awwa municipality, which has a solid waste vehicle. The solid waste collected from the residential area and sent to a dumping site in the Hebron Municipality located east of Yatta city. Burning is the main method used to dispose of solid waste.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Beit Awwa is not connected with a sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** There are about 50 km of internal roads in Beit ‘Awwa village, 9 km are paved and in a good condition, 4 km are paved but in poor condition and 37 km are not paved at all. The means of transportation in Beit ‘Awwa comprises of many informal taxis owned and registered by only one office taxi. (see table 13)

Table 13: The condition of roads and their length in Beit ‘Awwa			
Road Condition	Road length (km)		
	Main roads	Internal roads	Agricultural roads
Paved roads in good condition	5	4	-
Paved roads in bad condition	2	2	-
Unpaved roads	7	20	10
Total	14	26	10

There are many obstacles that face passenger transportation in the village these include:

1. Israeli check points and barriers.
2. Deterioration of the roads.
3. The building of the segregation wall.

Impact of Israeli Occupation

As with many Palestinian localities, Beit Awwa has been severely affected by the Israeli procedures for many years. Israeli Forces has destroyed the village twice, once in 1948 and again in 1956. Today the village is surrounded from by many settlements, bypass roads, checkpoints and the segregation wall, that only add to the exasperation of the village

The Israeli authorities constructed the Segregation Wall on the west side of Beit ‘Awwa along of Green Line, the length of the Wall is roughly one km. The estimated area which has been confiscated by the Israelis for the development of the Wall is about 500 dunums.

The Israeli procedures against the village have also meant that the waste water produced by settlements have damaged the agricultural land of the village as it flow directly through Beit ‘Awwa. . There are many difficulties encountered in harvesting crops particularly those behind the settlements.

Development Plans and Projects

Beit ‘Awwa municipality has established a development proposal which includes alternative development projects that will aid the expansion of the village. Since 2004 the municipality has implemented many projects funded by outside donors, these projects includes:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by
1.	Rehabilitation entire roads	Infrastructure (roads)	Municipality Fund & local community contributions
2.	Water line networked	Infrastructure (water)	Palestinian Water Authority

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Beit 'Awwa municipality the village is suffering from a shortage of many critical infrastructural and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			^ 41 km
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				30 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			6 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			1000 m3
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			*		
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands		*			
2	Building Cisterns		*			
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		*			

^ 41 km: 9 km main roads, 22 km internal roads and 10 km agriculture roads

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