

Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem 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 Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and 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 the Jerusalem Governorate.

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 the Jerusalem 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 village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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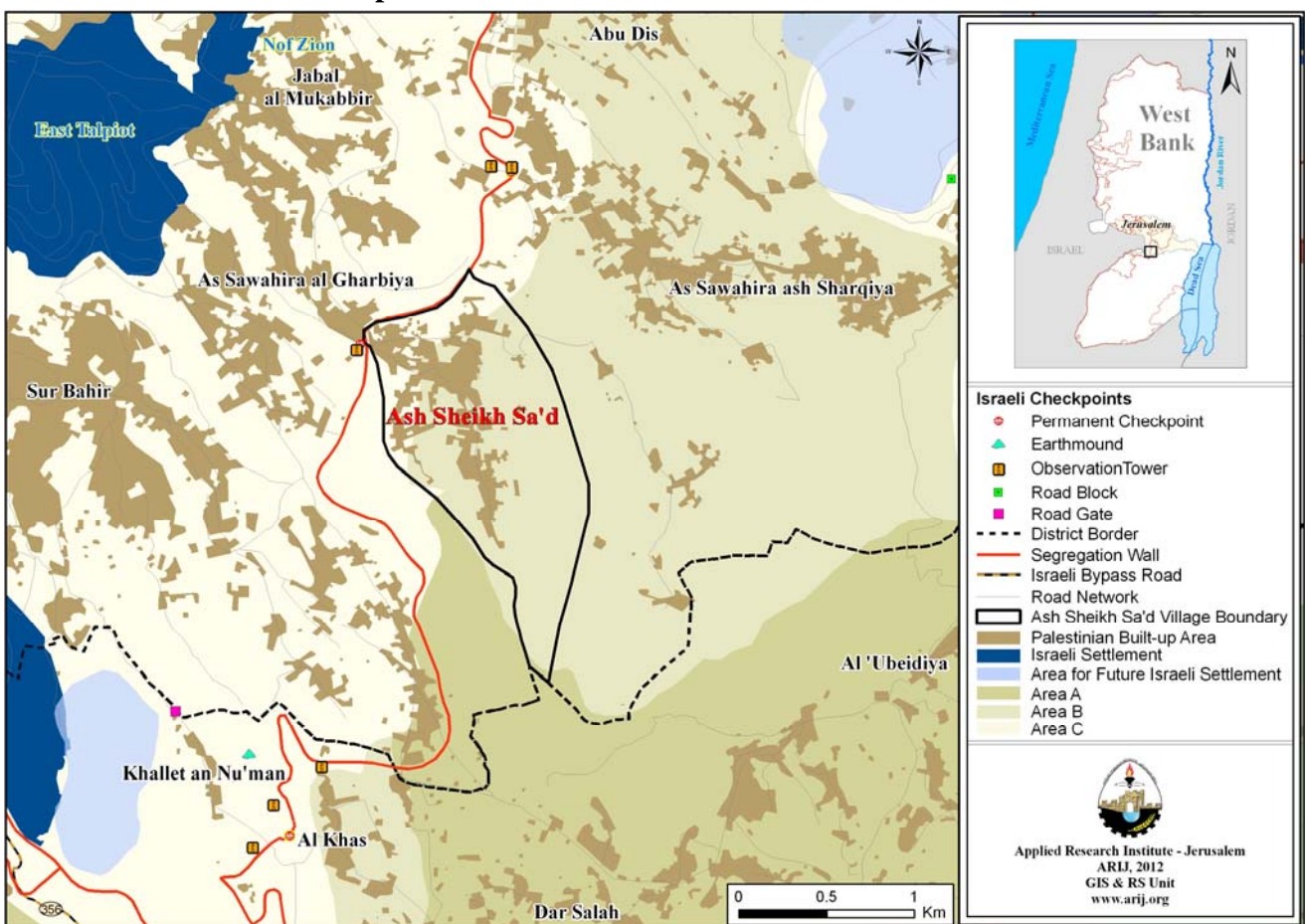
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Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Ash Sheikh Sa'd is a Palestinian village in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 5.16km south of Jerusalem City. It is bordered by As Sawahira ash Sharqiya to the east, Jabal al Mukabbir (Al Mukabbir Mountain) to the north, As Sawahira al Gharbiya to the west, and Sur Bahir to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Ash Sheikh Sa'd location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Ash Sheikh Sa'd is located at an altitude of 625m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 336.8mm. The average annual temperature is 17.4 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1996, Ash Sheikh Sa'd has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority in addition to 7 permanent employees. The Village Council owns a permanent headquarters and water maintaining devices, but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Ash Sheikh Sa'd, including (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011):

- Managing and maintaining the drinking water network.
- Collecting solid waste, rehabilitating, constructing and paving roads, cleaning streets and providing social development services.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the village.
- Protecting governmental properties.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.

History

Ash Sheikh Sa'd was named after the Imam (Ash Sheikh) of Al Aqsa Mosque, Sa'd ad Din al Andalusi, who came to Jerusalem with Salah ad Din during the Islamic conquests. He was buried in the area around Jerusalem. (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

The village was established in 1800 AD; its residents were originally from various places, mainly the south-east of Jordan (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011) (See photo below for Ash Sheikh Sa'd village).

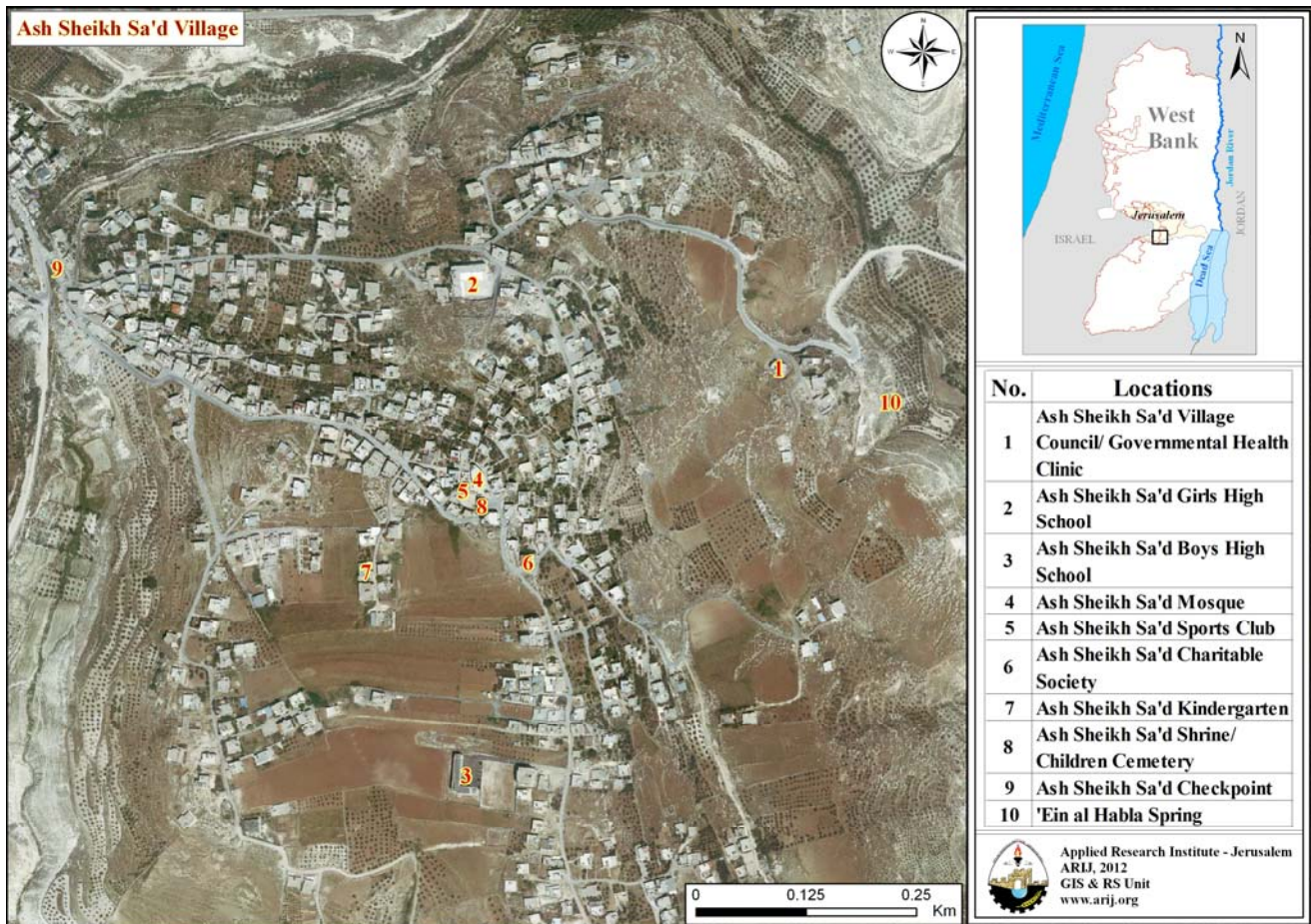
Photo 1: Ash Sheikh Sa'd village



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque in the village, Ash Sheikh Sa'd Mosque. Ash Sheikh Sa'd Mosque and Ash Sheikh Sa'd Shrine are sites of archaeological interest, but neither is qualified for tourism (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Ash Sheikh Sa'd in 2007 was 1,757; of whom 848 were male and 909 female. There were 385 households living in 518 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Ash Sheikh Sa'd was as follows: 32.4% were less than 15 years old, 48.9% between 15 – 64, and 3.4% over the age of 65. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 93.3:100, meaning that males and females constituted 48.3% and 51.7% of the population respectively.

Families

Ash Sheikh Sa'd residents are from several families, mainly the Az Za'atrah, Al Mashahra, Al 'Eweisat, Az Zahaiqah, 'Allan, Shqeirat, Halasah, Sarawkhah and 'Obeidat families (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Immigration

According to the field survey conducted by ARIJ, approximately 2500 persons have left the village since the Second Intifada in 2000 (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate amongst the Ash Sheikh Sa'd population was approximately 9.3%, of whom 74.3% were females. Of the literate population, 12% could only read and write with no formal education, 23.5% had elementary education, 31.7% had preparatory education, 15.1% had secondary education, and 7.9% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Ash Sheikh Sa'd by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Ash Sheikh Sa'd population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Elem- entary	Prepa- ratory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bach- elor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	26	72	124	196	75	12	19	1	1	-	1	527
F	75	59	132	150	90	16	37	-	-	-	4	563
T	101	131	256	346	165	28	56	1	1	-	5	1,090

Source: PCBS, 2009.

As for available schools in the village for the scholastic year of 2010/2011, there were two public schools in the village; both run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 2: Schools in Ash Sheikh Sa'd by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority in the scholastic year 2010/2011

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Ash Sheikh Sa'd Boys High School	Government	Males
Ash Sheikh Sa'd Girls High School		Females

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the village there are 418 students, 39 teachers, and 23 classes (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 11, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 18 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There is one local kindergarten, Ash Sheikh Sa'd kindergarten, which is run by a private body, with a total number of 65 children attending in 2011 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Due to the lack of secondary scientific education in the village students attend neighboring villages' schools, including Jabal al Mukabbir Girls High School and Sakhneen School in Jabal al Mukabbir, Abu Dis Girls High School and the Arab Institute School in Abu Dis, and the Industrial School in Al 'Eizariya; 5km, 6km, 7km, 6km, and 9km from the village respectively (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

The Israeli occupation means that physical access to some schools can be difficult, including Jabal al Mukabbir School. Permanent and partial checkpoints, such as Ash Sheikh Sa'd checkpoint, hinder students' freedom of movement (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

The educational sector in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village faces several obstacles, primarily:

1. The existence of the Israeli military checkpoint.
2. The lack of secondary scientific level of education in the village's schools for both males and females.
3. The lack of industrial, vocational and business schools in the village.

Health Status

There are few health centers in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village. These are Ash Sheikh Sa'd Governmental Health Center, a governmental medical laboratory, and a governmental motherhood and childhood care center. In case of the absence of required health services and in emergencies, residents of Ash Sheikh Sa'd go to the Arab Health Center or Al Ghanem Medical Center in Al 'Eizariya (each of which is 9km from the locality), Al Maqasid Charitable Society Center in Abu Dis, or the Central Health Clinic in Al 'Eizariya, 6km and 10km from the village respectively (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Due to the Israeli occupation, the residents face problems in accessing health care. These problems include physical access to some health centers, mainly Al Jinan Medical Center in Jabal al Mukabbir (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

The health sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, including (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011):

1. The lack of specialized physicians working on a permanent basis.
2. The lack of a radiology department.
3. The lack of pharmacies in the region.
4. The lack of an ambulance in the village.
5. The lack of medical treatment for patients throughout the whole week as Ash Sheikh Sa'd clinic operates only one day a week.

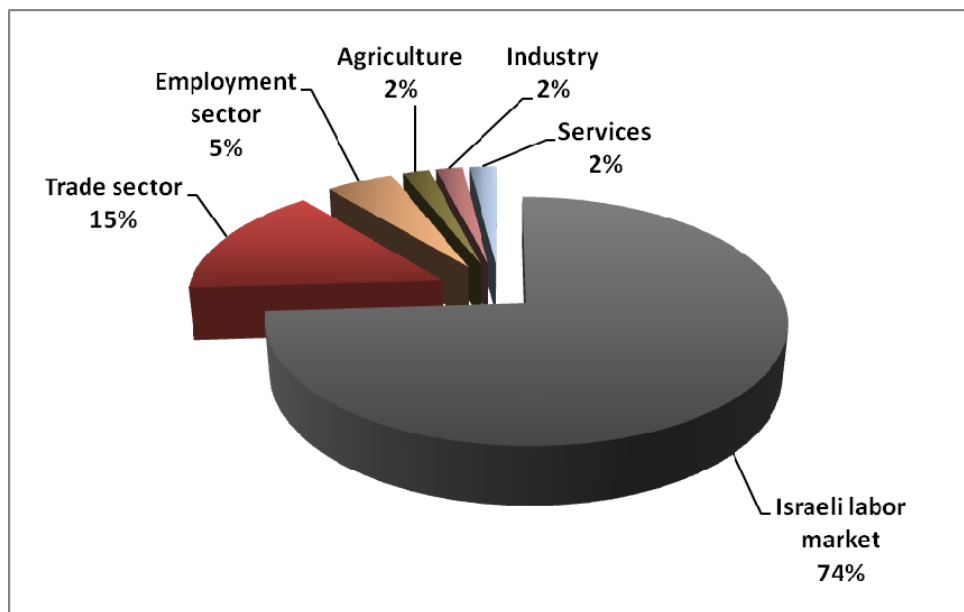
Economic Activities

The economy in Ash Sheikh Sa'd is dependent on several sectors, primarily the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 74% of the workforce (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011) (See Figure1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2011 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Ash Sheikh Sa'd is as follows:

- Israeli labor market (74%)
- Trade sector (15%)
- Government or private employees sector (5%)
- Agriculture sector (2%)
- Industry (2%)
- Services sector (2%)

Figure 1: Economic activity in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village



Source: Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011

In term of commercial and industrial productions in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village, the main business is the paper industry. Additionally, there are 10 grocery stores in the village, 3 butcheries, 2 vegetable and fruit stores, 3 different services stores and 8 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry etc.) (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Ash Sheikh Sa'd has reached around 60% in 2011 (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011). Social groups most affected in the village as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures are (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011):

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the trade sector.
3. Workers in the agriculture sector.
4. Workers in industry.
5. Workers in the services sector.
6. Workers in the employees sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 32.3% of Ash Sheikh Sa'd's labor force was economically active, of whom 53.7% were employed, and 65.9% were not economically active, of whom 49.2% were students and 39.7% were housekeepers (See table 3).

Table 3: Ash Sheikh Sa'd population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Emp-loyed	Currently Un-employed	Un-employed (Never worked)	Total	Stud-ents	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	167	91	44	302	169	4	37	5	2	217	8	527
F	22	10	18	50	184	281	33	-	3	501	12	563
T	189	101	62	352	353	285	70	5	5	718	20	1,090

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

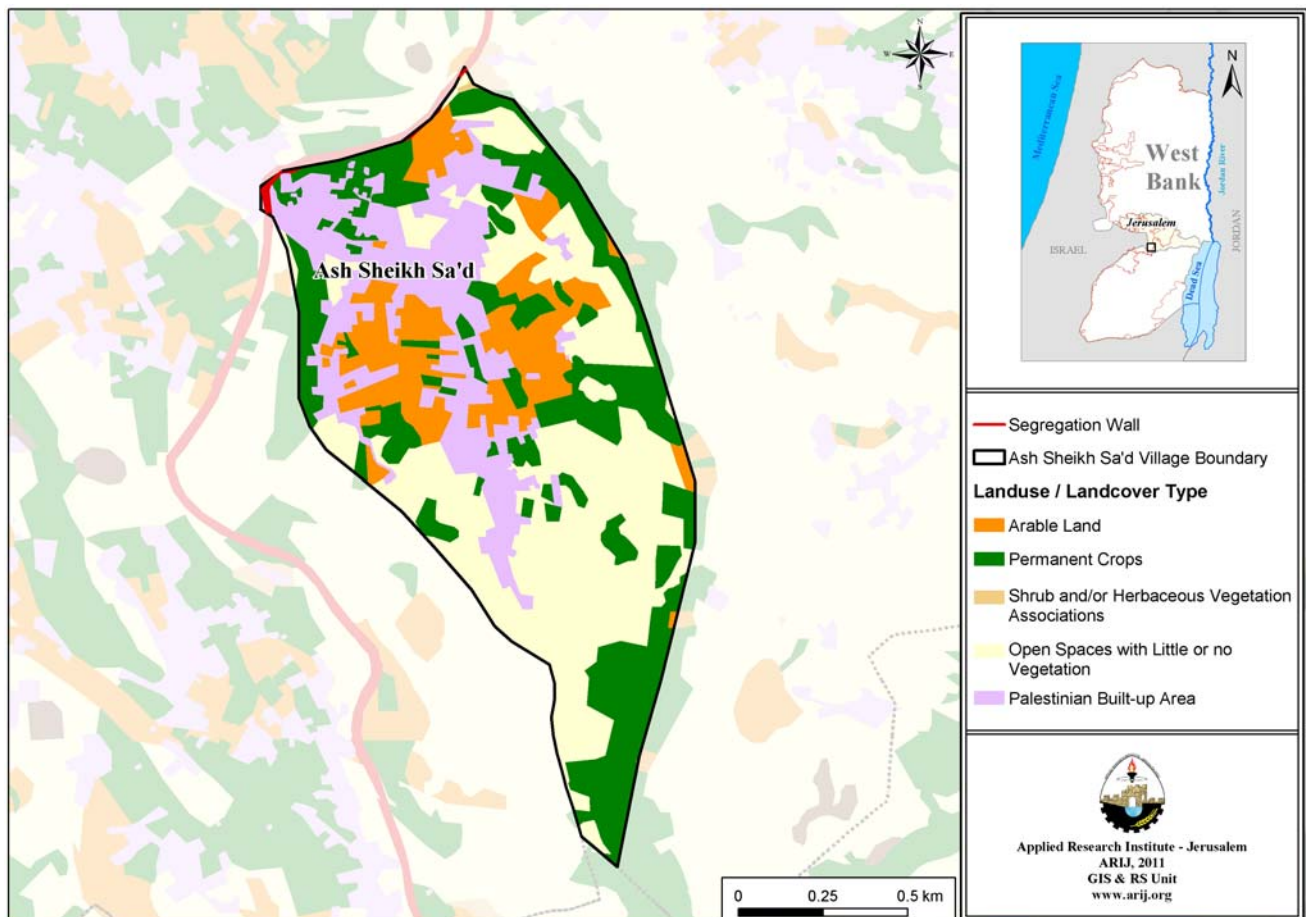
Ash Sheikh Sa'd has a total area of around 1,529 dunums of which 641 are considered agricultural land, and 328 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (641)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
1,529	328	418	0	1	222	0	0	555	0	5

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The village is known for the cultivation of olives; there is a total area of 93 dunums in the village planted with olive trees.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated cultivated fruits in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village (dunum)

Fruit trees	Rainfed	Irrigated
Olives	93	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	0	0
Pome-fruits	0	0
Nuts	0	0
Other fruits	1	0
Total Area	94	0

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas instead of seasonal ones. The survey did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

ARIJ's field survey shows that 15% of the residents in Ash Sheikh Sa'd rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep, and goats, and 2% of the residents own poultry farms (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

There are also around 9 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011):

Table 6: Agricultural roads in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village and their lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	2
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	1
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	3

Source: Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011

The village faces some obstacles concerning the agricultural sector, mainly:

- The lack of sufficient experience in agriculture.
- The lack of donor support for agricultural projects.
- The lack of capital.
- The confiscation of parts of agricultural lands as a result of the Israeli occupation.
- Inability to access agricultural lands due to Israeli military checkpoints.

Institutions and Services

Ash Sheikh Sa'd village has no governmental institutions, but several local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These institutions include (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011):

- **Ash Sheikh Sa'd Charitable Society:** Founded in 2009 by the village residents, the society provides medical services and supports vulnerable people and university students through the cooperation of village residents.
- **Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government and aiming to solve issues in the village, providing various services to the population including infrastructure services.
- **Ash Sheikh Sa'd Club:** Founded in 1987 by the residents of Ash Sheikh Sa'd, and currently it is registered in the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The club promote sports, cultural, and social activities for young people.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Ash Sheikh Sa'd has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 90% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network. However, the village residents suffer some problems concerning electricity, including (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011):

- The weak electrical current.
- Some electricity networks pass over buildings.
- The network needs renovating and restoring.
- Replacing the electricity wires with braided cables.

Ash Sheikh Sa'd is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 60% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Transportation Services

200 unlicensed/illegal cars are the main means of transportation in Ash Sheikh Sa'd village (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011). There are 9km of designated 'main' roads which are unpaved and 2km of 'secondary' paved and in good condition roads (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Water Resources

The West Bank Water Department provides Ash Sheikh Sa'd with water purchased from an Israeli company (Mekerot), supplied through the public water network established in 1970. Approximately 95% of the housing units are connected to this network (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011). The quantity of water supplied to Ash Sheikh Sa'd in 2010 was approximately 144,000 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Ash Sheikh Sa'd is 225 liters per day. However, no Ash Sheikh Sa'd citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 50%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the actual rate of water consumption per capita in Ash Sheikh Sa'd is 112 liters per day (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Sanitation

Ash Sheikh Sa'd lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits as their main means of waste-water disposal (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 158 cubic meters, or 57,600 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 90 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to Wadi an Nar (An Nar Valley). There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee (around 20 NIS/month) has been charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for good solid waste management, especially as only 50% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Ash Sheikh Sa'd benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 20 containers distributed throughout the village. The village council collects the solid waste on a tri-weekly basis, and then transports it using a waste vehicle to El 'Eizariya dumping site, 7km outside the village. Solid waste at this site is usually buried and sometimes burnt. (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Ash Sheikh Sa'd is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Ash Sheikh Sa'd residents is nearly 1.2 tons, or 449 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and camps in the Governorate, Ash Sheikh Sa'd experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis

Water is cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:

- Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes obstacles to the organization of water pumping and distribution among populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply all citizens at the same time.
- High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- There is no water reservoir in the village to cover people's water needs in cases of water cut offs.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Ash Sheikh Sa'd residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.
- The village citizens are suffering because wastewater is discharged into the Wadi an Nar (see Photo 2). Wastewater from areas of Jerusalem and Bethlehem Governorate flows through the Wadi an Nar, causing serious environmental, agricultural, and health problems.

Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Ash Sheikh Sa'd and other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill causes pollution in the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.
- There is no system in the village and the governorate to separate hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, so hazardous and industrial solid waste are collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to El 'Eizariya landfill for disposal.

Photo 2: Wastewater in Wadi an Nar stream flowing on the territories of Ash Sheikh Sa'd



Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Ash Sheikh Sa'd was divided into areas 'A', 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 8 dunums (0.5% of the total village area) were assigned as area 'A', over which the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has full security and administrative control. Approximately 1,232 dunums (80.5% of the total village area) were assigned as area 'B', where the PNA has complete control over civil matters and Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. And 289 dunums (19% of the total village area) were classified as area 'C', where Israel retains full control over security

and administration. In area 'C' Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli civil administration. Most of the lands lying within area 'C' in Ash Sheikh Sa'd are urban areas located along the Segregation Wall (Table 7).

Table 7: The geopolitical divisions of Ash Sheikh Sa'd village according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	8	0.5
Area B	1,232	80.5
Area C	289	19
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	1,529	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village and the Segregation Wall Plan

The Israeli Segregation Wall has had negative and destructive impacts on Ash Sheikh Sa'd. According to the last amendment to the plan, published on the webpage of the Israeli Defense Ministry (30th April 2007), the Wall extends 3km over Ash Sheikh Sa'd's land and isolates the western part of the village from Jerusalem city, and separating the village from As Sawahira al Gharbiya, Jabal al Mukabbir and Sur Bahir. If the Segregation Wall plan for the area around Ma'ale Adumim settlement is completed, Ash Sheikh Sa'd, along with El 'Eizariya, Abu Dis and As Sawahira Ash Sharqiya villages will be surrounded by the Segregation Wall on the eastern, northern and western sides. The southern side will be open, allowing the residents to access southern areas of the West Bank, including Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates. The Wall will separate the northern and southern parts of the West Bank, and Ash Sheikh Sa'd village will become part of the southern area. The Segregation Wall has been built in close proximity to the village's urban area, thus increasing the area of confiscated lands and reducing the available space for Ash Sheikh Sa'd to expand. This policy will continue to create densely-populated Palestinian urban areas in the West Bank, and Jerusalem "particularly", because it reduces the area of land available for future urban development.

The construction of the Segregation Wall on Ash Sheikh Sa'd lands and in the area will separate Ash Sheikh Sa'd residents who hold Palestinian Identity (IDs) from Jerusalem City and its health, educational, social and economic services. These include schools, medical centers, and hospitals, and workplaces. Access to the city will be limited to those who hold Jerusalem IDs and can pass through Ash Sheikh Sa'd military checkpoint. Each time Jerusalem ID holders use this checkpoint they will be required to submit to inspection and to prove their right to pass to Jerusalem, or work or live in the city. This will seriously restrict freedom of movement and access to services.

This move is taken to accomplish the Israeli plan to re-delineate the borders of Jerusalem City borders, to Judaize Jerusalem, through changing its demographic status, separating it from Palestinian neighborhoods with a high population density.

Problems for Residents of Ash Sheikh Sa'd Caused by the Segregation Wall

Historically, Ash Sheikh Sa'd village has been a neighborhood of Jabal al Mukabbir town. However, the village is now separated from Jabal al Mukabbir by the Segregation Wall and the establishment of the Ash Sheikh Sa'd military checkpoint in 2006. This checkpoint is the residents' only entry and exit gate to and from the city of Jerusalem. Israeli actions have caused the migration of thousands of Palestinians with Jerusalem ID from Ash Sheikh Sa'd village, mainly to Jabal al Mukabbir, in order to preserve the rights and interests associated with holding a Jerusalem ID. This has created difficulties and suffering for the inhabitants of the village.

The establishment of the Israeli checkpoint and the construction of the Segregation Wall have isolated the village and separated it geographically, socially, and economically from Jerusalem city. This has caused much suffering for citizens; even those with Jerusalem IDs and those who have permits are forced to cross this barrier on foot, since it has been designated a pedestrian-only crossing. This barrier causes significant problems in daily life for Palestinians in Ash Sheikh Sa'd, cutting off social and familial connections with those living in Jerusalem city.

The village is currently linked to As Sawahira ash Sharqiya town by an un-surfaced, indirect, and badly maintained road. The road passes over the Qidron Valley, into which wastewater from settlements and localities in East Jerusalem is discharged. This has caused a significant environmental and health hazard at the eastern entrance to the village. This problem is exacerbated by winter rainfall, as the water level rises in the stream and prevents cars or pedestrians from using the road to access neighboring Palestinian communities.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council has implemented several development projects in Ash Sheikh Sa'd during the past five years (See Table 8).

Table 8: Implemented development plans and projects in Ash Sheikh Sa'd during the last five years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing part of the water network	Infrastructure	2009	Islamic Bank
Establishing an internal road network	Infrastructure	2010	Palestinian National Authority
Establishing an electricity network	Infrastructure	2010	Electricity Company
Establishing a main internal road network	Infrastructure	2011	Islamic Bank
Construction of a floor in the males school	Educational	2010	Islamic Bank

Source: Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011

Proposed Projects

Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Finding solutions to the sanitation problem.
2. Construction of a services complex.
3. Providing financial support for agricultural and small projects.
4. Paving main and sub roads within the village and providing street lighting.
5. Constructing agricultural roads.
6. Constructing harvesting cisterns.
7. Providing a secondary scientific level of education in the village's schools.
8. Providing a 24 hour medical center and ambulance.
9. Creating projects to employ workers.

Village Development Priorities and Needs

Ash Sheikh Sa'd suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 8 shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the village council's feedback (Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011).

Table 8: Development priorities and needs in Ash Sheikh Sa'd

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			17km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			4km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			2km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			10km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			70 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			secondary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary & secondary levels
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			200 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			100 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			1000 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			30 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*5km are main roads, 6km are sub roads and 6km are agricultural.

Source: Ash Sheikh Sa'd Village Council, 2011

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