

# Beit Surik Town Profile



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## ***Acknowledgments***

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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 localities 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 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 special emphasize on agriculture, environment and water.

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

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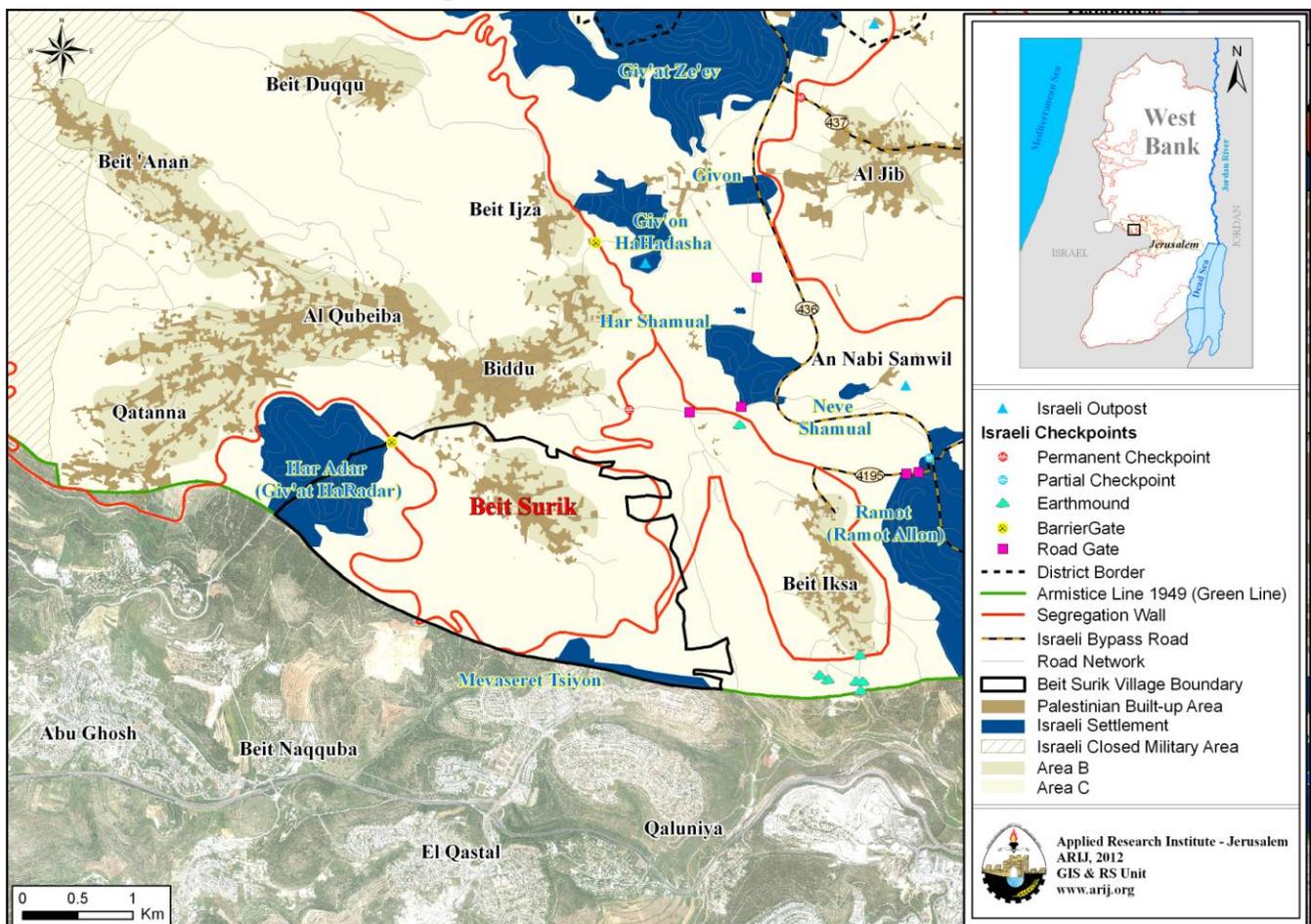
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# Beit Surik Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit Surik is a Palestinian town in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 9.3km north-west of Jerusalem City. Beit Surik is bordered by Beit Iksha town to the east, Biddu town to the north, Qatanna town to the west, and Qoluniya occupied territories (since 1948) to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

**Map 1: Beit Surik location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Beit Surik is located at an altitude of 829m below sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 607.7mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1996, Beit Surik has been governed by a local council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in addition to 9 permanent employees.

The Local Council owns a permanent headquarters, and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste. It also possesses a pick-up, a tractor, and a truck (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the Local Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Beit Surik, including (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010):

- Establishing and maintaining the water network.
- Establishing an electricity network or providing generators.
- Solid waste collection, road construction, pavement, and rehabilitation, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organizing the processes of construction and license issuing.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the town.
- Providing means of transportation.
- Establishing and supervising kindergartens.

## History

Beit Surik is said to be a pre-Roman settlement. The residents are descended from those who settled in Beit Surik after the Islamic conquests (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010) (See photo below for Beit Surik town).

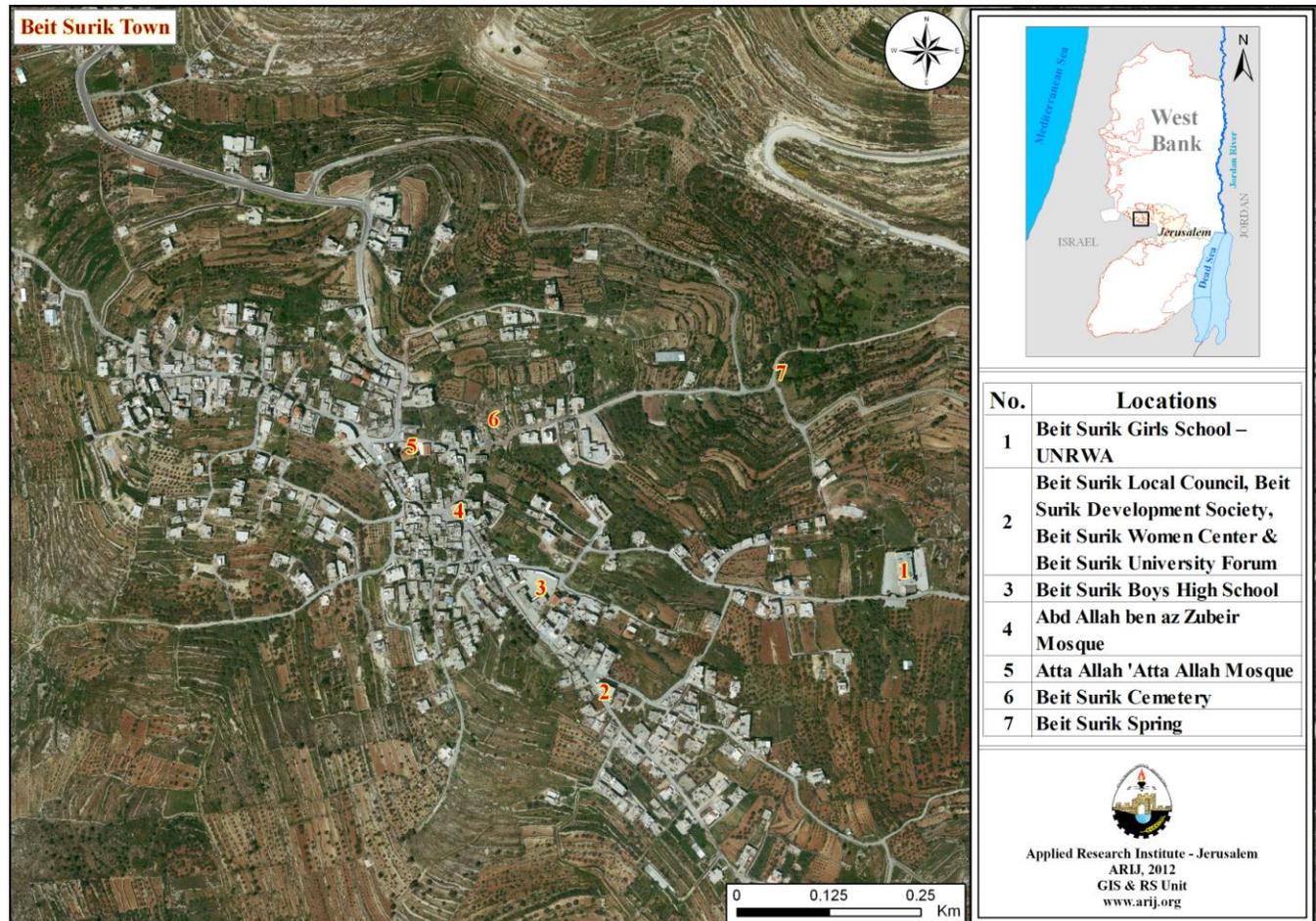
**Photo 1: General view of Beit Surik landscape**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the town, Abd Allah Ibn az Zubeir and 'Ata Allah 'Ata Allah Mosques. There are a few sites of archaeological interest: 'Alleek spring, Loza spring and Al Balad spring (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010). Additionally, there are some ruins (Khirab) including: Khirbet al Hosh, Khirbet al Bawwabah and Khirbet al Jabal (Al Dabbagh, 1991). All of these sites are qualified for tourism (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Beit Surik town**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beit Surik in 2007 was 3,505, of whom 1,755 were male and 1,750 female. There were 629 households living in 649 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 Beit Surik was as follows: 42.3% were less than 15 years old, 55.2% between 15 - 64 years old, and 2.4% 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 100.3:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.1% and 49.9% of the population respectively.

## Families

Beit Surik residents are from several families, mainly the Al Jamal, Qandeel, Ash Sheikh, Abu Suboh, Raddad, Shqeir, 'Afalqa, Abu Ismail and Badwan families (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate among Beit Surik population was approximately 4.4%, of whom 77.7% were females. Of the literate population, 14.9% could only read and write with no formal education 28.1% had elementary education, 30.2% had preparatory education, 12.4% had secondary education, and 8.2% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town by sex and educational attainment (2007).

**Table 1: Beit Surik population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007**

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	25	150	367	434	154	48	53	4	12	1	23	<b>1,271</b>
F	87	228	348	332	160	48	41	-	3	-	22	<b>1,269</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2,540</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), in addition to one school run by UNRWA (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

**Table 2: The Schools in Beit Surik by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beit Surik Boys High School	Government	Males
Beit Surik Boys Elementary School		Males
Beit Surik Girls Elementary School	UNRWA	Females

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the town there are 764 students, 44 teachers, and 26 classes, and the average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There is one local kindergarten in the town, run by a private body and responsible for 58 children in 2011 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Due to the lack of secondary education in the town's schools, students go to neighboring villages' schools, including King Ghazi Boys High School in Biddu town (2km from Beit Surik) or Al 'Umawiya Girls High School in Beit Ijza (4km from Beit Surik) (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

## **Health Status**

There are some healthcare facilities available in Beit Surik town. These are provided by a health center run by UNRWA, which contains a physician's clinic, a dental clinic, and a medical laboratory. In emergencies or in the absence of required health services, patients are sent to health centers in neighboring localities, including Al Carmel Medical Center in Biddu town, Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city, Al Maqasid Hospital in Jerusalem, and/or the Red Crescent Hospital in Al Bireh; 2km, 18km, 12km and 18km in distance from the town respectively (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

The health sector in the town faces some obstacles, primarily the lack of ambulances (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

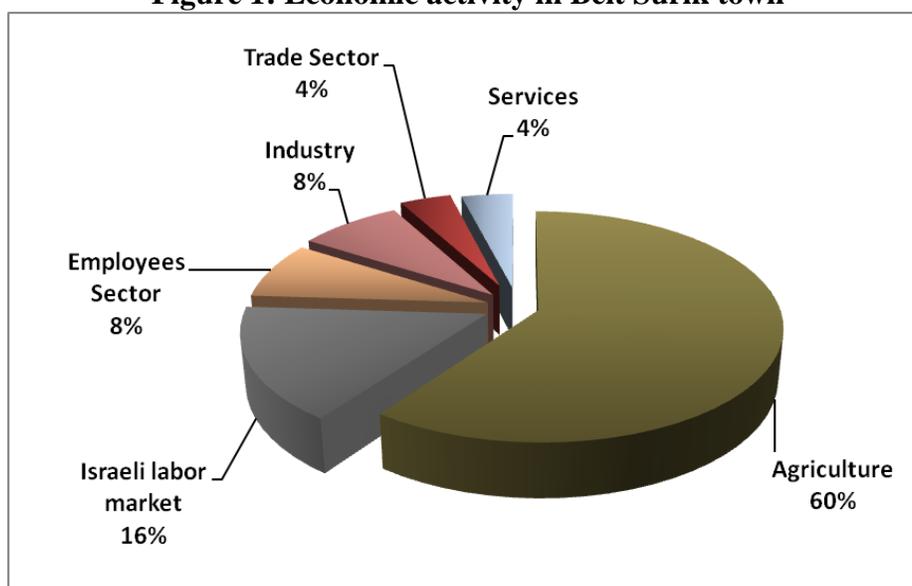
## **Economic Activities**

The economy in Beit Surik is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agriculture sector, which absorbs approximately 60% of the town's workforce (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010) (See Figure 1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2010 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beit Surik is as follows:

- Agriculture Sector (60%)
- Israeli labor market (16%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (8%)
- Industry (8%)
- Trade Sector (4%)
- Services Sector (4%)

**Figure 1: Economic activity in Beit Surik town**



Source: Beit Surik Local Council, 2010

In terms of commercial, economic and industrial activities in Beit Surik town, there are 12 grocery stores, 3 butcheries, and 4 different services stores (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Beit Surik reached around 30% in 2010, and it was found that the social groups most affected in the town as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures are workers in the agriculture and trade sectors (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 33.4% of the Beit Surik labor force were economically active, of whom 90.2% were employed, and 64.8% were not economically active, of whom 55% were students and 36.1% were housekeepers (See table 3).

**Table 3: Beit Surik population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status**

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	667	32	47	<b>746</b>	427	1	47	18	9	<b>502</b>	23	<b>1,271</b>
F	99	1	3	<b>103</b>	479	594	60	10	2	<b>1,145</b>	21	<b>1,269</b>
T	766	33	50	<b>849</b>	906	595	107	28	11	<b>1,647</b>	44	<b>2,540</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

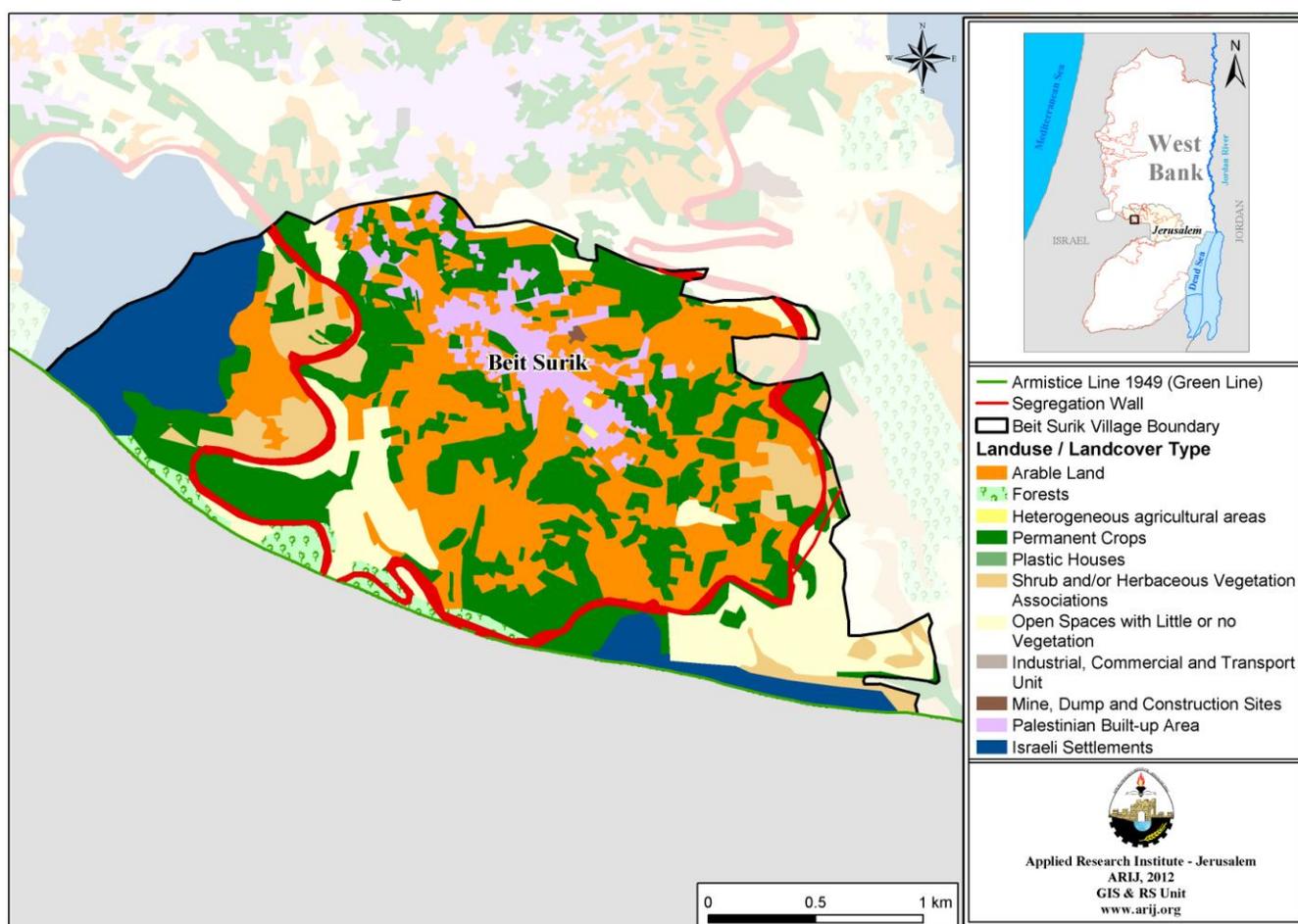
Beit Surik has a total area of around 5,778 dunums, of which 3,731 dunums are considered 'arable' land, and 315 are registered as 'residential' (See table 4 and map 3).

**Table 4: Land use and land cover in Beit Surik town in 2010 (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built-up Area	Agricultural area (3,731 dunums)				Inland water	Forests	Open Space	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
5,778	315	1,702	2	376	1,651	0	130	719	5	878

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012

**Map 3: Land use/land cover in Beit Surik town**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open vegetables planted in the area. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

**Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Beit Surik town**

Fruit trees	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Fruity vegetables	18	4
Leafy vegetable	0	2
Green legumes	13	5
Bulbs	0	0
Other vegetables	3	5
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beit Surik town is known for the cultivation of plums; there are 1,945 dunums of land planted with plum trees.

**Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Beit Surik town**

Fruit trees	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Olives	780	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	1,987	43
Pome fruits	8	0
Nuts	36	0
Other fruits	164	0
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>2,975</b>	<b>43</b>

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Beit Surik cereals, particularly wheat and barley, are the most cultivated covering an area of about 15 dunums (See table 7).

**Table 7: Total area of field crops in Beit Surik town (dunum)**

Fruit trees	Rainfed	Irrigated
Cereals	15	0
Bulbs	0	0
Dry legumes	0	0
Oil crops	0	0
Forage crops	5	0
Stimulating crops	0	0
Other crops	0	0
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>

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.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 10% of the residents in Beit Surik rear and keep domestic animals such as goats and sheep (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010) (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Beit Surik town**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	235	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\* Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are also around 10 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010), divided as follows:

**Table 9: Agricultural roads in Beit Surik town and their lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	3
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	4
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	-

Source: Beit Surik Local Council, 2010

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems and obstacles, mainly (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010):

- The lack of access to agricultural lands due to their location behind the Segregation Wall.
- The lack of water sources.
- The lack of capital.
- Citizens leaving the area to work in Israel.
- The lack of markets for agricultural crops.

## Institutions and Services

Beit Surik town has a few governmental institutions, including a post office division and an office for the Ministry of Agriculture. It also has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010):

- **Beit Surik Local Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of solving issues in the town and providing various services to its population.

- **Beit Surik Club:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Sports & Youth. The Club is interested in sports, cultural, and educational activities.
- **Beit Surik Women Center:** Founded in 2008 by the Ministry of Interior, it is a cultural and social center that provides women with sewing and embroidery courses.
- **The Development Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2003 by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to provide farmers with seminars on agricultural topics such as tree planting and soil tilling.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Beit Surik has been connected to a public electricity network since 1974. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

Beit Surik is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

### Transportation Services

4 public taxis and 9 buses, in addition to 5 unlicensed/illegal cars, are the main means of transportation in Beit Surik town (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010). There are 11km of designated ‘main’ roads and 5km of ‘secondary’ roads (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010) (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Beit Surik town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	7	-
Paved but in poor condition	4	-
Unpaved	-	5

Source: Beit Surik Local Council, 2010

### Water Resources

The West Bank Water Department provides Beit Surik with water purchased from an Israeli company (Mekerot), supplied through the public water network established in through the public water network established in 1986. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010). The quantity of water supplied to Beit Surik is approximately 8,000 cubic meters/month; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Beit Surik is 68 liters per day. However no Beit Surik citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 40%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at

the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Beit Surik is 41 liters per day. Water supply for the residents of Beit Surik is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organisation (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

There are 250 domestic harvesting cisterns in the town, which in addition to water tanks are the town's alternative water source (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

There are also three springs in the town, two of which are isolated behind the Segregation Wall (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

## **Sanitation**

Beit Surik lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits and endocrines as their main means of wastewater disposal (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 126 cubic meters, equating to 46,080 cubic meters annually. At the individual level it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 32 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and endocrines is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. 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**

Beit Surik Local Council is considered the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee (approx. 10 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 management of solid waste, as only 10% of these fees are collected from citizens (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Beit Surik benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 36 containers<sup>1</sup> spread throughout the locality. The local council collects the solid waste from the containers three times a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to 'Ein 'Arik dumping site, located 2km from the town center, where it is buried (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit Surik is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Beit Surik residents is nearly 4.1 tons, or 1,489 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

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<sup>1</sup> each with a 700 liters capacity

## **Environmental Conditions**

Like other towns, villages and camps in the governorate, Beit Surik 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 town for several reasons:
  - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in 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 everyone's needs simultaneously.
  - (2) High rate of water losses because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The lack of a public reservoir in the town to cover the residents' water needs during water cut-offs.

### **Wastewater Management**

- The absence of a public sewage network means that 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 town. 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. Additionally, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas with no concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

### **Solid Waste Management**

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Beit Surik and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to 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. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is hazardous to human health, a source of pollution to 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 town 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 a landfill for disposal by burial.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical Status of Beit Surik Town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beit Surik town was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 593 dunums (10.3% of the total town area) were assigned as area 'B', where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area 'B' constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, towns, and some camps. Most of the town's population resides in area 'B' which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the town. Approximately 5,185 dunums (89.7% of the total town area) is 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 the area 'C' are agricultural and open spaces (Table 11).

**Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Beit Surik town according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	593	10.3
Area C	5,185	89.7
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,778</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

### Beit Surik Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Many dunums of land have been confiscated in the town by the Israeli authorities for different purposes, including the construction and expansion of settlements and outposts. Additionally, land has also been confiscated for the construction of the Segregation Wall through which Israel aims to control the north-west area of Jerusalem governorate, because it includes settlements within the Giv'at Ze'ev bloc. This plan forms part of Israel's strategy of annexing all settlements in the West Bank into Israel, inside the Wall. Israel considers these settlements an essential part of the State of Israel because "*[the settlements] contribute to the security, the political standing, the economy and demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel*", according to former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon (11<sup>th</sup> April 2005). The following is a detailed description of land confiscations in Beit Surik.

During the Israeli occupation, the Israeli government has confiscated 605 dunums of Beit Surik to establish two Israeli settlements, Har Adar (Giv'at HaRadar) and Mevaseret Zion. These settlements are currently inhabited by around 4,500 Israeli settlers, and constitute part of Giv'at Ze'ev bloc, which includes 5 settlements (Table 12).

**Table 12: Israeli Settlements constructed over Beit Surik lands**

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated from Beit Surik (dunums)	Population of settlers (2009)
Har Adar (Giv'at HaRadar)	1986	456	3,400
Mevaseret Zion	-	149	Part of the settlement is within the border of Jerusalem Israeli Municipality
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>605</b>	-

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

## Beit Surik Town and the Segregation Wall

The Segregation Wall has had a negative and destructive impact on the town of Beit Surik. According to the latest modification of the Segregation Wall Plan, published on the website of the Israeli Ministry of Defense (30<sup>th</sup> April 2007), the wall will cover 8km of Beit Surik's territory and isolate 1,849 dunums (32% of the total area of Beit Surik) from the south-eastern and north-western sides of the town. The isolated areas are open space and agricultural lands which form an important source of capital for many Palestinian families, Palestinian lands where settlements are built, and part of Beit Surik's built-up urban area (Table 13).

**Table 13: The land classification of lands to be isolated in Beit Surik Town - Jerusalem Governorate**

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Agricultural areas	424
2	Open space	675
3	Israeli settlements	605
4	Wall zone	145
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,849</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

\* Only 522 dunums out of 605 dunums of settlements area in Beit Surik village was included within the western segregation Zone.

## Palestinian Suffering in Beit Surik Caused By the Segregation Wall

Palestinian farmers in Beit Surik are denied access to their lands by the Israel occupation authorities as it is isolated behind the Wall. They cannot access their lands without a special permit issued by the Israeli Liaison Office allowing them to pass through special gates built within the Wall. Access to isolated agricultural lands is limited only to those farmers that can prove their land ownership to the Israeli Civil Administration. Permits<sup>2</sup> are issued to only the registered owner of the lands, usually elderly people

<sup>2</sup> Obtaining a permit is not an easy process, and permits are usually denied for the owners of the isolated lands.

whose names are included in the property ownership instruments. Additionally, the Israeli Civil Administration issues these permits seasonally, which makes it difficult for farmers to cultivate their lands. Finally, the permits do not allow the necessary labor force or equipment to access the isolated lands, so cultivation is almost impossible.

## **Ramallah City as a Substitute for Jerusalem City**

Since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, Palestinians living in Beit Surik and other towns have lost their connection with Jerusalem City, previously the main source of employment, educational, and health services. To fulfill these needs they have begun to use Ramallah City. Until 2002, residents of Beit Surik used Israeli bypass road 443 to access Ramallah. Later they were been prohibited from using this road. Citizens must now travel to Ramallah using indirect, badly maintained roads. To prevent Palestinians from using bypass 443, Israel has blocked the road with concrete and steel blocks, maintains flyer checkpoints, and imposed fines on Palestinians using this road. This has caused many people living in Beit Surik to emigrate to Ramallah to avoid Israeli obstacles, including disruptions and delays in travelling to work and routine human rights abuses at checkpoints.

## **Israeli Military Orders Issued in Beit Surik Town**

The Israeli occupation authorities have issued various military orders to confiscate lands in Beit Surik town for different military purposes. These include:

1. Israeli military order 107/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 238.4 dunums of lands in Qatanna, Biddu, Beit Surik and al Qubeiba to build the Segregation Wall.
2. Israeli military order 108/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 334.3 dunums in Beit Surik, Biddu and Beit Iksa for construction of the Segregation Wall.
3. Israeli military order 38/04/T: issued on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2004 to confiscate 167.9 dunums of lands in Beit Surik for construction of the Wall.
4. Israeli military order 75/04/T: issued on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2004 to confiscate 336.1 dunums of Qatanna, Biddu and Beit Surik for construction of the Wall.
5. Amendment to military order 75/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and confiscating 214.5 dunums of lands in Biddu, Qatanna and Beit Surik to build the Segregation Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the military order until 2014 to complete construction.
6. Israeli military order 76/04/T: issued on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2004 to confiscate 263.7 dunums of lands in towns of Biddu, Beit Surik, Beit Iksa and An Nabi Samuel for construction of the Wall.
7. Amendment to Israeli military order 76/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to confiscate 149.7 dunums in Biddu, Beit Surik, and Beit Iksa for construction of the Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the order until 2014 to complete construction of the Wall.
8. Amendment to Israeli military order 86/04/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and confiscating lands in Beit Surik to build the Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the military order until 2014 to complete construction of the Wall.
9. Military order 81/05/T: issued on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2005 to confiscate 118.4 dunums from Beit Surik for construction of the Wall.

10. Amendment to military order 81/05/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and confiscating 61.5 dunums of lands in Beit Surik town to build the Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the military order until 2014 to complete construction.
11. Amendment to military order 86/06/T: issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to confiscate 456 dunums of lands in Beit Iksa, Beit Surik and An Nabi Samuel for construction of the Wall. The amendment included extending the validity of the order until 2014.
12. Israeli military order 89/06/T: issued on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006 to confiscate 565 dunums of lands in Beit Iksa, Beit Surik and An Nabi Samuel for construction of the Wall.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Beit Surik Local Council has implemented several development projects in Beit Surik during the last five years (See Table 14).

**Table 14: Implemented development plans and projects in Beit Surik during the last five years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
The Martyr Yasser Arafat Road project	Infrastructure	2008	Ministry of Finance
Establishment of Beit Surik Women Center	Public Services	2009	CHF
Reclamation of lands behind the Wall	Infrastructure	2007	International Red Cross
Pavement of internal roads	Infrastructure	2008	Aqsa Fund
Construction of agricultural wells	Agricultural	2008	Japanese Government
Establishment of Biddu/ Beit Surik entrance	Infrastructure	2009	Ministry of Finance
Construction of Beit Surik Boys Elementary School	Educational	2010	Aqsa Fund

Source: Beit Surik Local Council, 2010

### Proposed Projects

Beit Surik Local Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Expanding the town's structural plan.
2. Constructing a multi-purpose hall.
3. Reclaiming and rehabilitating agricultural lands.
4. Rehabilitating the town's sport stadium.
5. Establishing agricultural and domestic cisterns, home gardens, and greenhouses.
6. Constructing and rehabilitating agricultural roads.
7. Rehabilitating the town's water spring through providing a water tank and pump.
8. Providing parking spots on the town's main road.
9. Providing sewing machines and small projects for women in the town.

10. Establishing a public park in the town.
11. Rehabilitating internal/sub roads.
12. Constructing a secondary school for girls.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beit Surik suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the local council's feedback (Beit Surik Local Council, 2010).

**Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Beit Surik**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			8km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			5km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			2km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			7km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			1 spring
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			8km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			10 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools	*			preparatory level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			secondary level for girls
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			scientific laboratories
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			5 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			30 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			4 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			20 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*			7 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

\*4km are main roads, 2km are sub roads and 2km are agricultural roads.

Source: Beit Surik Local Council, 2010.

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