

# ‘Asira al Qibliya Village 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, town, and village in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Nablus Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in improving 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 Nablus 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 Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare 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://vprofile.arij.org>.

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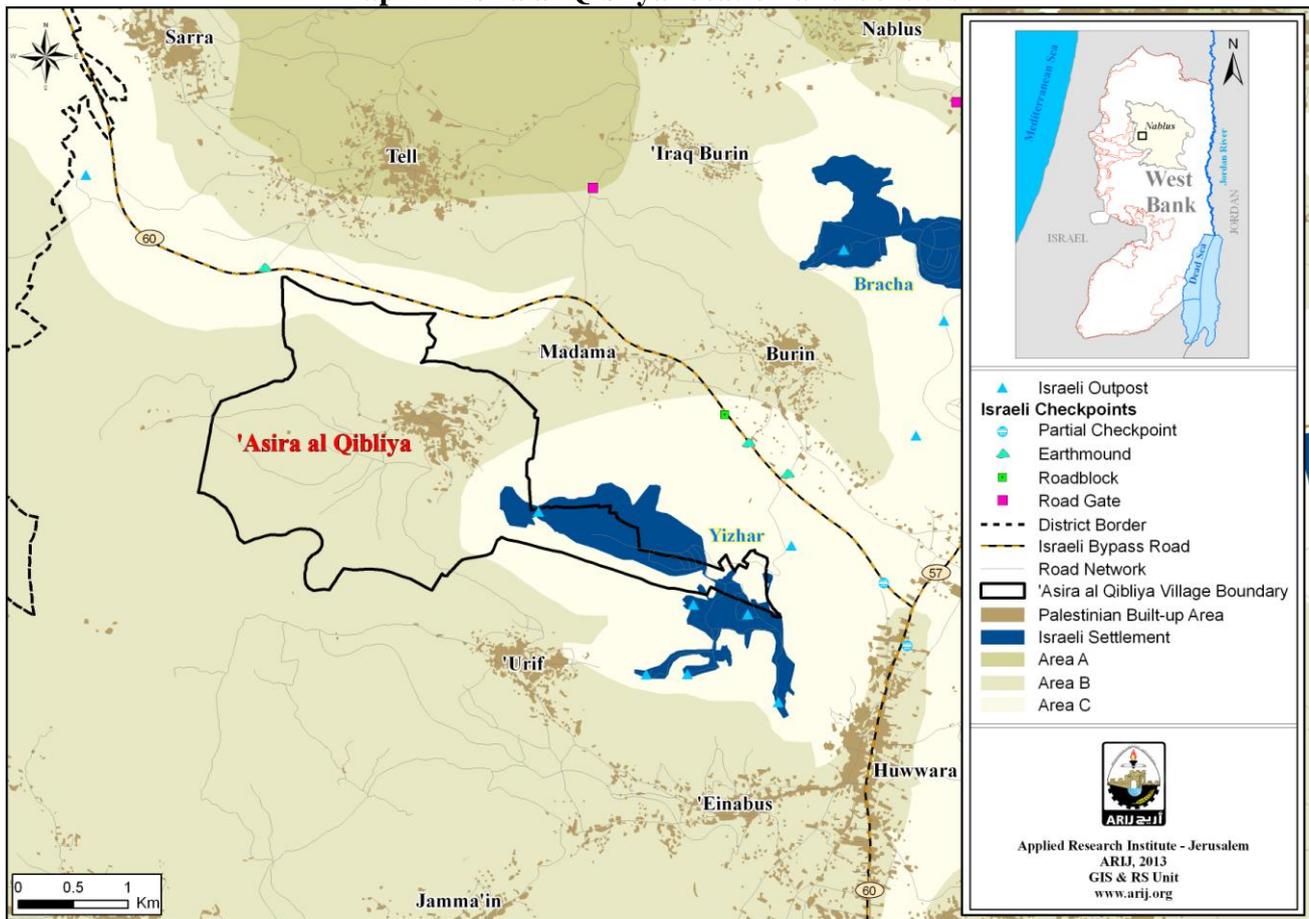
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# ‘Asira al Qibliya Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

‘Asira al Qibliya is a Palestinian village in Nablus Governorate, located 6.24 km south of Nablus City. It is bordered by Madama and Burin to the east, Tell and Madama to the north, Tell and Zeita Jamma’in to the west, and Jamma’in and ‘Urif to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

**Map 1: ‘Asira al Qibliya location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

‘Asira al Qibliya is located at an altitude of 584m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 703.4mm. The average annual temperature is 16°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of ‘Asira al Qibliya village consists of approximately 6,440 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which were stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the

demographic variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent the space and the borders of private property in the district and they are not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1997, 'Asira al Qibliya has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 3 employees working in the council, which has a permanent headquarters ('Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

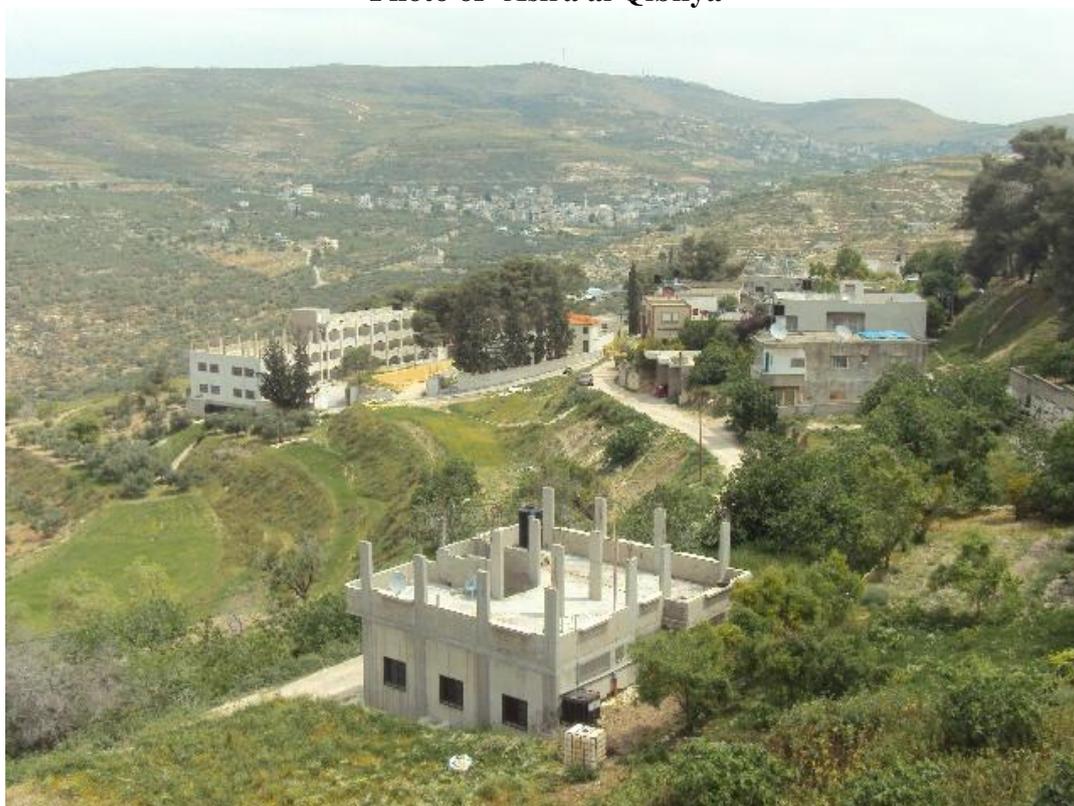
It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of 'Asira al Qibliya, including ('Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity network.
- Street cleaning and public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the village.

## History

'Asira al Qibliya village was named after its famous reputation for pressing grapes and , and was named with 'Al Qibliya to distinguish the village from 'Asira ash Shamaliya. The current village was established more than 500 years ago, with its residents descending from Hebron and Burin (lands of 1948) ('Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

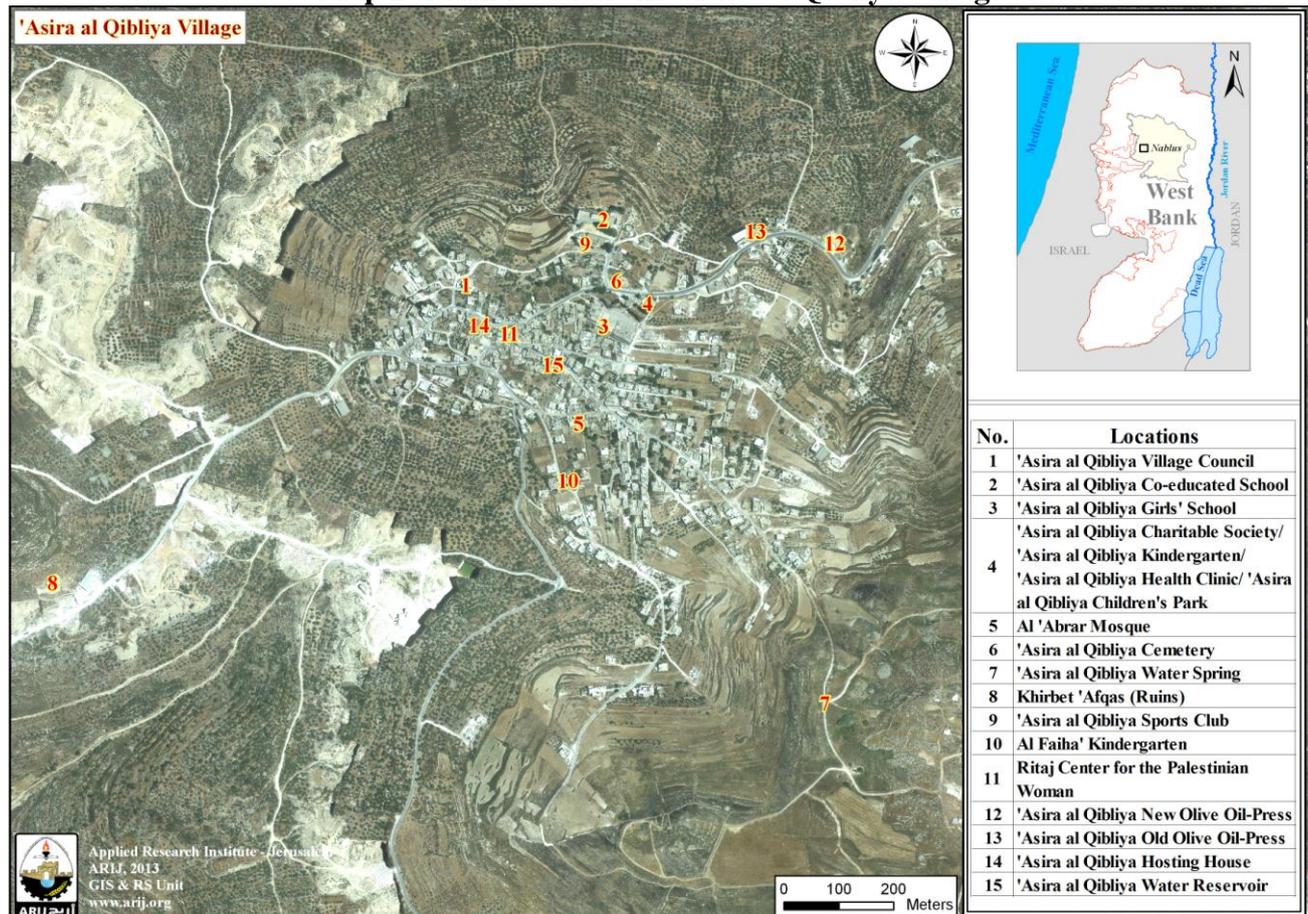
**Photo of 'Asira al Qibliya**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is only one mosque in the village (Al Abrar Mosque). The village has very few sites of archaeological interest. However Khirbet Faqqas (ruins) lies within the village butis identified as unqualified for tourism according to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities ('Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in 'Asira al Qibliya Village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of 'Asira al Qibliya in 2007 was 2,330, of whom 1,179 were male and 1,151 female. There were additionally 392 households registered as living in 476 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 'Asira al Qibliya is as follows: 43.3% were less than 15 years of age, 53.2% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.5% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the

sex ratio of males to females in the village is 102.6:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.6% and 49.4% of the population, respectively.

## Families

‘Asira al Qibliya residents are from several families, including ‘Asayra, Hamdan, Saleh, Ahmad, Abu Hamad, Al Akhras and Yasin (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among ‘Asira al Qibliya population is approximately 7.1%, of whom 77.1% are females. Of the literate population, 13.8% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27.2% had elementary education, 29.8% had preparatory education, 14.1% had secondary education, and 8% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of ‘Asira al Qibliya by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: ‘Asira al Qibliya population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	27	119	255	272	115	35	35	1	2	1	-	<b>862</b>
F	91	110	198	225	119	23	36	-	1		-	<b>803</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,665</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Schools in ‘Asira al Qibliya by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
‘Asira al Qibliya Girls’ Secondary School	Government	Females
‘Asira al Qibliya Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 764 students, 45 teachers, and 27 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 28 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are two kindergartens in ‘Asira al Qibliya village, both of which are run by private organizations (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (See table 3 below).

**Table 3: Kindergartens in ‘Asira al Qibliya town by name and supervising authority**

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
‘Asira al Qibliya Charitable Society Kindergarten	4	5	Private
Al Fayha’ Kindergarten	3	3	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

The educational sector in ‘Asira al Qibliya village faces a number of obstacles; mainly (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013):

- The need for new classrooms due to overcrowding.
- The need for new schools.
- The need to furnish and equip an old school in order to be used.
- The need for a playground for village schools.

## Health Status

‘Asira al Qibliya has a few health facilities, including a private general physician and another physician clinic run by a charitable society, a dental clinic also run by a charitable society and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Burin clinic (4 km away), or Rafidiya or the national hospitals in Nablus city (15 km away) (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of a governmental health center.
- The lack of an ambulance service.

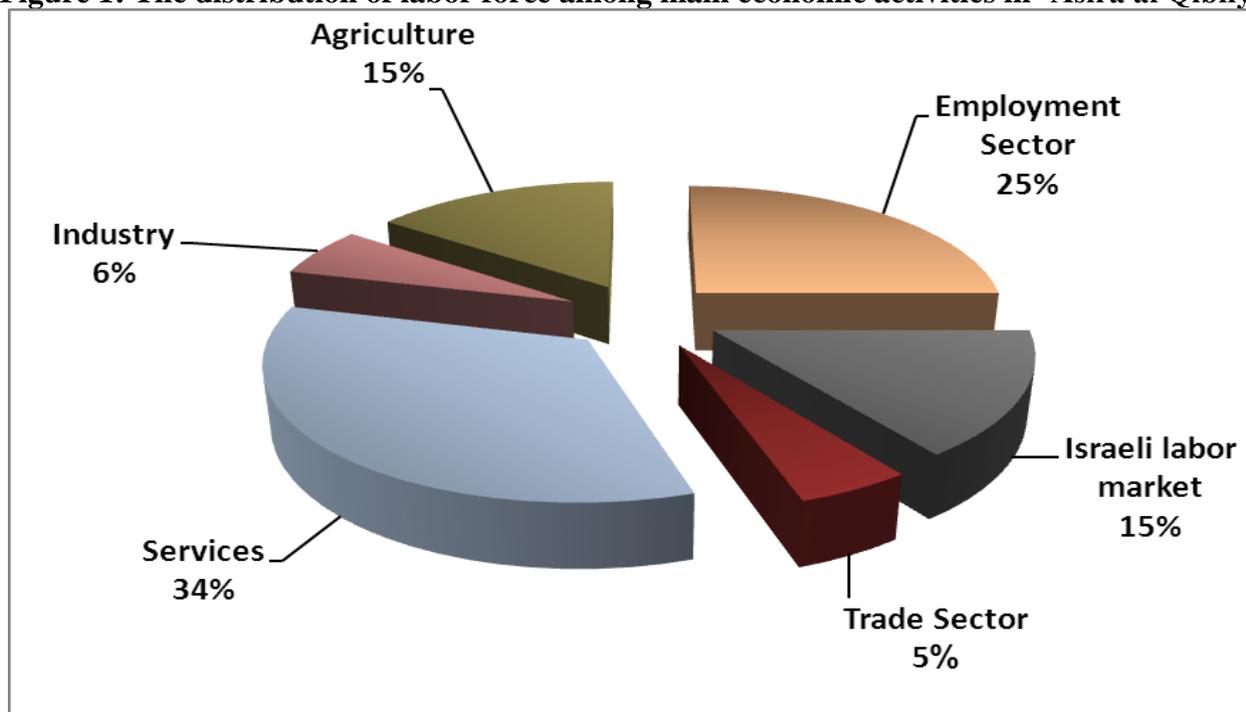
## Economic Activities

The economy in ‘Asira al Qibliya is dependent mainly on the services sector, which absorbs 34% of the village’s workforce (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in ‘Asira al Qibliya are as follows:

- Services sector (34%)
- Government or other employees sector (25%)
- Agriculture sector (15%)
- Israeli labor market (15%)
- Industry (6%)
- Trade sector (5%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in ‘Asira al Qibliya**



Source: ‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013

‘Asira al Qibliya has 12 groceries including one fruit and vegetable store, 1 bakery, 2 service stores, 1 professional workshop, 1 store for agricultural tools, 1 olive oil-press, 3 stone crushers, 2 stone cutters and 15 quarries (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in ‘Asira al Qibliya reached 30% and the group most affected economically by Israeli restrictions has been workers in the agriculture sector (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 32.8% of ‘Asira al Qibliya’s labor force was economically active, of whom 84% were employed, 67.1% were not economically active, 55.5% were students, and 31.2% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

**Table 4: ‘Asira al Qibliya population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Un-employed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	398	46	32	476	309	1	39	8	28	385	1	862
F	61	3	6	70	311	348	50	2	22	733	-	803
T	459	49	38	546	620	349	89	10	50	1,118	1	1,665

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

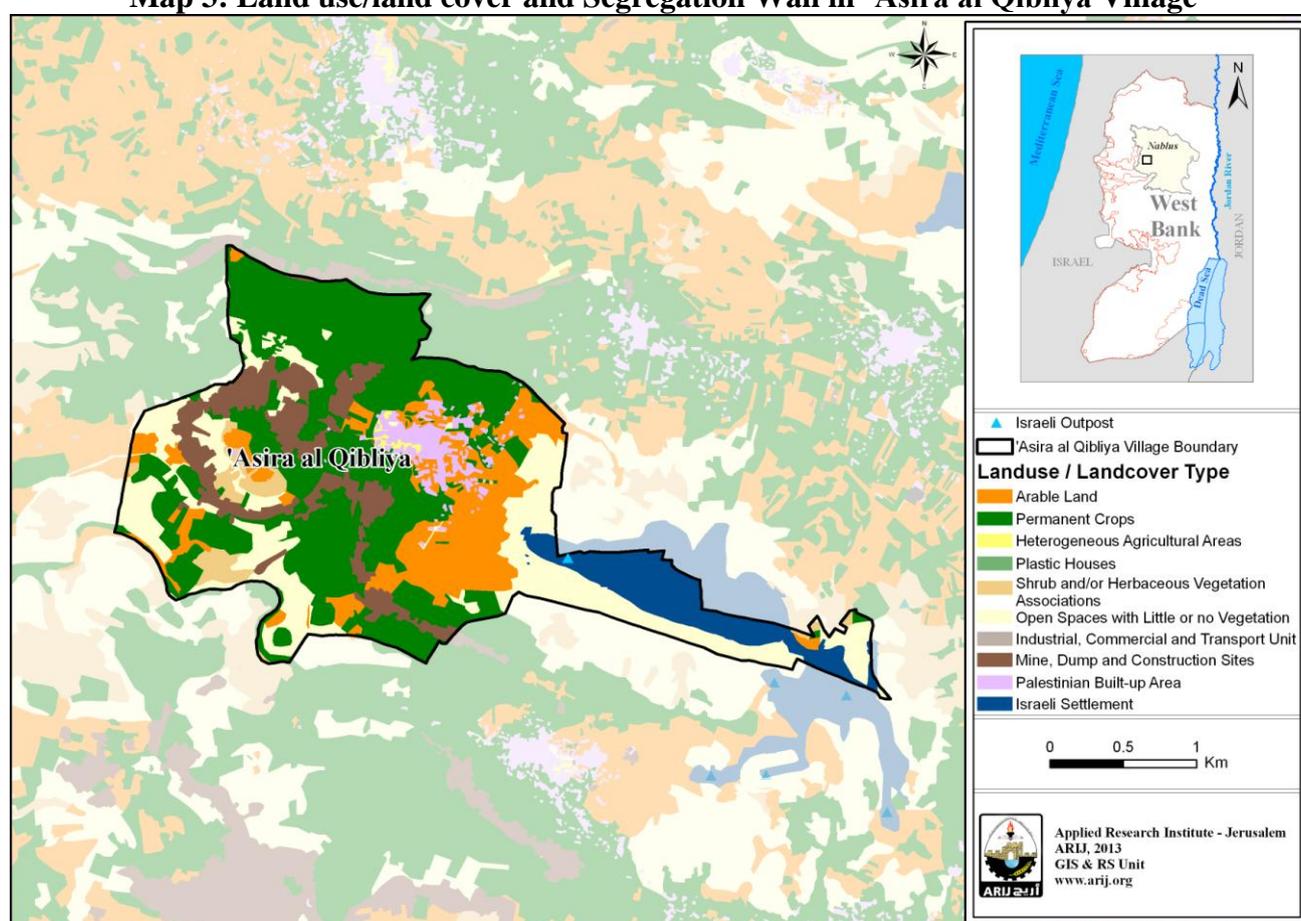
‘Asira al Qibliya has a total area of approximately 6,440 dunums of which 3,766 are ‘arable’ land and 216 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 5 and Map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in ‘Asira al Qibliya village (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (3,766)				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					
6,440	216	2,598	1	175	992	0	0	1,274	689	495

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in ‘Asira al Qibliya Village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

With regards to the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in ‘Asira al Qibliya, the most commonly cultivated crop within this area is okra; there is a total area of 2 dunums cultivated with rain-fed okra (Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. ‘Asira al Qibliya is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2,441 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

**Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in ‘Asira al Qibliya (area in dunums)**

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2,441	0	0	0	17	0	3	0	105	0	69	0	2,635	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in ‘Asira al Qibliya, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 290 dunums (See Table 7).

**Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in ‘Asira al Qibliya (area in dunums)**

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
290	0	4	0	30	0	4	0	65	0	0	0	20	0	413	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ’s GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization’s definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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 and 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 50% of the residents in ‘Asira al Qibliya rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in ‘Asira al Qibliya**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
84	300	170	0	0	0	0	30,000	0	60

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 12.7 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013):

**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in ‘Asira al Qibliya Village and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1.7
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	9
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	2

Source: ‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013):

- The Israeli occupation and the location of the village near an Israeli settlement.
- The lack of water resources.

- The lack of agricultural roads.
- The lack of financing and support by donor institutions.
- The high costs of agricultural inputs mainly for the livestock sector.

## Institutions and Services

‘Asira al Qibliya village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013):

- **‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council:** Founded in 1997, licensed later by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **‘Asira al Qibliya Charitable Society:** Founded in 1971, licensed later by the Ministry of Interior. The Society includes a kindergarten and a health clinic, and is concerned with children and public health.
- **Al Fayha’ Women Society:** Founded in 2007, the Society includes a kindergarten and provides care to children and mothers, in addition to educational assistance.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

‘Asira al Qibliya has been connected to a public electricity network since 2002. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the North Electricity Company. 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

‘Asira al Qibliya is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

### Transportation Services:

There are 4 taxis and 3 public buses, in addition to 3 private unlicensed/illegal cars in ‘Asira al Qibliya (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013). There are 9km of main roads and 3.8km of secondary roads in ‘Asira al Qibliya (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013) (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in ‘Asira al Qibliya Village**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	2	2
<b>2. Paved &amp; in poor condition</b>	4	0.8
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	3	1

Source: ‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013

**Water Resources:**

‘Asira al Qibliya is not provided with water through the public water network. As a result, citizens purchase water through private water companies (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

In the village has 420 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns, and water tank with a capacity of 100 cubic meters (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

**Sanitation:**

‘Asira al Qibliya lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

No estimates are available for daily consumption of water per capita in the village because the village is not served by the water supply service and the public water network. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate the amount of wastewater generated per day in the village.

The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

**Solid Waste Management:**

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste for Nablus City is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 10 NIS/ month per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in ‘Asira al Qibliya benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 3 containers (of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste two times weekly and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zahret al Finjan dumping site in Jenin Governorate, 40 km from the village, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally-friendly way (‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in ‘Asira al Qibliya is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the ‘Asira al Qibliya residents is nearly 1.8 tons, or 671 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

**Environmental Conditions**

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, ‘Asira al Qibliya experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

## **Water Crisis**

The lack of water supply service in the village due to the lack of public water network has resulted in citizens purchasing water at high prices from private water companies.

## **Wastewater Management**

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that 'Asira al Qibliya residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. 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, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. 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.

## **Solid Waste Management**

'Asira al Qibliya village suffers from a lack of containers for waste collection. Citizens leave garbage in front of homes until the waste is collected, usually three times a week. Accumulation of garbage in the streets and in front of homes results in insect infestation and attracts stray animals. As the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate, there are few problems related to waste disposal. This landfill is the main environmentally-friendly landfill serving the village, in addition to most of the localities in the Nablus Governorate.

## **Geopolitical Status in 'Asira al Qibliya village**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, 'Asira al Qibliya was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 4,636 dunums (72% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the PNA has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 1,804 dunums (28% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of 'Asira al Qibliya's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land or has been taken for Israeli settlements. (See Table 11).

**Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of 'Asira al Qibliya village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	4,636	72
Area C	1,804	28
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,440</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

### Israeli occupation practices in 'Asira al Qibliya village

Some of 'Asira al Qibliya village lands have been confiscated by Israel, for the purpose of establishing Israeli settlements, military checkpoints and outposts in the area. 495 dunums of land have been confiscated from 'Asira al Qibliya village in order to establish the “Yitzhar” settlement, located on the eastern side of the village. Founded in 1983, the settlement now covers around 1,354 dunums in total) and contains 1,106 Israeli settlers mainly built on territory belonging to 'Asira al Qibliya and Burin.

### Israeli checkpoints around 'Asira al Qibliya village

During the Second Intifada, the Israeli occupation authorities established checkpoints upon 'Asira al Qibliya land. Residents of the village, as well as the neighboring villages, were negatively impacted by the Huwwara checkpoint. These checkpoints were hot spots for a number of violations against Palestinians. The checkpoint also separated the Nablus city and the villages from the southern side. This checkpoint was partly removed in 2009, when Israeli forces reduced their presence in this area. Palestinians now have more freedom of movement than when the checkpoint was in place. Madama and 'Asira al Qibliya village are linked with Burin village and Nablus city via a tunnel that passes under Israeli bypass road No. 60. Israeli authorities have closed the road that links these villages with cement blocks. Flying checkpoints are set up regularly between the villages of Burin and Madama, where citizens are detained and searched.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of residents. Checkpoints continue to hinder freedom of movement and sever the links between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, as well as the connection between the villages and their agricultural lands. This has resulted in heavy economic losses for residents of 'Asira al Qibliya as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed.

### **Israeli outposts in the village of 'Asira al Qibliya**

Some of Asira al Qibliya village lands were taken by force by the Israeli settlers for the purpose of establishing two settlement outposts on the western hills of "Yitzhar" settlement, which is partially built on land confiscated from 'Asira al Qibliya. These outposts overlook the village of 'Asira al Qibliya, with the aim of extending the territory controlled along the western side of the settlement, and as a result, control more Palestinian land. These outposts form a security barrier which surrounds the Palestinian areas and its population and is a source of abuses and violations against Palestinian civilians and their land.

During the past two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Bank, which later became known as settlement outposts. The outposts are foundations for new settlements, and tend to be extended branches of a mother settlement a few miles away. The process usually begins with the establishment of mobile caravans on the land that has been taken by the settlers. Establishing settlement outposts was encouraged by Ariel Sharon; the aim was for Jewish settlers to occupy Palestinians hill tops and create facts on the ground, so that Palestinians could not claim the land if there was ever to be a future solution between the two sides. Consecutive Israeli governments have provided security and logistical support for these outposts. Since 2001 when Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister, there has been a significant increase in the number of outposts across the West Bank. The Israeli army has also supported illegal Israeli settlers in their relocation to the settlements, in addition to providing security and infrastructure support. This is to ensure the permanence of the settlements.

### **Settler attacks on 'Asira al Qibliya village**

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on 'Asira al Qibliya land has had a profoundly negative impact on village residents and their property. Palestinian land owners are unable to access their lands, as they have been fenced off with barbed wire. Settlers have planted trees in these areas to reinforce their control over the area. The settlers have damaged and burned a number of Palestinian owned trees and plants. Settlers have also attacked the land owners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their land.

Israel has confiscated some lands from 'Asira al Qibliya and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements in the area for the purpose of the establishment of Israeli settlements, but also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Where the settlement "Yizhar" became a daily threat on the inhabitants living in the neighboring Palestinian villages. Since the establishment of "Yitzhar" settlement, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked homes, places of worship, cars and other private property.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council has implemented several development projects in ‘Asira al Qibliya during the past five years (See Table 12).

**Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in ‘Asira al Qibliya during the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Paving roads (1.7 km)	Infrastructure	2012	‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council
Paving secondary roads	Infrastructure	2013	Arab Islamic Bank
Constructing walls around the houses close to the settlement	Public Services	2012	French Institution
Constructing additional classrooms at the village schools	Educational	2013	‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council & World Vision

Source: ‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013

### Proposed Projects

‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, in cooperation with the village’s civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants’ in the workshop:

1. Constructing and paving a road outside the village for the use of trucks working at the quarries and crushers.
2. Relocating the crushers to the Industrial Zone.
3. Constructing a new school and adding 24 classrooms to schools.
4. Establishing a health center to serve the three villages in the region, and providing an ambulance.
5. Paving secondary/internal roads (4km).
6. Providing a piece of land and a headquarters for a club.
7. Establishing water and sewerage networks in the village.
8. Creating jobs through operational projects for the unemployed.
9. Providing 50 containers for waste collection.
10. Compelling the health and environment directorate to periodically control the towers.
11. Establishing a public park.
12. Providing a tractor to cultivate the land near the settlement, and constructing agricultural roads.
13. Constructing 50 agricultural wells.
14. Supporting farmers in order to ensure the establishment of barracks for poultry and sheep.
15. Forming an organization committee for the regions of ‘Asira, Madama and Burin.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

‘Asira al Qibliya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council’s perspective:

**Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in ‘Asira al Qibliya**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			12 km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			Al Yanbu’ spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			15 km
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 new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			an elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			all levels
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			50 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			50 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			30 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			250 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

<sup>^</sup> 5 km main roads, 2 km secondary roads and 5 km agricultural roads.

Source: ‘Asira al Qibliya Village Council, 2013

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