

Deir Sharaf Village Profile



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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 about as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate, and aim to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present developmental plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment:" a 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 programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions in the 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 the 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 a focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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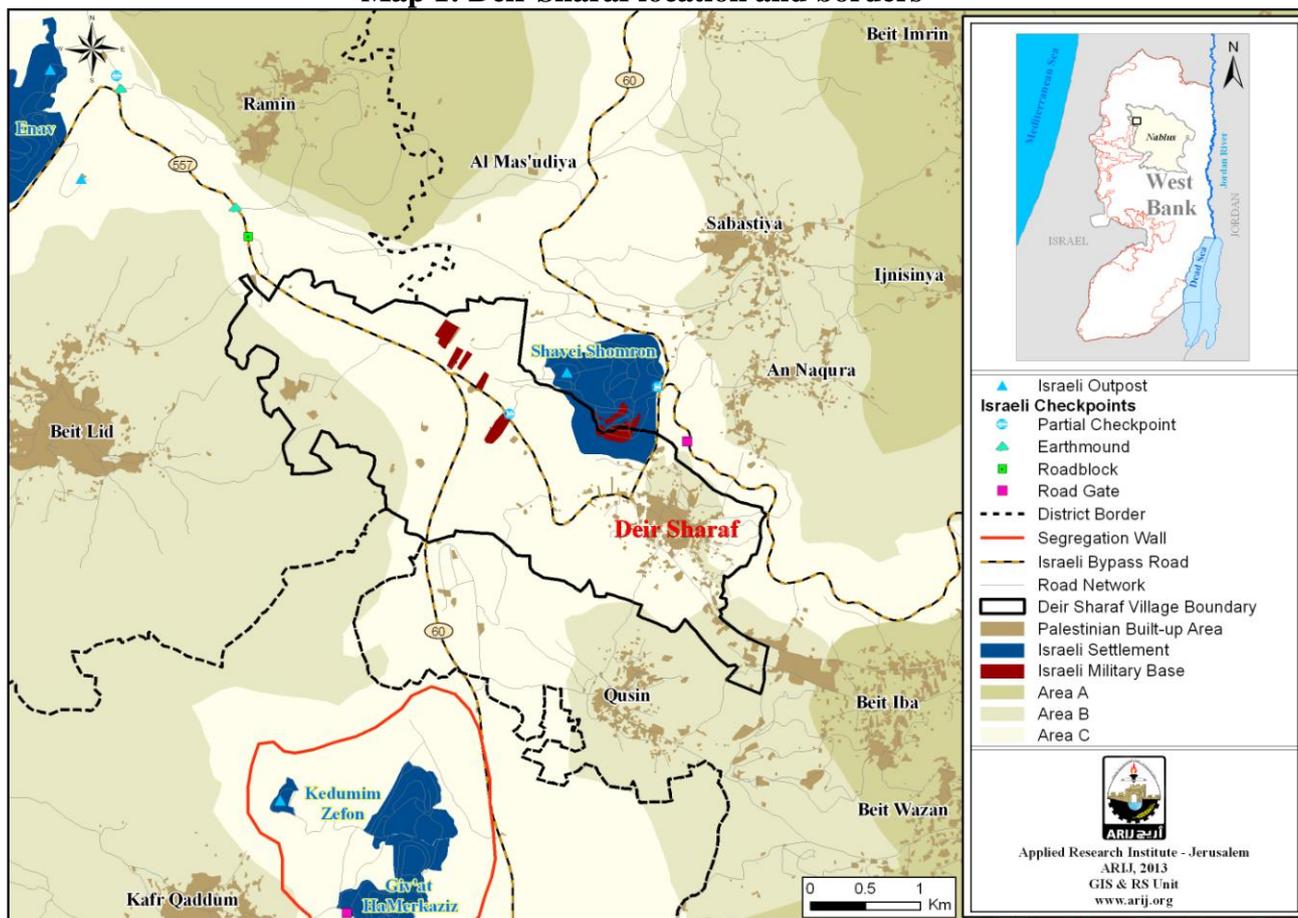
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Deir Sharaf Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Deir Sharaf is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 7.8km northwest of Nablus City. It is bordered by An Naqura, Beit Iba, and Sabastiya to the east, Burqa and Ramin to the north, Beit Lid to the west, and Qusin village to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Deir Sharaf location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Deir Sharaf is located at an altitude of 320m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 574.5mm. The average annual temperature is 17°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Deir Sharaf village consists of approximately 7,745 dunums. The borders of this locality are set according to the new local councils' borders which were defined by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government. The new borders of the Palestinian localities were set by the Palestinian National Authority, represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in the year 2011. These governmental institutions reset the borders of the localities for the purpose of the Palestinian elections that took place in 2011. Accordingly, ARIJ adopted these new borders in

this report since it finds that the newly adopted borders, to a certain extent, better suit the demographic, environmental and agricultural variables and facts on the ground. Also, ARIJ uses these defined borders only for the sake of this research and study. It is worth noting that these borders do not represent the areas and borders of the private properties at the locality level and are not included in the PNA files of the private land holdings.

Since 1964, Deir Sharaf has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 2 employees working for the council, which owns its permanent headquarters. The village does not own a waste collection vehicle (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Deir Sharaf, including:

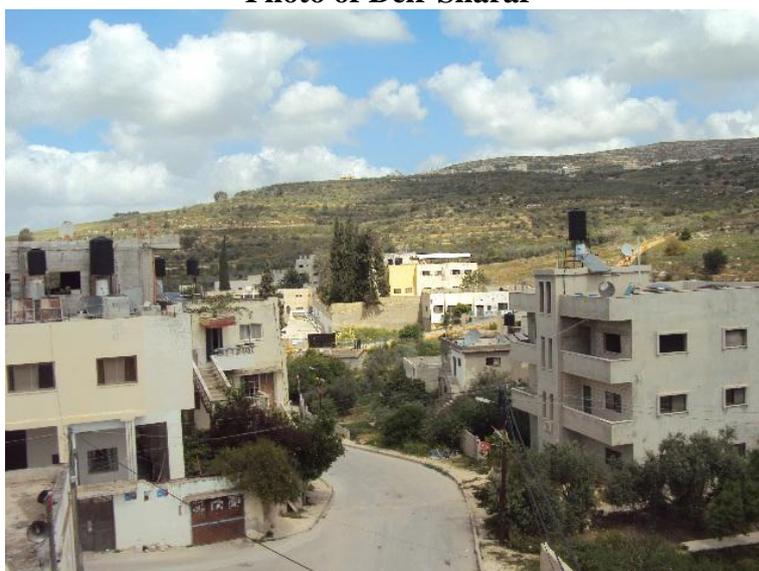
- The establishment and maintenance of access to drinking water
- Street cleaning, construction and paving, rehabilitation of roads, and provision of social services
- Protect government property
- Protect historical and archaeological sites
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village
- Provide a sewerage network

(Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013)

History

The village Deir Sharaf was named after one of the leaders of Salah Ad-Din's army, who was called "Sharaf" after the Islamic Army liberated Sabastiya. This locality dates back more than 2,000 years and originally the inhabitants came from the occupied territory of Al Wa'ara, Tiberias and Kafr 'Aqab (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

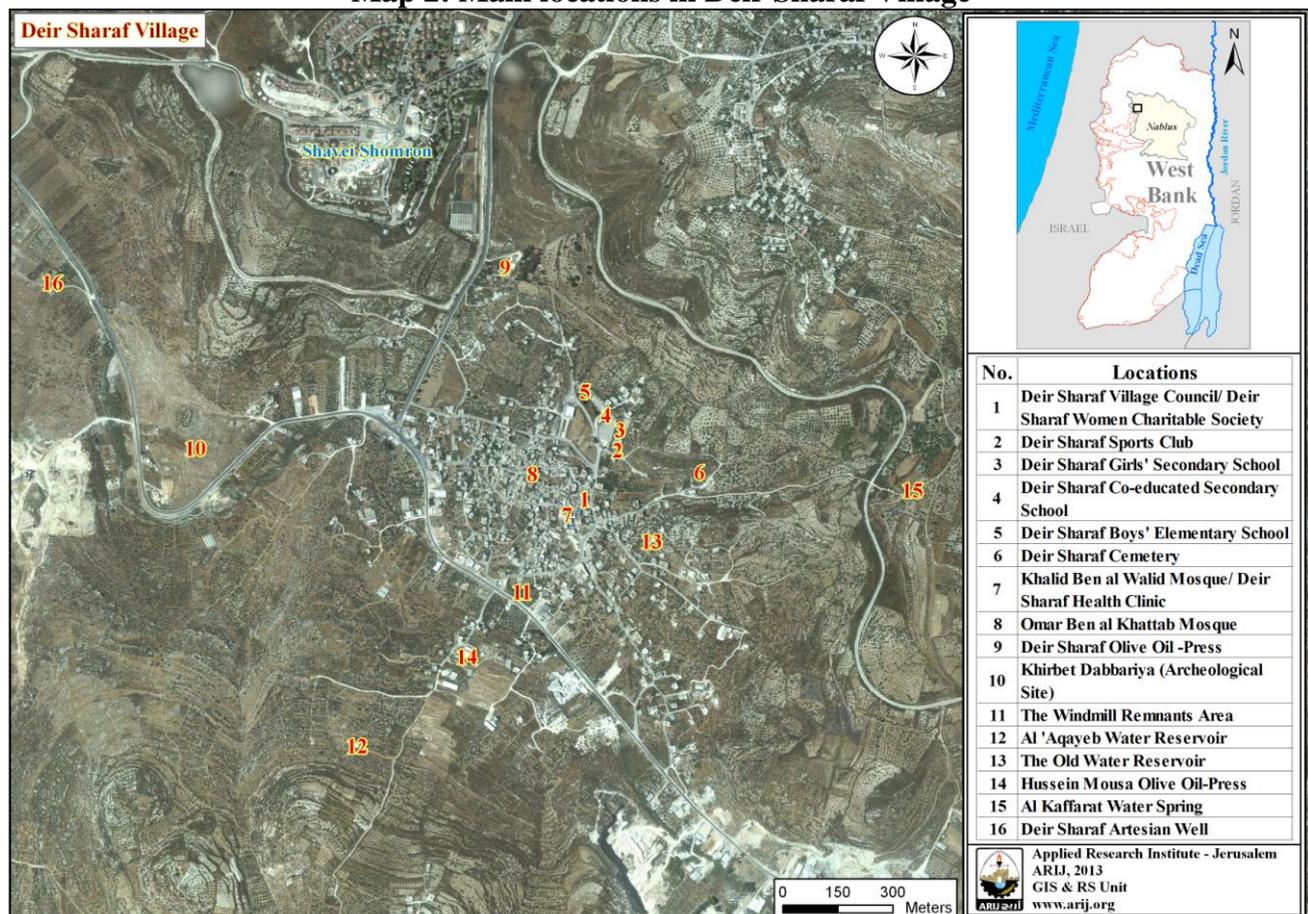
Photo of Deir Sharaf



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village: The Old Mosque (Umar ibn Al-Khatta) and the New Mosque (Khalid ibn al-Walid). The village has several sites of archaeological interest including: Kherba Al Wara'a, Kherba Kaboba, Kherba Beit Jedea, Kherba Qusin Al Sahel, Kherba Al Mash'abat, and Kherba Al Kafarat. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to qualify as a tourism site, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013)(See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Deir Sharaf Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Deir Sharaf in 2007 was 2,423, of whom 1,204 were male and 1,219 female. There were 464 households registered as living in 578 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 Deir Sharaf as follows: 36.9% were less than 15 years of age, 58.2% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4.6% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio

of males to females in the village was 100:98.8, meaning that males and females constituted 49.7% and 50.3% of the population, respectively.

Families

Deir Sharaf residents are from several families, including Al Hara, Al ‘Antary, Nofal, Faqaha, and Musa families (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Deir Sharaf population is approximately 6.6%, of which 88.4% are females. Of the literate population, 11.3% could only read and write, with no formal education, 19.4% had elementary education, 27% had preparatory education, 18.3% had secondary education, and 17.4% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Deir Sharaf by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Deir Sharaf population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	14	107	180	237	153	92	88	3	11	3	0	888
F	107	100	175	257	182	40	77	1	3	0	0	942
T	121	207	355	494	335	132	165	4	14	3	0	1,830

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are three 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 Deir Sharaf by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Deir Sharaf Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Deir Sharaf Boys Elementary School	Government	Male
Deir Sharaf Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 656 students, 45 teachers, and 26 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 25 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are two kindergartens in Deir Sharaf village which are run by private organizations. Table 3 shows the number of classes, teachers, and supervising authority.

Table 3: Kindergarten in Deir Sharaf by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	Number of Classes	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Amal Kindergarten	3	4	Private
Al Samah Kindergarten	2	3	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

Due to the lack of variety when it comes to education, such as no secondary level commercial sector track, some students attend Sabastiya Secondary school for that track, 6km away from the village (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Deir Sharaf village faces a number of obstacles, primarily:

- The boys elementary school's building is old and inadequate
 - Insufficient open areas in Deir Sharaf secondary co-educated school
- (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013)

Health Status

Deir Sharaf has a few health facilities including one governmental health center (Deir Sharaf Health Center), 2 private dentists, and a private pharmacy. In the absence of necessary health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidiya or the National Hospital in Nablus city, 10km away (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of an ambulance service
 - The lack of equipment and machines in the health center
 - The lack of a resident physician working on a daily basis in the health center; the physicians work only three days a week at the health center
- (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013)

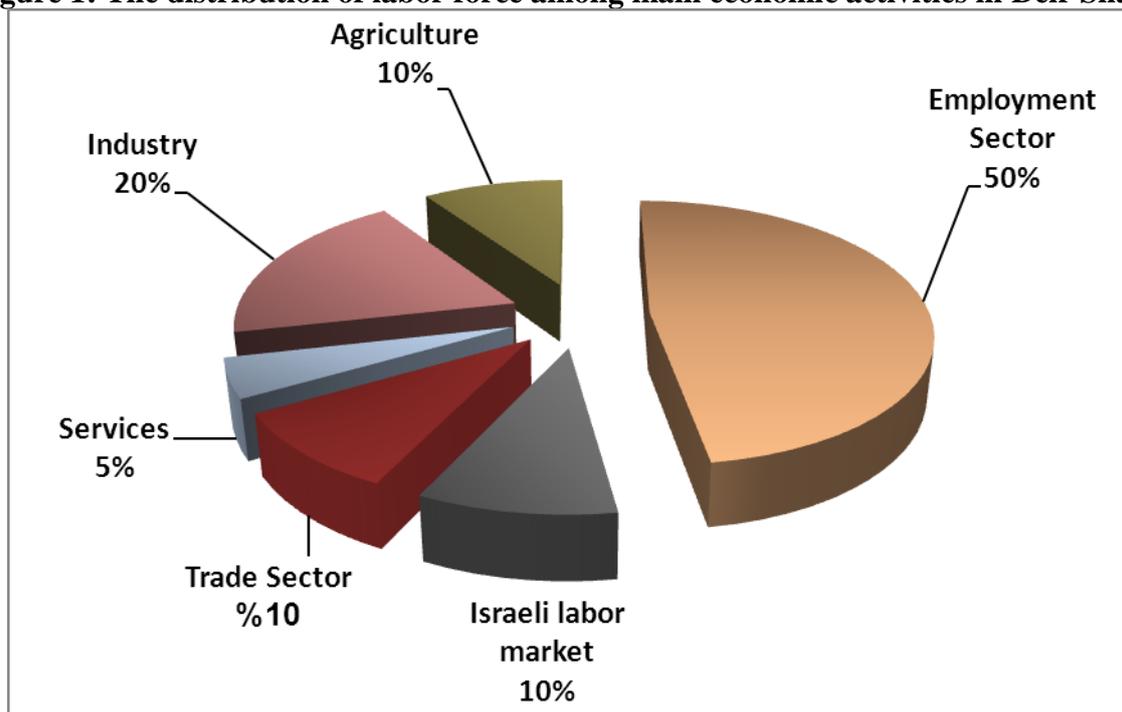
Economic Activities

The economy in Deir Sharaf is dependent mainly on the public employee sector, which absorbs 50% of the village's workforce (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 looking at the distribution of labor according to economic activity in Deir Sharaf are as follows:

- Public employee sector (50%)
- Industry (20%)
- Agricultural sector (10%)
- Israeli labor market (10%)
- Services sector (5%)
- Trade sector (10%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Deir Sharaf



Source: Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013

Deir Sharaf has 30 markets, a bakery, 4 butcher shops, 4 fruit and vegetable shops, 5 service providers, 11 industrial workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc), 4 stone cutters, 10 quarries, an olive press, and 2 arboretums (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Deir Sharaf reached 20% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013):

- Workers in the agricultural sector
- Workers in the industrial sector

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 33.2% of Deir Sharaf’s labor force was economically active, of whom 84.5% were employed. 66.7% were not economically active, of whom 54.6% were students, and 32.4% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Deir Sharaf population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	438	32	31	501	311	0	51	12	13	387	0	888
F	76	6	25	107	356	395	81	0	2	834	1	942
T	514	38	56	608	667	395	132	12	15	1,221	1	1,830

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

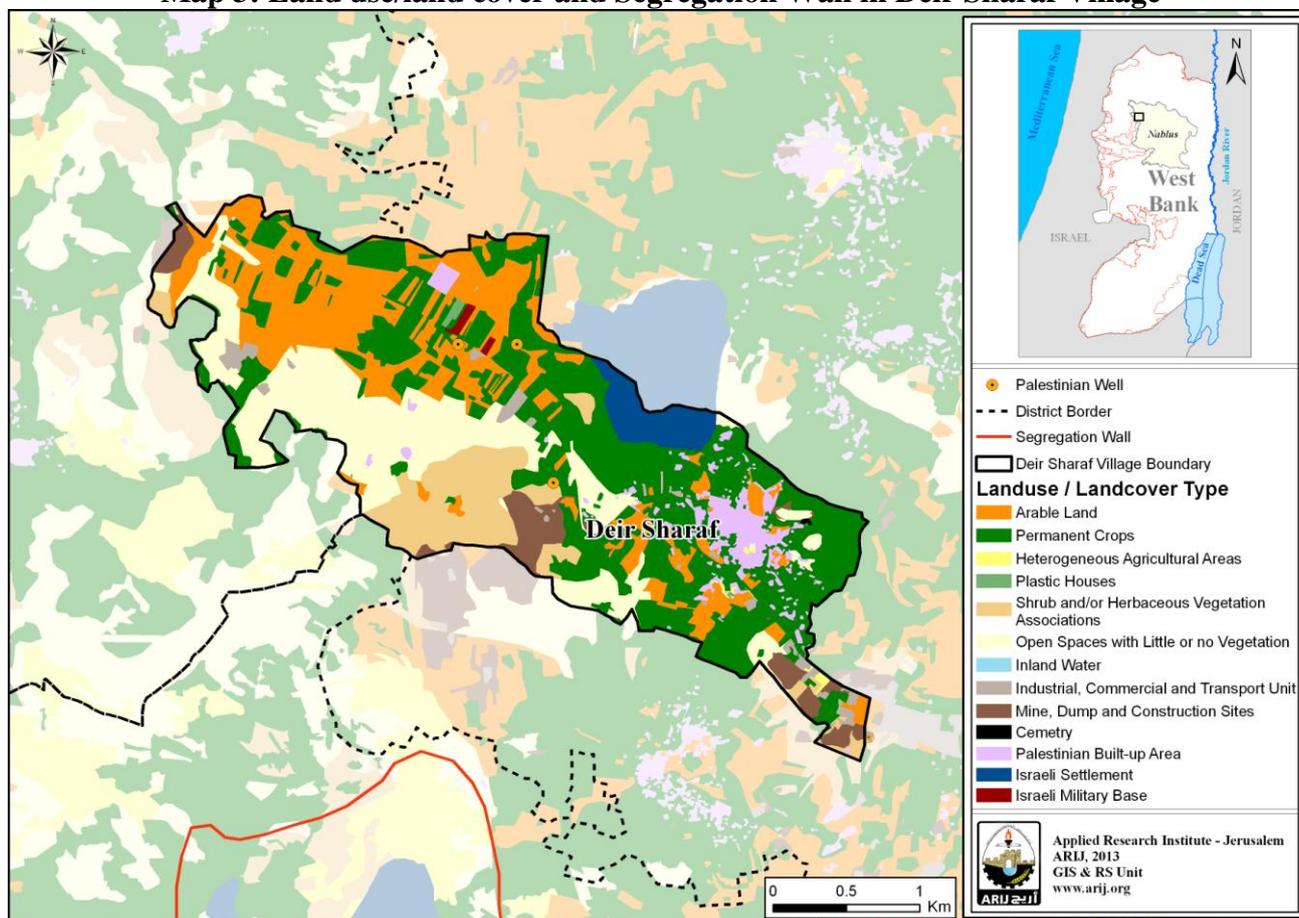
Deir Sharaf has a total area of approximately 7,745 dunums of which 5,231 are ‘arable’ land and 321 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Deir Sharaf village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,231)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone	Tombs
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands						
7,745	321	2,823	17	677	1,714	1	0	1,483	450	257	2

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Deir Sharaf Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Deir Sharaf. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are okra and "snake cucumber". Additionally, there are two dunums of greenhouses in the village filled with different vegetables (Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010)

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Deir Sharaf (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
14	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	17	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Deir Sharaf is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 3,295 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Deir Sharaf (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.
3,295	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	120	0	53	0	3,447	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 8 shows the field and forage crops, and the area of grain in the village which is approximately 210 dunums.

Table 8: Total area of field and forage crops in Deir Sharaf village (area in dunums)

Grains		Bulbs, Tubers, and Roots		Dry Legumes		Oily Crops		Forage Crops		Telltale Crops		Other Crops		Total	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
210	0	5	0	22	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	5	0	280	0

Rf: Rain-fed; Irr: Irrigated

Source: Ministry of agriculture- Nablus, 2010

The difference in size of agricultural areas between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit 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 did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicates 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 3% of the residents in Deir Sharaf rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Deir Sharaf

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broiler Chickens	Layers Chickens	Bee Hives
16	1,700	160	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	100

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 17.4 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, categorized as follows:

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Deir Sharaf Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	0.4
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	7
Unsuitable	-

Source: Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces several problems, including:

- Fragmentation of land ownership
- The lack of agricultural expertise, which decreased with time, and lack of technological development
- The lack of capital among farmers
- The difficulty of marketing agricultural products
- The lack of water sources for irrigation
- The lengthy distance to go to work in the agricultural sector

(Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and Services

Deir Sharaf village does not have any national governmental branches. However, it has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Deir Sharaf Village Council:** Founded in 1964, and registered later by the Ministry of Local Government, it has the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructural services.
- **Deir Sharaf Charitable Society:** Founded in 1998, and registered later by the Ministry of Interior, the Society's aim is to organize training courses in embroidery, handicrafts, food processing, and beekeeping. It also organizes different courses in the fields of diseases and health education, in addition to assisting courses in education.
- **Deir Sharaf Sports Club:** Founded in 1997, and registered later by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, the Club's aim is to create sports teams and different youth activities.
- **Deir Sharaf Agricultural Committee:** Founded in 2012 by a group of farmers, the Society's priority is to assist farmers and provide them with guidance to improve their businesses.

(Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Deir Sharaf has been connected to a public electricity network since 1976. It is served by the 'Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company,' which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the

North Electricity Company, and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the need for the public electricity network to expand, as well as the urgent need to raise the amount electric power that serves the locality because of the presence of the industrial zones (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

Deir Sharaf is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 30% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services

There are 10 taxis in Deir Sharaf, 5 illegal cars, and 100 private cars. In the absence of public transportation the residents are transported by private cars, Tulkarm shared taxis, and Sabastiya passers-by from the main street of the village (Deir Sharaf Village Council 2013). The presence of military checkpoints creates obstacles for the movement of passengers and travelers to neighboring cities and communities. There are 10.5km of main roads and 9km of secondary roads in Deir Sharaf (Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Deir Sharaf Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	0	4
2. Paved & in poor condition	10	-
3. Unpaved	0.5	5

Source: Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013

Water Resources

Deir Sharaf village is provided with water by Nablus Municipality through the public water network established in the year 1970, and 95% of the households are connected with the water network (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013).

The quantity of water supply in Deir Sharaf in 2012 is about 84,000 cubic meters/year (Deir Sharaf village council, 2012). Thus, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 84 liters/day. Here it should be noted that no Deir Sharaf citizen in fact consumes this amount of water due to water losses. About 40% of the water is lost at the main source, at the major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Deir Sharaf is approximately 51 liters per day (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013). This is low compared to the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 3.5 NIS/cubic meter (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013).

The village has two springs, in addition to 30 domestic wells to collect rain water and two water tanks with a capacity of 500 and 100 cubic meters, respectively (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013).

Wastewater Status

Deir Sharaf village has had a public sewerage network since 1997, and it reaches about 75% of the village, however some of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day is 110.5 cubic meters, or 40,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 40 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly into 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 environmental threat in addition to a public health risk (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

Solid Waste

The Joint Service Council for Solid Waste in Nablus area is responsible for managing solid waste collection and disposal of the waste generated by citizens and establishments in the Deir Sharaf village. Due to the fact that solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 10 NIS per house per month is charged to the population for the service of domestic solid waste collection and transportation. However, the rate of collected fees is only 20% and is not considered sufficient for good management of solid waste (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013).

Most of the population in Deir Sharaf benefits from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 20 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it through the use of a waste collection vehicle to the Zahret Al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate, 40km from the village center. Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally sound way (Deir Sharaf village council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Deir Sharaf is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Deir Sharaf residents is nearly 1.9 tons, or 698 tons per year (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

The village of Deir Sharaf and other towns in the Nablus Governorate suffer from several environmental problems which should be addressed. For instance:

Water Sector:

- Only 40% of the residential units are served by the public water network Rehabilitation of old water network and network expansion to serve new areas are needed

Wastewater Management

Wastewater collected by the drainage network in the village of Deir Sharaf is disposed of without treatment in open areas as there is no station in the village for wastewater treatment. The residents are forced to use unhygienic means for the disposal of wastewater and often dispose of 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 cause environmental damage, health problems and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The wastewater also contaminates the groundwater and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater-harvesting cisterns).

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.

Solid Waste Management

The village does not suffer from any problems in solid waste management. The Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste collects waste from the area and it is disposed of in Zahret Al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate which is the main sanitary landfill that serves most of the population in the Nablus Governorate.

Geopolitical status in Deir Sharaf village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Deir Sharaf was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 1,827 dunums (24% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 5,918 dunums (76% 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 Deir Sharaf's population resides between Area B and Area C, while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land, open spaces and Israeli settlements. (See Table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Deir Sharaf village according to Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,827	24
Area C	5,918	77
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	7,745	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Deir Sharaf village

Hundreds of dunums of land belonging to Deir Sharaf village have been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military bases and the construction of Israeli settlement roads. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of land of Deir Sharaf.

Israel has confiscated an area of 236 dunums from Deir Sharaf village for the establishment of three settlements, “Shavei Shomron” Israeli settlement, located on the north side of the village. Founded in 1977, it is built upon territory belonging to the neighboring village An Naqura and contains 792 Israeli settlers mainly built on territory belonging to the neighboring village An Naqura. Moreover, Israel has also confiscated 16 dunums from the village to establish a military base near “Shavei Shomron” settlement.

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on Deir Sharaf 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, located near the settlements.

Israeli checkpoints around Deir Sharaf village

During the Second Intifada in 2000, Israeli authorities established checkpoints upon the land belonging to Deir Sharaf and its neighboring villages. “Al Tunaib” flying checkpoint is a temporary checkpoint located to the western entrance of the village and on the road that is connected with Tulkarem governorate. Earth mound barriers were constructed so as to close the agricultural roads that link between the village and bypass road No. 60. The checkpoint was removed after several years. The village and the neighboring villages were negatively affected in the north-west of Nablus. 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 the village as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed under the pretext of protecting settlers who live in “Shavei Shomron” settlement and the other settlements. It is worth mentioning that this checkpoint and its iron gate are open in front of the movement of the Palestinian residents.

Landfill on the plains of Deir Sharaf village

Deir Sharaf village has been negatively impacted by the establishment of a landfill site on its territory to the western side of the village. According to the Land Research Center, this landfill was created by Crusher Abu Shusha on an area of 150 dunums. The landfill site is about 500 meters away from houses in Deir Sharaf. This area is considered important because of its available groundwater sources and the fertility of the agricultural land. There are five wells supplying the city of Nablus and its western villages. The landfill is considered a real environmental threat for the entire region, as it causes air, soil and water pollution in addition to the spread of diseases, insects and rodents. Landfill operations were suspended for a short period as a result of pressure from human rights organizations, but operations were resumed in 2009.

Israeli bypass roads in Deir Sharaf village

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south, confiscating hundreds of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements with each other. It also separates Palestinian land to enhance security control over the Palestinian populations in these areas. On the western side of Deir Sharaf village, Israel has confiscated land in order to build bypass road No. 60 and road No. 57. These roads extend 7km onto the territory of the village. It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the confiscated land that were taken for the benefit of what is known as the buffer zone. The buffer zone is imposed by the Israeli army and usually occupies 75 meters on both sides of the road

Israeli military orders issued in the village of Deir Sharaf

Israeli authorities have issued a series of military orders in order to confiscate land in the village of Deir Sharaf. The following are some of these commands:

1. Israeli Military Order No. (165 / 05 / T) issued on 20th September 2005, confiscated 53.4 dunums of land from the villages of Deir Sharaf, Sabastiya and An Naqura for “*the establishment of a security zone for the fortified settlement of Shavei Shomron.*”
2. Israeli Military Order No. (95/26 / T) (extension of settlements) issued on 18th September 2012, confiscated 137 dunums from the villages of Deir Sharaf, Qusin and Kafr Qadum for military purposes (paving bypass road to connect the settlements).
3. Israeli Military Order No. (182 / 05 / T) released during April 2009, confiscated 10.9 dunums of land of Deir Sharaf village for the aim of establishing a new entrance to “Shavei Shomron” settlement and connecting it to bypass road No. 60. The road is 500m long and 30m wide.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Deir Sharaf Village Council has implemented several development projects in Deir Sharaf during the past five years (See Table 12).

Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Deir Sharaf during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establish a water tank with a capacity up to 500 cubic meters	Water	2008	UNDP
a four-phase project for a sewerage network	Infrastructure	2009	Baqdar, Islamic Development Bank
Paving of internal roads	Infrastructure	2009	Islamic Development Bank
Rehabilitation of village council building	Service	2010	Deir Sharaf Village Council
Building retaining walls 700m long	Infrastructure	2010	CHF
Building a bridge over Allzumer valley	Infrastructure	2012	Deir Sharaf Village Council
Cleaning and sanitation in the valley	Service	2012	Deir Sharaf Village Council

Source: Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

Deir Sharaf 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. The need to provide tools and equipment for the maintenance of the public water network and sewerage network (Bagger bulldozer, maintenance car for the sewage line, and hand tools)
2. The need to expand the network of drinking water, especially for residents of Area C (length of 7km)
3. The need to expand the sewerage network, especially for residents of Area C (length of 5km)
4. The need to provide the village with 50 small waste containers to serve in residential areas
5. The need to build a primary school for boys
6. The need to build an indoor gym
7. The need to establish agricultural roads in Area C, and areas near the settlement of "Shavei Shomron" and the Israeli bypass road
8. The need to develop the health clinic and its services
9. The need to build walls surrounding the cemetery of the village
10. The need to provide infrastructure services to the region
11. The need to establish agricultural water collection wells
12. The need to build a Wedding Hall to serve residents of the village
13. The need for small productive projects to create job opportunities for citizens

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Deir Sharaf 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 Deir Sharaf

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and paving of roads	*			29 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		2 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			7 km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			6 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		10 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	•			70 small containers or 10 big containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			Rehabilitation of health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Building elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment		*		all schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			100 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			50 wells
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		10 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals			*	
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			50 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			
Other Needs					
1	Provide the village council with a bagger bulldozer and a pickup truck				
2	Provide the village council with a tractor with all its equipment				
3	Provide the village council with a vehicle for wastewater disposal				
4	Building phrases of water along the sewer line route between Nablus and Deir Sharaf (Alzumar Valley)				
5	Establishment of a civil defence and ambulance center				
6	The establishment of public restrooms on the main street				
7	Infrastructure work of the water line, electrical grid, and expansion of its entrance				

[^] 7 km main roads, 5 km secondary roads and 17 km agricultural roads

Source: Deir Sharaf Village Council, 2013

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