

Osarin 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 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>.

Table of Contents

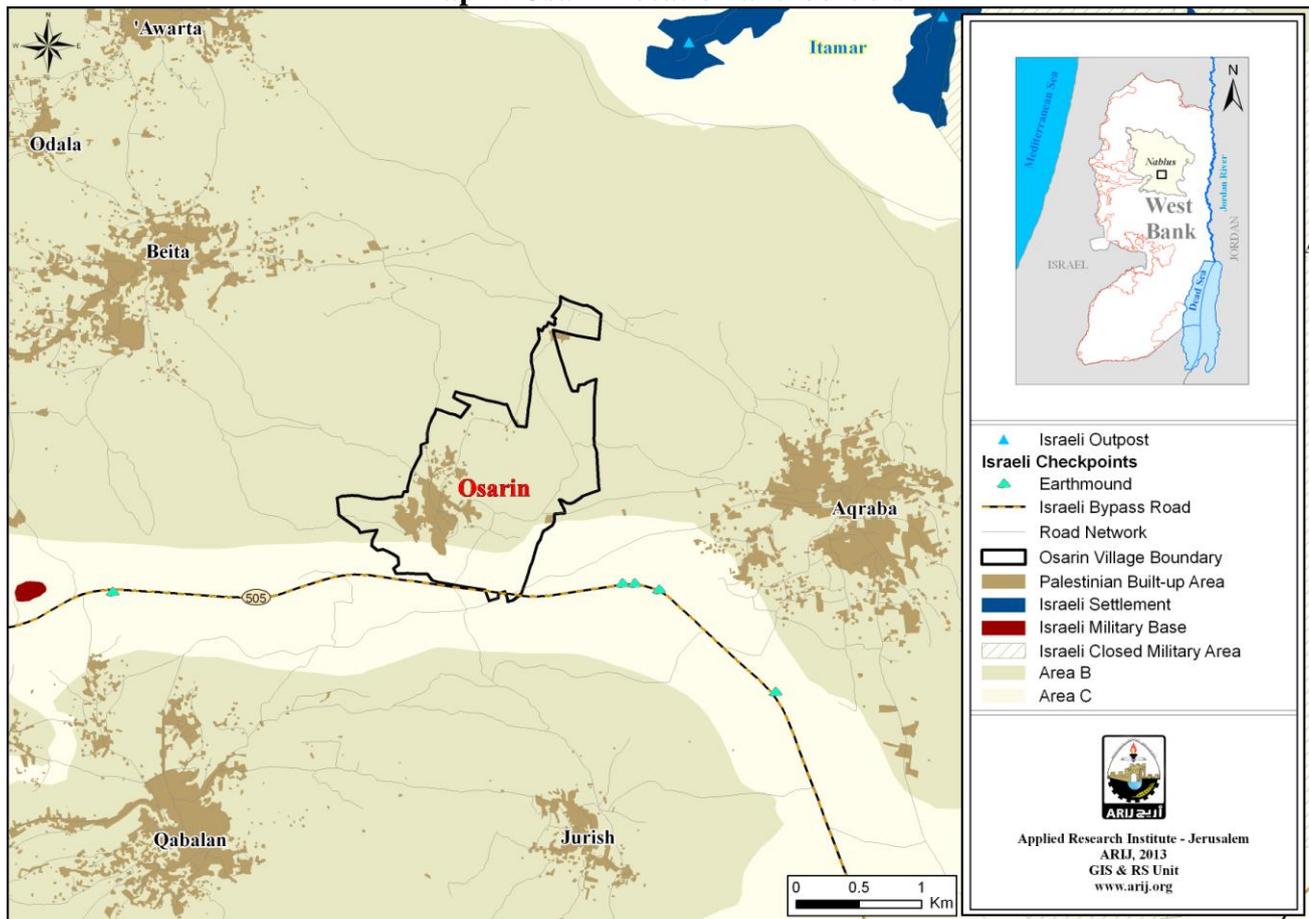
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	12
<i>Environmental Conditions</i>	14
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	16
<i>Implemented Projects</i>	16
<i>Proposed Projects</i>	16
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	17
<i>References:</i>	18

Osarin Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Osarin is a Palestinian village in Nablus Governorate, located 11.3km south of Nablus City. It is bordered by Aqraba to the east, Beita to the north and west, and Qabalan to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Osarin location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Osarin is located at an altitude of 691m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 470.8mm. The average annual temperature is 18.5°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 59% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Osarin village consists of approximately 2,258 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. It is also not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1996, Osarin has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 7 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 3 employees working in the council, which has a permanent headquarters included within the Joint Services Council Southeast of Nablus (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Osarin, including (Osarin Village Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity network or generators.
- Waste collection and public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Provision of educational kindergartens.
- Provision of means of transportation.

History

The current village was established in 1900, with its residents descending from Iraq (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

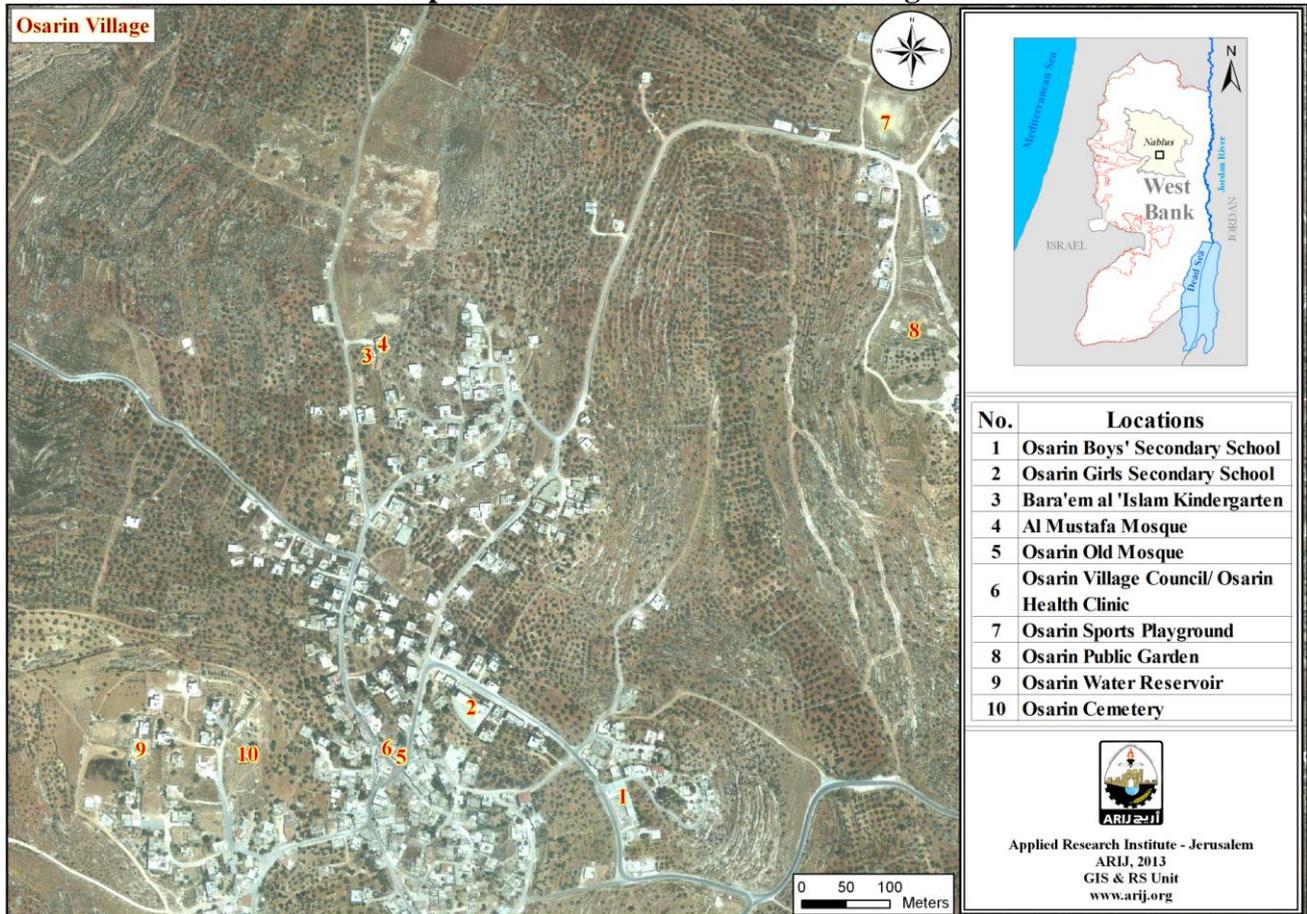
Photo of Osarin



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village (Al Mustafa and the Old Mosques). The village has a few sites of archaeological interest, including Al Khirba area (ruins) which is in need of restoration in order to be qualified for tourism as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Osarin Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Osarin Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Osarin in 2007 was 1,588, of whom 806 were male and 782 female. There were additionally 288 households registered as living in 319 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 Osarin is as follows: 42.8% were less than 15 years of age, 54.7% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.5% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 103.1:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.8% and 49.2% of the population, respectively.

Families

Osarin residents are from one main family which is ‘Adili family (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Osarin population is approximately 6.6%, of whom 76.6% are females. Of the literate population, 21.5% could only read and write, with no formal education, 39.8% had elementary education, 22.8% had preparatory education, 7.8% had secondary education, and 1.5% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Osarin by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Osarin 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	18	124	227	163	52	3	9	0	1	0	0	597
F	59	126	235	102	38	2	2	0	0	0	0	564
T	77	250	462	265	90	5	11	0	1	0	0	1,161

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 Osarin by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Osarin Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Osarin Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 472 students, 39 teachers, and 24 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 12, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 20 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There is also one kindergarten in Osarin village (Bara'em al Islam Kindergarten) which is run by a private organization. The kindergarten consists of 3 classrooms that are supervised by 3 teachers (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

Due to the lack of variety when it comes to education, such as the secondary scientific branch, students head to Beita Girls' Secondary School or 'Aqraba Boys' Secondary School; each is approximately 4km from the village (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Osarin village faces a number of obstacles including: (Osarin Village Council, 2013):

- The drop out of students from the boys' school.

- The lack of a qualified school in the village.
- The weak educational staff at the boys' school.
- The lack of classrooms.

Health Status

Osarin has Osarin Health Clinic and a private general physician clinic. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Zakat 'Aqraba clinic (4km away), Zakat Beita Clinic (4 kmaway) or the medical centers in Nablus city (18km away) (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

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

- The lack of an ambulance service.
- The lack of interest given by the Ministry of Health in providing health staff for Osarin Health Clinic.
- The lack of a pharmacy.

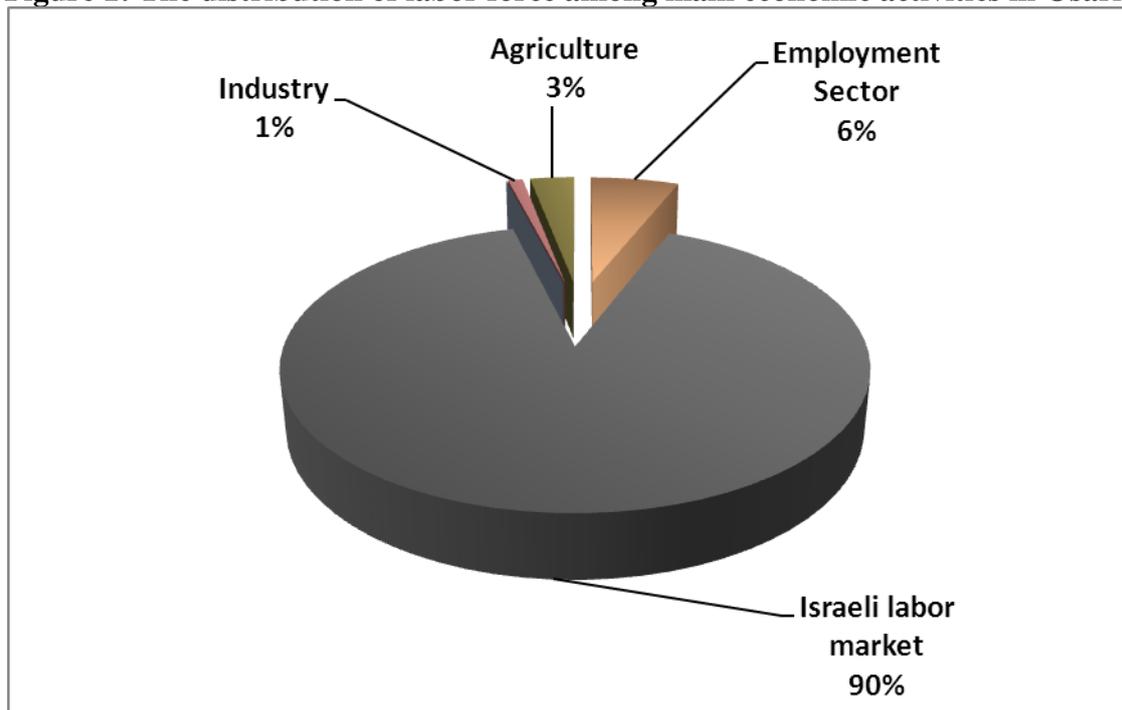
Economic Activities

The economy in Osarin is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 90% of the village's workforce (Osarin 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 Osarin are as follows:

- Israeli labor market (90%)
- Government or other employees sector (6%)
- Agriculture sector (3%)
- Industry (1%)

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



Source: Osarin Village Council, 2013

Osarin has 30 groceries, 1 butchery, 5 service stores and 1 professional workshop (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Osarin reached 30% and the groups most affected economically by Israeli restrictions have been (Osarin Village Council, 2013):

- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the agriculture sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 31.9% of Osarin’s labor force was economically active, of whom 85.1% were employed, 68% were not economically active, 45.6% were students, and 41.3% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Osarin 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	297	50	5	352	178	1	30	5	31	245	0	597
F	18	0	0	18	182	325	34	3		544	2	564
T	315	50	5	370	360	326	64	8	31	789	2	1,161

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

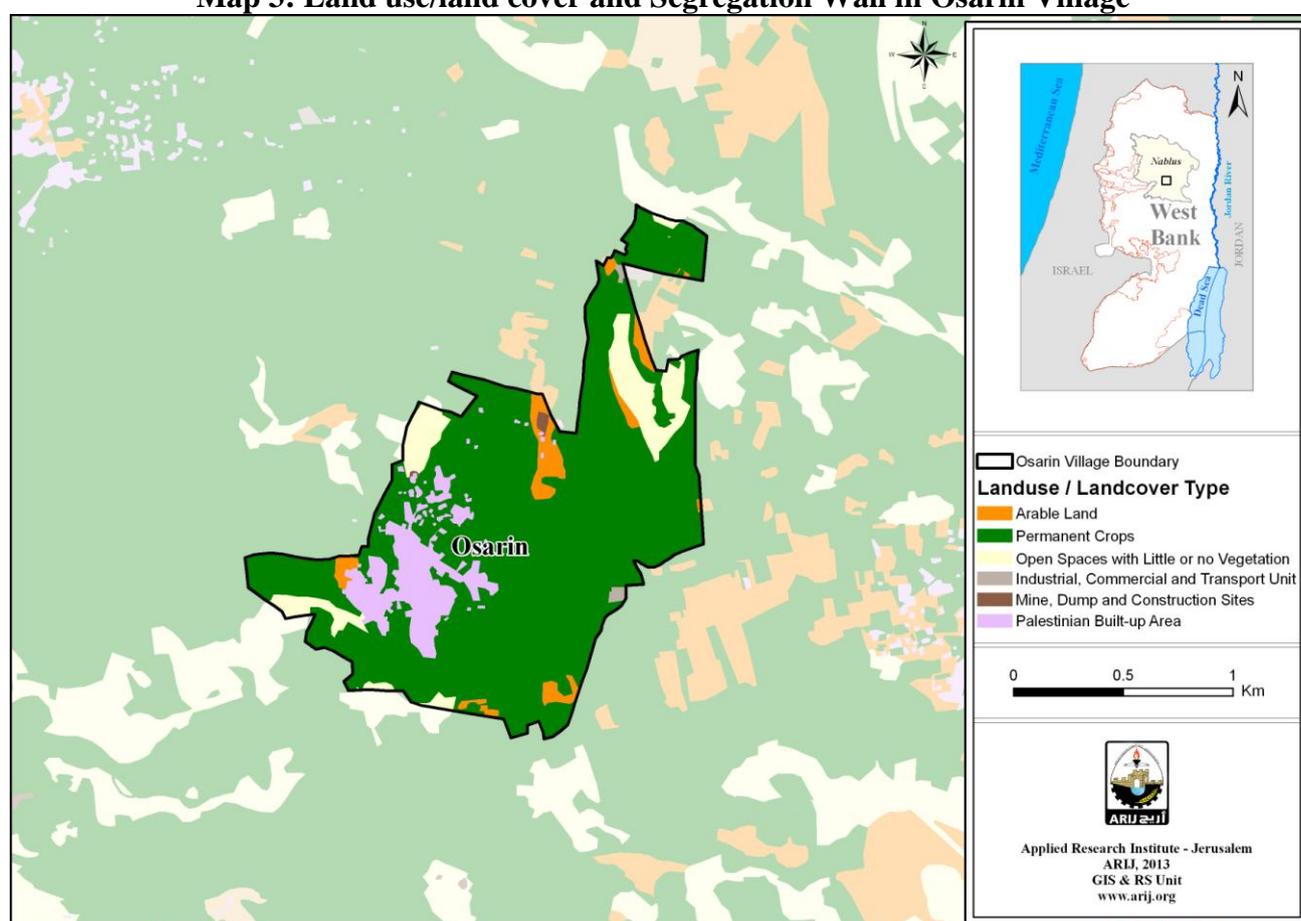
Osarin has a total area of approximately 2,258 dunums of which 1,856 are ‘arable’ land and 206 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Osarin village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,856)				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					
2258	206	1765	0	0	91	0	0	183	13	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Osarin is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 885 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Osarin (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.
885	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	46	0	33	0	970	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Osarin, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 100 dunums (See Table 6).

Table 6: Total area of forage and field crops in Osarin (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.
100	0	11	0	28	0	2	0	35	0	0	0	13	0	189	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 the ARIJ team shows that 14% of the residents in Osarin rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Osarin

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
13	50	170	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 45 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Osarin Village Council, 2013):

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Osarin Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	15
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	15
For animals only	15
Unsuitable	-

Source: Osarin Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces a number of problems including (Osarin Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment.

Institutions and Services

Osarin village has a post office division in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Osarin Village Council, 2013):

- **Osarin Village Council:** Founded in 1996 and was later registered 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.
- **Osarin Sports Club:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports. The Club provides sports and agricultural activities.
- **Osarin Women Society:** Founded in 2011 by the Ministry of Interior and is interested in providing women with various services, including awareness and cultural courses, among others.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Osarin has been connected to a public electricity network since 1991. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the North Electricity Company. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents suffer some obstacles concerning electricity, primarily the weak electrical power supply and old and exposed wires which are in need of rehabilitation (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

Osarin is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 20% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

There is 1 taxi and 1 public bus in addition to 10 private cars in Osarin. This number is insufficient to meet residents' needs, thus they use the cars on the main street (Osarin Village Council, 2013). There are 7.5km of main roads and 12km of secondary roads in Osarin (Osarin Village Council, 2013) (See Table 9).

Table 9: Roads in Osarin Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	1.5	3
2. Paved & in poor condition	3	5
3. Unpaved	3	4

Source: Osarin Village Council, 2013

Water Resources

Osarin is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through a transmission line to the village tank. When water is not available, citizens purchase water through special mobile water tanks with high costs reaching up to 11 NIS for each cubic meter of water (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Osarin village in 2012 was recorded at approximately 48,000 cubic meters/year (Osarin Village Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 749 liters/day. However, no Osarin citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 4% (Osarin Village Council, 2013). 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 Osarin is 71 liters per day (Osarin Village Council, 2013). The average water consumption of Osarin residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. In addition, the village has 300 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns, in addition to a public water tank with 550 cubic meter capacity (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 101 cubic meters, or 37,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 56 liters per day. 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 in Nablus 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 (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Osarin benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 30 containers (of 0.5m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste twice a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a landfill site in El Far'a, 50km from the village. The waste is subsequently buried and burned causing a number of health and environmental hazards (Osarin Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Osarin is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Osarin residents is nearly 1.3 tons, or 457 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

- Lack of water supply service in the village because of the lack of public water network and therefore the citizens have to buy water at high prices.
- Interruption of water for long periods in the summer.
- Leakage of waste water from septic tanks to rainwater wells leading to contamination.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Osarin 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

Osarin village suffers from the absence of a central, safe landfill site for its solid waste. Osarin village does not utilize the local environmentally-friendly landfill site at Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate to dispose of its solid waste safely, as other villages and towns for Nablus Governorate do.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Osarin village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Osarin was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,883 dunums (83% of the village’s total area) was classified as area “B”, where the PNA has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 375dunums (17% 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 authorized consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Osarin’s population resides in area B, while most of the land lying within area C are agricultural areas (table 10).

Table 10: The Geopolitical Divisions of Osarin village according to Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,883	83
Area C	375	17
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	2258	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

The Israeli Occupation practices in Osarin village

Currently, there are no established settlements and camps on Osarin village land. However, Osarin village occupants still suffer from Israeli occupation practices, as there are settlements, camps and Israeli military checkpoints close to the village. Because of this, the residents of the village suffered for several years due to the closure of the main entrance of the village on the southern side. This occurred after the second Intifada, where the Israeli military put concrete blocks and an Iron Gate at this entrance. The residents of the village were forced to use alternative roads in order to reach Nablus city, one of these being Beita town road, until the southern entrance re-opened after years of closure.

Osarin village in particular and Nablus city in general, were affected by “Huwwara” and Za'tara main checkpoints, which are still considered as the most important checkpoints, have worked to separate the northern governorate from the southern and center governorates. “Huwwara” checkpoint was partly removed in 2009, where the Israeli forces reduced their presence in this area and reduced their control over the movement of Palestinian civilians under calm conditions on the ground, but the main barrier Za'atara still cuts through the West Bank to this day. Search procedures are still present but to a lesser extent than in previous years.

This military checkpoints had a negative impact on the lives of Palestinians in the last decade. The checkpoint have worked to disable the freedom of movement and to cut the connection between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, in addition to the separation of the agricultural land of the village. This resulted in economic losses and an economic crisis for the residents as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, due to the closure of these checkpoints.

The Israeli occupation authorities have worked to establish many Israeli bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank. Which took and confiscated hundred thousands of acres of confiscated agricultural and non-agricultural land in order to link Israeli settlements to each other while separating Palestinian land. It was also used to enhance security control on these roads and on the territory of Osarin village from the southern side. Israel has confiscated more of the village territory in order to establish Israeli bypass road number 505, which surrounded the village from the southern side.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Osarin Village Council has implemented several development projects in Osarin during the past five years (See Table 11).

Table 11: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Osarin during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing a public reservoir and a transmission line	Infrastructure	2009	Water Authority
Constructing household cisterns	Public Services	2009	Agriculture Relief
Paving roads	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Paving roads	Infrastructure	2012	Ministry of Finance & Municipal Fund

Source: Osarin Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

Osarin 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 a health clinic to serve the village.
2. Constructing a building for Osarin Boys' Secondary School.
3. Expanding the street linking between Osarin and Beita (3km long).
4. Establishing a sewerage network (5.45km).
5. Rehabilitating Osarin stadium.
6. Rehabilitating the public park.
7. Constructing headquarters for Osarin Sports Club and Osarin Women's Society.
8. Constructing agricultural water harvesting cisterns.
9. Constructing sidewalks to the village streets (5 km long).

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Osarin suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 12: Development Priorities and Needs in Osarin

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			17 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks	*			20 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			1 well & 1 spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			20 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		3 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			50 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill		*		
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Boys school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands			*	
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns		*		20 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		10 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		60 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses		*		20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		5 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds		*		
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies		*		
Other Needs					
1	Providing a car for the Village Council	*			
2	Providing a public bus	*			
3	Providing a drinking water tank	*			

[^] 4 km main roads, 3 km secondary roads and 10 km agricultural roads.

Source: Osarin Village Council, 2013

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