

# Qusra Village Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2014

## ***Acknowledgments***

*ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.*

*ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.*

*ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.*

## **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 development plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" 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>.

## Table of Contents

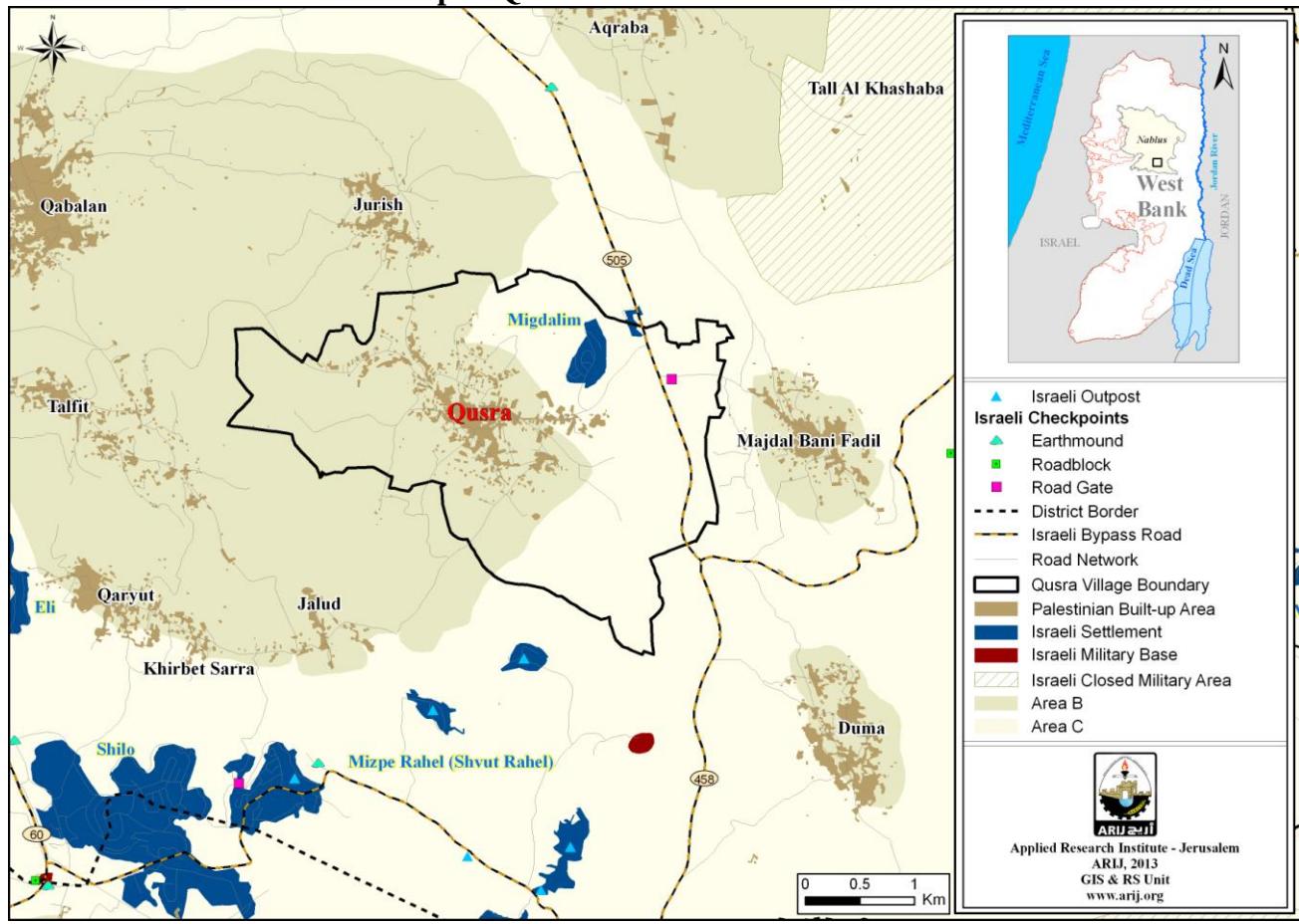
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	12
<i>Geopolitical Status in Qusra village</i>	14
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	17
<i>Implemented Projects</i>	17
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	18
<i>References:</i>	19

# Qusra Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Qusra is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 16.3km south east of Nablus City. It is bordered by Majdal Bani Fadil and Duma to the east, Jurish to the north, Talfit to the west, and Jalud to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Qusra location and borders**



Qusra is located at an altitude of 741m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 434.7mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 58% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Qusra village consists of approximately 8,887 dunums. The borders of this locality were 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 used 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 1994, Qusra has been governed by a Village Council which is currently made up of 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 5 employees working for the council, which owns its permanent headquarters. Qusra is located within the Southeast Joint Services Council of Nablus. The Council does not have a vehicle to collect waste, but owns a tractor used for this purpose (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

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

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks
  - Street cleaning, collecting waste and public services, road rehabilitation, construction and paving
  - Implementation of projects and studies for the village
  - Provision of public markets
  - Provision of a kindergarten
- (Qusra Village Council, 2013)

## History

Qusra was named after discovering many short snakes in the area. It was also named after the King of Persia, who was named Qisra. The village was established and has been around for more than 1,800 years. The origin of some residents is Saudi Arabia (Yasid Village Council, 2013) (See photo 1).

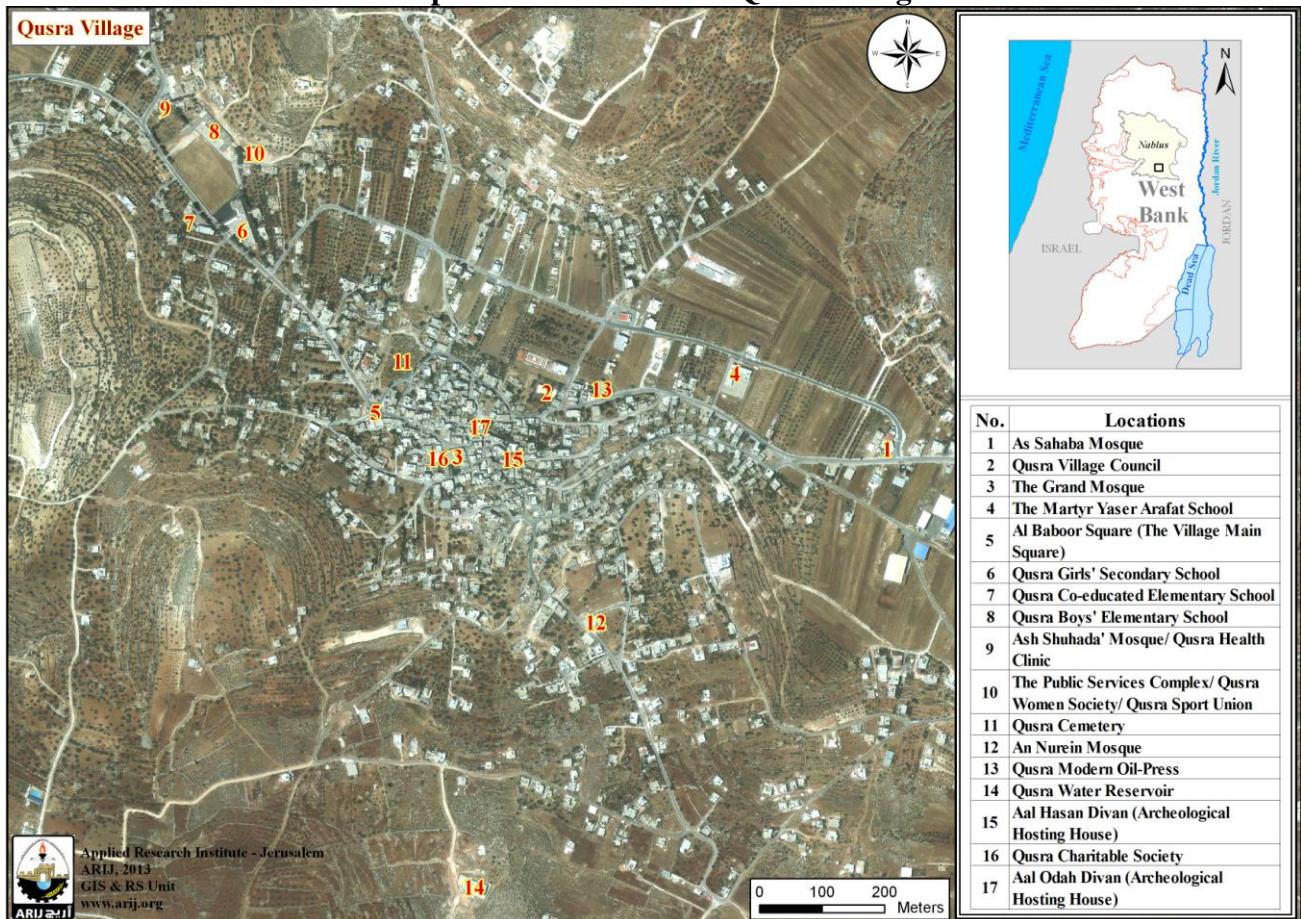
**Photo of Qusra**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are four mosques in the village: Al Noreen, Al Sahaba, Al Kabeer, and Al Shohada' Mosques. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including: Nabooth Prison, Al Karak, and Al Qa'da area. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to serve as a tourist destination (Qusra Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Qusra Village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Qusra in 2007 was 4,310, of whom 2,197 were male and 2,113 female. There were 674 households registered as living in 777 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 Qusra as follows: 44.5% were less than 15 years of age, 52.6% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.9% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males

to females in the village is 100:104, meaning that males and females constitute 51% and 49% of the population, respectively.

## Families

Qusra residents are from several families, including Abo Reda, ‘Oda, Hassan, and Kan’an families (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Qusra population is approximately 6.2%, of which 82.2% are females. Of the literate population, 15.8% could only read and write, with no formal education, 30.2% had elementary education, 25.7% had preparatory education, 15.5% had secondary education, and 6.5% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Qusra by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Qusra population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

S E x	Illite-rate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Second-ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un-known	Total
M	34	261	459	405	270	30	81	2	11	3	0	<b>1,556</b>
F	158	228	475	388	210	16	58	0	1	0	0	<b>1,534</b>
T	<b>192</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.090</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are four public schools in the village of Qusra run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Schools in Qusra by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Qusra Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Al Shahid Yasser Arafat Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Qusra Boys Elementary School	Government	Male
Qusra Girls Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 1,481 students, 84 teachers, and 50 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 18, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 30 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are also two kindergartens in Qusra village (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Distribution of Kindergarten by name and supervising authority**

Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Jil Al Jaded Kindergarten	2	2	Private
Al Aqsa Kindergarten	3	3	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

The schools in the village are exposed to the occupation which poses an obstacle to getting to school. There are checkpoints and Israeli settlements which make it more difficult to access school, particularly the Al Shaid Yasser Arafat Co-educated Secondary School (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

Due to the lack of variety when it comes to education, such as more practical learning for the commercial and industrial sectors, students head to Nablus Schools in Nablus city, 26km from the village, or go to schools in Ramallah about 35km away (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Qusra village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The small number of secondary students in the scientific branch, which may be the cause of its closing
- Students dropping out of school due to poor economic conditions in the village

## Health Status

Qusra has some health centers, including a governmental health center (Qusra Public Health Clinic), a private dental clinic, a private general physician clinic, and two private pharmacies. In the absence of necessary health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidiya or the National Hospital and other private clinics in Nablus city (26 km away) (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

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

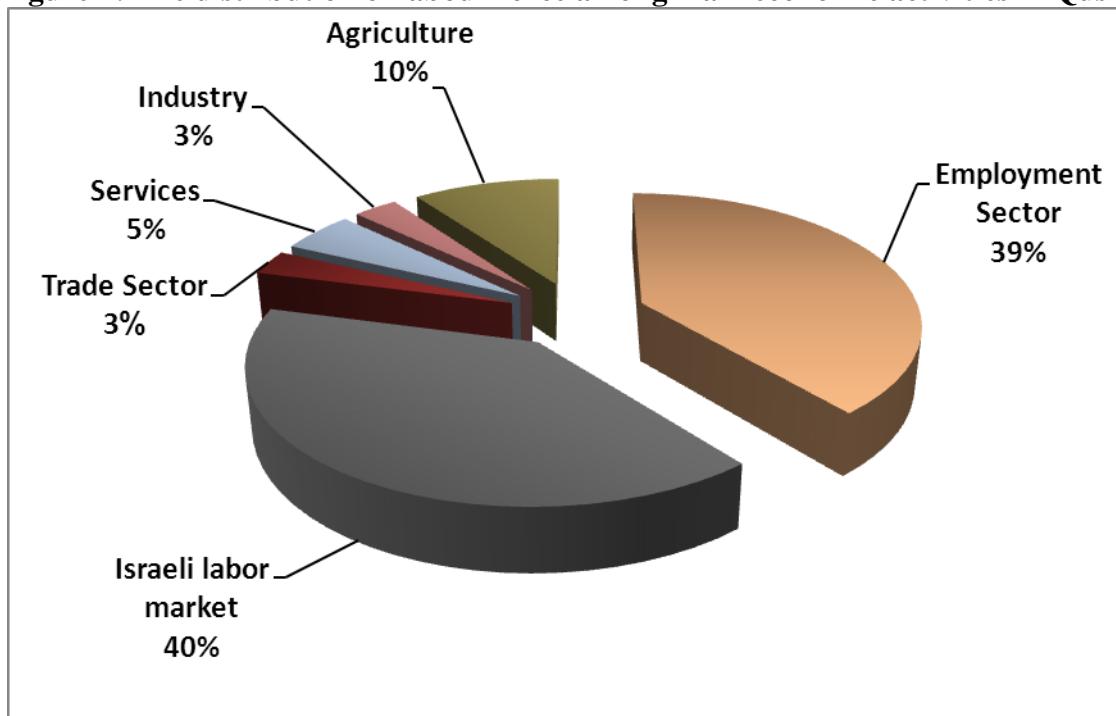
- The lack of an ambulance service
  - The lack of a resident physician working on a daily basis in the health center
  - The lack of proper medicine in clinics
  - Overcrowding of patients in the clinics due to insufficient number of hours for the doctors
- (Qusra Village Council, 2013)

## Economic Activities

The economy in Qusra has many sectors, however it is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 40% of the village's workforce (Qusra 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 Qusra are as follows:

- Israeli labor market (40%)
- Government and public employees sector (39%)
- Agricultural sector (10%)
- Services sector (5%)
- Trade sector (3%)
- Industry (3%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labour force among main economic activities in Qusra**

Source: Qusra Village Council, 2013

Qusra has 50 supermarkets, a bakery, 8 butcher shops, 6 fruit and vegetable shops, 10 service providers, 13 industrial workshops (for example: blacksmith, carpentry, etc.), one stone cutter, and an olive press (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Qusra reached 25% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Qusra Village Council, 2013):

- The industry sector
- The agriculture sector

## Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 26.3% of Qusra's labor force was economically active, of whom 84.3% were employed, while 73.6% were not economically active, of which 57.6% were students, and 31.6% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

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

S e x	Economically active				Non-economically active					Not stated	Total	
	Employ- ed	Currently Unem- ployed	Un- employed (never worked)	Total	Stud- ent	House- keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others			
M	662	63	39	764	662	4	78	11	34	789	3	1,556
F	25	4	21	50	648	715	108	3	10	1,484	0	1,534
T	687	67	60	814	1,310	719	186	14	44	2,273	3	3,090

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

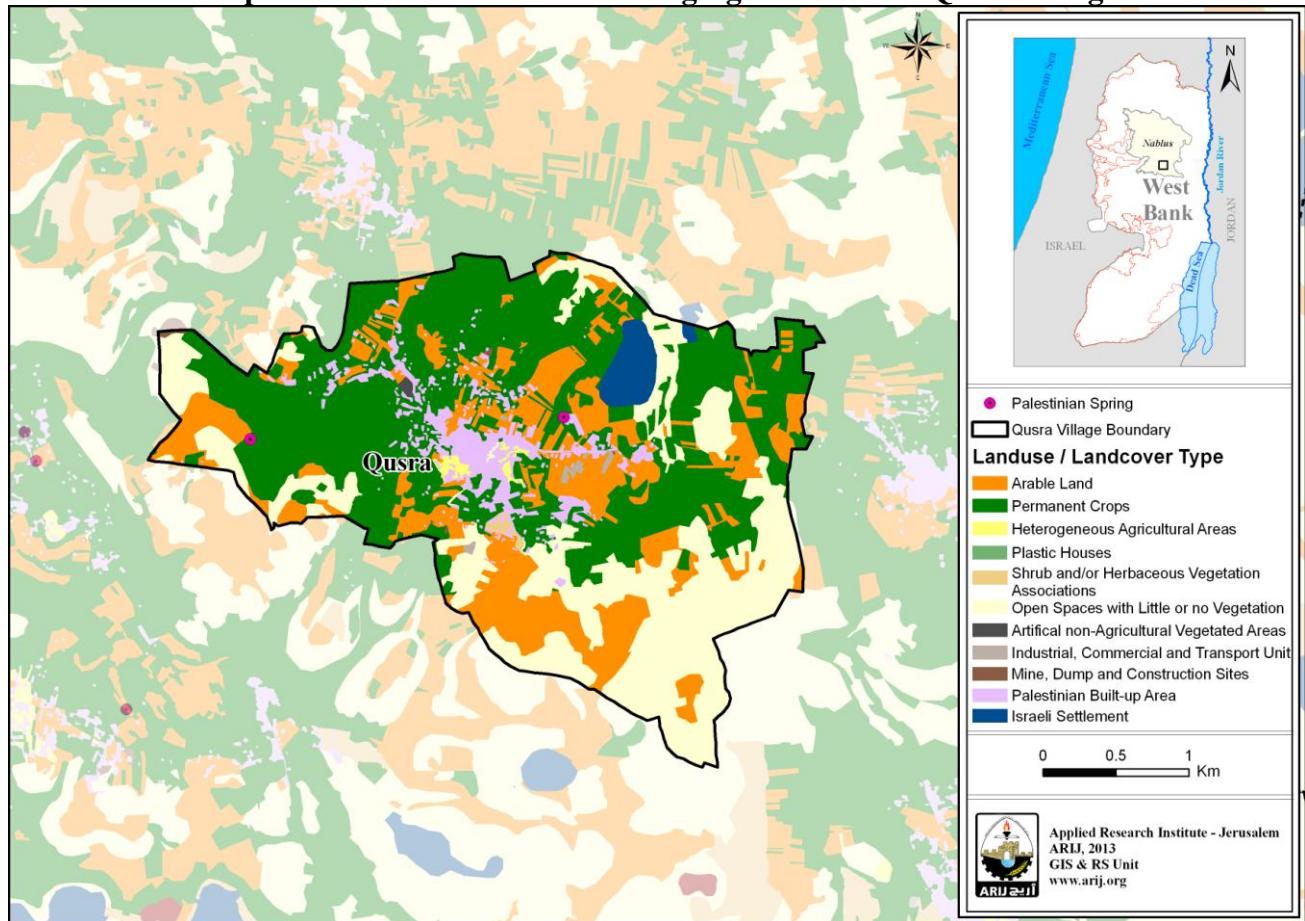
Qusra has a total area of approximately 8,887 dunums of which 5,845 are ‘arable’ land and 522 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 5 and Map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Qusra village (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,845)				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					
8,887	522	3,893	1	19	1,932	0	0	2,298	45	177

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Qusra. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area are olives. There are about 3,290 dunums of olive trees in the area.

**Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Qusra (area in dunums)**

Olives		Citrus		Almonds		Apples		Nuts		Other Fruits		Total	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
3,290	0	0	0	25	0	13	0	242	0	106	0	3,676	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

As for field and forage crops in the village, there are about 400 dunums of grain, (mainly wheat) which can be seen in Table 7.

**Table 7: Total area of field and forage crops in Qusra (area in dunums)**

Grains		Bulbs, Tubers, and Roots		Dry Legumes		Oily Crops		Forage Crops		Telltale Crops		Other Crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Rf.	Irr.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
400	0	2	0	45	0	8	0	100	0	0	0	13	0	568	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 the ARIJ team shows that 0.5% of the residents in Qusra rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep, and others (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Qusra**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broiler Chickens	Layer Chickens	Bee Hives
143	115	128	0	0	0	0	180,000	0	0

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 120 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, categorized as follows:

**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Qusra Village and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	8
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	80
For animals only	12
Unsuitable	20

Source: Qusra Village Council, 2013

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

- The high prices of the agricultural production inputs
- The lack of and high prices of water sources
- The prevention of access to land for farmers due to the settlements
- The difficulty in marketing agricultural products
- The difficulty in accessing large amounts of agricultural lands, unless by collaborating with the occupation's security

(Qusra Village Council, 2013)

## Institutions and Services

Qusra village does not possess a lot of governmental institutions, including a post office. However, there are local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Qusra Village Council:** Founded in 1994, and registered later by the Ministry of Local Government, it aims to take care of different issues concerning the village and provide various services to its population, in addition to infrastructural services.
- **Qusra Charitable Society:** Founded in 2000, and registered later by the Ministry of Interior, the Society's aim is to conduct different seminars and training sessions on different issues.
- **Qusra Women Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, it addresses feminism and conducts training and different activities that pertain to this issue.
- **Qusra Athletic Club:** Founded in 1973 and registered later by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, its aim is organizing youth teams and volunteer work in the village.
- **Qusra Cultural Club:** Founded in 2007, and registered later by the Ministry of Interior, its aim is to implement different cultural activities.

(Qusra Village Council, 2013)

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Qusra has been connected to a public electricity network since 1988. 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 about 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 weakness in the electric power and not providing the village with transformers and equipment (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

Qusra is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 50% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Qusra Village Council, 2013).

### Transportation Services:

There is one bus for transportation in the village of Qusra. There is also the lack of residents using their private cars to transport the people of the village and thus the shortage of the number of cars in the village is an obstacle for residents to visit other villages and neighboring towns (Qusra Village Council, 2013). There are 4km of main roads and 42km of secondary roads in Qusra (Qusra Village Council, 2013) (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Qusra Village**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2. Paved &amp; in poor condition</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

Source: Qusra Village Council, 2013

## Water Resources

There is not a main water network or source in the village of Qusra, which forces the residents to buy tanks of water at a rate of 15-17 NIS per cubic meter of water. Additionally, there are about 840 household wells that collect rainwater, and one water spring that is used for agriculture . There is also one water tank with the capacity of 3,000 cubic meter (Qusra village council, 2013).

## Sanitation

Qusra does not have a general network system for sanitation. This leads the residents to use septic tanks to dispose of wastewater. There is no estimation of the daily consumption of water per capita in the village, because it is not served by the public water supply service. Wastewater is collected by the absorbance of discharge or by tanks, thus we cannot estimate the amount of wastewater generated per day by the village. Wastewater is dumped either directly in an open area or in the neighboring valley without any regard for the environment. This is considered a sign that the wastewater treatment from the main source or from the disposal sites poses a threat to the environment and the public health (Qusra village council, 2013).

## Solid Waste Management

Qusra Village Council is responsible for managing solid waste collection and disposal of the waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. Due to the fact that solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 8 NIS per house per month is charged to the population for the service of domestic solid waste collection and transportation. The rate of fee collection is 100% (Qusra village council, 2013).

Most of the population in Qusra benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 20 containers with the capacity of 1 cubic meter located at various points in the village. The Council collects the solid waste once a day and transports it through the use of a waste vehicle to the Qusra random dumping site, which is 3km from the village center. Here the waste is subsequently burned (Qusra village council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Qusra is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Qusra residents is nearly 3.4 tons, or 1,242 tons per year (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

## Environmental Conditions

The village of Qusra and other towns in the district of Nablus suffer environmental problems, which should be addressed with relevant solutions. For instance:

### Water Sector

Qusra lacks a water supply service due to not having a public water network; therefore the people in Qusra buy water at high prices.

### Wastewater Management

Qusra village lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks. 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 to avoid 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

Qusra suffers from not having a sanitary landfill and service center, similar to other towns and villages in the Nablus Governorate. This requires them to dump their waste in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. 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 Qusra village

### Geopolitical status in Qusra village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Qusra village was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 4,460 dunums (50% 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 4,427 dunums (50% 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 Qusra's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is open space and Israeli settlements. (See Table 11).

**Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Qusra village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Area in dunums</b>	<b>Percentage of Total village area %</b>
Area A	0	0
Area B	4,460	50
Area C	4,427	50
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,887</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

### Israeli occupation practices in Qusra village

Israel has confiscated 177 dunums from Qusra village to establish "Migdalim" settlement, located on the eastern side of the village. It was founded in 1984, and contains approximately 153 Israeli settlers. Israeli forces also established a military site, located to the east of "Migdalim" settlement and near to the bypass road on Qusra territory. This site includes a gas station, a leather factory, and a wood craft workshop. It serves as an extension of the settlement from the north and east sides.

Israeli authorities have confiscated land from Qusra and Jalud to set up "Esh Kodesh" and "Ahiya" settlement outposts. These outputs have now converted from mobile caravans to stone structures, and control these outposts are considered new settlements in the region as the "caravans" began to turn into stable houses from stones. These outposts controls wide agricultural areas. These outposts aim extend "Shilo" and "Shvut Rachel" settlements on the northern side, through controlling more Palestinian land. These outposts form a barrier that surrounds the Palestinian areas. They are a source of abuse 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.

### Israeli checkpoints in Qusra village

After the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, the Israeli authorities established several military checkpoints, particularly near bypass road No. 505. They also set up earth mound barriers in order to close the agricultural road that links between the village and the above mentioned bypass road.

Israeli forces established a checkpoint on the eastern entrance of the village near "Migdalim" settlement, made of concrete blocks and earth mounds. Residents have been forced to use alternative roads through the neighboring villages on the western side.

Residents of Qusra village as well as the neighboring villages, have also been negatively impacted by “Za’tara” permanent checkpoint, particularly through the extensive search procedures imposed on residents by the Israeli military. However, Israeli forces have reduced these procedures in recent years. This checkpoint separates the West Bank.

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.

### **Israeli bypass roads around Qusra village**

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural land in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli security control. Israel has confiscated land from the east of Qusra village in order to construct Israeli bypass road No. 505. The length of this road extends approximately 2km onto the village territory of Qusra.

The eastern entrance of the village is under Israeli control. Settlers use this road to reach “Migdalim” settlement. The total length of this road is approximately 1 km long.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the amount of the confiscated lands which will be taken for the purpose 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 Qusra village**

Israeli occupation authorities have issued a series of military orders in order to confiscate land and stop construction work in the village of Qusra. The Village Council in Qusra states that they have received 28 orders during 2013 alone. For example, Israeli occupation authorities have issued the Israeli Military Order No. 13/07/ T, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 which According to the Land Research Center information, this notification order to confiscated 3.11 dunums situated between “Esh Kodesh” outpost, and Al Wi’ar.

Block No. 19 and Block No.22 east of “Qusra” village, and this is for Security reasons as the occupation forces describe. And referring to this military order, the confiscated area is approximately 3.11 dunums.

Qusra Village Council states that the order also prevents Palestinian residents from reaching 500 dunums of their land which is deemed an isolation zone, surrounding “Esh Kodesh”. Most of this land has olive trees on it (Land Research Center 2013).<sup>1</sup>

In 2012, Israel authorities served military orders to four farmers from the villages of Qusra and Jurish, this military order mentions an order to evacuate an Israeli designated closed zone. and return it to its previous situation (position) after 14 days from the notification receiving date, and this is according to

---

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.poica.org/editor/case\\_studies/iew.php?recordID=7089](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/iew.php?recordID=7089)

information from the Land Research Center. The military order aimed to confiscate approximately 40 dunums, which were reclaimed, in addition to three wells for the collection of rain water through the Palestinian and foreign institutions (Land Research Center 2013).<sup>2</sup>

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

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

**Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Qusra during the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishment of the Yasser Arafat Co-educated Secondary School	Educational	2009	The Ministry of Finance
Establishment of service centers	Services	2010	UNDP
Construction of agricultural roads 100km long	Agricultural	2010-2011	Qusra Village Council

Source: Qusra Village Council, 2013

### Proposed Projects

Qusra 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. Paving the roads 3 km long between Qusra and Jalud
2. Establishing the Al Shaid Issam Badran School south of the village
3. Creating a public and children's park
4. Restoring the village's playground and building a new amphitheater
5. Establishing a new kindergarten
6. Expanding the structural plan of the village from 12 square km to 16 square km
7. Moving the power lines to a higher pressure example to the north and south, and adding an adapter
8. Opening a new public hall and lounge areas
9. Creating a health center that works around the clock
10. Paving internal roads of 5km long, connecting roads of 3km long, and rehabilitating agricultural roads of 4 km
11. Creating a sewerage network nearly 16km long
12. Separating the solid waste from recyclable material

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.poica.org/editor/case\\_studies/view.php?recordID=4197](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=4197)

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Qusra 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 Qusra**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and paving of roads	*			46 km^
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks	*			35 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			1 spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			35 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection			*	
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			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			Rehabilitation of the health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			co-educated school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Qusra Girls secondary and Qusra boys elementary schools
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			1,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			100 wells
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			8 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services			*	
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			140 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	*			
<b>Other Needs</b>					
1	Projects for people with special needs and victims of the Israeli occupation				
2	Expansion of the electricity network to higher pressure of 2 m long in the north and south of the village				
3	Establishing a public park				
4	Building retaining walls 4km long				
5	Building stone walls 8km long				

<sup>^</sup>4 km main roads, 17 km secondary roads and 25 km agricultural roads.

Source: Qusra Village Council, 2013

## References:

- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2014. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit Database. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2014. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2012) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2013. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem - Palestine.*
- *Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Nablus, 2012. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2011/2012). Nablus – Palestine.*
- *Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.*
- *Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2010. Directorate of Agriculture data (2009/2010). Nablus – Palestine.*
- *Qusra Village Council, 2013.*