

‘Urif 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 developmental 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 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

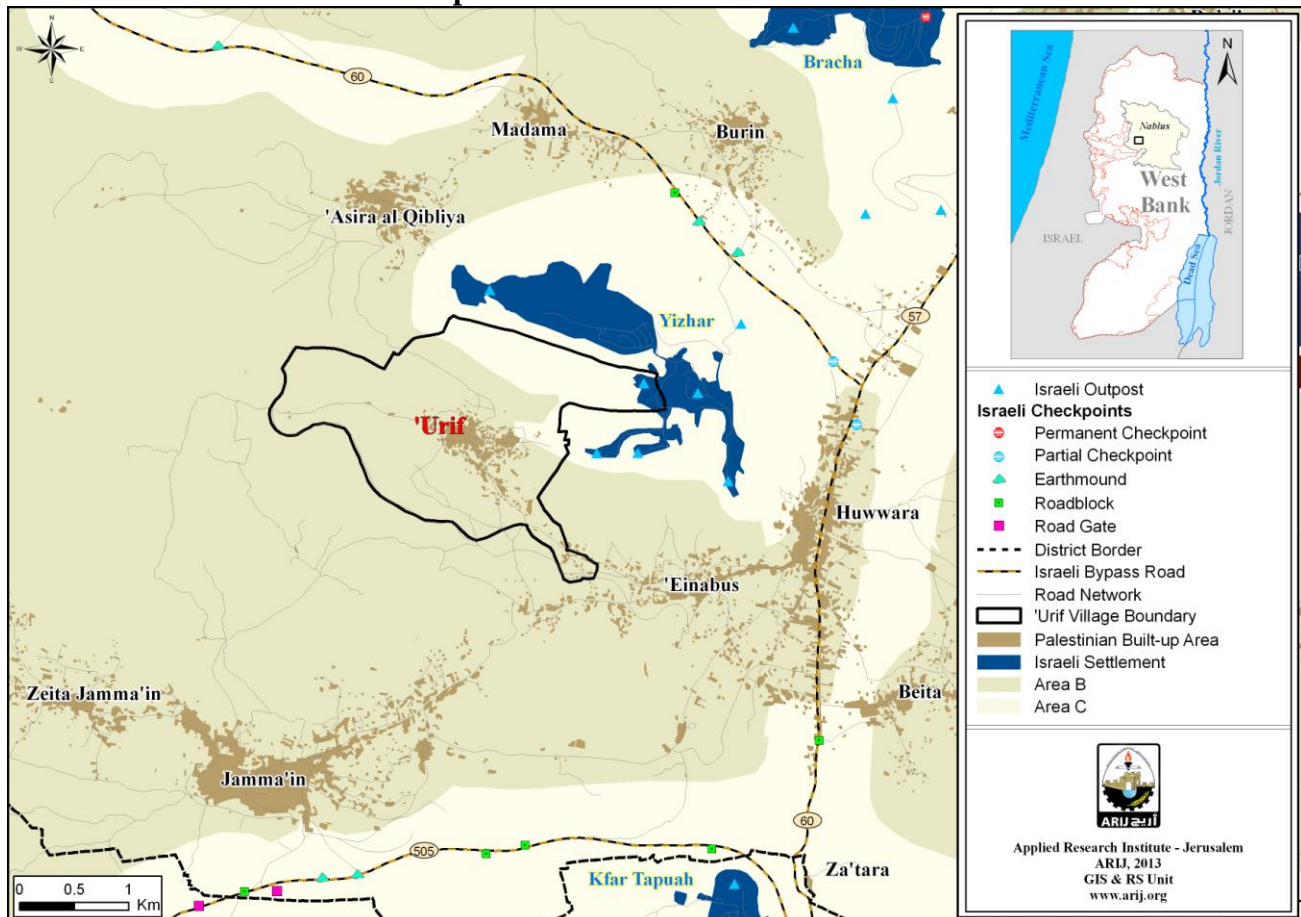
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	12
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	12
<i>Geopolitical Status in Al Badhan village</i>	14
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	16
<i>Implemented Projects</i>	16
<i>Proposed Projects</i>	17
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	17
<i>References:</i>	19

'Urif Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

'Urif is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 7.6km south of Nablus City. It is bordered by 'Einabus to the east, 'Asira al Qibliya to the north, and Jamma'in to the west and south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: 'Urif location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

'Urif is located at an altitude of 593m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 662.9mm. The average annual temperature is 16°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 60.7% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of 'Urif village consists of approximately 4,064 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 found 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, ‘Urif has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 4 employees working for the council, which has its own permanent headquarters. The Village Council does not own a solid waste collection vehicle (‘Urif Village Council, 2013).

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

- Installation and maintenance of the generator and power grid
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving, waste collection, and provision of social services
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village
- Protection of governmental properties
- Protection of historical and archeological sites
- Organization of transportation
- Providing kindergartens

(‘Urif Village Council, 2013)

History

The village was named ‘Urif because of its beauty, splendor, and good appearance. The original name was “Albaha Countryside” and “Eye of the Countryside”. The village dates back more than 200 years, and the residents originally come from neighboring villages such as Safed, Rammun, and Al Maliha (‘Urif Village Council, 2013).

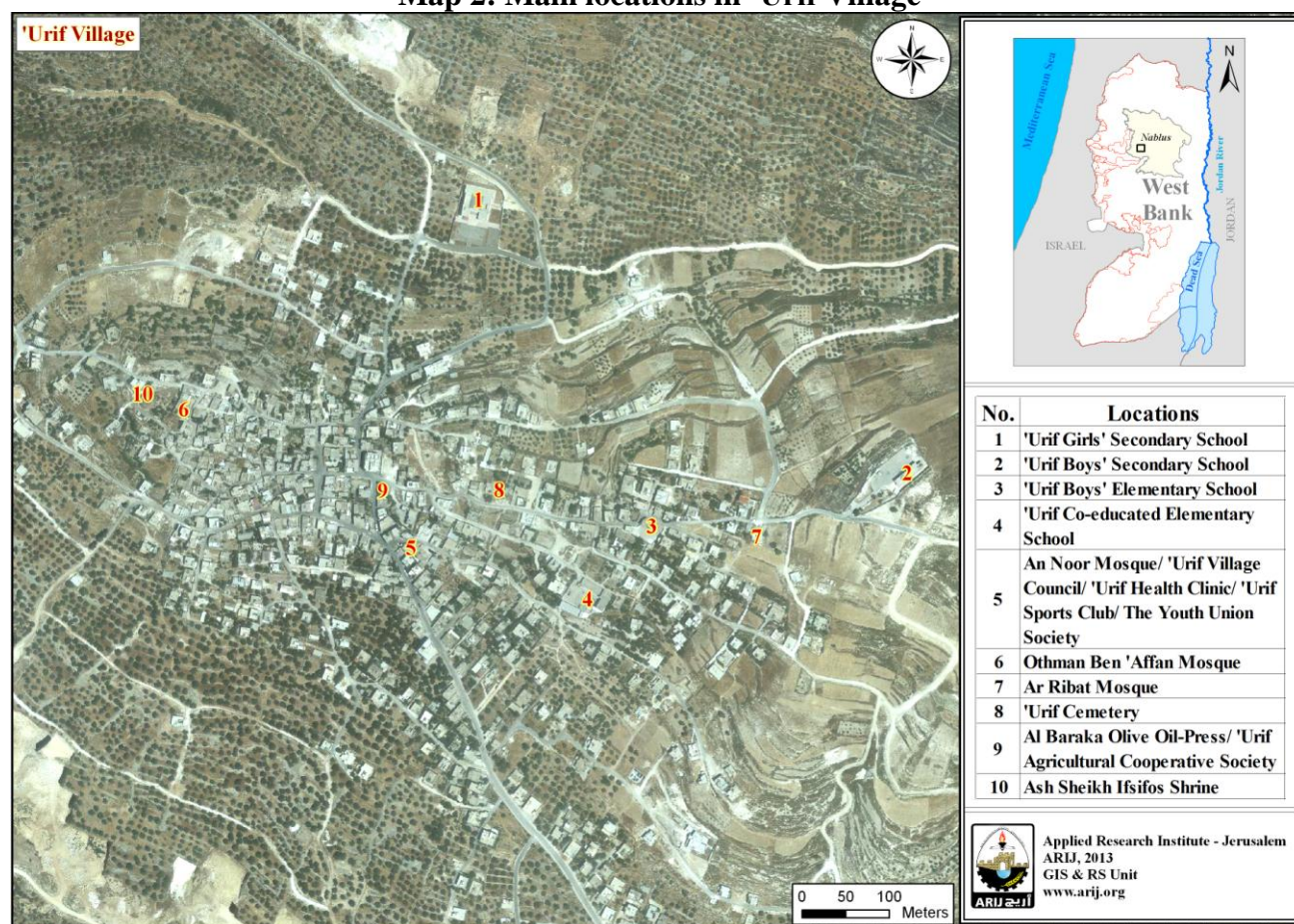
Photo of ‘Urif



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the village: Al Nour, 'Uthman, and Al Rabat. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including: 'Alem Al Hoda Beacon, Mount Salman, the Persian Beacon, a monastic area, Jara'a area, ancient Roman sculptures in rocks, and buildings in the old town. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to qualify as a tourist location as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, except Jara'a area ('Urif Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in 'Urif Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of 'Urif in 2007 was 2,887 of whom 1,507 were male and 1,370 female. There were 493 households registered as living in 552 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 'Urif as follows: 45.8% were less than 15 years of age, 51.3% 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 was 100:110, meaning that males and females constituted 52.4% and 47.6% of the population, respectively.

Families

‘Urif residents are from several families, including Shehadeh, Al Safdi, and Sabah families (‘Urif Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among ‘Urif population is approximately 5.1%, of which 73% are females. Of the literate population, 12.3% could only read and write, with no formal education, 34% had elementary education, 29.3% had preparatory education, 12% had secondary education, and 7.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of ‘Urif by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: ‘Urif population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illite-rate	Can read & write	Element-ary	Preparat-ory	Second-ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un-known	Total
M	27	116	345	298	145	37	55	1	11	1	0	1,036
F	73	125	324	278	90	15	22	0	1	0	1	929
T	100	241	669	576	235	52	77	1	12	1	1	1,965

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

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

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

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 1,028 students, 67 teachers, and 40 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 15, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 26 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are also two kindergartens in ‘Urif village, which are run by private organizations. (See Table 3)

Table 3: Kindergartens in ‘Urif by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	Number of classes	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Ansar Kindergarten	4	5	Private
Bara’am Al Enma Kindergarten	1	2	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

There are some schools that are exposed to harassment by the occupying forces, such as the 'Urif Boys secondary School, where students are subjected to frequent attacks and harassment by settlers that terrorize the students and affect their educational attainment (Urif village council, 2013).

Due to the lack of variety when it comes to education, such as no secondary level scientific track, some students attend Jamma'in Boys Secondary School in the city of Jamma'in (3km away), or Huwwara Boys Secondary School (5km away) ('Urif Village Council, 2013).

Health Status

'Urif have a few health facilities. There is a governmental health center ('Urif Health Clinic), a private pediatrician clinic, two private general physician clinics, a private medical laboratory, 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 15km away ('Urif Village Council, 2013).

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

- Inadequacy of governmental health clinic and number of screeners
- Shortage of services in the health clinics and lack of certain medicines
- The lack of an ambulance service

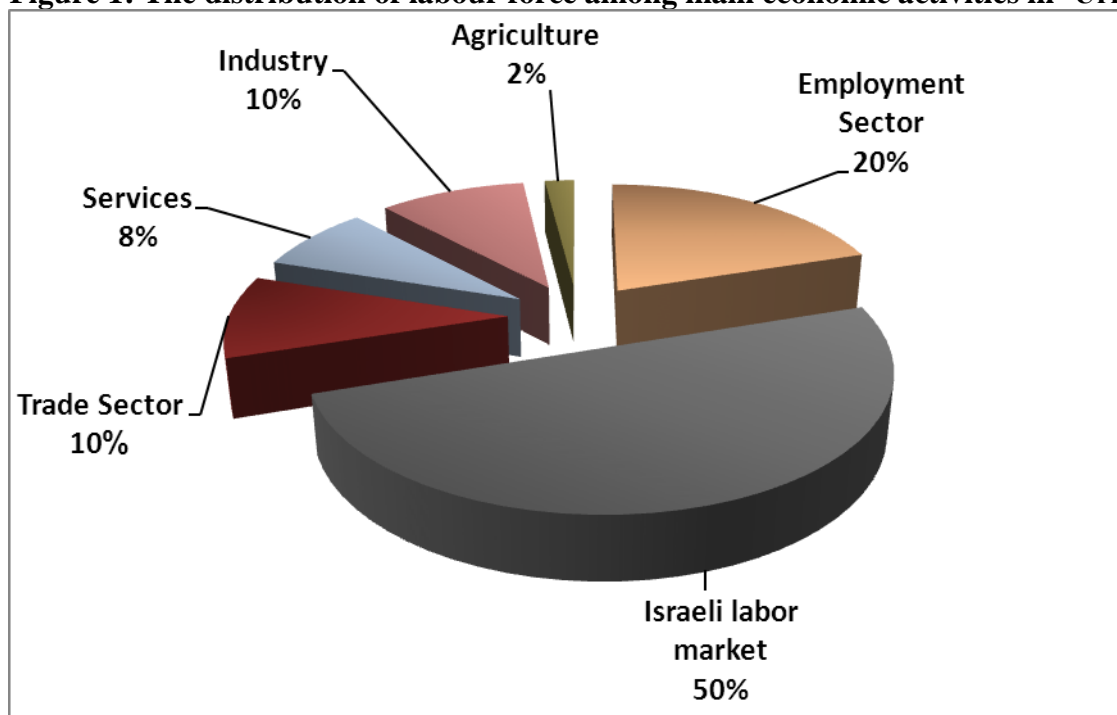
('Urif Village Council, 2013)

Economic Activities

The economy in 'Urif is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor sector, which absorbs 50% of the village's workforce ('Urif 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 'Urif are as follows:

- Israeli labor market (50%)
- Government and other public employees sector (20%)
- Trade sector (10%)
- Industry (10%)
- Services sector (8%)
- Agricultural sector (2%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labour force among main economic activities in ‘Urif

Source: ‘Urif Village Council, 2013

‘Urif has 28 markets, a bakery, 5 butcher shops, 7 fruit and vegetable stores, 14 service providers, 10 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc.), 2 stone quarries, 4 stone cutters, and 2 olive presses (‘Urif Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in ‘Urif reached 2% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in the agricultural sector
- Workers in the industry sector
- Workers in the trade sector

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 33% of ‘Urif’s labor force was economically active, of whom 89.8% were employed. 67% were not economically active of which 55.7% were students and 34.6% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: ‘Urif 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	536	46	11	593	368	0	51	14	9	442	1	1,036
F	46	1	8	55	365	455	43	6	5	874	0	929
T	582	47	19	648	733	455	94	20	14	1,316	1	1,965

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

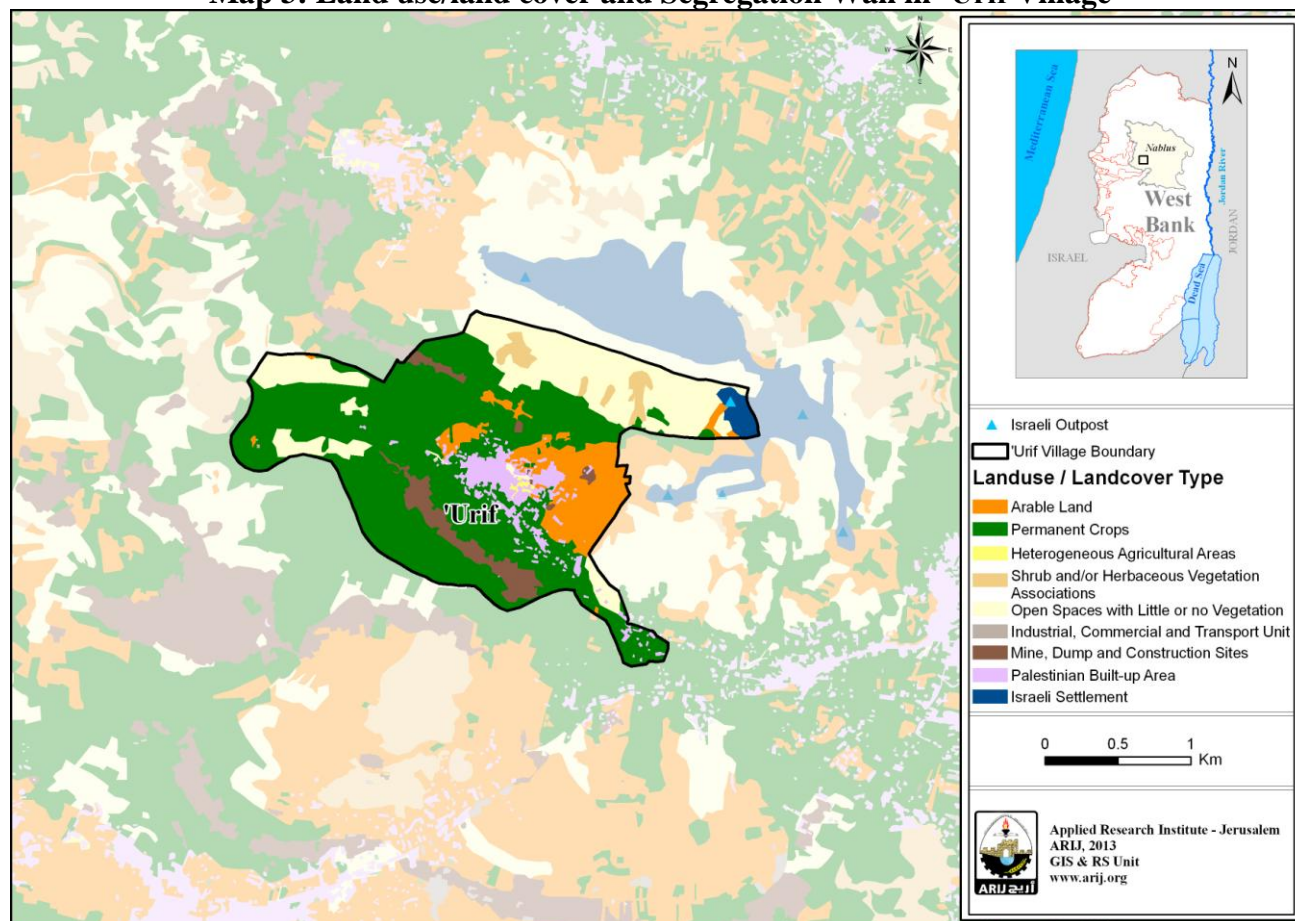
‘Urif has a total area of approximately 4,064 dunums of which 2,719 are ‘arable’ land and 231 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in ‘Urif village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (2,719)				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					
4,064	231	2,208	0	89	442	0	0	857	199	58

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in ‘Urif. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are okra and green beans.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in ‘Urif (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.
2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	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. ‘Urif is famous for olives and there are approximately 1,143 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in ‘Urif (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.
1,143	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	129	0	48	0	1,324	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 8 shows the field and forage crops in the village of ‘Urif, of which approximately 680 dunums are of wheat.

Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in ‘Urif (area in dunums)

Grain		Bulbs, Tubers, and Roots		Dry Legumes		Oily Crops		Forage Crops		Telltale Crops		Other Crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
680	0	5	0	25	0	1	0	55	0	0	0	13	0	779	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, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore, accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 5% of the residents in ‘Urif rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in ‘Urif

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broiler Chickens	Layer Chickens	Bee Hives
22	130	105	0	0	0	0	12,000	2,000	35

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 18 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in ‘Urif Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	3
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	3

Source: ‘Urif Village Council, 2013

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

- High prices of agricultural inputs
- Limited ability to exploit agricultural land due to the settlements

- Lack of pasture land because of the settlers
- Frequent fire and attacks on farmers' land by settlers
- Lack of water sources
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment
- Lack of agricultural awareness and equipment
- Poor marketing services
- Lack of support for farmers by the local bodies and government
- Confiscation of land by the occupation and settlements

(‘Urif Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and Services

‘Urif village has a number national governmental institutions such as a police station. Additionally, the village has local societies and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **‘Urif Village Council:** Founded in 1994, 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.
- **‘Urif Youth Development Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, the Society’s aim is to provide social services and cultural variety.
- **‘Urif Sports Club:** Founded in 1994, and registered later by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, its aim is to provide services for sport and social difference.
- **‘Urif Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2009 by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Society’s priority is to develop the olive sector, organizing and collecting olives, and providing farmers with agricultural equipment.

(‘Urif Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

‘Urif has been connected to a public electricity network since 1994. 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 approximately 95% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the difficulty in obtaining permits from the ‘Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company’ to increase electric power in the village, in addition to the difficulty of buying a new transformers and generators (‘Urif Village Council, 2013).

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

Transportation Services

There are 4 public busses and 4 taxis in ‘Urif, however, in the absence of transportation the residents use private cars and taxis from Huwwara. The lack of vehicles in the village and the services offered is the largest obstacle for the citizens in moving to neighboring cities and communities (‘Urif Village Council, 2013). There are 8km of main roads and 12km of secondary roads in ‘Urif (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in ‘Urif Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	8	10
2. Paved & in poor condition	-	1
3. Unpaved	-	1

Source: ‘Urif Village Council, 2013

Water Resources

In ‘Urif a public water network is not available, therefore the residents have to buy their water through private water tankers at 13 NIS per cubic meter. There are also 300 home wells that collect rainwater in the village (‘Urif village council, 2013).

Sanitation

There isn't a sewerage network in the village of ‘Urif, thus the residents use septic tanks to dispose of the wastewater. Due to the lack of a sewerage network and a public water network the amount of wastewater generated per day cannot be estimated. 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 (‘Urif village council, 2013) (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste Management in Nablus area 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 10 NIS per house per month is charged to the population for the service of domestic solid waste collection and transportation. The proportion of fees collected is 100% (‘Urif village council, 2013).

Most of the population in ‘Urif 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 a capacity of 1 cubic meter located at various points in the village. The Service Council collects the solid waste twice a week and transports it through the use of a waste vehicle to the Zahrat Al Fanjan

landfill (40 km away from the village center). Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally sound way ('Urif village council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in 'Urif is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the 'Urif residents is nearly 2.3 tons, or 828 tons per year (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

Environmental Conditions:

The village of 'Urif and other towns in the district of Nablus face several environmental problems, for instance:

Water Sector

The lack of water supply is due to the lack of a public water network, which then leads to citizens buying water at high prices.

Wastewater Manag

'Urif village lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal, 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

'Urif does not suffer any problems with the collection of solid waste. The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste Management in Nablus area collects the solid waste and transports it through the use of a waste vehicle to the waste landfill called Zahrat Al Fanjan in Jenin. Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally sound way.

Geopolitical Status in 'Urif village

Geopolitical status in 'Urif village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, 'Urif village was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 3,115 dunums (77% 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 949 dunums (23% 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 'Urif's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is open space and Israeli settlements. (See Table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of 'Urif village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	3,115	77
Area C	949	23
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	4,064	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

The Israeli Occupation practices in 'Urif village

Hundreds of dunums of land belonging to 'Urif village have been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements and Israeli military outposts. Israel has confiscated 58 dunums from 'Urif village to establish “Yitzhar” settlement, located on the western hills of the village. Founded in 1983, the settlement occupies an area of approximately 1,354 dunums, which is partially built on land confiscated from 'Asira al Qibliya village and Burin. “Yitzhar” contains approximately 184 Israeli settlers.

Israeli checkpoints in 'Urif village

During the Second Intifada, the Israeli occupation authorities established checkpoints upon 'Asira al Qibliya land. Residents of the village, as well as the neighboring villages, were negatively impacted by the Huwwara checkpoint. This checkpoint was a hot spot for a number of violations against Palestinians. The checkpoint also separated Nablus city and the villages from the southern side. This checkpoint was partly removed in 2009, when Israeli forces reduced their presence in this area. Palestinians now have more freedom of movement than when the checkpoint was in place. Flying checkpoints are set up regularly at Huwwara main road at the entrance of Einabous and 'Urif villages, where citizens are often detained and searched.

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

Israeli outposts in the village of 'Urif

Israeli settlers took some of 'Urif village's land by force for the purpose of establishing a settlement outpost to the south-east of “Yitzhar”. This outpost overlooks 'Urif from a hill top; with the aim of extending the territory along the south-east side of the settlement, and as a result, controls more Palestinian land. This outpost and settlement form a security barrier which surrounds Palestinian areas and their population, and they are often 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.

Settler attacks on 'Urif village

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on 'Urif 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 that is located near the settlement.

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

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

'Urif Village Council has implemented several development projects in 'Urif during the past five years (See Table 13).

Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in 'Urif during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Building a Girls Secondary School	Educational	2010	Islamic Bank
Paving road links	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Completion of building a school	Educational	2013	GFA

Source: 'Urif Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

‘Urif 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. Creating a complex of public service buildings
2. Preparing a historical plan for the village
3. Creating a public park
4. Constructing agricultural roads 10km long
5. Paving internal roads 5km long
6. Reclaiming 50 dunums of agricultural land
7. Producing olive oil and providing a tractor for the agricultural sector
8. The need for a bus to transport students to school
9. Providing a vehicle to collect waste
10. Providing an ambulance service
11. Providing loans to farmers

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

‘Urif suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council’s perspective:

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in ‘Urif

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and paving of roads	*			16 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			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			3,500 cubic meters
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	•			100 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	*			Health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			Health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			‘Urif Co-educated Elementary School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			50 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			30 wells
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			3 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			30 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	*			
Other Needs					
1	Building a public services complex				
2	Creating a children’s playground				
3	Creating a public park				
4	Building a school and kindergarten in the southern region of the village				
5	Building a mosque in the southern region				

[^] 1km main roads, 5km secondary roads and 10km agricultural roads.

Source: ‘Urif 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.*
- *'Urif Village Council, 2013.*