# 'Atara Town Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

**Funded by** 



**Spanish Cooperation** 

2012

## 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 Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Ramallah Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing 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 Ramallah 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 Ramallah Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing 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.

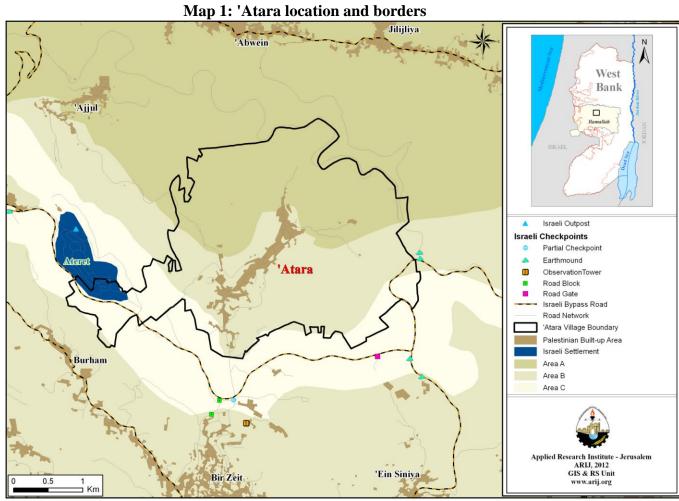
## **Table of Content**

Location and Physical Characteristics	4
History	5
Religious and Archaeological Sites	6
Population	<i>6</i>
Education	7
Health Status	8
Economic Activities	8
Agricultural Sector	10
Institutions and Services	13
Infrastructure and Natural Resources	13
Environmental Conditions	16
Impact of the Israeli Occupation	17
Development Plans and Projects	19
Implemented Projects	19
Proposed Projects	19
Locality Development Priorities and Needs	20
References:	21

## 'Atara Town Profile

## **Location and Physical Characteristics**

'Atara is a Palestinian town in the Ramallah Governorate located 10.7km north of Ramallah City. 'Atara is bordered by and Silwad town to the east, 'Abwein village to the north, Burham village and 'Ajjul and Umm Safa villages' lands to the west, and Bir Zeit town to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit. 2012.

'Atara is located at an altitude of 814m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 686mm. The average annual temperature is 16  $^{\circ}$  C and the average annual humidity is about 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1997, 'Atara has been governed by a municipal council which is currently administrated by 6 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also 4 employees working in the Council. The Municipal Council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste. 'Atara Municipal Council is located within a Joint Services Council that also includes Jifna, Turmus'ayya and Sinjil ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

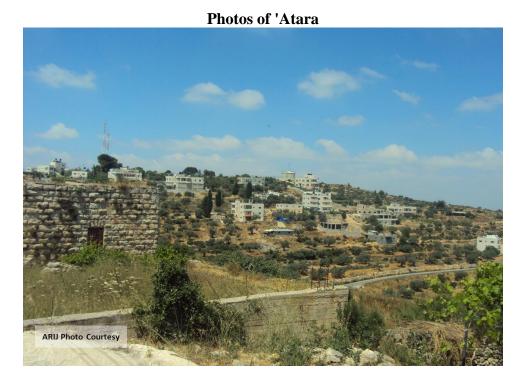
It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of 'Atara, including ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011):

- 1. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, and street cleaning.
- 2. Organization of the construction and licensing processes.
- 3. Provision of kindergartens.
- 4. Implementation of projects and case studies for the town

## **History**

The word 'Atara means the 'wreath' or 'crown' which is traditionally placed on a bride's head, and refers to the town's location on top of a high mountain ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

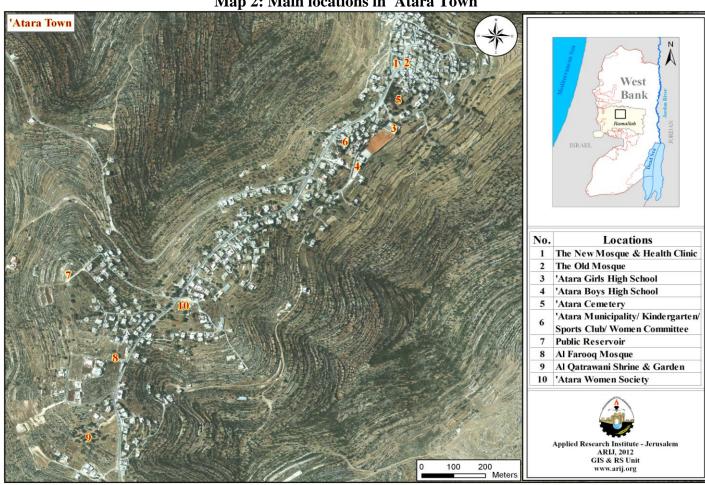
'Atara town residents originate from Jordan and Egypt ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011) (See photo below for 'Atara town).



5

## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are two mosques in the town: 'Atara New Mosque and Al Farooq Mosque. There are some sites of archaeological interest, including Al Qatrawani garden which can be exploited for tourism ('Atara Municipality, 2011) and several ruins (khirab): Al Maghsal, Wadi al Jib and Khirbet Tarafain (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).



Map 2: Main locations in 'Atara Town

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

## **Population**

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of 'Atara in 2007 was 2,134, of whom 1,063 were male and 1,071 were female. There were 413 households living in 495 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 'Atara is as follows: 39.8% are less than 15 years of age,

55.7% are between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4% are 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 99.3:100, meaning that males and females constitute 49.8% and 50.2% of the population respectively.

#### **Families**

'Atara residents are from several families, mainly the Al Qadadha, Ad Dahadha, Abu Rjeilah, Al Qteiri and Al Khatib families ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

### **Education**

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among 'Atara population is approximately 4.3%, of whom 88.2% are female. Of the literate population, 11.6% can only read and write, with no formal education, 20.9% had only elementary education, 29.1% had preparatory education, 20.7% had secondary education, and 12.9% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of 'Atara by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: 'Atara population (10 years of age and above) by sex and educational attainment

S E x	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Maste r	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	8	87	162	247	174	42	65	3	4	-	1	793
F	60	97	169	215	154	46	42	1	1	-	7	792
T	68	184	331	462	328	88	107	4	5	-	8	1,585

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in 'Atara by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2010/2011)

School Name	<b>Supervising Authority</b>	Sex
'Atara Girls Secondary School	Covernmental	Female
'Atara Boys Elementary School	Governmental	Male
Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011		

In the town there are 642 students, 39 teachers, and 24 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, while the average number of students per class is approximately 27.

There is one kindergarten in 'Atara town' (Atara Kindergarten) which is run by a private body and takes care of 59 children (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Due to the lack of some levels of education, students of 'Atara head to Prince Hasan Secondary School in Bir Zeit, 5km from the town, in order to complete their secondary education ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

The educational sector in the town faces some obstacles, primarily the existence of partial and permanent checkpoints in the town and the difficulties in accessing Prince Hasan School in Bir Zeit ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

#### **Health Status**

'Atara town has one governmental physician's clinic and a private pharmacy. In emergencies or in the absence of required health services, residents of 'Atara use healthcare facilities in Ramallah city, 15km from the town ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

The health sector in the town faces some obstacles and problems, primarily the lack of an ambulance and the existence of 'Atara checkpoint ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

#### **Economic Activities**

The economy in 'Atara is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the employees sector, which absorbs 60% of the town workforce ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in 'Atara were as follows ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011):

- Government or Private Employees Sector (60%)
- Agriculture Sector (15%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Industry (5%)
- Services Sector (5%)
- Israeli Labor Market (5%)

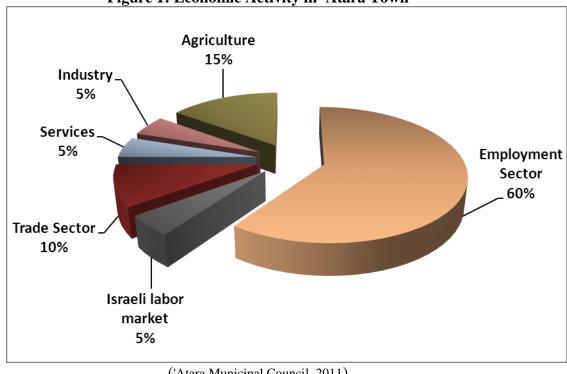


Figure 1: Economic Activity in 'Atara Town

('Atara Municipal Council, 2011)

'Atara town has 12 groceries, 1 vegetable and fruit store, one store for construction materials and 5 different professional workshops ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in 'Atara reached around 4.5% in 2011, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions have been ('Atara Municipal council, 2011):

- 1. Workers in the agriculture sector.
- 2. Workers in the trade sector.

#### **Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 36.3% of the 'Atara labor force was economically active, of whom 90.4% were employed, 63% were not economically active, 54.4% were students, and 32.9% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: 'Atara population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status-2007

S		Economica	lly Active		Not Economically Active							
Employe		Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House- keeping Unable to work		Not working & Not looking for work	Other Total		Un- known	Total
M	421	26	13	460	263	1	41	13	11	329	4	793
F	100	6	10	116	280	327	47	6	9	669	7	792
T	521	32	23	576	543	328	88	19	20	998	11	1,585

Source: PCBS, 2009.

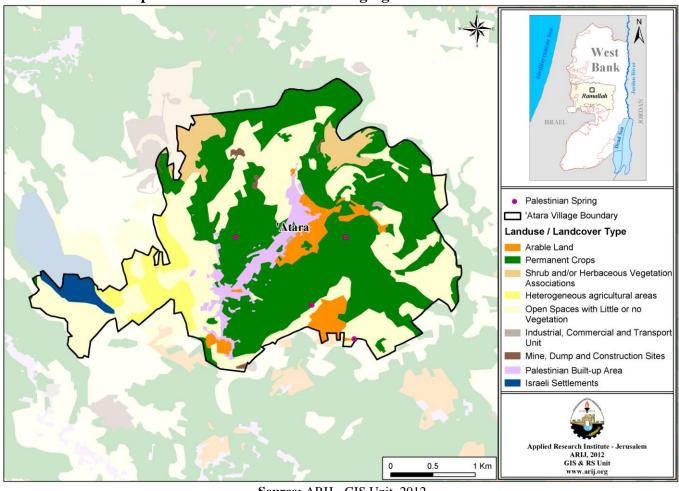
## **Agricultural Sector**

'Atara has a total area of around 9,674 dunums of which 5,897 are arable land and 431 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in 'Atara town in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total	Built up	1	Agricultura (5,897			Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial,	Area of Settlements, Military
Area	Area	Permanent Crops	Green- houses	Range- lands	Arable lands				Commercial & Transport Unit	Bases & Wall Zone
9,674	431	5,004	0	436	457	0	0	3,136	49	163

**Source:** ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.



Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in 'Atara Town

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in 'Atara. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are tomatoes and squash.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in 'Atara town (dunum)

	Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	
29	13.5	0	4	6	4	10	0	15	0	60	21.5	

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. 'Atara is famous for olive cultivation; there are 2,663 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the town.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in 'Atara town (dunum)

Olives		Citrus		Stone- fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
2,663	0	0	0	50.5	0	19	0	46	0	83	0	2,861.5	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in 'Atara, cereals (particularly wheat and barley) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 230 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as chickpeas and beans (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in 'Atara town (dunum)

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
230	0	25	0	30	0	7	0	75	0	0	0	5	0	372	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) 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 instead of seasonal ones. The survey 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, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 1% of the residents in 'Atara rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 8) ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

Table 8: Livestock in 'Atara town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	<b>Bee Hives</b>
0	295	195	0	0	0	0	148,800	0	18

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are approximately 28 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows ('Atara Municipal council, 2011):

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in 'Atara Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	8
For animals only	15
Unsuitable	-

Source: 'Atara Municipal Council, 2011

The agricultural sector in the town faces some obstacles, including ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011):

- Land confiscation.
- Lack of laborers.
- Lack of capital.
- Lack of water sources.

#### **Institutions and Services**

'Atara town has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011):

- 'Atara Municipal Council: Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- 'Atara Civil Sports Club: Founded in 1987 with an interest in sports and cultural activities for young people.
- 'Atara Women Society: Founded in 2005. The Society aims at serving all women in the town and developing their capacities in various fields.

#### Infrastructure and Natural Resources

#### **Electricity and Telecommunication Services:**

'Atara has been connected to a public electricity network since 1975. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town, and approximately 98% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. However, the town faces some obstacles concerning its electrical supply, mainly the existence of electricity poles and the high pressure network in private properties ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

'Atara is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

#### **Transportation Services:**

7 taxis form the main means of transportation in 'Atara. In addition to the lack of vehicles, travelers suffer from the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011). There are 3km of main roads and 8km of secondary roads in the town (See Table 10) ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

Table 10: Roads in 'Atara town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)			
Status of Internal Roads	Main	Sub		
1. Paved & in good condition	-	-		
2. Paved but in poor condition	3	6		
3. Unpaved	-	2		

Source: 'Atara Municipal Council, 2011

#### **Water Resources:**

'Atara is provided with water by Jerusalem Water Department through the public water network established in 1975. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network ('Atara Municipal council, 2011).

The quantity of water supplied to 'Atara town in 2010 was about 48,704 cubic meters; therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 63 liters/day. However, no 'Atara citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are approximately 26.5%. 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 'Atara is 46 liters per day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This is a very low rate compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 11 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 11: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012

Consumption Category (m³)	Domestic (NIS/m³)	Industrial (NIS/m³)	Tourist (NIS/m³)	Commercial (NIS/m³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m³)
0 - 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

**Source:** Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

'Atara has 5 springs: Abu Shaheen, Al Balad, Al Qubbah, An Nakhla, and Abu Kharaz springs. Water from these springs is used for small agricultural projects such as greenhouses. There are more than 100 rainwater harvesting cisterns and a public water reservoir with a capacity of 500 cubic meters which is used during water shortages ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

#### **Sanitation:**

'Atara lacks a public sewerage network and the majority of the town's residents use cesspits for the disposal of wastewater ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 78.5 cubic meters or 28,638 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town it is estimated that per capita wastewater generation is 32 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

#### **Solid Waste Management:**

'Atara Municipality is responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. 4 employees work in a department dedicated to the management of solid waste ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

Most of the population in 'Atara benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 40 containers spread throughout the town. The Municipal Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's random dumping site, 1km from the locality, where it is buried. Household waste, industrial, and medical solid waste are collected together and dumped into the same

15

landfill in the absence of any special system for separation and/or collection ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in 'Atara is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the 'Atara residents is nearly 2.2 tons, or 818 tons per year ('Atara Municipal Council, 2011).

#### **Environmental Conditions**

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

#### **Water Crisis**

- Water is cut off by the Jerusalem Water Department for long periods of time in several neighborhoods of the town.
- High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The weak pumping of water from the network.

#### **Wastewater Management**

• The absence of a public sewage network means that 'Atara residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge 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 facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. The untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

#### **Solid Waste Management:**

• The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve 'Atara and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

• There is an absence of a system in the town and the governorate in general that separates hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste. Consequently hazardous solid waste is collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to a random landfill for disposal by burying.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical status in 'Atara

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, 'Atara town was divided into areas "A", "B" and "C". Approximately 3,947 dunums (40.8% of the town's total area) were assigned as area "A" where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and Public order, while 4,240 dunums (43.8% of the town's total area) were classified as area "B", where the PNA has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area "B" constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the town's population resides in area "B". The rest of the town's area, constituting 1,487 dunums (15.4% of the total area), is 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 a consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area "C" are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements (table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of 'Atara – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town		
Aica	Area in dunums	area		
Area A	3,947	40.8		
Area B	4,240	43.8		
Area C	1,487	15.4		
Nature Reserve	0	0		
Total	9,674	100		

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

## 'Atara Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Dunums of areas have been lost in the town through Israeli confiscations of lands for different Israeli benefits, starting with the building of Israeli settlements on the town lands, and constructing Israeli bypass roads in order to connect settlements with their neighboring ones. The following are details on the Israeli confiscation of the town's lands:

17

Israel confiscated an area of 163 dunums of 'Atara town lands for the construction of Ateret Israeli settlement; the greater part of this settlement was constructed on lands of 'Ajjul and Umm Safa neighboring villages. Ateret is currently inhabited by 763 Israeli settlers (table 13).

Table 13: Israeli Settlements constructed over 'Atara town's lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated	Population of settlers	
Ateret	1981	163	763	
To	tal	163	763	

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

The Israeli Government confiscated more lands from 'Atara to open bypass road 465 to connect the Israeli settlements together. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, extending to approximately 75 m on each side of the road; these buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

Following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities established 'Atara military checkpoint at the main (southern) entrance to 'Atara town. This checkpoint forms a gate to the northern part of Ramallah city and separates it from the northern cities of the West Bank. It also represents a significant obstacle to the movement of Palestinian civilians to and from Ramallah, and causes daily suffering to Palestinians including arrests, shootings, traffic crises, and closures. These checkpoints are designed to restrict movement and enhance control over Palestinians. 'Atara town is linked to Ramallah city through a bridge that passes over bypass road 465 and the checkpoint is located at the start of the bridge.

## **Development Plans and Projects**

#### **Implemented Projects**

'Atara Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in 'Atara during the past five years (See Table 14).

Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in 'Atara During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor	
Construction of the municipality headquarters & a hall	Public Services	2009	Ministry of Finance	
Establishment of a public water reservoir	Infrastructure	2009	Ministry of Finance	
Establishment of sidewalks	Infrastructure	2009	Municipal Development Fund	
Rehabilitation of the water network	Infrastructure	2009	Jerusalem Water Department	
Pavement of secondary roads	Infrastructure	2010	Municipal Development Fund	
Establishment of a public garden	Public Services	2010	CHF	
Source: 'Atara Municipal Council, 2011		·		

## **Proposed Projects**

'Atara Municipal council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the town. The projects are as follows in order of priority from the viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

- 1. Constructing an elementary school for boys.
- 2. Solving the water problem, especially in the summer.
- 3. Establishing a sewage network.
- 4. Paving the main and sub roads.
- 5. Expanding the electricity and lighting network.
- 6. Establishing a physician's clinic and a medical laboratory.
- 7. Creating small projects to support farmers.

## **Locality Development Priorities and Needs**

'Atara suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the Municipal Council's feedback.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in 'Atara

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes		
	Infrastructu			11101111			
1	Opening and Dayament of Roads	*			8km <b>×</b>		
2	- I - 8 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			*	OKIII*		
3				•			
3	3 Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*			
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*			
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or				3 springs		
	Springs	*			3 springs		
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*			
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			5km		
8 Construction of a New Electricity Network				*	1km		
9	*				40 containers		
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1		
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*					
Health Needs							
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health center		
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*			
3	3 Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools						
	Educationa	al Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*					
2	<u> </u>				elementary level		
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*					
	Agricultur	e Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			100 dunums		
2					50 cisterns		
3					10 barracks		
4	Veterinary Services	*					
5					250 tons per year		
6					20 greenhouses		
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*			
8	Field Crops Seeds	*					
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*					

<sup>^ 2</sup>km are main roads and 6km are sub roads.

Source: Atara Municipal Council, 2011.

### **References:**

- Al Dabbagh, M. Our Country, Palestine; Chapter 8, Part Two. Kafr Qari' Palestine. Dar al Huda Press, 1991.
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2012. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit Database. Bethlehem Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2012. *Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis* (2010) Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2012. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem Palestine.
- 'Atara Municipal Council, 2011.
- Jerusalem Water Authority (for Ramallah & Al Bireh areas) (2011). Detection showing the amount of water sold from 1/1/2010 till 31/12/2010. Ramallah Palestine.
- Jerusalem Water Authority (2012). Jerusalem Water Authority's Website; Data Retrieved on the first of March. <a href="http://www.jwu.org/newweb/atemplate.php?id=87">http://www.jwu.org/newweb/atemplate.php?id=87</a>.
- Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) Ramallah, 2011. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2010/2011). Ramallah Palestine.
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2009. Directorate of Agriculture data (2008/2009). Ramallah Palestine.