

Beit Sira Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages 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 the 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 the 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 village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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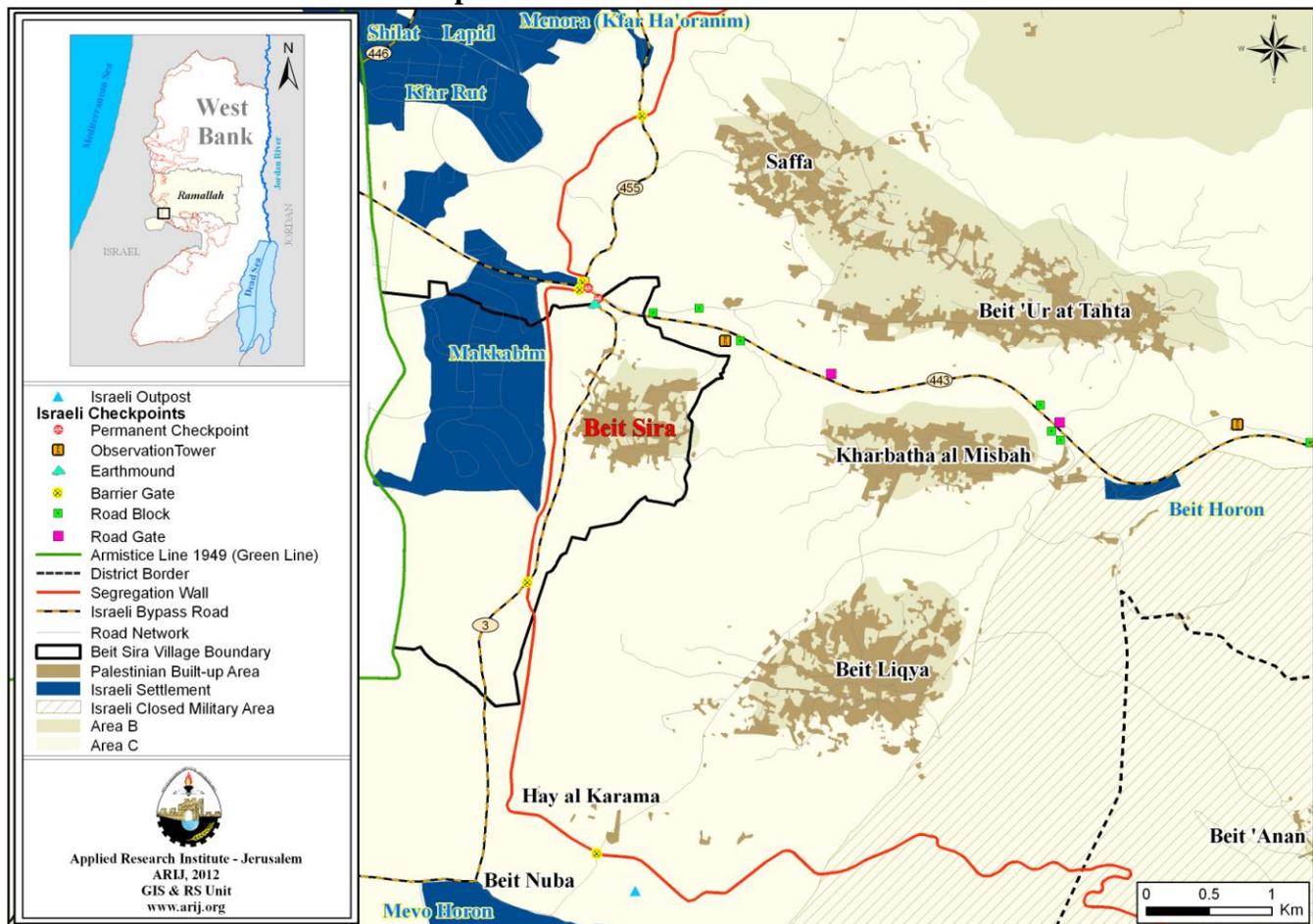
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Beit Sira Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit Sira is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located (horizontally) 14.9km west of Ramallah City. Beit Sira is bordered by Kharbatha al Misbah and Beit Liqya villages, and Beit ‘Ur at Tahta territories to the east, Safa village territories to the north, the 1948 territories to the west, and Beit Nuba village territories to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Beit Sira location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Beit Sira is located at an altitude of 285m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 560.1mm. The average annual temperature is 19 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2009).

Since 1995, Beit Sira has been governed by a village council included within the Joint Services Council for Ni'lin. The Village Council is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority with an additional 10 employees working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters and two vehicles for the collection of solid waste.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Beit Sira, including:

- Infrastructure services, such as water provision and management.
- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
- Protection of governmental and archeological sites.
- Implementation of projects and case studies for the village.
- Providing transportations.
- Supervising and managing special needs and women's centers.

History

Beit Sira village is thought to have been named in relation to its location on a nomadic caravan route. Some believe that the village was named in relation to the Aramaic word 'Sir' ('the summit'), or from the Greek 'Seira' (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (a rope, a line or chain). The establishment of the village dates back to the seventeenth century (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

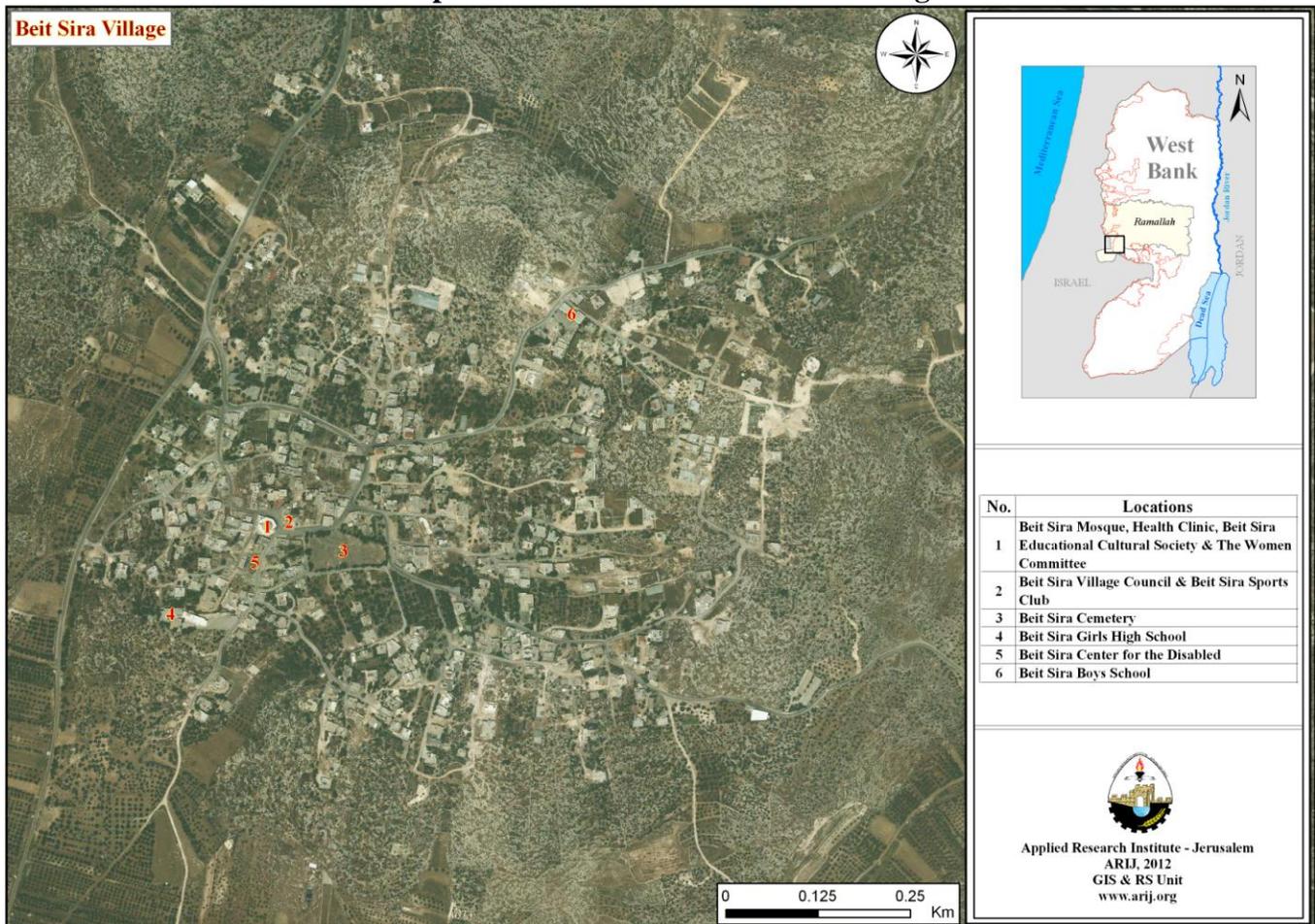
Photos of Beit Sira



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is one mosque in the village, Beit Sira Mosque. The village has a few sites of archaeological interest: the village mosque, the water spring, Ash Sheikh Hassan shrine, and Al ‘Arba’een shrine (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010). There is also a circular pool, several caves and some khirab (ruins), including Khirbet al Dreish, Khirbet Manna’ and Khirbet Diriyah (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Beit Sira Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beit Sira in 2007 was 2,584, of whom 1,348 were male and 1,236 female. There were 493 households living in 564 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Beit Sira as follows: 45% were less than 15 years of age, 52.3% were between 15 - 64 years of age, whilst 2.4% fell into the 65 years and over category. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 109.1:100, meaning that males and females constitute 52.2% and 47.8% of the population respectively.

Families

Beit Sira residents are from several families, mainly the Abu Safiya, ‘Anqawi, Hamdan, Al Hajj, Abu Hasheesh and Khattab (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Immigration

The field survey showed that around 200 people have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Beit Sira population was approximately 5.4%, of whom 71.9% were females. Of the literate population, 13.7% could only read and write, with no formal education, 30.4% had elementary education, 28.1% had preparatory education, 16.8% had secondary education, and 5.3% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Beit Sira by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Beit Sira population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	27	120	286	266	159	13	41	-	9	-	4	925
F	69	126	258	238	141	13	18	-	1	-	2	866
T	96	246	544	504	300	26	59	-	10	-	6	1,791

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

In the academic year 2010/2011 there were two public schools in the village, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (see Table 2), but there are no kindergartens run by the Ministry of Education (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Due to the lack of some educational levels in the village, students from Beit Sira attend Safa Union High School, 3km from the village, in order to complete their secondary education. However students are still suffering from permanent and partial checkpoints established by the Israeli occupation on the route to school (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

In the village (in 2011) there were 738 students, 39 teachers, and 25 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school was nearly 19, and the average number of students per class was approximately 30.

Table 2: The Schools in Beit Sira by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beit Sira Girls High School	Government	Female
Beit Sira Boys Elementary School	Government	male

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

The educational sector in Beit Sira village faces some obstacles, mainly (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010):

1. Israeli refusals to grant a permit for continuing the construction of the boys' high school which is currently under implementation.
2. The lack of public lands within the village boundaries to construct a school on.
3. The lack of playgrounds at the boys' school.
4. The lack of a hall in the girls' school.

Health Status

There are a few health centers and services available in Beit Sira village: a private physician's clinic, a private dental clinic, a governmental motherhood and childhood center and a governmental medical laboratory. In emergencies or in the absence of any health service in the village, residents of Beit Sira use the health clinics of neighboring Kharbatha al Misbah (3km from the village), Beit Liqya health center (4.5km from the village), or Ramallah governmental hospital (22km from the village) (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

The health sector in the village faces some obstacles and problems, including:

- The lack of a health center operating 24 hours a day.
- The part-time hours of the motherhood and childhood center (only 3 days a week) and of all private clinics.
- The lack of necessary tests at the medical laboratory.
- The lack of an ambulance in the village.

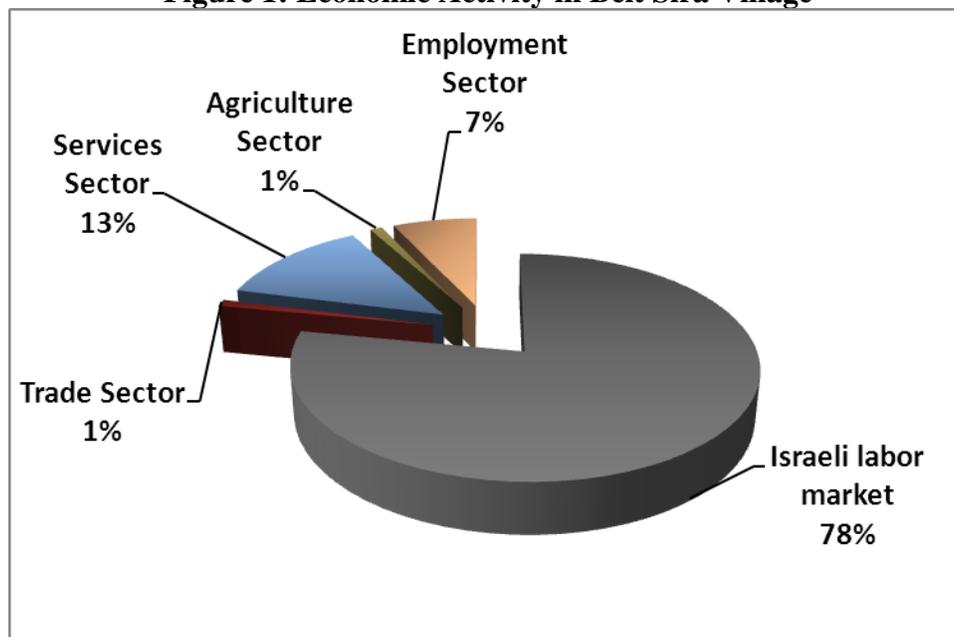
Economic Activities

The economy in Beit Sira is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 78% of the village workforce (See Figure 1) (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

The results of the field survey conducted by ARIJ staff in 2010 shows that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beit Sira is as follows:

- Israeli Labor Market (78%)
- Services Sector (13%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (7%)
- Agriculture Sector (1%)
- Trade Sector (1%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Beit Sira Village



(Beit Sira Village Council, 2010)

In terms of industrial productions and parks in Beit Sira village, there are no industrial facilities. However, there are two stone quarries in the village, 18 grocery stores, one store for vegetables and fruit, 3 different professional workshops (carpentry, aluminum, glass etc.), 7 different services stores and 10 stores that sell slaughtered chicken (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Beit Sira has reached about 60% in 2010 (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010), and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions were:

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in the trade sector.
3. Workers in the agriculture sector.
4. Workers in the services sector.
5. Workers in the employees sector.
6. Workers in industry.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 26.8% of the Beit Sira labor force was economically active in 2007, of whom 62.9% were employed. 72.2% were not economically active, 53.9% were students, and 35.8% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Beit Sira population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total	
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		Un-known
M	293	36	138	467	371	-	51	3	19	444	14	925
F	9	-	4	13	326	463	57	-	3	849	4	866
T	302	36	142	480	697	463	108	3	22	1,293	18	1,791

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

Agricultural Sector

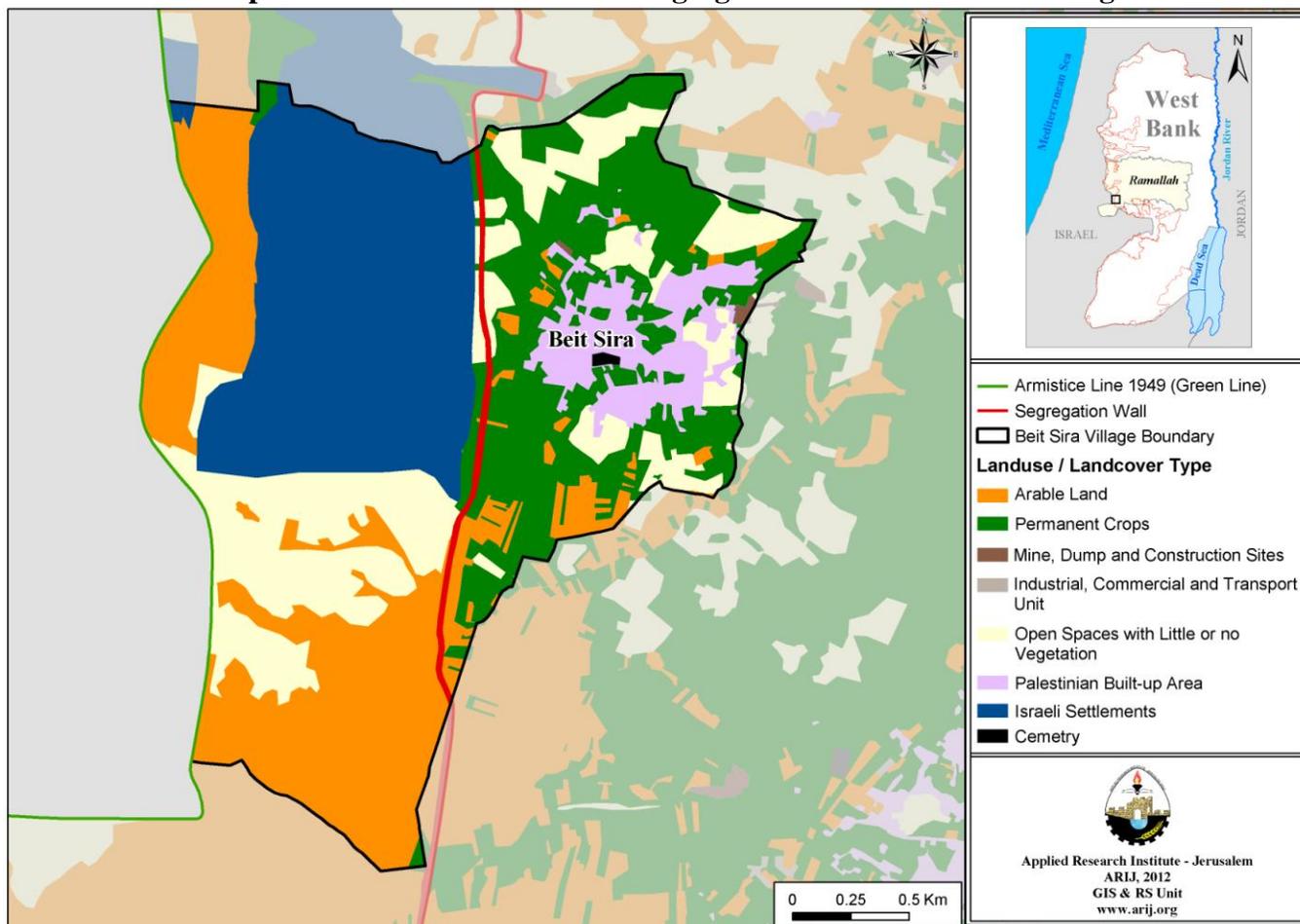
Beit Sira has a total area of around 5,614 dunums of which 2,579 are considered 'arable' land and 357 dunums are registered as 'residential'. (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Beit Sira village in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (2,579)				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					
5,614	357	1,145	0	0	1,434	0	0	1,101	15	1,562

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

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

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Beit Sira village (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
12	0	0	0	15	2	5	0	0	0	32	2

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beit Sira is famous for olive cultivation; there are 804 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Beit Sira Village(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.
804	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	15	0	35	0	864	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Beit Sira, cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 70 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as beans (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Beit Sira village (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
70	0	10	0	24	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	119	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 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 ARIJ in 2011 shows that 3% of the residents in Beit Sira rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Beit Sira village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
25	632	202	0	0	0	0	12,000	11,500	66

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are also about 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Beit Sira Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	2
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	3
For animals only	0
Unsuitable	3

Source: Beit Sira Village Council, 2010

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

- The lack of access to lands behind the Wall.
- The lack of capital.
- The lack of agricultural awareness and experience by the village residents.
- The high cost of water.
- The lack of agricultural lands.
- The dependency on the Israeli labor market.
- The lack of experience in marketing agricultural products.

Institutions and Services

Beit Sira village has no governmental institutions, but a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010):

- **Beit Sira Village Council:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Beit Sira Sports Club:** Founded in 1971 by the village youth and registered by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, with an interest in sports and cultural activities for young people.
- **Beit Sira Women & Girls Center:** Founded in 2007 by Beit Sira Village Council and the Youth Union, interested in women's issues in the village, the Center provides courses in food processing and capacity-building for women.
- **Beit Sira Educational Cultural Society:** Founded in 2006 by a group of graduates. The Society provides educational courses and service for university students and honors outstanding students.
- **The People with Special Needs Center:** Founded in 2009 by Beit Sira Village Council and the Women Center. The Center helps people with special needs through training in movement and speech, in addition to providing recreational activities for people with special needs in the village and in neighboring villages.
- **The Agricultural Committee:** Founded in 2004 by a number of farmers, it supports agricultural projects.
- **Beit Sira Cooperative Society:** Founded in 2004 by a number of farmers, the Society works on breeding broiler cows in the village.
- **Beit Sira Society for Rural Development:** Founded in 2008 by a number of women, the Society provides agricultural courses in addition to courses on food processing and beekeeping.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Beit Sira has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984. It is served by the Jerusalem Electricity Company and approximately 80% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents have some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010):

1. The weak electrical power supply; which has been problematic for the past 3 years.
2. The electricity network relies on wooden poles, many of which are damaged.
3. The existence of metal wires hanging down from pylons and poles, creating a safety hazard.
4. 20% of the housing units are not connected to meters.
5. The high cost of installing a new meter.

Furthermore, Beit Sira is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 40% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Transportation Services:

Seven taxis are the main means of transportation in Beit Sira village. The transportation sector struggles due to the existence of military checkpoints and earth mounds, the unqualified main roads, and the lack of vehicles in the village (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010). There are 6km of main roads, and a total of 13km of secondary roads (See Table 10) (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Table 10: Roads in Beit Sira village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	-	2
2. Paved but in poor condition	6	3
3. Unpaved	-	8

Source: Beit Sira Village Council, 2010

Water Resources:

Beit Sira is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1993. Approximately 80% of the housing units are connected to this network (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

The quantity of water supplied to Beit Sira in 2010 was approximately 96,000 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Beit Sira is 102 liters per day (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010). However, no Beit Sira citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 35%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010). Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in Beit Sira is 66 liters per day. The rate experienced by Beit Sira residents

is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per person/day proposed by the World Health Organization.

The village has around 60 rainwater harvesting cisterns and each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 5 NIS (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Sanitation:

Beit Sira lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits for the disposal of waste water (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 137 cubic meters, or 50,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 46 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 without 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:

Beit Sira Village Council is responsible for managing solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of about 15 NIS has been charged to the population serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste, especially only 60% of these fees are collected from the citizens. (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010)

Most of the population in Beit Sira benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and transferred to certain areas due to the lack of containers in the locality. The Village Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to Beit Liqya dumping site, about 5km from the village, where it is usually burnt. (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit Sira is 0.7kg. The estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Beit Sira residents is therefore nearly 1.8 tons, or 660 tons per year. (ARIJ-WERU, 2012)

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Beit Sira 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 West Bank Water Department for long periods of time in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources.
 - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The lack of a public reservoir in the village to cover the residents' water needs during water cut-offs.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Beit Sira 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 village. 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. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid Waste Management:

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Beit Sira 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.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Beit Sira Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beit Sira was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 524 dunums (9.3% of the total village area) were assigned as area 'B', where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has 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. Most of the village's population resides in area 'B' which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the village. Approximately 5,090 dunums

(90.7% of the total village area) is classified as area ‘C’, where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In area ‘C’ Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area ‘C’ are agricultural and open spaces (Table 11).

Table11: The geopolitical divisions of Beit Sira village according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	524	9.3
Area C	5,090	90.7
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	5,614	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Beit Sira Village and the Israeli Occupation

After the 1948 war, Israel was established over more than 78% of the total area of historic Palestine, and in 1949 the Armistice Line (Green Line) was drawn along the boundary between lands occupied by Israel and the rest of the Palestinian lands (West Bank and Gaza Strip). The West Bank fell under Jordanian control. Part of the occupied territory along Al Latrun, northwest of Jerusalem, was disputed and therefore considered to be ‘no man’s land’. This included approximately 2,400 dunums of Beit Sira lands.

Following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, the Israeli authorities confiscated large areas of Beit Sira lands for the construction of several Israeli settlements and bypass roads. The first Israeli settlement built on the village territory was Mikabim. Table 12 shows the subsequent Israeli settlements established on Beit Sira village territories:

Table 12: Israeli Settlements built on Beit Sira village land

Settlement	Year of Establishment	Settlers	Seized land of Beit Sira Village for the Construction of Settlement
Mikabim	1982	14,000	1,499
Total		14,000	1,499

Source: GIS & Urbanization units –ARIJ 2012

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Beit Sira

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Beit Sira. According to the latest revised route of the Segregation Wall plan published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30th April 2007, the wall extends 2.4 km over Beit Sira's lands and isolates 3,541 dunums of land (63.1% of the village's total area). The majority of the isolated lands are open spaces and

agricultural areas which constitute an important source of income for many Palestinian families in the village (Table 13).

Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated Lands in Beit Sira – Ramallah Governorate

Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
Open Areas	688
Agricultural Lands	1,309
Israeli settlements	1,499
Wall Zone	45
Total	3,541

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Issued Military Orders in Beit Sira Village

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Beit Sira for the construction of the Segregation Wall, including the following:

- Israeli Military Order (22/03/T): issued on 5th March 2003 and confiscated 42 dunums of the lands of Beit Sira for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order (103/03/T): issued on 14th December 2003 and confiscated 489 dunums of the lands of Beit Liqya, Beit Nuba, Safa and Beit Sira for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order (104/03/T): issued on 14th December 2003 and confiscated 2047 dunums of the lands of Beit Liqya, Beit Nuba and Beit Sira for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order (85/04/T): issued on 8th November 2004 and confiscates 49.2 dunums of the lands of Safa and Beit Sira for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order (105/04/T): issued on 30th December 2004 and confiscates a total land area of 489 dunums of the lands Beit Liqya, Beit Nuba, Safa and Beit Sira for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Beit Sira village council has implemented several development projects in Beit Sira during the last five years (See Table 14).

Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Beit Sira during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of a boys' high school	Educational	2010	Ministry of Finance
Construction of retaining walls	Infrastructure	2009	CHF
Pavement of secondary roads	Infrastructure	2008	Islamic Development Bank
Construction of a kindergarten	Educational	2008	ANERA
Construction of classrooms	Educational	2006-2009	Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction - PECDAR
Source: Beit Sira Village Council, 2010			

Proposed Projects

Beit Sira Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village 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 village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing greenhouses, constructing agricultural roads and wells, and reclaiming agricultural lands.
2. Providing the village with improved seeds and appropriate fertilizers, and providing farmers with the necessary support through livestock, bees, poultry, sheep, and cows.
3. Providing agricultural equipments and machinery.
4. Rehabilitating the village water spring.
5. Establishing household treatment units and home gardens.
6. Assisting in the marketing of agricultural production.
7. Providing agricultural insurance for farmers.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beit Sira suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council's feedback (Beit Sira Village Council, 2010).

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Beit Sira

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			8km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			8km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			500m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			8km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			400 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			a health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			a health center
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools			*	elementary & secondary levels
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			200 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			40 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			6 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			30 tons by year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			15 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*			1 greenhouse
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

[^] 5km are sub roads and 3km are agricultural roads

Source: Beit Sira Village Council, 2010

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