

Beituniya Town Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the 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>.

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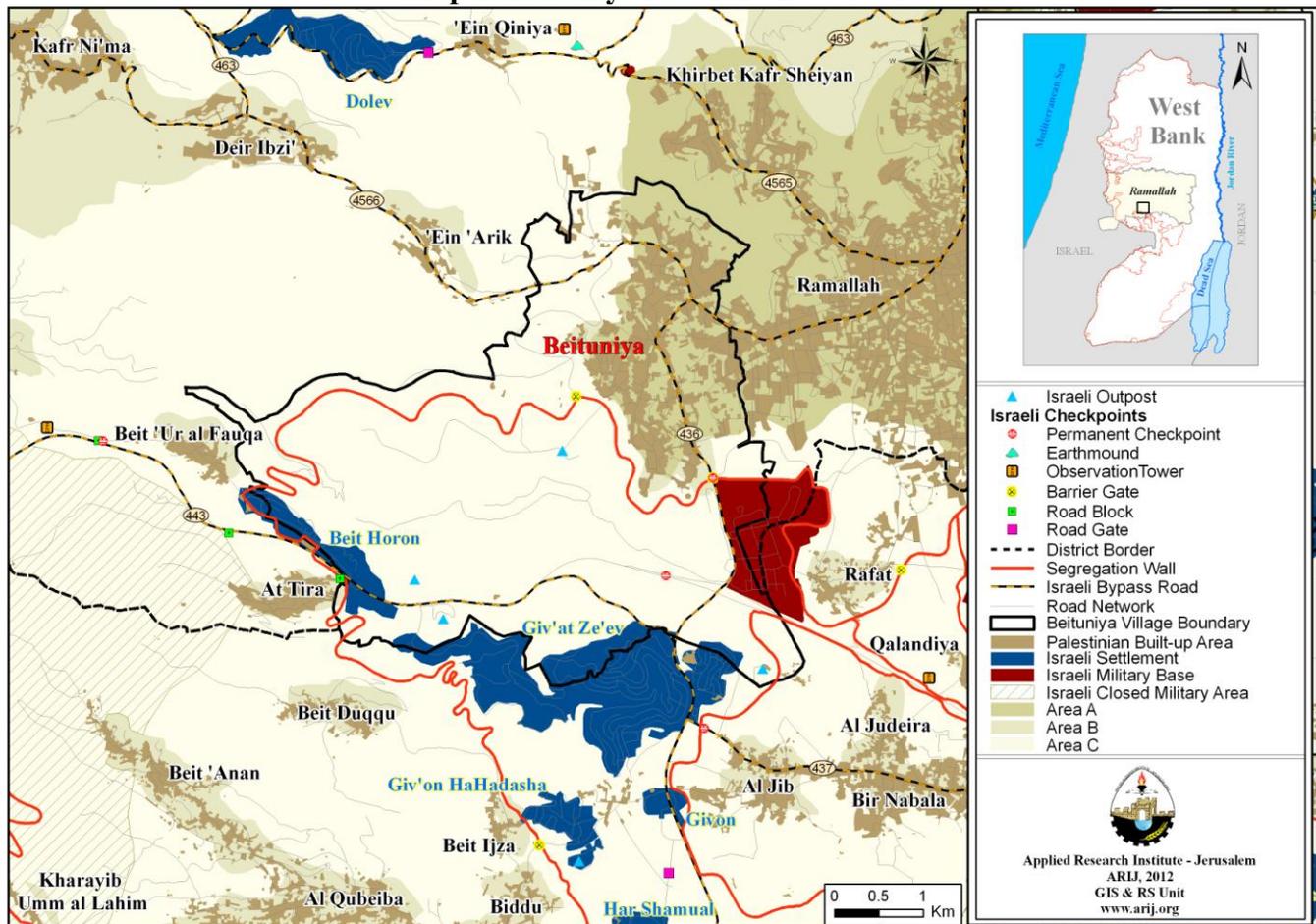
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Beituniya Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beituniya is a Palestinian town in Ramallah Governorate, located 3km (horizontally) west of Ramallah City. Beituniya is bordered by Ramallah city to the east, 'Ein Qiniya territories and Ramallah city to the north, Beit 'Ur al Fauqa, 'Ein 'Arik and At Tira to the west, and Al Jib to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See map 1)

Map 1: Beituniya location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Beituniya is located at an altitude of 804m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 600.4mm. The average annual temperature is 16° C, and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1965, Beituniya town has been governed by a Municipal Council which has been administrated by 13 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority with an additional 70 employees working

in the Council. Moreover, the Council, which is included within the Joint Services Council for Ramallah, Al Bireh and Beituniya, owns a permanent headquarters, 3 vehicles for the collection of solid waste, 3 pickups, in addition to a small hammer, metal detection device, and water and electricity maintaining devices (Beituniya Municipality, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Beituniya, including:

- Establishing and maintaining the drinking water network.
- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organizing construction and licensing processes.
- Providing headquarters for governmental services (such as post, security, etc.).
- Providing kindergartens.
- Providing a firefighting car.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the town.

History

There are a number of stories behind naming the town Beituniya; one says that the name came from the Roman word “Beit ‘Anya” which means the house of the beautiful flower. Another story says that it was named after a Greek female saint called “Auniya” who lived there when people used to refer to the town as her home-“Beit ‘Uniya”. The town dates back to 1953, and its residents originate from different places in Palestine, including: Beit Nuba, Lid, Jerusalem, Jenin, Nablus and others (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Photo of Beituniya

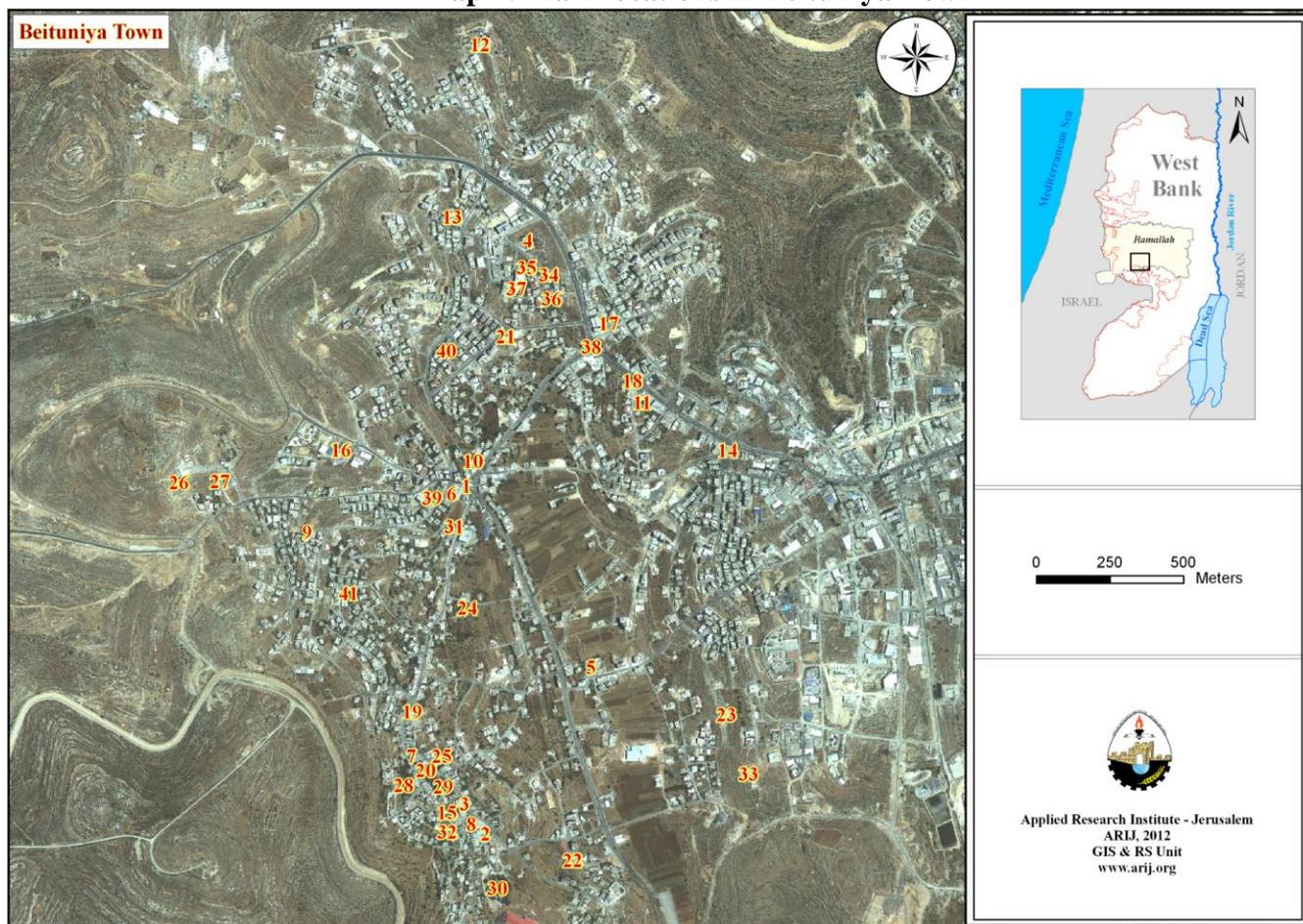


Source :Beituniya Municipality, 2012

Religious and Archaeological Sites

In terms of religious establishments, there are five mosques in the town; Beituniya Grand Mosque, Al Omari, Al 'Atqiya', Salah ad Din and Saif Allah Mosques. As for the archaeological sites in the town; there are few, including: Abi Zaytoon Shrine, Umm ash Sheikh Shrine, Jaryoot Spring, Roman columns, Khirbet 'Asqalan, Lady Nafisa Shrine, Khirbet Beit Sila, Khirbet al 'Irak, Khirbet ad Dawali, Khirbet al Mayta, Khirbet al Mahma, Khirbet Jaryoot and Khirbet al Lattateen (Beituniya Municipality, 2012) (See map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Beituniya Town



No.	Locations	No.	Locations	No.	Locations
1	Beituniya Boys High School	15	An Ancient Olive Oli-Press (Archeological Site)	29	Cemetery
2	Beituniya Girls High School	16	Abu Jihad Vocational College	30	Cemetery
3	Beituniya Girls Elementary School	17	The Modern University College	31	Beituniya Youth Sports Club
4	Ash Shurooq Girls Elementary School	18	The Future Vocational Institute	32	Beituniya Women Society
5	Al Jinan Co-educated Elementary School	19	Beituniya Municipality Headquarters/ Police Station/ Post Office	33	A School (Under construction)
6	Beituniya Boys Elementary Higher School	20	Beituniya Health Clinic	34	Tunisian Embassy
7	Beituniya Grand Mosque	21	Noor al Huda Kindergarten	35	Sir Lankan Embassy
8	Al Omari Mosque (Archeological Site)	22	Al 'Alamiya Co-educated Elementary School & Kindergarten	36	Indian Embassy
9	Salah ad Deen Mosque	23	Al Jeel al Jadeed Co-educated Elementary School & Kindergarten	37	Dar ash Shifa' Pharmaceutical Co.
10	Al 'Atqiya' Mosque	24	Es'ad at Tufula (Child Happiness) Kindergarten	38	Palestine Square
11	Saif ad Deen Mosque	25	Ash Shantoor Kindergarten	39	Yellow Society
12	Ibn Taymiya Mosque	26	Noor al Huda Boys Applied School	40	Lid Society
13	Al Hittu Mosque	27	Noor al Huda Girls Applied School	41	Emwas Society
14	Ar Radwan Mosque	28	Cemetery		

Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beituniya in 2007 was 18,575; 9,444 of whom were male and 9,131 females. There were additionally registered to be 3,901 households living in 5,053 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Beituniya was as follows: 40.1% were less than 15 years old, 55.1% between 15 - 64 years old, whilst 2.1% fall into the 65 years and older category. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 103.4:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.8% and 49.2 % of the population, respectively.

Families

The inhabitants of Beituniya town are composed of several families, mainly: Qart, Haddad, Dawlah, Harsh, Shahin and Suheil (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team has showed that around 1000 persons have left the town since the second Intifada in 2000 (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among population was about 3.3%, of whom 78% were females. Of the literate population, 11.3% could only read and write, with no formal education, 21.4% had only elementary education, 27% had preparatory education, 16.5% had secondary education, and 20.4% completed higher education. Table 1, shows the educational level in the town of Beituniya, by sex, and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Beituniya 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	92	728	1,453	1,805	1,049	351	763	14	158	28	12	6,453
F	326	709	1,269	1,642	1,050	501	718	7	59	1	10	6,292
T	418	1,437	2,722	3,447	2,099	852	1,481	21	217	29	22	12,745

Source: PCBS, 2009.

With regards to the basic and secondary education institutions and schools in Beituniya in the academic year 2010/2011, there are 5 private schools in the town and 6 public schools; run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MoEHE) (See Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beituniya Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Beituniya Boys Secondary School	Government	Male
Beituniya Girls Elementary School	Government	Female
Beituniya Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Ash Shurooq Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed

Beituniya Boys Elementary Higher School	Government	Male
Noor al Huda Applied (B) School	Private	Female
Noor al Huda (A) School	Private	Male
The New Generation Model School	Private	Mixed
Amal al Mustaqbal Elementary School	Private	Mixed
The Golden Jubilee - Beituniya School	Private	Mixed
Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011		

There are additionally, a total of 4730 students, 253 teachers, and 161 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). It should be noted here that the average number of students per teacher in the schools is nearly 19, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29.

Furthermore, there are 6 kindergartens in Beituniya run by different bodies. The total number of children across the kindergartens is 456 children. Table 3 shows the kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority (Beituniya Municipality, 2011).

Table 3: The Kindergartens in Beituniya by name and supervising authority

Kindergarten Name	No. of Children	Supervising Authority
'Atfal ash Shuhod Kindergarten	5	Private
The New Generation Kindergarten	88	Other Private
Al Fajr Kindergarten	41	Christian Civil Society
Azhar Beituniya Kindergarten	78	Christian Civil Society
The Golden Jubilee Kindergarten	29	Other Private
Noor al Huda Kindergarten	215	Other Private
Source: Beituniya Municipality, 2011		

Moreover, the educational sector in Beituniya town suffers some obstacles, mainly (Beituniya Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of schools.
- The huge number of students from neighboring villages who come to study in the town's schools.

Health Status

There are a number of health facilities available in Beituniya town, including: Beituniya Governmental Health Center, Abu al Khair Medical Center, Hamarshah Medical Center, a private Radiology center, a private medical laboratory and 8 private pharmacies. In the case of lack of medical service; patients head to Ramallah Governmental Hospital in Ramallah city; about 4 km from the town (Beituniya Municipality, 2011).

Moreover, the health sector in Beituniya suffers some obstacles, mainly the lack of an ambulance in the town (Beituniya Municipality, 2011).

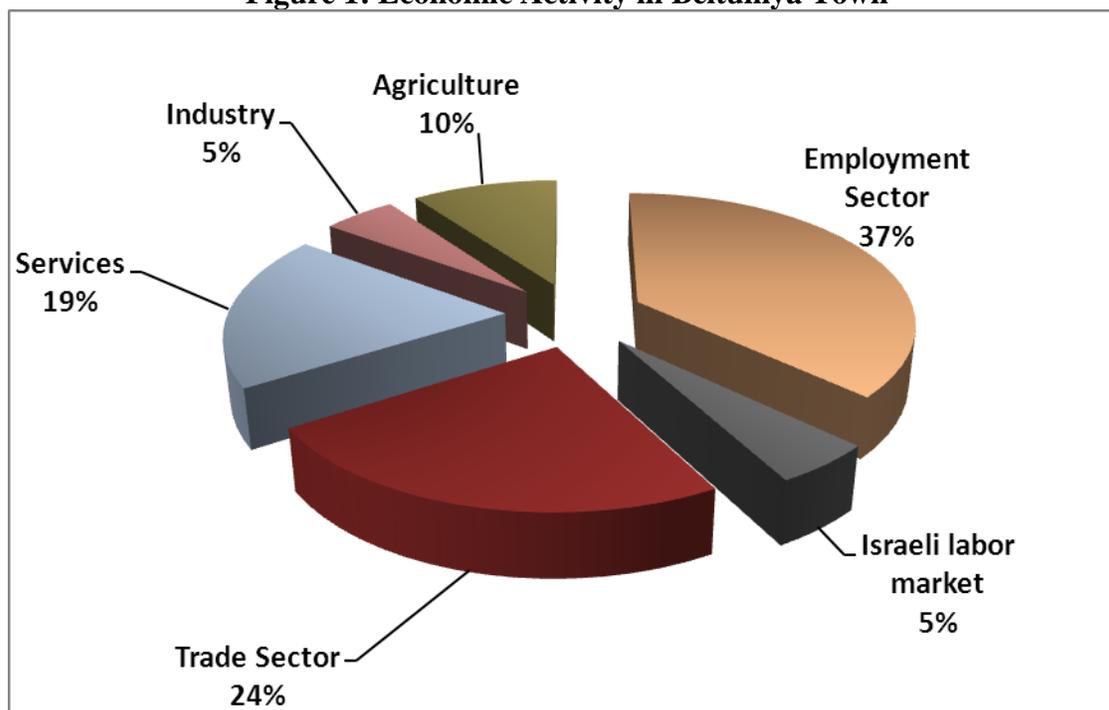
Economic Activities

The economy in Beituniya is dependent mainly on the Government or Other Employees Sector which absorbs 37% of the town's workforce (Beituniya Municipality, 2011) (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beituniya are as follows (Beituniya Municipality, 2012):

- Government or Other Employees Sector (37%)
- Trade Sector (24%)
- Services Sector (19%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Industry (5%)
- Israeli labor market (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Beituniya Town



Source: Beituniya Municipality, 2012

In terms of industrial productions and parks in Beituniya town, there are 45 grocery stores in the town, 10 stores that sell vegetables and fruits, 5 bakeries, 6 butchers, 10 different services stores, 21 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc.), and an olive oil-press (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Beituniya has reached (in 2012) about 25%, and it was found that the most vulnerable social group in the town, as a result of Israeli actions, was workers in the agricultural sector (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 40.9% of Beituniya population was economically active, of whom 91.2% were employed, and 58.6% of whom were not economically active, 54.1% of whom were students, and 34.8% of whom were housekeepers (See table 4).

Table 4: Beituniya population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	3,692	170	116	3,978	2,000	4	235	101	95	2,435	40	6,453
F	1,063	77	97	1,237	2,039	2,593	284	41	73	5,030	25	6,292
T	4,755	247	213	5,215	4,039	2,597	519	142	168	7,465	65	12,745

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

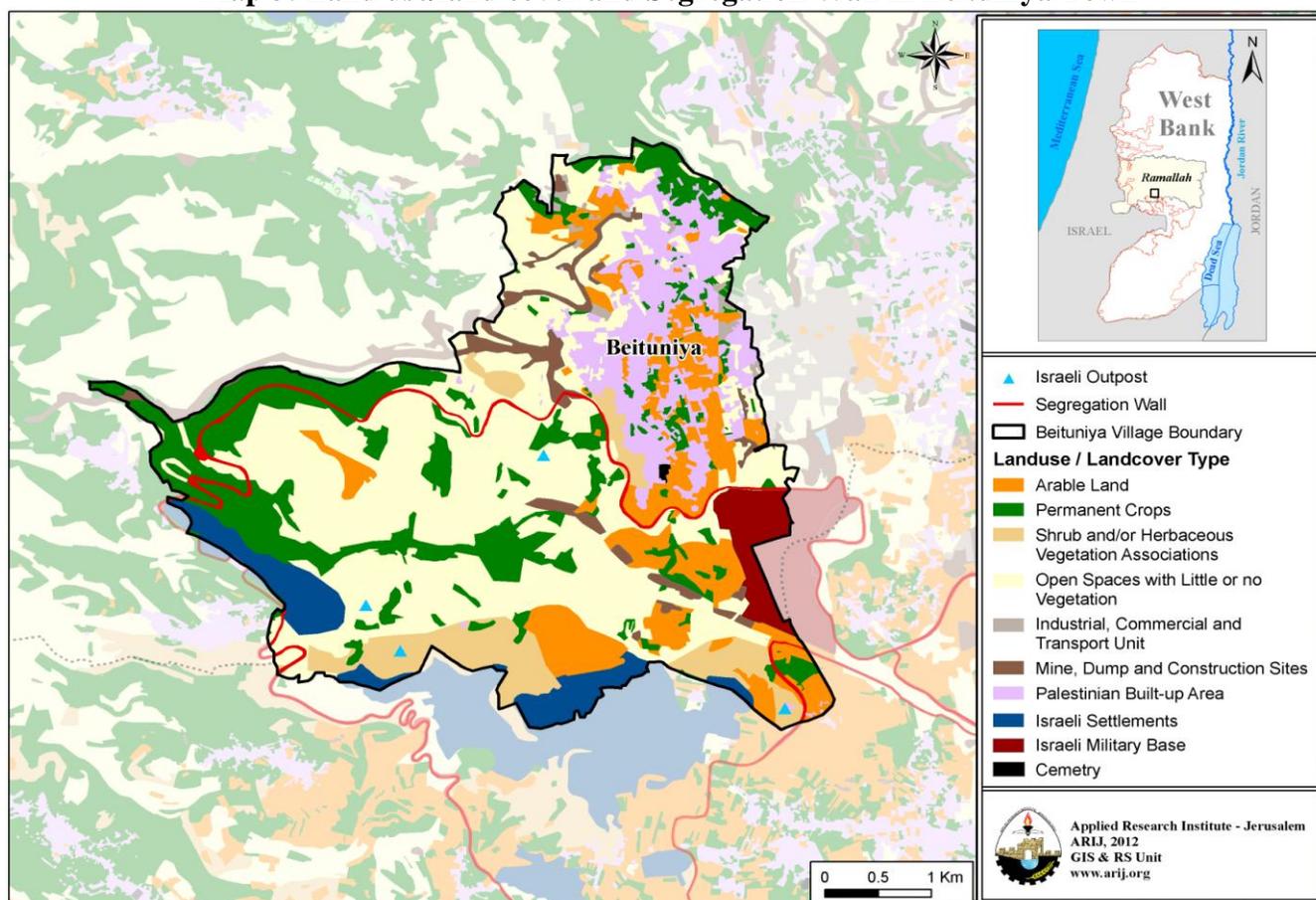
Beituniya lies on a total area of about 21,127 dunams of which 7,787 dunams are considered arable land and 2,158 dunams are residential land (See table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Beituniya town in 2010 (area in dunam)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (7,787)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-land	Arable land					
21,127	2,158	3,714	0	1,432	2,641	0	0	8,421	813	1,946

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Beituniya. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is squash.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Beituniya town (dunam)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
100	0	0	0	55	0	5	0	5	0	165	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beituniya town is known for the cultivation of olive trees; there being about 1895 dunams of land cultivated with olive crops

Table 7: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Beituniya town (dunam)

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.
1895	0	0	0	95	0	3	0	51	0	202.5	0	2,246.5	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

As for the field crops and forage in Beituniya, cereals (in particular, wheat) are the most cultivated; covering an area of about 60 dunams (See table 8).

Table 8: Total area of field crops in Beituniya town (dunam)

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
60	0	27	0	67	0	8	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	232	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 ARIJ team in 2012 shows that only 1% of the residents in Beituniya rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats and others (Beituniya Municipality, 2012) (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Beituniya town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
40	1,323	502	12	0	0	0	87,200	37,000	254

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are about 5 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town suitable only for tractors and agricultural machinery (Beituniya Municipality, 2012):

However, the residents suffer some obstacles and problems concerning the agricultural sector, mainly (Beituniya Municipality, 2012):

- The confiscation of 80% of Beituniya land.
- The hard access to agricultural land due to occupation.
- Depopulation.
- The increasing number of people thus the increase of urbanization.

Institutions and Services

Beituniya town has some governmental institutions, including a post office, a police station, a fire station and an office for Ministry of Labor, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations

that provide services to various sectors of society: children, youth, and women. The services are in the areas of culture, sports and others, including (Beituniya Municipality, 2012):

- **Beituniya Municipality:** Founded in 1965 by the town's residents and is currently registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the town and providing all kinds of services to its population.
- **Beituniya Sports Club:** Founded in 1973 by the town's youth and is currently registered in the Ministry of Youth & Sports. The club is interested in all sports and cultural activities for young people in the town.
- **Lid Charitable Society:** Founded in 1993, by the Ministry of Interior.
- **Beituniya Women Society:** Founded in 2000 and is interested in providing women with different activities such as food processing and sewing courses.
- **Yellow Social Society.**
- **Beit Nuba Society.**
- **'Emwas Society.**
- **Child Protection Center.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Beituniya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1970; served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately all of the housing units in the town (100%) are connected to the network. However, the town suffers some problems concerning the electricity sector, mainly the weak electricity current in some residential neighborhoods (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Furthermore, Beituniya is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately all of the housing units within the town boundaries (100%) are connected to phone lines (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Transportation Services:

Public taxis and buses are considered the main means of transportation in Beituniya; with about 130 public taxis and 6 buses in the town. However, residents suffer some obstacles during their travels, such as the existence of the Segregation Wall, earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads. As for the road network in the town; there are a total of 12.7km of main roads and 8.9km are sub roads (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Table 10: Roads in Beituniya village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	5	6
2. Paved but in poor condition	7.7	1.4
3. Unpaved	-	1.5

Source: Beituniya Municipality, 2012

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the town with water through a water network that has been constructed since 1971 (Beituniya Municipality, 2012). This network supplies water to almost all housing units in the town. The quantity of water supplied to the town in 2010 has reached approximately 840,000 m³/ year (Beituniya Municipality, 2012), and thus the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 124 liters/capita/day. Nevertheless, residents of Beituniya do not really consume this amount of water due to the water loss from transfer of water and distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units, and it reaches 26.5 %, and thus the average of water consumption per capita is 91 liters/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is less than the recommended amount proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) which is 100 liter/capita/day.

However, located in Beituniya are 4 springs but only one of these is being used for the purpose of vegetable cultivation with a daily average pumping rate of 20 cubic meters, while the three other springs are not being used due to their location within area C and thus they are confiscated by the Israeli occupation (Beituniya Municipality, 2012). Also, there is a public water reservoir in the town with a 500 cubic meters capacity (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

To regulate 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 (m ³)	Domestic (NIS/m ³)	Industrial (NIS/m ³)	Tourist (NIS/m ³)	Commercial (NIS/m ³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m ³)
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

Sanitation:

Beituniya town lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits and endocrines as their main means of waste-water disposal (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day, is approximately 1,353 cubic meters, or 494 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 64 liters per day (ARIJ WERU, 2012). The wastewater collected by cesspits and endocrines, are discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without any regard for the environment. Here it should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health.

Solid Waste Management:

Beituniya Municipality is considered the official body responsible for managing solid waste, i.e. solid waste collection and disposal, generated from the citizens and establishments in Beituniya. Due to the fact that the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged on the population, serviced by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services, which totals about 20 Jordanian Dinar/year. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste; only 15% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

Most of the population in Beituniya benefit from the solid waste services. The service collects waste from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 20 big containers; each with a 6 cups capacity, and 1150 small containers each with a 1.5 cup capacity, spread throughout the neighborhoods. Beituniya Municipality collects the solid waste from the containers three times a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to Ramallah dumping site, 4km from Beituniya. The common method for solid waste treatment in the dumping site is by burial in an unhealthy way (Beituniya Municipality, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beituniya is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Beituniya residents is nearly 19.5 tons, or 7119 tons per year (ARIJ WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, in Beituniya 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 Authority for long periods of time in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources. Consequently, the Jerusalem Water Authority purchases water from the Israeli company of Mekorot in order to satisfy residents' needs.

- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Beituniya residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and endocrines 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, as it mixes with the wastewater and thus becomes unsuitable for drinking. This is 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 in Beituniya 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 in Beituniya

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Beituniya town was divided into areas politically classified areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 3,759 dunums (17.8% of the town’s total area) were classified as area “A” where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and public order. 472 dunums (2.2% of the town’s total area) were classified as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority 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 refugee camps. It is noted Beituniya town’s total population resides in area “B” regions. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 16,896 dunums (80% of the total area), were classified as area “C”, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (table 12). In area “C” Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. One should note that most

of the lands lying within area “C” in the town are classified as open spaces and agricultural areas, in addition to lands confiscated and isolated behind the Segregation Wall for settlement purposes.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Beituniya Town according to Oslo II Agreement 1995 – Ramallah Governorate

Classification	Area in dunums	Percent from Total town area
Area A	3,759	17.8
Area B	472	2.2
Area C	16,896	80
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	21,127	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Beituniya Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Thousands of dunams of town lands have been taken through Israeli confiscations. These confiscations benefit Israel’s interests in multiple different ways, including but not limited to; the building of Israeli settlements, outposts and military checkpoints on the town’s lands, constructing Israeli bypass roads in order to connect settlements with one another and the implementation of the Segregation Wall plan.

Israeli forces confiscated an area of 1036 dunums of Beituniya town lands to build the settlements of Beit Horon and Giv’at Ze’ev, located southwest of the town. These settlements were established in 1977 and 1982 respectively and are currently inhabited by approximately 12,000 Israeli settlers. It should be noted that parts of these two settlements are established on the town lands while the rest of them is built on lands of neighboring villages, including Al Jib and At Tira.

Israeli settlers living in settlements illegally established on Beituniya lands have had a significant impact on Palestinians and their properties in Beituniya town. Numerous attacks have contributed to the loss of Palestinian lands adjacent to settlements as landowners are prevented from accessing their lands, which have been fenced in with barbed wire and planted with trees. Israeli settlers have additionally carried out a series of attacks against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands adjacent to the aforementioned settlements.

Furthermore, Israeli occupation forces confiscated an additional 518 dunums of Beituniya town lands for the establishment of Ofar military base south of the town, which in addition to a military camp includes an Israeli run prison for Palestinian prisoners. Israeli Occupation Forces through the establishment of such military bases in central Palestinian territories are aiming to intensify their military presence on Palestinian lands and strengthen their security control over its citizens.

Following the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000, Israeli Occupation Forces established a number of checkpoints in Beituniya town, mainly on its southern side close to the lands isolated by the Wall. Of the main checkpoints established in the town, there currently exists: a permanent checkpoint and an iron gate on the town’s southern entrance and on the wall that separates the town from its lands, on which Ofar Israeli military camp is established. In addition, the Israeli authorities established another military checkpoint on the

town's land on bypass road 443 south of Ofar camp, in addition to an iron gate on to the west of the town, along the Segregation Wall's route. All of these checkpoints aim at restricting Palestinians' movement in the town and prevent them from approaching the settlements, the Wall and the military camps, as well as controlling and hindering access to their agricultural lands.

The Israeli Government confiscated hundreds of agricultural and non-agricultural lands to open several bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank, to link Israeli settlements with each other, thus dismembering Palestinian lands and enhancing security control over it. Close to Beituniya town and to its south, Israel confiscated further lands for the construction of bypass roads no. 443 and 436. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF along these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side of the road. As a result, these buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Beituniya town

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has a negative and destructive impact on the town. According to the latest revised route of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website during April 2007, the Wall which was established on the south-western side of the town and which extends for a length of 12.7 km on the land of Beituniya, causes the isolation and confiscation of 12773 dunums, which accounts for 60% of the town's total area. The land confiscated as a result of the construction of the wall has been taken for the purpose of Israeli settlement construction. The majority of the lands isolated through the construction of the Segregation Wall have had Israeli settlements and military camps established on them, in addition to some areas classified as 'open spaces', 'agricultural areas' and 'others' (table 13).

Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Beituniya – Ramallah Governorate

Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
Agricultural Lands	3532
Open Spaces	6032
Pastures & Shrubs	1179
Israeli Settlements	1036
Military Camps	518
Wall Zone	230
Construction Sites	206
Israeli Outposts	26
Palestinian Built-up Area	14
Total	12773

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

The Segregation Wall constructed in the southern area of Beituniya town has prevented urban expansion to south of the town. It is noted that Israeli occupation authorities constructed the Wall close to the urbanized areas in the town, thus deliberately minimizing the area available for future urban expansion for the people of Beituniya. This move will create a new reality of increased urban population and population density given the lack of urban space for expansion and new construction. Furthermore, the Segregation Wall has isolated Beituniya town from Jerusalem Governorate and its northern villages, thus, residents are forced to take alternative longer routes to access nearby Jerusalemite villages to the

south. Moreover, Jerusalem city is completely isolated from all Palestinians, including Beituniya town residents, and cannot be accessed by any Palestinian wishing to visit the holy places in Jerusalem city, which is considered a main center for Palestinians; politically, economically, religious, and services wise.

Issued Military Orders in Beituniya Town

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders relating to the confiscation of lands in Beituniya, including the following:

- Israeli Military Order No. (12/05/T): Issued on the 31st of December 2005. It confiscates a total land area of 86.4 dunums from the lands of Beituniya for military purposes.
- Israeli Military Order No. (06/01/T): Issued on the 21st of March 2001. It confiscates a total land area of 17.3 dunums from the lands of Beituniya for security purposes and the establishment of a crossing.
- Israeli Military Order No. (15/10/T): Issued on the 15th of March 2010. It confiscates a total land area of 124.2 dunums from the lands of Beituniya for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (110/03/T): Issued on the 30th of December 2003. It confiscates a total land area of 144 dunums from the lands of Beituniya, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa and At Tira villages for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (111/03/T): Issued on the 31st of December 2003. It confiscates a total land area of 41 dunums from the lands of Beituniya, Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa and At Tira villages for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (112/03/T): Issued on the 31st of December 2003. It confiscates a total land area of 480 dunums from the lands of Beituniya and Beit ‘Ur al Fauqa villages for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (12/95/T): Issued on the 27th of July 1995. It confiscates lands from Beituniya and Al Bireh localities (approx. 261 dunums of area) for military purposes and the construction of around 8700m long and 30m wide road.
- Israeli Military Order No. (21/96/T): Issued on the 31st of January 1996. It confiscates lands from Beituniya and ‘Ein ‘Arik localities for the purpose of establishing a 3.2km road between the two localities to be connected with Ofar Israeli Military Base.
- Israeli Military Order No. (03/98/H): Issued on the 4th of November 1998. It confiscates lands from Beituniya, Deir ‘Ibzi’, ‘Ein ‘Arik and ‘Ein Qiniya localities for the construction of a 4470m long and 80m wide road.
- Israeli Military Order No. (59/03/T) (Amendment order): Issued on the 31st of October 2005. It confiscates a total land area of 83.9 dunums from the lands of Beituniya for military purposes; for the establishment of a goods crossing.

Israeli Bypass Road No. 443

On 29th December of 2009, the Supreme Court ordered the Israeli army to permit Palestinians to travel on Israeli bypass road No. 443, which Israel had closed to Palestinians in 2002, after the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada during September 2000. The road had been closed under claim of 'protecting Israeli settlers who use this road'; according to Israelis. The Supreme Court had given the army five

months to formulate a solution to ensure the security of settlers who use this road while allowing Palestinians to also use it. It is clear that the security arrangements taken by the Israeli army at the time were fully at the expense of the Palestinians living in Beituniya town. The town has experienced numerous Israeli confiscations of land for the purposes of bypass road construction for the sole benefit of Israeli citizens. For example, during the late seventies, Israel seized a large area of the town territory for the purpose of constructing bypass road No. 443. Subsequently, during the late eighties, Israel further expanded the same street, at the town's expense. When people of the town objected to these Israeli confiscations, the Israeli authorities claimed that expanding the bypass road will serve the Palestinians as well.

Following the outbreak of the second intifada, Israeli occupation authorities closed the road 443 to Palestinians, thus restricting freedom of movement and forcing village residents to find alternative routes to move between Palestinian villages and vital centers in the city of Ramallah in addition to the rest of the cities in the West Bank. It is noted that that the roads now used by Palestinian citizens are unpaved, take longer to reach destinations and cost more in terms of petrol to reach locations. Finally, the Supreme Court passed a decision allowing Palestinians to use bypass road 443, under the condition of providing security arrangements for Israeli settlers prior to its opening to Palestinians. On 15th March 2010, Israeli occupation authorities handed over to the people of Beituniya town new military orders signed by Avi Mizrahi, the then 'IDF forces Commander in Judea and Samaria', to confiscate further town territory for security purposes. The first Israeli military order which holds number (15/10/T), confiscated 124.2 dunums of land in Beituniya and At Tira villages to build a security wall along bypass road 443, in order to provide protection for the Israeli settlements adjacent to the road, before opening it to Palestinians. The second Israeli military order carries no. (14/10/T) and confiscated an area of 49.02 dunums of land in Beituniya for the establishment of Ofar crossing. Following is a breakdown of the Israeli military orders to impact Beituniya:

Table 14: Israeli military Orders Issued in Beituniya Town – Ramallah Governorate

#	Military Order No.	Total Confiscated Area	Affected Palestinian Localities	Military Purpose
1	(14/10/T)	49.02	Beituniya	Establishing Ofar crossing
2	(15/10/T)	124.2	Beituniya & At Tira	Constructing a security wall along bypass road 443
Total	-	173.22	-	-

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011 & Beituniya Municipality- Ramallah Governorate

It is further noted that analysis conducted by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem's (ARIJ) GIS unit shows that Israeli Military Order No. (15/10/T) will confiscate an area of 284 dunums of land in Beituniya to establish the security wall, which is double the area mentioned in the Israeli military order. This means that additional Palestinian territory in the town will be removed under further expansionist and colonialist purposes.

Establishing an Alternative Road to Israeli Bypass Road No. 443

Israeli bypass road no. 443 is considered links the city of Ramallah and several Palestinian villages to the south-west of the city, including; Saffa, Beit Sira, Kharbatha al Misbah, Beit 'Ur at Tahta, Beit 'Ur

al Fauqa, At Tira and Beituniya. Following the closure of the bypass road in 2002, the Israeli army confiscated further Palestinian lands for the construction of an alternative, poorly constructed, secondary road with limited traffic capacity to serve only the Palestinians residents of Ramallah Governorate villages. These poorly constructed and congested roads are expected to be used by more than 35,000 Palestinian who had previously used bypass road 443. This number of people must now take alternative routes to connect to Ramallah with an average journey time, using car, of approximately 45 minutes-one hour as opposed to the ten minute journey on Bypass road 443.

At the same time and through this measure, the Israeli army has ensured an Israeli only use bypass road 443, which is contributes to the isolation policy pursued by the Israeli government in the occupied Palestinian territories. This isolation policy was announced during October of 2004 and includes the construction of a network of alternative routes for Palestinians across the West Bank, in a way that will separate the West Bank into non-contiguous parts, and at the same time, will keep Israeli bypass roads for the absolute use of Israeli citizens. Israeli authorities additionally announced the construction of 18 subways or underground tunnels for Palestinians, in order to strengthen Israel's separation plan between Palestinian streets and Israeli bypass roads, and to keep Israeli authority control over these streets, thus depriving the Palestinians their right to freedom of movement.

Ofar Israeli Crossing Replaces the Israeli Checkpoint

Israeli occupation forces are planning to build the Ofar crossing on the territory of Beituniya town (Israeli Military Order no. (14/10/T)). This decision was reported in Israeli newspaper Haaretz (22nd January 2010), which quoted a senior Israeli source as claiming that Ofar checkpoint established to the west of Ofar Military Camp will be replaced with a crossing at Giv'at Ze'ev settlement crossroads in order to control the Palestinian cars coming from villages southwest of Ramallah city on Israeli bypass road 443. Israeli military order no. (14/10/T) came to confirm the accuracy of the information contained in the newspaper, referring to the site on which the crossing will be established and the area that it will be confiscated from Beituniya town for this purpose.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Beituniya Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Beituniya during the last five years, as shown in table 15.

Table 15: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Beituniya (2011)

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of a school	Educational	2005-2007-2011	Dutch Government & Beituniya Municipality
Establishment of a public garden	Public Services	2010	Beituniya Municipality
Construction & pavement of roads	Infrastructure	2005-2011	Beituniya Municipality
Maintenance of the town schools	Educational	2009	Beituniya Municipality
Maintenance of schools, construction of the Municipality floor and purchase of equipments	Educational/ Public Services	2012	Beituniya Municipality & Municipal Fund

Source: Beituniya Municipality, 2012

Proposed Projects

Beituniya Municipal Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, looks forward to the implementation of several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop that was 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. Establishing a sewerage network; 10km for the main streets and 25km for sub-streets.
2. Providing a regulatory plan that aims at regulating construction in the town and maintaining the remaining area of green spaces and agricultural land.
3. Human development through awareness and educational campaigns and programs, and capacity building for the citizens.
4. Renewing the old water network and replacing it with a new network that would reduce water losses and serve the largest possible number of houses.
5. Establishing small public gardens in residential neighborhoods -- "Neighborhoods Gardens."
6. Restoring the old town houses and using them for services and tourism purposes.
7. Greening project through planting trees in Beituniya main streets, public places and homes yards.
8. Constructing public health units "sanitary facilities" at places specified by the municipality.
9. Implementing small development projects to help needy families and use the largest possible number of the workforce, such as sewing workshops, hand embroidery, food manufacturing and others.
10. Distributing umbrellas and waiting benches on the main street to serve the citizens during their movement by public transportation.
11. Organizing public transportation and establishing a cars complex and waiting stations for passengers.
12. Restoring, rehabilitating and expanding the town stadium to be used properly and in an appropriate manner.
13. Purchasing or acquiring land for the benefit of the municipality in order to establish a cemetery that serves the town's population.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beituniya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the Municipality Council's perspective.

Table 16: Development Priorities and Needs in Beituniya

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			75km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			10km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			10km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			one spring
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			5000 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			70km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			200 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			2 vehicles
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			3 health clinics
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			all levels
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

* 50km are main roads, 20km are internal roads and 5km are agricultural roads.

Source: Beituniya Municipality, 2012

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