

# Ni'lin 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, 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>.

## Table of Contents

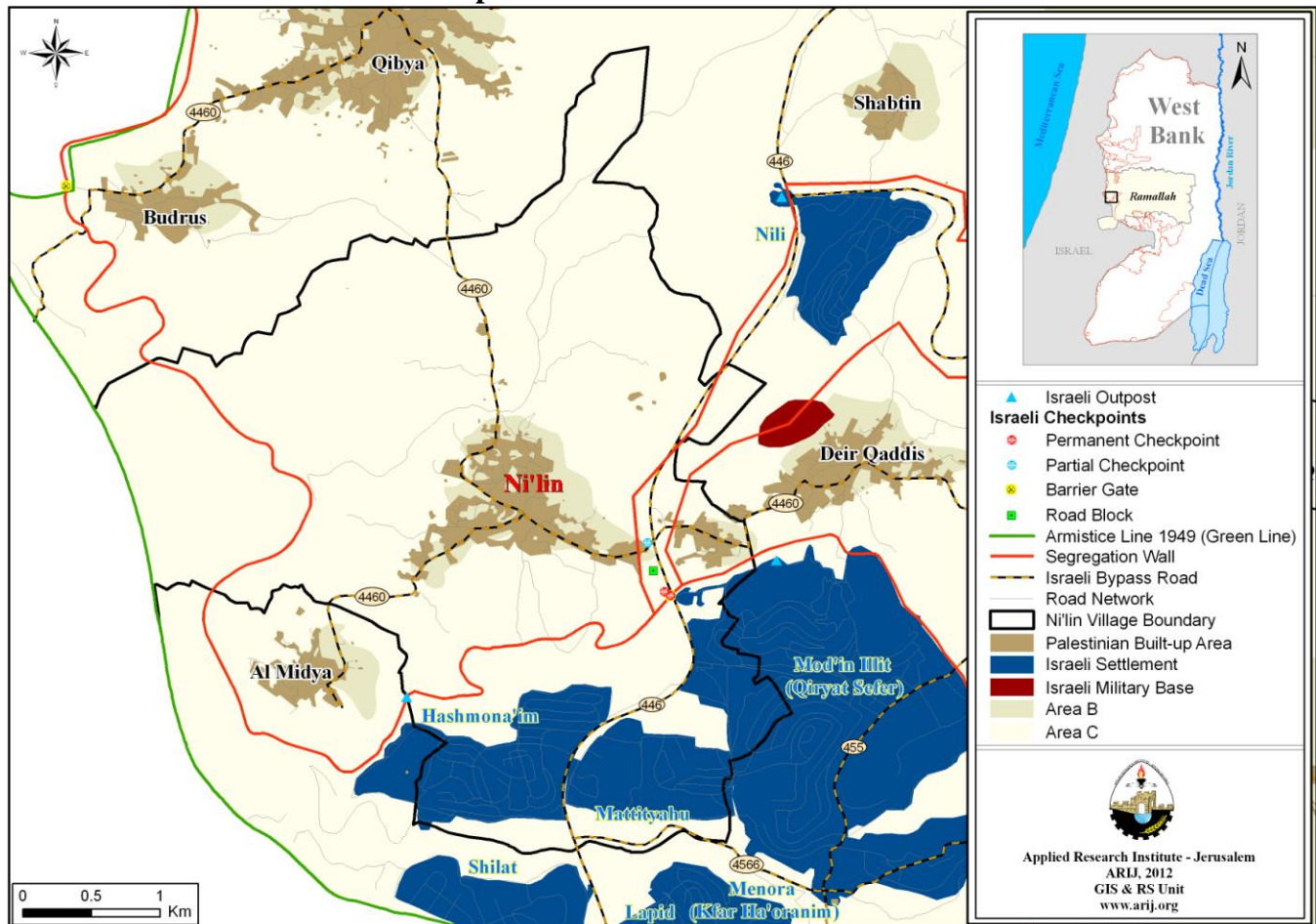
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	5
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	13
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</i>	13
<i>Environmental Conditions</i>	15
<i>Impact of the Israeli Occupation</i>	16
<i>Development Plans and Projects</i>	19
<i>Implemented Projects</i>	19
<i>Proposed Projects</i>	20
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	21
<i>References:</i>	22

# Ni'lin Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Ni'lin is a Palestinian town in Ramallah Governorate located 17.8km north-west of Ramallah City. Ni'lin is bordered by Shabtin and Deir Qaddis villages, and Bil'in territories to the east, Qibya, Budrus and Shuqba villages to the north, Al Midya village and the occupied territories of 1948 to the west, and Safa territories to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Ni'lin location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Ni'lin is located at an altitude of 240m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 539mm. The average annual temperature is 19 °C and the average annual humidity is about 61.3% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Ni'lin Town Council was established in 1995, but since 1997 Ni'lin has been governed by a municipal council, which is currently administrated by 9 members. There are also 16 employees working in the municipality which includes a joint services council and owns a permanent headquarters, a vehicle to collect solid waste, a pickup, a small hammer, two metal detector devices and a number of water maintenance devices (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the municipality to provide a number of services to the residents of Ni'lin, including (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010):

- Infrastructure services, such as water and electricity management.
- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration and street cleaning.
- Implementation of projects and case studies for the town.
- Organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Protection of governmental properties and historical and archeological sites in the town.
- Provision of headquarters for governmental services, such as post, security and fire divisions.
- Provision of an ambulance and a firefighter vehicle.
- Provision of public markets.
- Provision of means of transportation.

## History

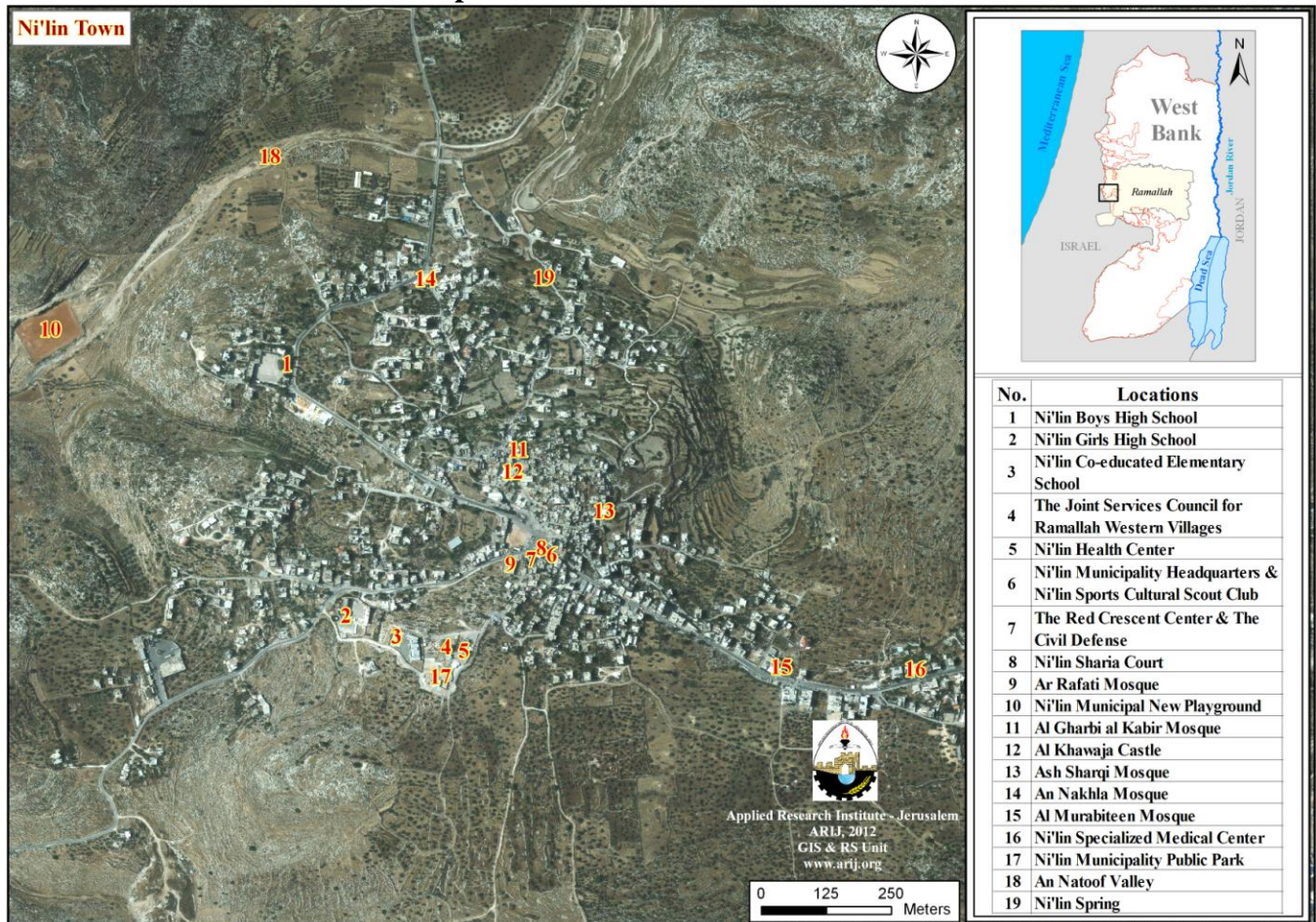
The name of Ni'lin town was adapted from the phrase 'Beit 'Ellin' ('the high house') since the town is located on a high hill (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are five mosques in the town, Ni'lin Grand Mosque, Abu 'Ubeidah, Ash Sharqi, An Nakhla and Al Murabiteen Mosques (See Map 2).

There are several sites of archaeological interest in Nilin: Al Khawaja Castle, Khirbet Zubda (a Roman town), Al 'Ubeid Valley well, Al 'Usarah cave and the old city, Jordanian trenches, and the Dome (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Ni'lin Town**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Ni'lin in 2007 was 4,299, of whom 2,180 were male and 2,119 female. There were also 869 households living in 979 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 Ni'lin was as follows: 39.7% were less than 15 years of age, 57.1% were between 15 - 64 years of age, and 3.1% fell into the 65 years of age and older category. Data further showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 103:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.7% and 49.3% of the population respectively.

## Families

Ni'lin residents are from several families, primarily the Al Khawaja, Nafe', Sroor, 'Umeirah, Mousa, Muslih, 'Odah and Ar Rafati families (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team showed that around 200 people have left the town since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Ni'lin population was about 7.9%, of whom 71% are females. Of the literate population, 14.2% could read and write, with no formal education, 23.8% had elementary education, 30.2% had preparatory education, 14.9% had secondary education, and 9% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Ni'lin, by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Ni'lin 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	72	216	398	496	254	60	99	3	11	6	-	<b>1,615</b>
F	176	226	346	446	211	43	58	-	1	-	1	<b>1,508</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,123</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are three public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MoEHE) (see Table 2) but no kindergartens (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

In 2011 the town had 1,301 students, 81 teachers, and 49 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school was nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class was approximately 27.

**Table 2: The Schools in Ni'lin by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority**

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Ni'lin Girls High School	Government	Female
Ni'lin Boys High School		Male
Ni'lin Co-educated Elementary School		Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

The educational sector in Ni'lin suffers some problems, principally the lack of classrooms and the need for new modern educational equipment and tools.



## Health Status

There are several health facilities available in Ni'lin town: a governmental and a private health center, a governmental and a private radiology center, one governmental and 3 private medical laboratories, a governmental motherhood and child care center, a private and a governmental pharmacy, a governmental physician clinic, 4 private physician clinics, a governmental and 4 private dental clinics, in addition to an ambulance owned by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

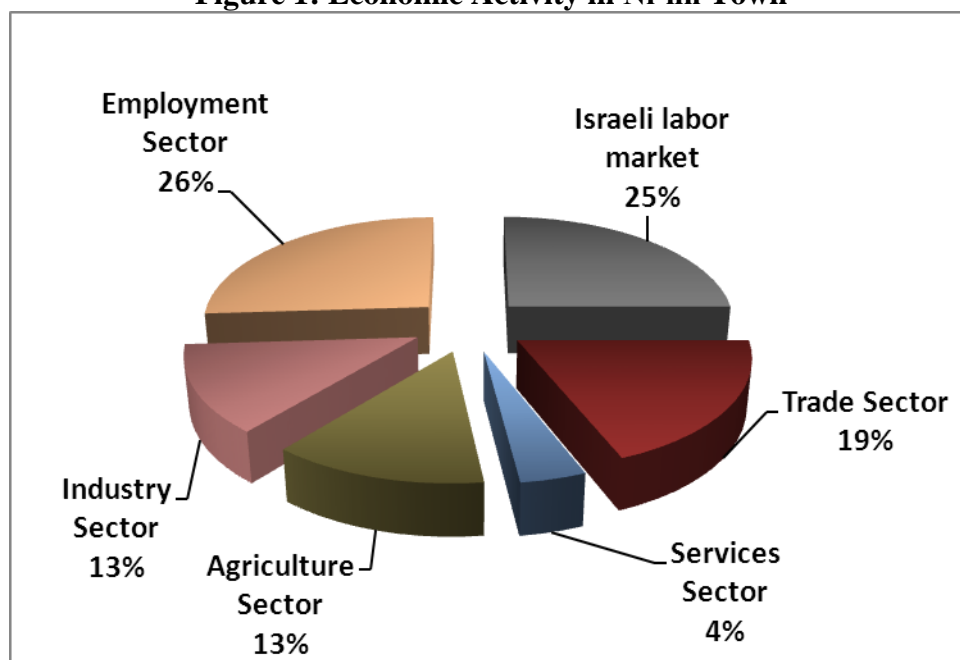
The health sector in Ni'lin faces several obstacles, mainly the lack of an emergency center (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

## Economic Activities

The economy in Ni'lin is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the employees sector (government or private), which absorbs 26% of the town's workforce (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010) (See Figure1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2010 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Ni'lin are the following:

- Government or Private Employees Sector (26%)
- Israeli Labor Market (25%)
- Trade Sector (19%)
- Agriculture Sector (13%)
- Industry (13%).
- Service Sector (4%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Ni'lin Town**

Source: Ni'lin Municipality, 2010

The town is characterized by the production of juices, beverages, and rubber leather. There are also 32 grocery stores in the town, 5 fruit and vegetable stores, 3 bakeries, 5 butchers, 30 different service stores and 20 professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry, and aluminum), in addition to 2 olive oil-presses, a store for agricultural tools and one stone crusher (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Ni'lin reached about 22% in 2010, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions have been (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010):

1. Workers in the trade sector.
2. Former workers in Israel.
3. Workers in the agriculture sector.

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 35.2% of Ni'lin labor force was economically active, of whom 85.4% were employed, and 64.7% were not economically active, of whom 50.3% were students, and 40.9% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Ni'lin 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	859	73	64	<b>996</b>	516	-	60	22	21	<b>619</b>	-	<b>1,615</b>
F	79	4	20	<b>103</b>	502	826	63	5	7	<b>1,403</b>	2	<b>1,508</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3,123</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

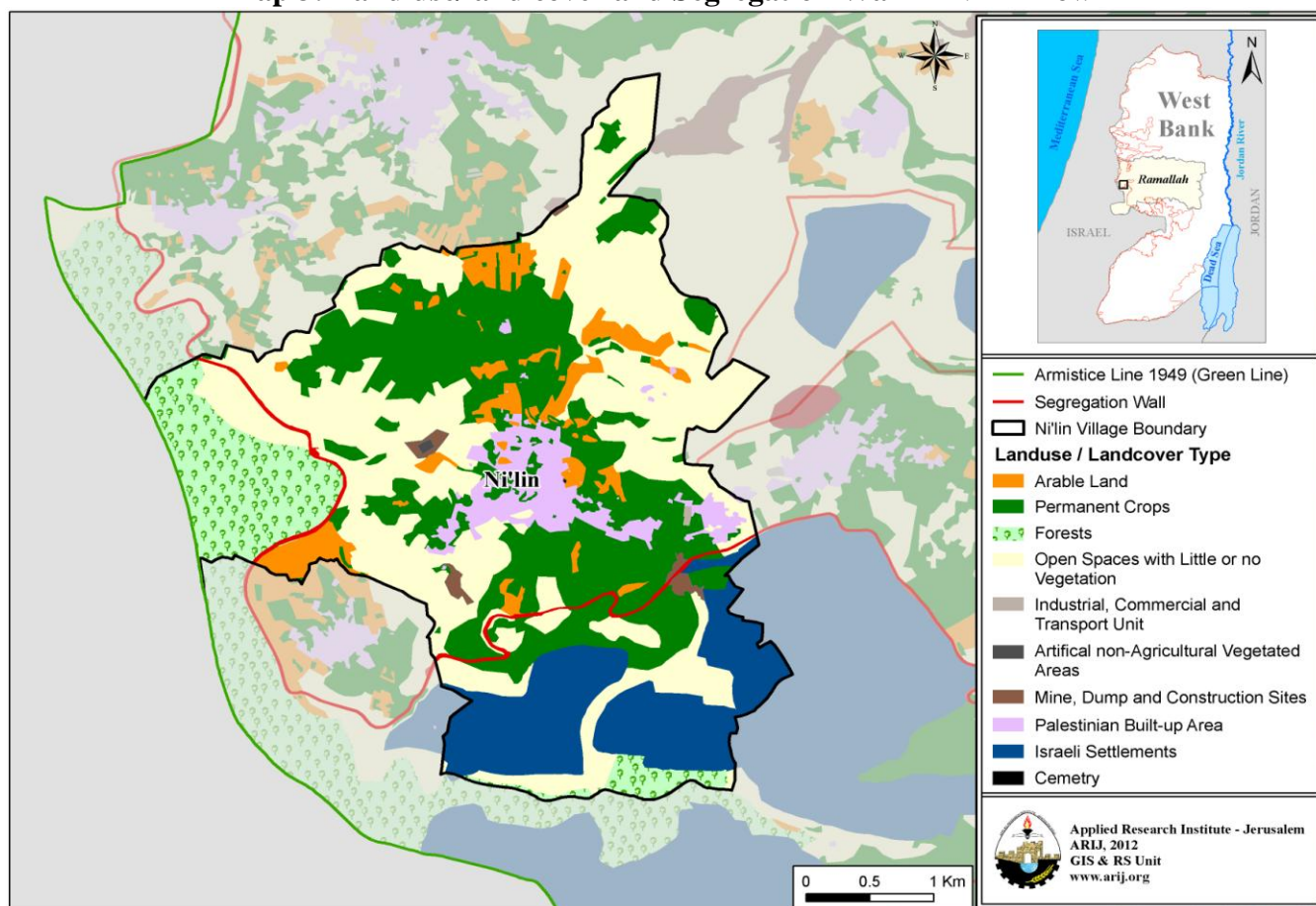
Ni'lin has a total area of around 15,228 dunums of which 5,086 are considered 'arable' land and 750 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 4 and Map 3).

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

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,086)				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					
15,228	750	4,197	0	0	889	0	1,497	5,468	126	2,302

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Ni'lin Town**



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Ni'lin. The most common crop cultivated within this area is tomato.

**Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Ni'lin 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.
50	5.5	0	0	25	0	15	0	5	0.5	95	6

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Ni'lin is famous for olive cultivation; there are 2,946 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

**Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Ni'lin 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.
2,946	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	47	0	140	0	3,149	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Ni'lin, cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated and cover an area of about 180 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as beans (See Table 7).

**Table 7: Total area of field crops in Ni'lin 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
180	0	22	0	55	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	317	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 team shows that 2% of the residents in Ni'lin rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep, and goats (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Ni'lin town**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
15	274	189	0	0	0	0	43,600	0	19

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are approximately 14 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010):

**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Ni'lin Town and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	6
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	4
For animals only	4
Unsuitable	-

Source: Ni'lin Municipality, 2010.

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

- The confiscation of agricultural lands.
- The lack of economic feasibility.

- The lack of rangelands.
- The high costs of fodder.
- The lack of agricultural guidance and awareness for farmers.
- The lack of support for marketing agricultural products.

## Institutions and Services

Ni'lin has some governmental institutions, including a post office division, an office for the Ministry of Agriculture (Agricultural Guidance Unit), and a fire station. The town also has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010):

- **Ni'lin Municipality:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of solving issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Ni'lin Sports Club:** Founded in 1971 by the town's youth and registered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with an interest in youth, cultural, and sport activities in the town.
- **The Joint Services Council for West of Ramallah Villages:** Founded in 2001 by the Ministry of Local Government for the purpose of serving 18 Palestinian localities, it provides engineering services and follows up on the locality's projects.
- **Ni'lin Society for the Development of Community Work:** Founded in 2007 by the town residents and aiming to develop the town's community work.
- **Ni'lin Women Cooperative Society for Rural Development:** Founded in 2008 by the town residents and aiming to serve the town's women and develop their capabilities.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Ni'lin has been connected to a public electricity network since 1985. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 80% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. However, the locality suffers some obstacles concerning electricity, mainly (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010):

1. The weak electrical power supply in some places.
2. The absence of an electricity network in some of the distant neighborhoods on the municipality borders.
3. The frequent electricity thefts by the town residents which weaken the electrical current and increase costs for consumers.

Ni'lin is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

### Transportation Services:

Ni'lin residents have a number of transportation options, including 5 public buses and 6 taxis. However, citizens do not have sufficient transportation options (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010). There are 6km of main roads and 15km of secondary roads (See Table 10) (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

**Table 10: Roads in Ni'lin town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	1.5	6
<b>2. Paved but in poor condition</b>	2.5	3.5
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	2	5.5

Source: Ni'lin Municipality, 2010

### Water Resources:

Ni'lin is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1972. Approximately 99% of the housing units are connected to this network (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

The quantity of water supplied to Ni'lin in 2008 was approximately 89,480 cubic meters/ year (PWA, 2009); therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Ni'lin is 57 liters per day. However, no Ni'lin citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 25%. 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 Ni'lin is 43 liters per day (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010). The rate experienced by Ni'lin residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters proposed by the World Health Organization.

Al Balad Spring is located in Ni'lin and its water is used for irrigation. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

### Sanitation:

Ni'lin lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits as their main means of waste-water disposal (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 147 cubic meters, or 54 thousand cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 30 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by 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:**

Ni'lin Municipality is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee has been charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services which is about 10 NIS/month. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for a good management of solid waste (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

Most of the population in Ni'lin benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 50 containers (each with 1 cubic meter capacity), distributed throughout the locality. The Municipality collects the solid waste from the containers daily from the main areas and twice a week from less populated areas, and transports it using a waste vehicle to the locality's random dumping site, 1.5km from the town, where it is burnt (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Ni'lin is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Ni'lin residents is nearly 4.5 tons, or 1,648 tons per year (ARIJ WERU, 2012).

**Environmental Conditions**

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Ni'lin 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 during summer in several neighborhoods of the town 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 water reservoir in the town.

**Wastewater Management:**

- The absence of a public sewage network means that in Ni'lin 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, as it mixes with the waste water thus becomes unsuitable for drinking, 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 Ni'lin and the other communities in the governorate is primarily a result of obstacles to obtaining licenses created by the Israeli authorities, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is hazardous to human health, is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, produces bad odors, and distorts the surrounding landscape.

## **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

### **Ni'lin Town under Oslo Accord**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Ni'lin town was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 1,048 dunums (7% of the total town 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 town's population resides in Area B which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the town. Approximately 14,180 dunums (93% of the total town 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).

**Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Ni'lin town according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Area in dunums</b>	<b>Percent of total town area</b>
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,048	7
Area C	14,180	93
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,228</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

## Israeli Occupation Practices in Ni'lin

Thousands of dunums of land have been confiscated from Ni'lin for different Israeli purposes, including the building of Israeli settlements and outposts on the town's lands, the construction of Israeli bypass roads in order to connect settlements with their neighboring ones, and the implementation of the Segregation Wall plan. Through the construction of the segregation wall, Israel aims to control the western part of Ramallah Governorate as it includes the Israeli settlements constituting part of Modi'in Illit settlement bloc. In 2005 Israel announced a project to incorporate the major settlement blocs in the West Bank within Israel, including Ma'ale Adummim settlement bloc (east of Jerusalem city), Ariel bloc (north of Salfit city), Givat Ze'ev bloc (northwest of Jerusalem city), Gush Etzion bloc (southwest of Bethlehem city), Modi'in Illit bloc (west of Ramallah city), and Qiryat Arba' bloc (Hebron city). Israel considers these settlements to be an essential part of the State of Israel, stating that “[the plan] contributes to security, political standing, the economy and the demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel” (former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American president George Bush, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005). Below are details on Israeli land confiscations in Ni'lin.

During the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government has confiscated 1974 dunums of land from Ni'lin town (13% of the town's total area) to establish three Israeli settlements. These settlements are currently inhabited by more than 50,000 Israeli settlers, and constitute part of the Israeli settlement bloc Modi'in Illit, which includes 8 settlements (Table 12).

**Table 12: Israeli Settlements constructed over Ni'lin lands**

Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Lands confiscated from Ni'lin town	Population 2009
Hashmona'im	1985	945	2588
Mattityahu	1980	645	1387
Modi'in Illit	1991	384	46245
<b>Total</b>		<b>1974</b>	<b>50220</b>
<b>Source:</b> The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2011			

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

Israeli has also confiscated lands from Ni'lin for the construction of a number of Israeli bypass roads (4566, 4460 and 446) to link Israeli settlements established on lands of the town with each other. The real danger of the bypass roads lies in the area known as the Buffer Zone, which extends to 75 meters on each side of the road and therefore dramatically increases the amount of land affected.

## The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Ni'lin Town

The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on April 30 2007, shows that the wall extends 9 km over Ni'lin lands and causes the isolation and confiscation of 5603 dunums (36.8%) of the total area of land. 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 town (See Table 13).

**Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Ni'lin Town – Ramallah Governorate**

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Forests & Open Spaces	2728
2	Artificial Surfaces	40
3	Agricultural Lands	731
4	Israeli settlements	1974
5	Palestinian Built-up area	13
6	Wall Zone	117
<b>Total</b>		<b>5603</b>
<b>Source:</b> The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2011		

### Impact of the Israeli Occupation Practices on the Environmental Status of Ni'lin Town.

Israeli activities in Ni'lin town not only target lands and properties but also contribute to the destruction and pollution of the natural environment. Israeli settlements established on Ni'lin town lands dispose of their solid waste and wastewater on Ni'lin lands; two dumping sites have been established due to the large amount of waste dumped by Israeli settlements. The first dumping site is located on 20 dunums of land in Area C and is very close to the urbanized area of Ni'lin (500 meters away). The second dumping site stands on 30 dunums of land and is further from the urban area of the town. Both sites are unlicensed by the municipal council or any other official body and do not conform to the relevant environmental laws and legislations.

Reports of illegal solid waste disposal date back to 2005, when Israeli trucks began dumping solid waste into the aforementioned dumping sites. The solid waste being dumped comes from Israeli settlements established on Ni'lin town lands and others located inside the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line). These dumping sites do not serve the town of Ni'lin or neighboring Palestinian villages, although they are located on Palestinian lands. The solid waste being dumped includes domestic and commercial waste, plastic waste, rubber, cement blocks, iron, aluminum, copper, wood, and hazardous waste from hospitals.

Ni'lin also suffers from problems caused by the flow of wastewater from Israeli settlements inside the 1949 Armistice Line, since these settlements discharge wastewater onto town land in the vicinity of Modi'in Illit. The flood of wastewater intersects with water flowing from Ad Doyeh, which separates Ni'lin from the village of Al Midya (south of Ni'lin). Wastewater directly contributes to the degradation of nature and biodiversity and the distortion of landscapes, in addition to the serious health risks caused by discharging wastewater on open land.

## Military Orders Issued in Ni'lin Town

The Israeli Occupation Forces have issued a series of military orders in Ni'lin town in order to confiscate large areas of land for the construction of the Segregation Wall in the region. These military orders include:

- Israeli Military Order 34/04/T: issued on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2003 to confiscate a total of 474.5 dunums of land for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order 113/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 265.7 dunums of land from Ni'lin and Al Midya villages for military purposes.
- Israeli Military Order 114/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 590 dunums of land from Ni'lin and Al Midya villages for security purposes to construct the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order 106/03/T: issued on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 to confiscate 381 dunums of land from Ni'lin, Deir Qiddis and Kharbatha Bani Harith villages for security purposes to construct the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order 59/04/T: issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2004 to confiscate 226.2 dunums of land from Ni'lin to construct the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order 83/04/T: issued on 8th November 2004 to confiscate 177.9 dunums of land from Ni'lin for the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order 06/08/T: issued on 16th April 2008 to confiscate 28.9 dunums of land from Ni'lin for the construction of Ni'lin crossing.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Ni'lin municipality has implemented several development projects in Ni'lin during the last five years, as shown in Table 14.

**Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Ni'lin during the last five years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Provision of street lightings and establishment of a public garden	Public Services	2010	Ministry of Finance/ Arab Fund/ Ministry of Local Government
Pavement of main and sub roads	Infrastructure	2010	European Union/ Municipalities Fund/ UNDP
Construction of a co-educated school	Educational	2008	Ministry of Education/ Arab Fund
Construction of the Joint Services Council Headquarters	Infrastructure	2007	UNDP
Establishment of a Jawwal relay station	Infrastructure	2010	Jawwal Company

Source: Ni'lin Municipality, 2010

## Proposed Projects

Ni'lin municipality, 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 perspectives of the participants in the workshop (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010):

1. Establishing a fence around agricultural lands.
2. Establishing greenhouses.
3. Constructing agricultural and domestic wells.
4. Constructing a headquarters for the women's activities.
5. Establishing a gray water refining unit to be reused for agricultural purposes.
6. Rehabilitating and paving main and sub roads.
7. Establishing a sewage network.
8. Constructing classrooms in Ni'lin Elementary School.
9. Constructing additional rooms in the health center.
10. Rehabilitating a landfill.
11. Rehabilitating the stadium.
12. Establishing a slaughterhouse.
13. Restoring old buildings and using them in public projects.
14. Finding a way to combat swine and stray dogs.
15. Providing waste containers and vehicles.
16. Complete and equipping the public park.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Ni'lin suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town from the municipality's point of view (Ni'lin Municipality, 2010).

**Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Ni'lin**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			18.3km
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		1.5km
4	Construction of New Water Networks		*		12.5km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs		*		Al Balad spring
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*		1,000 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network		*		15km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network		*		12.5km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		30 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste		*		1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill		*		
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			elementary level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools		*		
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands		*		80 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns		*		100 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*		15 barracks
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		5 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

\*2.8km are main roads, 7.5km are sub roads and 8km are agricultural.

Source: Ni'lin Municipality, 2010

## References:

- *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.
- *Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) - Ramallah*, 2011. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2010/2011). Ramallah – Palestine.
- *Ni'lin Municipality*. 2010.
- *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.
- *Palestinian Water Authority*. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: Quantities of Water Supply & Consumption in the West Bank Governorates, 2008.