

Saffa Village 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 Content

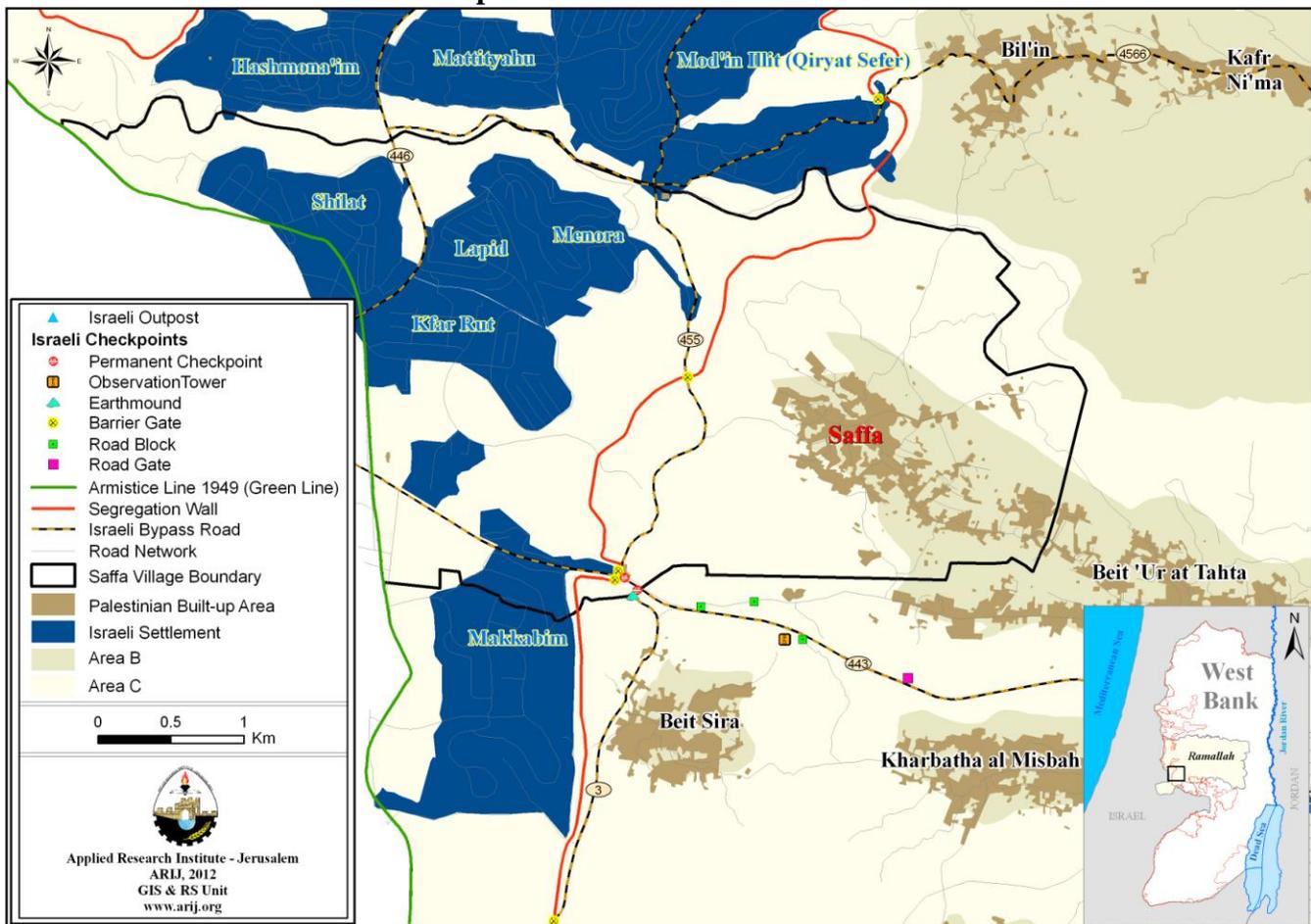
<i>Location and Physical Characteristics</i>	4
<i>History</i>	5
<i>Religious and Archaeological Sites</i>	6
<i>Population</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	7
<i>Health Status</i>	8
<i>Economic Activities</i>	8
<i>Agricultural Sector</i>	10
<i>Institutions and Services</i>	13
<i>Infrastructure and Natural Resources</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>	19
<i>Locality Development Priorities and Needs</i>	20
<i>References:</i>	21

Saffa Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Saffa is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 13.3km west of Ramallah City. It is bordered by Beit 'Ur at Tahta village and Kafr Ni'ma and Deir Ibzi' territories to the east, Bil'in village and Ni'lin and Al Midya territories to the north, the 1948 territories to the west, and Beit 'Ur at Tahta and Beit Sira villages to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Saffa location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Saffa is located at an altitude of 365m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 559.3mm. The average annual temperature is 19 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1996, Saffa has been governed by a village council, included within the Joint Services Council of Ni'lin, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority

with an additional three employees working for the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of Saffa, including (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

1. Infrastructure services, such as water provision and management services.
2. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
3. Implementation of projects and studies for the village

History

Some claim that the name 'Saffa' is related to 'Sofyana' ('lining up of soldiers') (Saffa Village Council, 2010). However, others claim that it is adapted from the Syriac word 'Sofyana' ('clarity and pureness') (Al Dabbagh, 1991).

The village was established more than 300 years ago (Saffa Village Council, 2010) (See photo below for Saffa village).

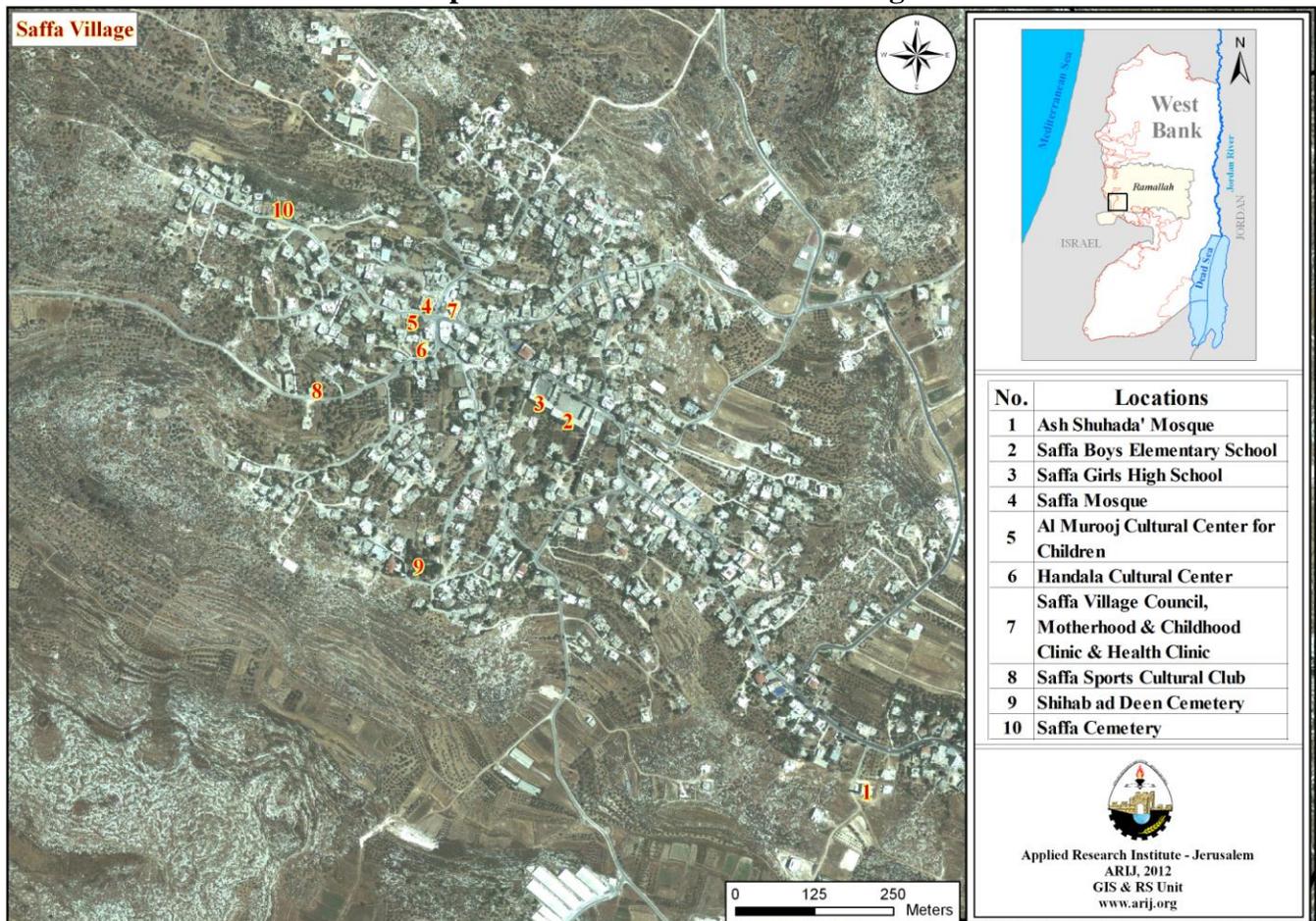
Photos of Saffa



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in Saffa: the Old Mosque, Ash Shuhada' and Shihab ad Deen Mosques. There are several sites of archaeological interest: the old mosque and some Khirab, including Khirbet al Louz, Khirbet ad Daliya, Khirbet Fa'oosh, Khirbet Ibn Awwad, Khirbet Kafr Loot and Khirbet Shihab ad Deen (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Saffa Village



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Saffa in 2007 was 3,574, of whom 1,790 were male and 1,784 female. There were 651 households living in 759 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 Saffa as follows: 36.5% were less than 15 years of age, 59.3% were between 15 - 64 years of age, and 4.2% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 100.3:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.1% and 49.9% of the population respectively.

Families

Saffa residents are from several families, principally the Nasser, Naser, Fullah, Sheikh Ahmad and Mansoor families (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the population of Saffa was approximately 5.5%, of whom 85.8% were females. Of the literate population, 11.8% can only read and write, with no formal education 26% had elementary education, 30.8% had preparatory education, 16.7% had secondary education, and 8.9% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows educational levels in the village of Saffa, by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Saffa 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	21	144	380	456	224	35	75	2	8	1	4	1,350
F	127	177	325	380	229	56	62	1	1	-	2	1,360
T	148	321	705	836	453	91	137	3	9	1	6	2,710

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Saffa Boys Elementary School	Government	male
Saffa Girls High School	Government	Female
Ittihad Saffa Boys High School	Government	male

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

In the village (in 2011) there were 1,251 students, 80 teachers, and 49 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school was nearly 16, and the average number of students per class was approximately 26.

Students attending Ittihad Saffa Boys High School face difficulties in accessing the school due to the Israeli occupation (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

The educational sector in Saffa village faces some problems, mainly (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

- The lack of classrooms.
- The lack of scientific laboratories and computer laboratories in schools.
- Difficulties caused by the Israeli occupation for students and teachers attending Ittihad Saffa Boys High School.

Health Status

There are a number of health centers and services available in Saffa village, including a governmental physician's clinic, two private physician's clinics, a private medical analysis laboratory, a governmental motherhood and childhood center, and a private pharmacy. In the absence of any required health services, residents of Saffa attend Ramallah Governmental Hospital, 18km from the locality (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

The health sector in the village faces some obstacles and problems, including (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

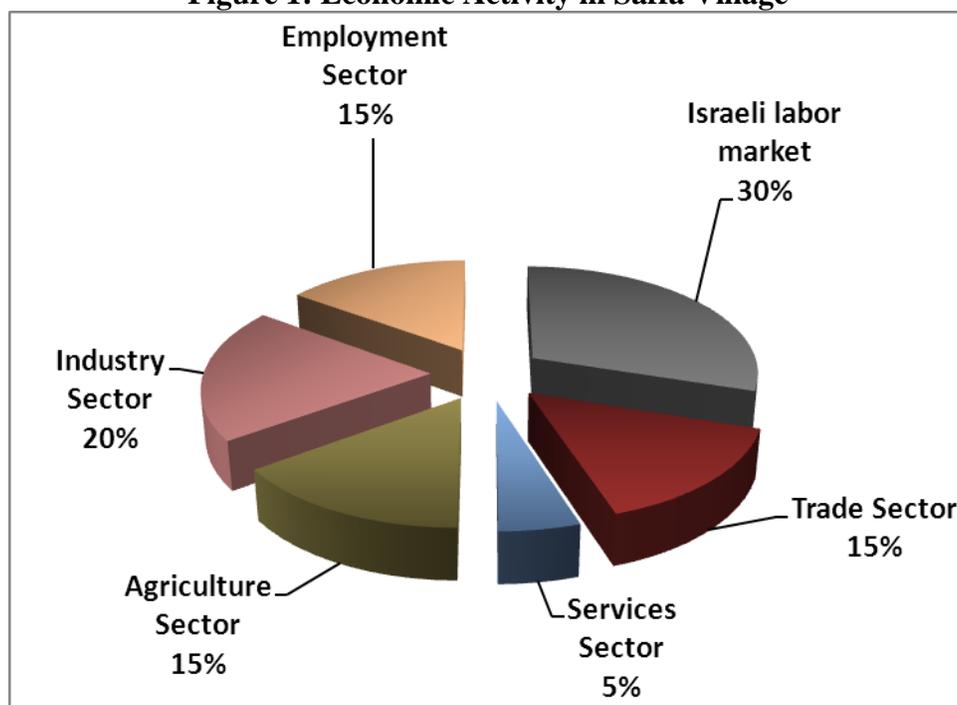
1. The lack of medicines.
2. The lack of medical specialties, particularly radiologists and pediatricians.
3. The physician's clinic operates only until 1 p.m. each day.
4. The lack of a village ambulance for emergency cases.

Economic Activities

The economy in Saffa is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market which absorbs 30% of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2010 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Saffa are as follows (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

- Israeli Labor Market (30%)
- Industry (20%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (15%)
- Agriculture Sector (15%)
- Trade Sector (15%)
- Services Sector (5%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in Saffa Village

Source: Saffa Village Council, 2010

In terms of industrial productions in Saffa village, there are two stone quarries and two stores for agricultural tools in addition to an agricultural nursery. There are 35 groceries in the village, 2 vegetable and fruit stores, one bakery, one butchery, 10 different service stores and 14 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith etc.) (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Saffa reached around 15% in 2010, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions have been (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

1. Former workers in Israel.
2. Workers in industry.
3. Workers in the services sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 32.3% of Saffa labor force was economically active, of whom 88.9% were employed, 67.1% were not economically active, 54.9% were students, and 33.8% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Saffa 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	680	43	37	760	481	1	66	9	21	578	12	1,350
F	98	1	16	115	517	614	98	1	10	1,240	5	1,360
T	778	44	53	875	998	615	164	10	31	1,818	17	2,710

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

Agricultural Sector

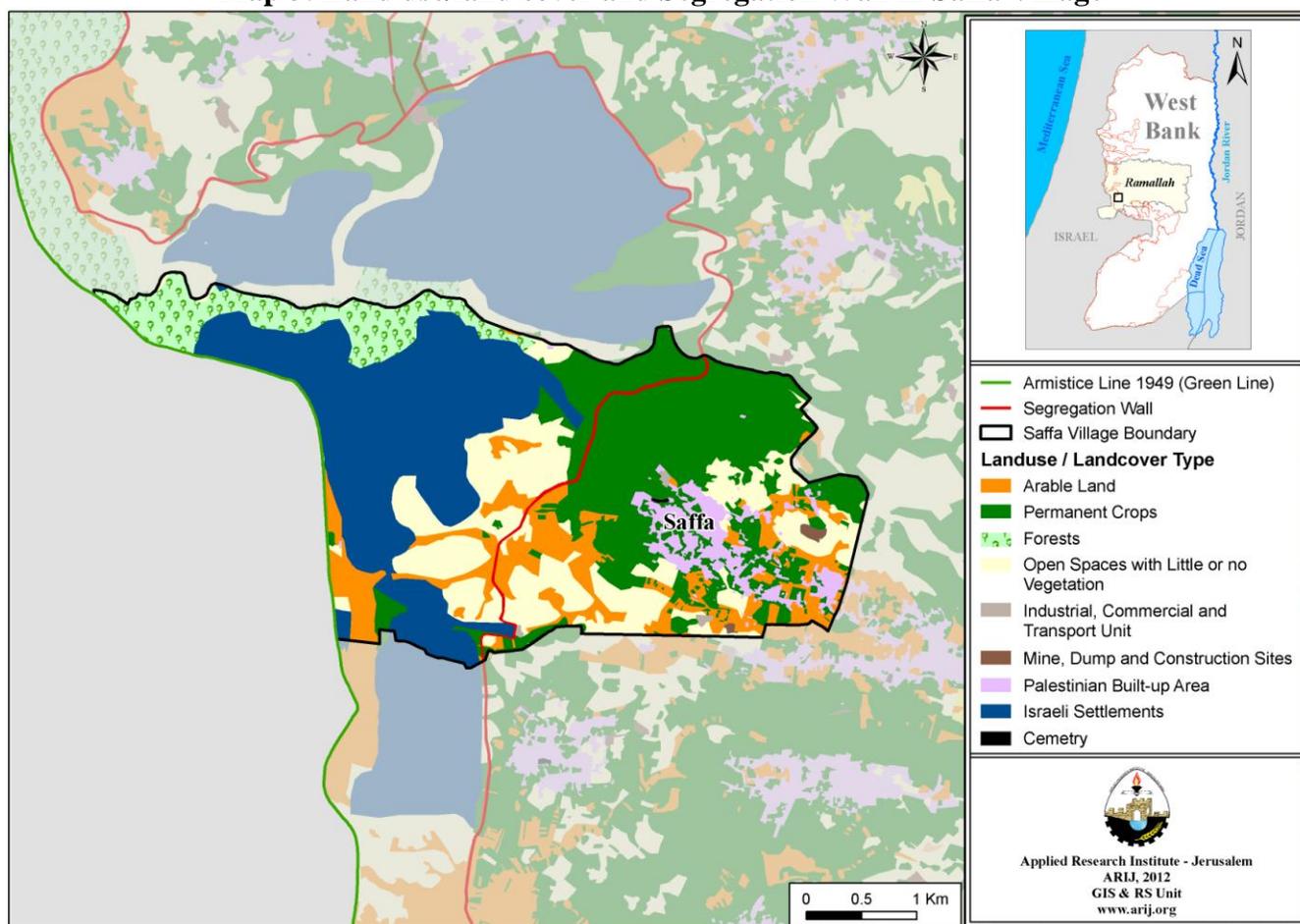
Saffa has a total area of around 13,667 dunums of which 5,340 are considered ‘arable’ land and 640 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 4 and Map 3).

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

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,340)				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					
13,667	640	3,684	0	0	1,656	0	1,114	2,518	61	3,995

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Saffa. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is squash.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Saffa 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.
95	0	0	2	35	1	15	0	5	0	150	3

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Saffa is famous for olive cultivation; there are 3,062 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Saffa 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.
3,062	0	0	0	32	0	0	0	73	0	55	0	3,222	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Saffa, cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated covering an area of about 900 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as beans (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Saffa 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
900	0	25	0	83	0	7	0	68	0	0	0	0	0	1,083	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 shows that 0.5% of the residents in Saffa rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Saffa village

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	566	416	0	0	0	0	170,600	38,180	123

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

There are around 13 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Saffa Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	5
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	0

Source: Saffa Village Council, 2010

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

- The confiscation of lands.
- The lack of access to lands behind the Wall.
- The lack of capital.

- The lack of irrigation water.
- The problem of marketing agricultural products.

Institutions and Services

Saffa village has some governmental institutions, including a post office division, and a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

- **Saffa Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Saffa Sports Club:** Founded in 1971 by the village youth and currently registered by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, with an interest in all sports and cultural activities for young people.
- **Al Murooj Cultural Center:** A cultural institution founded in 2005 with the goal of taking care of children and youth.
- **Handala Center:** Founded in 2002 to provide services and care for children and also concerned with folk art.
- **The Agricultural Committee:** Founded in 2003 and concerned with providing agricultural services to farmers.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Saffa has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 99% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents face some problems concerning electricity, mainly (Saffa Village Council, 2010):

- The high cost of electricity services.
- The weak electric current.
- The continuous power cut-offs.

Saffa is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 98% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

Transportation Services:

Public taxis and buses form the main means of transportation in Saffa village; there are 18 taxis and 4 buses (Saffa Village Council, 2010). There are 4km of main roads and 6km of secondary roads (See Table 10) (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

Table 10: Roads in Saffa village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	4	2
2. Paved but in poor condition	-	3
3. Unpaved	-	1

Source: Saffa Village Council, 2010

Water Resources:

Saffa is provided with water purchased from Mekerot (an Israeli company) by the West Bank Water Department via the public water network established in 1995. Approximately 95% of the housing units are connected to this network (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

The quantity of water supplied to Saffa in 2009 was approximately 180,000 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Saffa is 138 liters per day (Saffa Village Council, 2010). However, no Saffa citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 20%. 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 Saffa is 110 liters per day (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

The village has around 200 household harvesting cisterns, which, in addition to water tanks, form alternative sources of water. However, each cubic meter of water from the water tanks costs 20 NIS (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

Sanitation:

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 315.6 cubic meters, or 115,200 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 77 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:

Saffa Village Council is responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 10 NIS has been charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good management of solid

waste, particularly given that only 40% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

Most of the population in Saffa benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Village Council then collects the solid waste twice a week and transports it to the village's dumping site, 1km from the locality, where it is usually burnt.

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Saffa is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Saffa residents is nearly 2.5 tons, or 913 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Saffa 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 causes problems in the organization of water pumping and distribution. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone's needs simultaneously. Consequently, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies 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 Saffa 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 village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter 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 Saffa and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.
- There is no system in the village and the governorate to separate hazardous waste from non-hazardous waste, so hazardous and industrial solid waste are collected with non-hazardous waste and transported to the village random landfill for burning.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Saffa

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Saffa village was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,757 dunams (12.9% 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. It is worth mentioning that 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. The rest of the village’s area, comprising 11,910 dunams (87.1% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area C are agricultural areas and open spaces (table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Saffa – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	1757	12.9
Area C	11,910	87.1
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	13,667	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Saffa Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Thousands of dunams of land have been confiscated from Saffa for different Israeli purposes, including the building of Israeli settlements on the village's lands, the construction of Israeli bypass roads in order to connect settlements with 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 comprising part of Modi'in Illit settlement bloc, which Israel seeks to keep through its project announced in 2005. This project also aims 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), Mod'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", as stated by former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to former American President George Bush on the 11th of April 2005. Below are details on Israeli land confiscations in Saffa:

Table 12: Israeli Settlements constructed over Saffa village's lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated	Population of settlers
Hashmona'im	1985	5	2880
Lapid	1996	440	2431
Kfar Rut	1977	814	250
Menora	1998	682	2440
Makkabim	1982	470	14000
Shilat	1977	780	450
Total		3191	22,451

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

During the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government has confiscated 3,191 dunams of land from Saffa village (23.4% of the village's total area) to establish 6 Israeli settlements. These settlements are currently inhabited by around 22,451 Israeli settlers, and constitute part of the Israeli settlement bloc Mod'in Illit, which includes 8 Israeli settlements (Table 12).

Israeli settlers living in settlements illegally established on Saffa lands have had a significant impact on Palestinians and their properties in Saffa village. 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 in 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 adjacent to the aforementioned settlements.

Israeli has also confiscated lands from Saffa for the construction of a number of Israeli bypass roads (443, 4566, 455 and 446) to link Israeli settlements established on lands of the village with each other,

which are part of Modi'in Illit settlement bloc. The real danger of the bypass roads lies in the area known as the Buffer Zone, which extends 75 m on each side of the road. This dramatically increases the amount of affected land.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Saffa village

The Israeli segregation wall plan has a negative and destructive impact on Saffa village. According to the latest revised route of the Israeli segregation wall plan published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30th April 2007, the wall extends a length of 4.4 km on its land and causes the isolation and confiscation of 7,611 dunams (55.7% of the total area of village). The majority of the isolated lands are open spaces and agricultural areas which are considered the main sources of income to many Palestinian families in the village (table 13).

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

Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
Forests & Open Spaces	2454
Agricultural Lands	1891
Israeli Settlements	3191
Palestinian Built-up Area	4
Wall Zone	71
Total	7611

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Some Issued Military Orders in Saffa Village

The Israeli occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Saffa village, following are the orders issued:

- Israeli Military Order No. (105/03/T): Issued on the 14th of December 2003. It confiscates a total area of 489 dunams of the lands of Beit Liqya, Beit Nuba, Saffa and Beit Sira for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Amendment to the Israeli Military Order No. (105/04/T): Issued on the 30th of December 2004. It confiscates 489 dunams of the land of Beit Liqya, Beit Nuba, Beit Sira and Saffa for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (85/04/T): Issued on the 8th of November 2004. It confiscates a total land area of 49.2 dunams from the land of Saffa and Beit Sira villages to construct the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- The Israeli Military Order No. (44/04/T): Issued on the 15th of November 2004 and it confiscates 33.2 dunams of land from Saffa for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- The Israeli Military Order No. (40/04/T): Issued on the 15th of April 2004. It confiscates 384.2 dunams of land from Saffa and Bil'in for security purposes and the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.

- The Israeli Military Order No. (27/04/T): Issued on the 21st of March 2004. It confiscates 180.8 dunams of land from Saffa for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- Amendment to the Israeli Military Order No. (40/04/T): Issued on the 23rd of January 2011. It confiscates a total land area of 127.9 dunams of land from Saffa for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- Amendment to the Israeli Military Order No. (27/04/T): Issued on the 23rd of January 2011. It confiscates 105.2 dunams of land from Saffa for the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Saffa village council has implemented several development projects in Saffa during the past five years (See Table 14).

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

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Pavement of main & internal roads	Infrastructure	2008 - 2009	Public Works
Construction of girls' schools	Educational	2006	Saffa Village Council, ANERA & Municipality of Sergei (France)
Construction of the Village Council headquarters/ second floor	Public Services	2008	CHF
Source: Saffa Village Council, 2010			

Proposed Projects

Saffa 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. Constructing harvesting cisterns (10 cisterns).
2. Solving the wastewater problem.
3. Constructing two public water reservoirs in the village.
4. Establishing a joint landfill for west Ramallah Governorate villages.
5. Reconsidering some signed agreements with the authority, mainly those related to economics and the environment.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Saffa 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 point of view (Saffa Village Council, 2010).

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Saffa

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			6km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			7km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			3km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			3km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			14km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			40 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*		
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			Boys' preparatory level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			Boys' preparatory level
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			80 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			40 cistern
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			15 barracks
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*		
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		15 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

*3km are sub roads and 3km are agricultural roads

Source: Saffa Village Council, 2010

References:

- Al Dabbagh, M. Our Country, Palestine; Chapter 8, Part Two. Kafr Qari' – Palestine. Dar al Huda Press, 1991.
- *Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ)*, 2012. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2010) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem - Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2012. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing unit Database. 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.
- *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.
- *Saffa Village Council*, 2010.