

# Sinjil Town Profile



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## *Acknowledgments*

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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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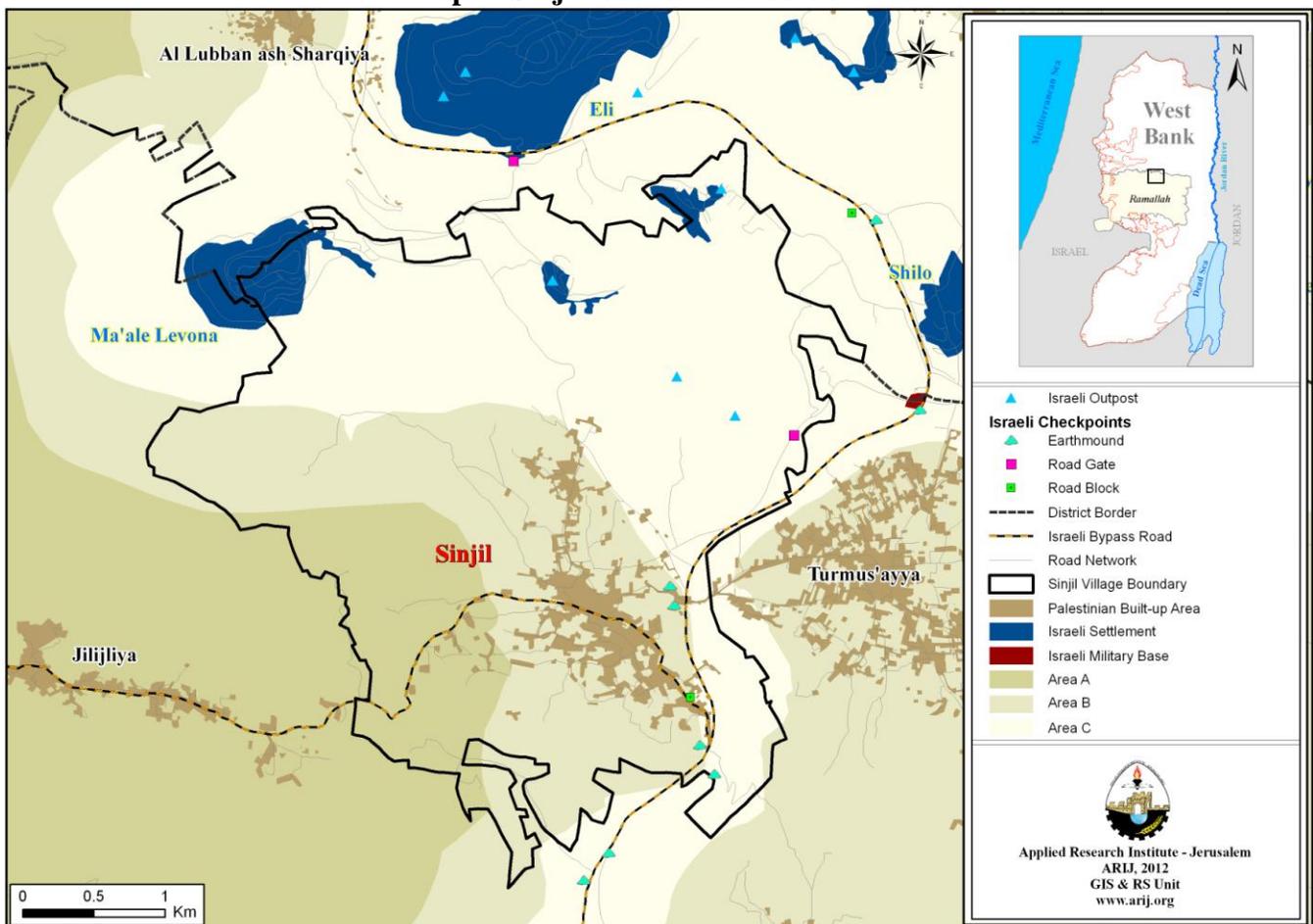
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# Sinjil Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Sinjil is a Palestinian town in the Ramallah Governorate located 15.5 km north-east of Ramallah City. Sinjil is bordered by Turmus'ayya town to the east, and Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village territories to the north, 'Abwein and Jilijliya villages to the west, and Al Mazra'a ash Sharqiya to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Sinjil location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Sinjil is located at an altitude of 795 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 494 mm. The average annual temperature is 16.5 C° and the average annual humidity is about 60% (ARIJ-GIS, 2012).

Since 1995, Sinjil has been governed by a municipal council which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also 7 employees working in the

Council, which owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste, in addition to a mini-bus that serves residents of the town (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

It is the responsibility of the municipal council to provide a number of services to the residents of Sinjil, including (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

1. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning, and social development services.
2. Organization of the construction and licensing processes.
3. Implementation of projects and studies for the town.

## History

Sinjil took its name from the French commander Raymond de Saint-Gilles, Count of Toulouse. The town was established 1105. Sinjil residents are descended from the Murra Tribe which emigrated from the Arabian Peninsula to Palestine (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

**Photo of Sinjil**

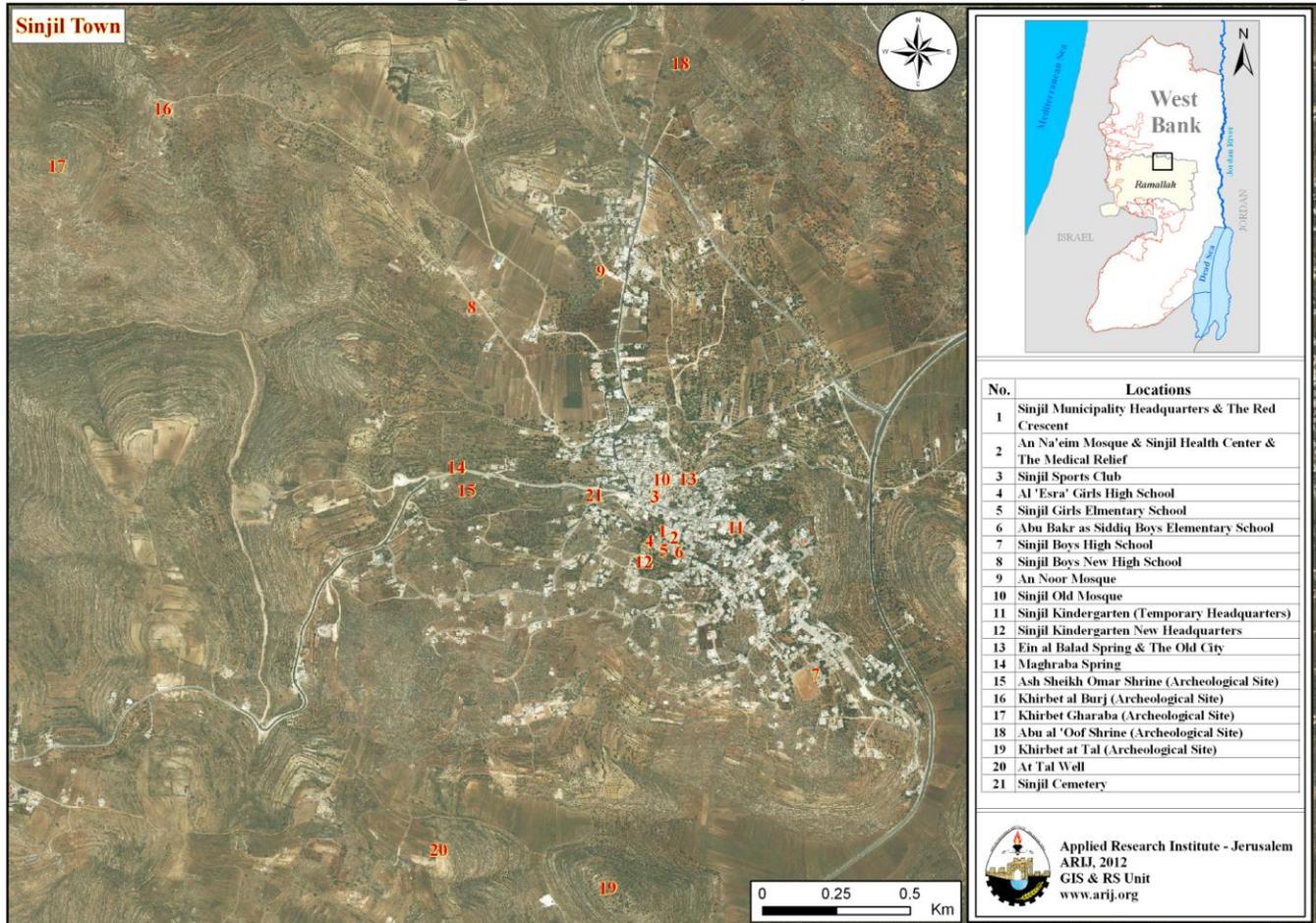


## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the town: An Na'im, An Nour, and the Old Mosque. There are several sites of archaeological interest in the town, including Ash Sheikh Saleh Shrine, Ash sheikh Omar Shrine, Ash

Sheikh Abu El Ouf Shrine, the Old Mosque, Khirbet et Tal, Khirbet Al Burj, Khirbet Ras ed Deir, and Khirbet Gharaba (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010). There are also remains of a building constructed of square stones, and tombs carved in rock (Al Dabbagh, 1991). None of these sites is qualified for tourism (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Sinjil Town**



Population Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Sinjil in 2007 was 4,922, of whom 2,414 were male and 2,508 were female. There were 965 households living in 1,029 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 Sinjil was as follows: 41.4% were less than 15 years of age, 53.1% between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to

females in the town is 96.3:100, meaning that males and females constitute 49% and 51% of the population respectively.

## Families

Sinjil residents are from several families, including the Shabaneh, Fuqaha', Masalmeh, Asfour, Khalil, Elwan, Karakra, Tawafsha, 'Awashra and Ghafri families (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that around 1000 persons have left the town since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Sinjil population is about 6.5%, of whom 91.6% are females. Of the literate population, 12.7% could only read and write with no formal education, 27.6% had elementary education, 29.5% had preparatory education, 17.2% had secondary education, and 6.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Sinjil by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

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

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	19	190	505	518	326	36	85	3	9	5	-	1,696
F	206	251	450	504	269	25	54	1	3	-	-	1,763
T	225	441	955	1,022	595	61	139	4	12	5	-	3,459

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al Isra'a for Sinjil Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Sinjil Boys Secondary School		Male
Sinjil Girls Elementary School		Female
Abu Bakr as Siddiq Boys Elementary School		Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011

In the town there are 1,611 students, 84 teachers, and 52 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 19, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 31.

The educational sector in Sinjil town faces some obstacles, primarily (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

- Insufficient number of classrooms.
- Lack of playgrounds and yards in schools.
- School buildings are in need of renovation.
- Schools are not equipped to provide for those with special needs.
- There are no means of transportation for children and students with special needs.

## Health Status

Sinjil town has a medical center sponsored by the Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS) and a private pharmacy. The town also has an ambulance owned by the Red Crescent Society. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Ramallah Governmental Hospital, 40 km from the village (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

The health sector in the town experiences some obstacles and problems, including (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

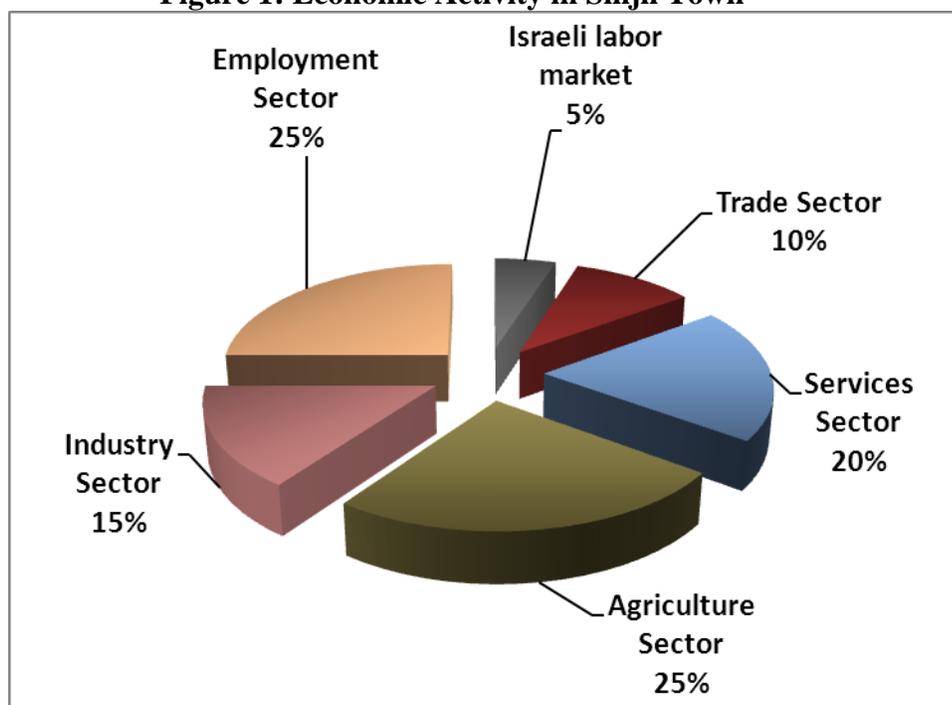
- There is no center to carry out X-ray examinations.
- There are no physicians to work night shifts.
- There is no ambulance operating on a night shift.

## Economic Activities

The economy in Sinjil is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agricultural and employment sectors, which each absorb 25% of the town workforce (Sinjil Municipal Council, 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 Sinjil are as follows (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

- Government or Private Employees Sector (25%)
- Agriculture Sector (25%)
- Services Sector (20%)
- Industry (15%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Israeli Labor Market (5%)

**Figure 1: Economic Activity in Sinjil Town**

Source: Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010

Sinjil town has 50 groceries, 10 vegetable and fruit stores, two bakeries, 4 butcheries, 50 different service stores, 10 different professional workshops, an olive oil-press, 4 stone quarries, two stores for agricultural equipment and tools, and an agricultural nursery (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in Sinjil reached around 30% in 2010, and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

- Workers in the Israeli labor market.
- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 32.6% of the Sinjil labor force was economically active, of whom 92.2% were employed, and 67.4% were not economically active, of whom 49% were students and 34.1% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Sinjil population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Un-employed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
<b>M</b>	931	60	24	<b>1,015</b>	557	-	76	21	27	<b>681</b>	-	1,696
<b>F</b>	110	3	1	<b>114</b>	584	795	156	7	102	<b>1,649</b>	-	1,763
<b>T</b>	1,041	63	25	<b>1,129</b>	1,141	795	232	28	134	<b>2,330</b>	-	3,459

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

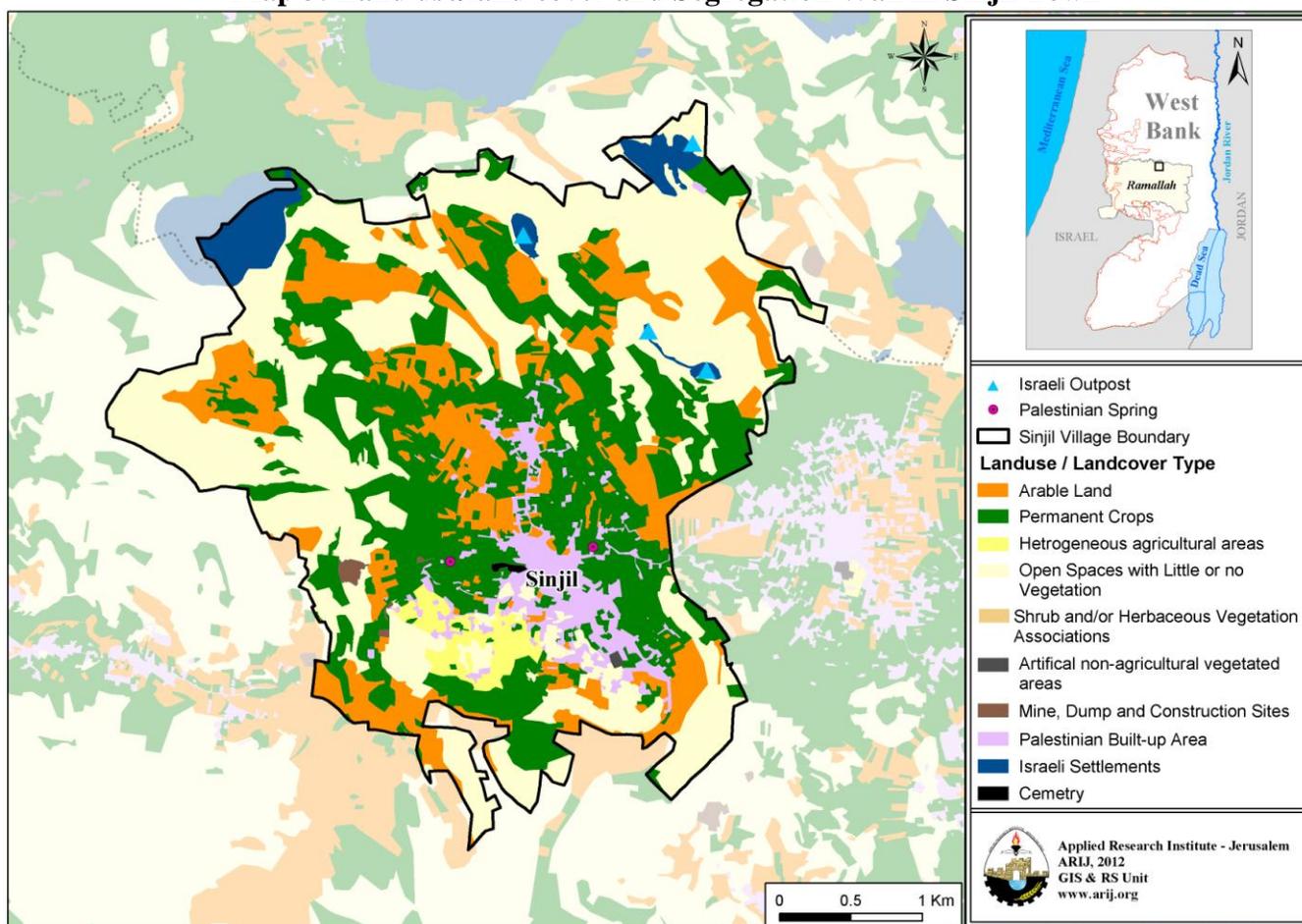
Sinjil has a total area of around 14,028 dunums of which 7,342 are arable land and 729 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 4 and Map 3).

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

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (7,342)				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					
14,028	729	4,785	0	2	2,555	0	0	5,458	53	447

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

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

**Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Sinjil (area in dunums)**

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
90	18	0	7	40	2	15	0	15	1	160	28

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Sinjil is famous for olive cultivation; there are 975 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

**Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Sinjil (area in dunums)**

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.
975	0	0	0	118	0	33	0	115	0	317	0	1,558	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Ramallah, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Sinjil, cereals (particularly wheat and barley) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 2,000 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes such as beans and chickpeas (See Table 7).

**Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Sinjil (area in dunums)**

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.
2,000	0	55	0	205	0	8	0	120	0	0	0	5	0	2,393	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: 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 shows that 20% of the residents in Sinjil rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep, goats, and chickens (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Sinjil**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
4	2,822	1,283	0	0	0	0	8,800	0	96

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are approximately 35 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Sinjil Town and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	15
Unsuitable	5

Source: Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems, including (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010):

- The lack of water sources.
- The lack of supporting bodies for farmers to provide them with fertilizers, seeds and trees.
- The confiscation of lands.
- The difficulties in accessing agricultural lands.

- The lack of agricultural roads.

## Institutions and Services

Sinjil town has only one governmental institution, a post office, and a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of society and in areas of culture, sports and others, including (Sinjil Municipal council, 2010):

- **Sinjil Municipality:** Founded in 1995 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Sinjil Club:** Founded in 1976 by Sinjil residents and currently registered in the Ministry of Youth & Sports with an interest in all sports, cultural and social activities for young people.
- **Sinjil Women Association:** Founded in 1990 by Sinjil residents and currently registered in the Ministry of Interior with the goal of providing services to Sinjil women.
- **Sinjil Association for Social Development:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Interior for the purpose of social development.
- **Sinjil Rural Cooperative Association:** Founded in 2009 by the Ministry of Interior. The association provides help and takes care of women's issues.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Sinjil has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town, and approximately 70% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face some problems concerning electricity. These include the poor condition of the electricity network, insufficient electricity transformers in the town, and the lack of electricity in some neighborhoods (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

Sinjil is also connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 90% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

### Transportation Services:

There are 15 taxis and 3 buses in Sinjil providing transportation to the town residents. In addition to the lack of vehicles in the town, residents struggle to travel due to the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010). There are 6 km of main roads and 20 km of secondary roads in the town (See Table 10) (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

**Table 10: Roads in Sinjil town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	2	3
<b>2. Paved but in poor condition</b>	4	7
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	-	10

Source: Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010

### Water Resources:

Sinjil is provided with water by the Jerusalem Water Department through the public water network established in 1980. Approximately 80% of housing units in the town are connected to the water network (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010)

The quantity of water supplied to Sinjil town in 2010 was about 111,190 cubic meters (Jerusalem Water Department, 2011); therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is about 62 liters/day. However, no Sinjil citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are about 26.5%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Thus the rate of water consumption per capita in Sinjil is 45.5 liters per day (Jerusalem Water Department, 2011). This is a low rate compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Sinjil also has 100 rainwater-harvesting cisterns which form an alternative source of water to the public network (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

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

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

Consumption Category (m <sup>3</sup> )	Domestic (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Industrial (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Tourist (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Commercial (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )	Public Institutions (NIS/m <sup>3</sup> )
<b>0 – 5</b>	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
<b>5.1 – 10</b>	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
<b>10.1 – 20</b>	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
<b>20.1 – 30</b>	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
<b>30.1+</b>	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

### Sanitation:

Sinjil lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits, endocrines and open channels for the disposal of wastewater (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 179 cubic meters, or 65,400 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 31.8 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater

tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

### **Solid Waste Management:**

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste Recycling- North Ramallah is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. 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 amounts to approximately 120 NIS/year. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good management of solid waste, especially as only 60% of these fees are collected from the citizens ( Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010)

Most of the population in Sinjil benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and collected in 100 containers of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity. The Municipal Council collects the solid waste twice a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's dumping site, 4km west from the locality, where it is burnt and buried ( Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Sinjil is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Sinjil residents is nearly 5.2 tons, or 1,886 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

## **Environmental Conditions**

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Sinjil 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 during summer 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.
- The lack of a public reservoir in the town to cover the residents' water needs during water cut-offs
- The high cost of purchasing water in summer, when a citizen pays between 30 to 40 NIS for each unit of water.

## Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Sinjil residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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 Sinjil 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 Sinjil

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Sinjil was divided into areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,944 dunams (13.8% of the town’s total area) were assigned as area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and Public order, while 4,865 dunams (34.7% of the town’s total area) were classified as area B, where the 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 town’s population resides in area B. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 7,219 dunams (51.5% of the total area), was 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 area C are agricultural areas and open spaces (table 12).

**Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Sinjil – Ramallah Governorate**

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total town area
Area A	1,944	13.8
Area B	4,865	34.7
Area C	7,219	51.5
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011*

## Sinjil Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Sinjil town has been subjected its share of Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli interests, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts and military checkpoints, as well as the construction of the Israeli bypass roads to connect the Israeli settlements. Following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of Sinjil town territories:

During the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government confiscated 447 dunams in Sinjil town to establish the Ma'ale Levona settlement which was constructed on Sinjil's land along with the land of 2 nearby villages Al Lubban ash Sharqiya and 'Abwein. The settlement was constructed in 1983 on a total area of land of 521 dunams and is currently inhabited by 713 Israeli settlers.

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements around Sinjil have had a serious and significant impact on the town people and their properties. These attacks allow settlers to control more Palestinian lands adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from accessing their land. Settlers near Sinjil have enclosed land using barbed wire and planted trees on Palestinian land, thereby increasing their control. They have also burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners as to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands. In the early morning hours of June 22, 2011, the last attack took place: a group of settlers living in Shvut Rahel settlement cut 51 olive trees aged 34 years using sharp saws. The targeted trees belong to three Palestinian families in Sinjil town. It should be noted that the targeted trees in Ad Dahra area were previously targeted on 2 separate occasions by the same settlers from the Shvut Rahel settlement; once in 2000 and again in 2004.

The Israeli Government confiscated thousands 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 others, dismembering Palestinian lands and enhancing security control over it. Israel has also confiscated more land from Sinjil and to its north and east for the construction of the Israeli bypass road no. 60 as well as the road leading to the Ma'ale Levona Israeli settlement. This road is under Israeli control and appropriates the old road linked to Nablus city through Al Lubban ash Sharqiya. The total length of these two roads lying within Sinjil lands is 6.5 km. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Force (IOF) along these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

Following the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the IOF constructed a military checkpoint (an earth mound) on Sinjil's main eastern entrance in order to prevent Palestinians from approaching bypass road no. 60. This entrance is closed to this day; thus residents use the northern entrance instead. Also, the Israeli authorities established another 3 earth mounds and a roadblock on some of the town's sub-entrances on bypass road 60. Moreover, they established an iron gate on the agricultural road between Sinjil and Turmus'ayya to prevent farmers from accessing their lands. These military checkpoints aim at restricting the movement of the town population; in particular and the neighboring villages. These restrictions had notable effects during the first and second Palestinian Intifadas, as well as the intent of the occupation to protect the settlers near the town who travel through the Israeli bypass road 60.

In an attempt to expand the nearby Israeli settlements (mainly Eli settlement north of Sinjil), land from Sinjil has been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to build 4 Israeli outposts: South Eli, Eli South (Hill 792), Eli South/Apiryon Hill and Givat Harel. This affords more control of Palestinian land to Israel.

It should be known that on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Israeli occupation authorities started to establish and set up a number of new mobile homes in the vicinity of the Israeli occupation army camp that was established near Sinjil town in 2002. The total land area used was an estimated 20 dunams. It should be noted that in the past few months, settlers began to strengthen their control on the camp by adding more mobile homes and erecting a number of tents in the camp vicinity, in a move to turn the camp into a new Israeli settlement devouring vast areas of land planted with olives in Ras ad Deir area east of Sinjil town.

During the last two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Bank. These outposts are considered the nucleus for the development of new settlements. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans that are located on land stolen by the settlers and they are a branch of a nearby mother settlement. One might add that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a "Sharonian" call for Jewish settlers to take control of Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although the successive Israeli governments haven't legalized this phenomenon, they managed to find security and logistical cover to justify the act, its existence and continuity. After 2001 the Prime Minister at that time, Ariel Sharon, unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in the number of outposts within Palestinian areas. Also, the IOF helped the Israeli settlers move and settle in those outposts, as well as protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

### Issued Military Orders in Sinjil Town

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Sinjil. Following are some of the available orders:

- Israeli Military Order No. (01/01/T): Issued on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2001. It confiscates lands north of Sinjil town and on the old road to Al Lubban ash Sharqiya, for military purposes.
- Israeli Military Order No. (09/06/T): Issued on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2006. It confiscates a total land area of 1.88 dunams of land from Sinjil and Turmus'ayya towns for military purposes and to protect the bypass road.

- Amendment on the Israeli Military Order No. (01/01/T): Issued on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2006. It confiscates a total land area of 23.3 dunams of land of Sinjil town for the establishment a military base on top of a hill north of the town.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Sinjil Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Sinjil during the past five years (See Table 13).

**Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Sinjil during the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of Sinjil Boys Secondary School	Educational	2009	Arab Fund
Rehabilitation of the street leading to schools	Infrastructure	2010	Municipalities' Fund
Rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	2009	Municipalities' Fund
Completion of Sinjil Kindergarten	Educational	2009	Ministry of Finance

Source: Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010

### Proposed Projects

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

1. Establishing a sewage network.
2. Finishing the new school.
3. Constructing a water reservoir.
4. Finishing the outdoor spaces for the kindergarten.
5. Constructing retaining walls.
6. Preparing an organizational chart.
7. Expanding and maintaining the water and electricity networks.
8. Providing an agronomist to help farmers.
9. Establishing a car complex.
10. Constructing a new computer center with all services.
11. Constructing headquarters for the different societies.
12. Establishing societies to market the products.
13. Establishing a public garden and a park.
14. Providing equipment and machinery for the municipality (small-hammer, tractor, and bob-cat).
15. Solving the problems of stray wild animals (such as pigs).
16. Equipping a radiology center and providing an ambulance.
17. Constructing an additional building for the municipality.
18. Providing schools with computers and scientific laboratories.

19. Constructing an additional building for the club.
20. Paving and rehabilitating internal roads.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Sinjil suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the municipal council's point of view (Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010).

**Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Sinjil**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			28 km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks	*			5 km
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			5 km
4	Construction of New Water Networks	*			6 km
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			300 m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			10 km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network	*			12 km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			70 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			1 health clinic
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	*			secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			all levels
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			150 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			10 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			200 tons / year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

<sup>^</sup> 4 km main roads, 9 km secondary roads and 15 km are agricultural roads

Source: Sinjil Municipal Council, 2010

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