

Az Zawiya Town Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Salfit Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Salfit 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 Salfit 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 Salfit 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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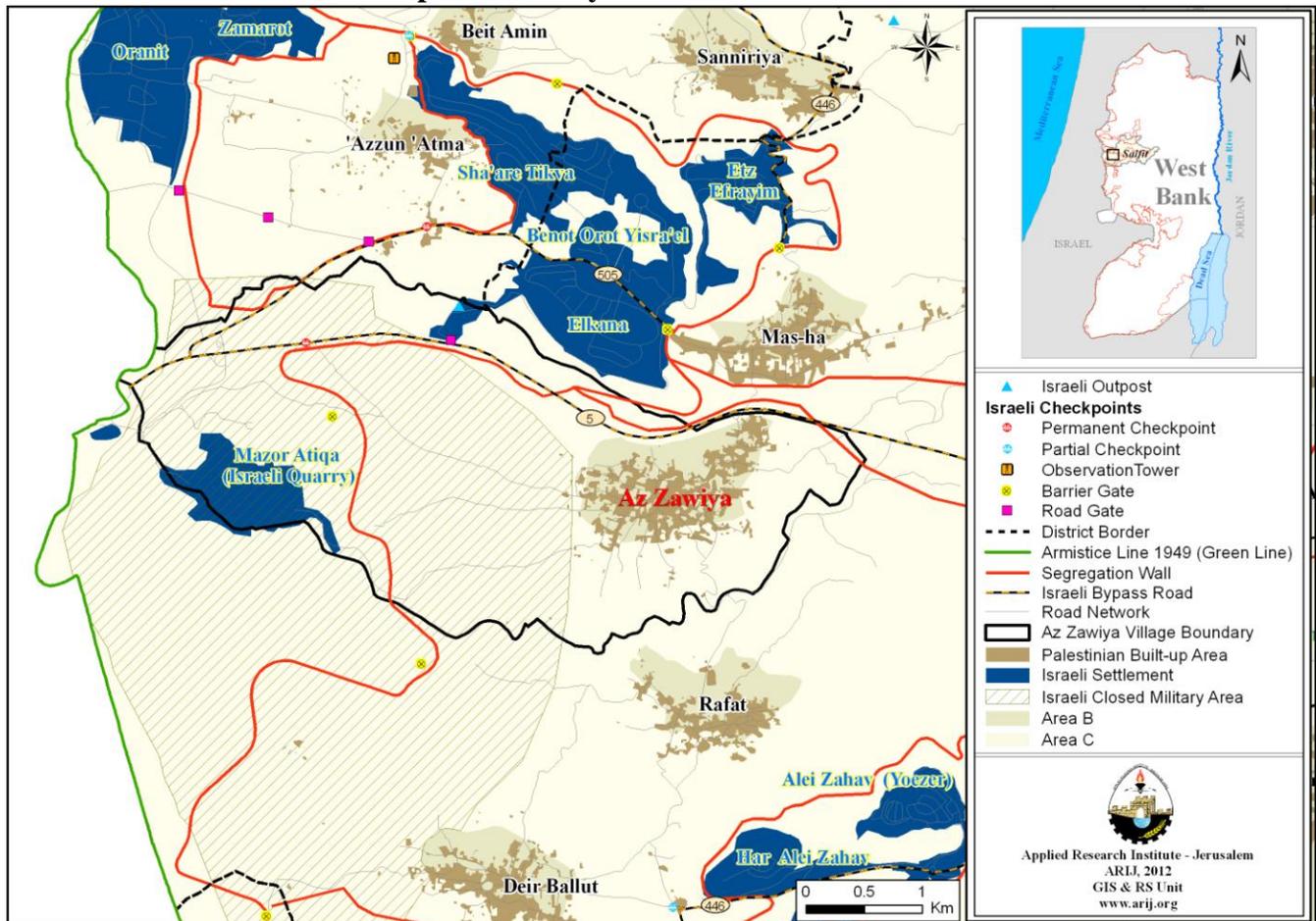
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Az Zawiya Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Az Zawiya is a Palestinian town in the Salfit Governorate located 13.5 km west of Salfit City. Az Zawiya is bordered by Bidhya town to the east, Rafat to the south, Kafr Qasem village (from the 1948 occupation) to the west, and ‘Azzun ‘Atma village (in Qalqiliya Governorate) and Mas-ha village to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Az Zawiya location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Az Zawiya is located at an altitude of 233 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 587.6 mm. The average annual temperature is 19 C° and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 1997, Az Zawiya has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 10 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also 13 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the Joint Services Council of West Salfit. The Council also owns a pickup car and a hammer, but not vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Az Zawiya, including (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- The organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the town.
- Provision of transportation.
- Provision of kindergartens.

History

Az Zawiya town's (literally meaning 'the corner') name has two origins. Firstly, its direct translation as 'the corner' supposedly derives from the existence of nooks (Khalawi), which are corners or places used by mystics for privacy and worship. The second reason claims it was named so because a woman from the town vowed to herself to build a corner for worship if God saved her son from war or a disease.

The town was established approximately 1,600 years ago, as the existence of the Romanian Khirba of Sirisya and Qassis Convent on lands of the town are considered evidence to the town's date of establishment. Its residents however are originally from the Arabian Peninsula, as it is believed they are the ancestors of Profit Omar Ben al Khattab (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

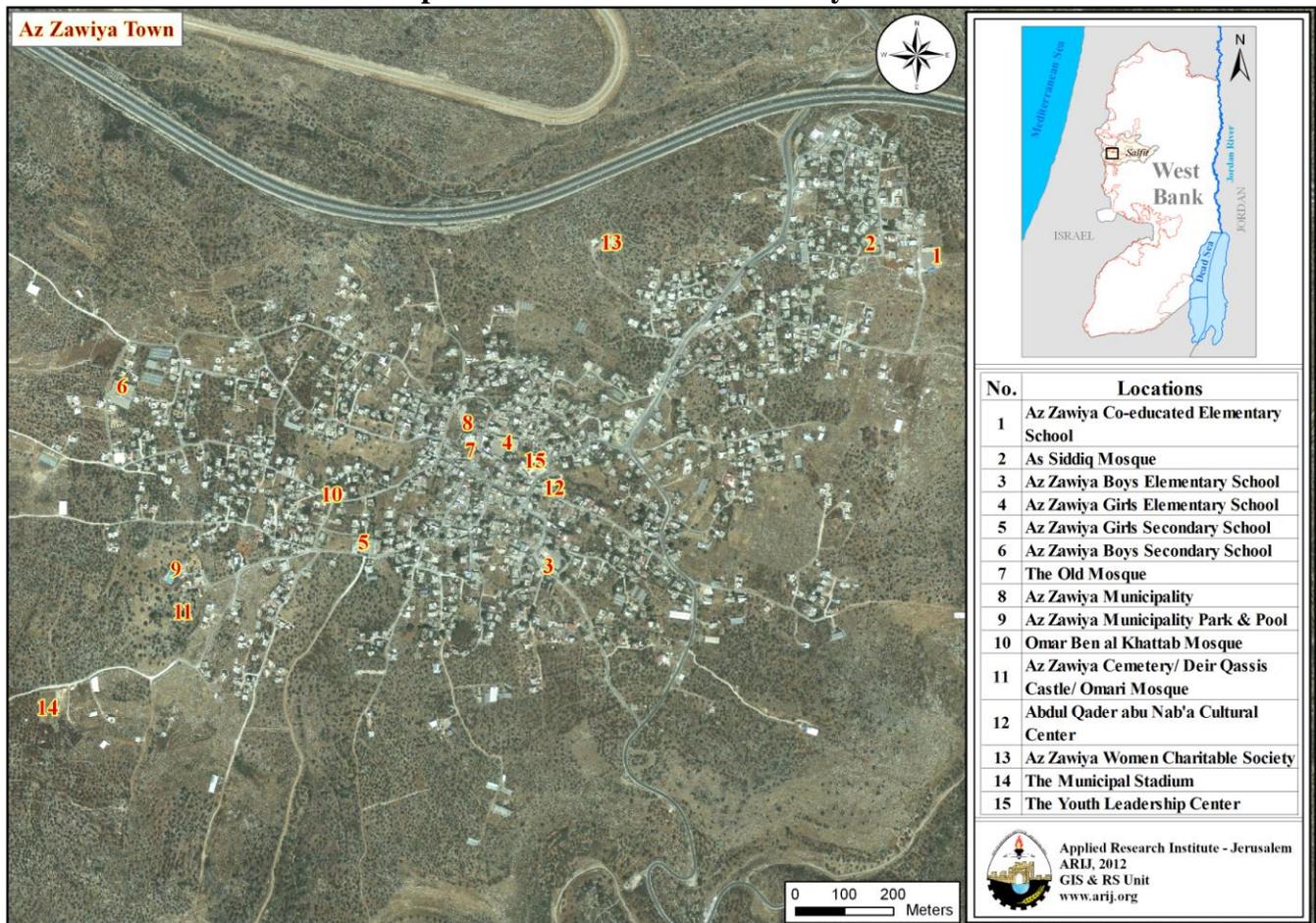
Photo of Az Zawiya



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the town (Omar ben al Khattab, As Siddiq and Az Zawiya Grand Mosque). The town has several sites of archaeological interest including: Qassis Convent, Khirbet Sirisyia, As Sider Area, Az Zawiya Springs and Ar Rmeilah Area. One should note here that none of these sites are rehabilitated or qualified for tourism (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Az Zawiya Town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Az Zawiya in 2007 was 4,692, of whom 2,361 were male and 2,331 female. There were 888 households registered as living in 992 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 Az Zawiya is as follows: 40.2% were less than 15 years of age, 56.1% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.5% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 101.3:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.3% and 49.7% of the population, respectively.

Families

Az Zawiya residents are from several families, including Shqeir, Mawqidi and Radad families (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Az Zawiya population is approximately 6.3%, of whom 73.8% are females. Of the literate population, 12.3% could only read and write, with no formal education, 22% had elementary education, 26.7% had preparatory education, 19.5% had secondary education, and 13.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Az Zawiya by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Az Zawiya population (10 years 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	56	201	361	487	349	94	138	4	9	2	0	1,701
F	158	217	388	420	314	70	128	2	4	0	1	1,702
T	214	418	749	907	663	164	266	6	13	2	1	3,403

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are five public schools in the town (all run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education) (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Az Zawiya by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Az Zawiya Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Az Zawiya Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Az Zawiya Girls Elementary Higher School	Government	Female
Az Zawiya Boys Secondary School	Government	Male
Az Zawiya Boys Elementary School	Government	Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

In the town there are 1,456 students, 93 teachers, and 58 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 25 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

There are two kindergartens in Az Zawiya town run by a private organization (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (See table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Az Zawiya town by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Ar Rahma Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Az Zuhoor Kindergarten	3	4	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

The educational sector in Az Zawiya town faces a number of obstacles, mainly the lack of classrooms and crowded classrooms in some schools (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012)

Health Status

Az Zawiya has one governmental health center (Az Zawiya Health Clinic), 2 medical laboratories (one private and one governmental), a governmental mother and child care center, a private general physician clinic, 2 private dental clinics and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Yasir Arafat Governmental Hospital in Salfit city (22.5 km away) (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

The health sector in the town faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012):

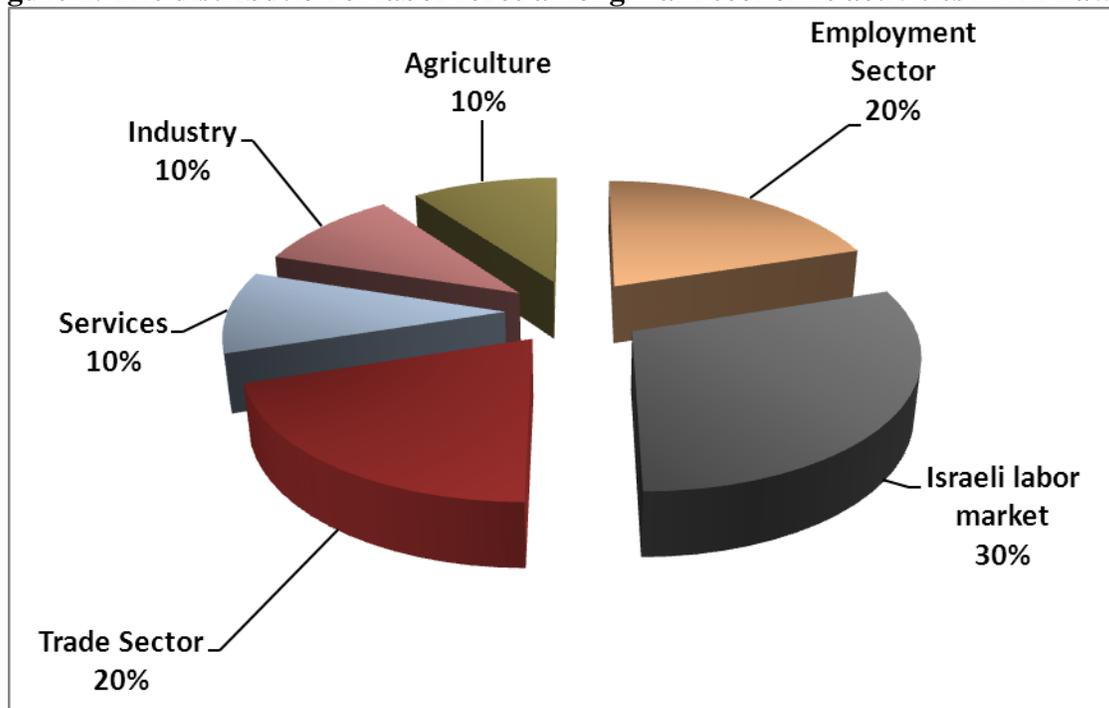
- The lack of a specialized hospital to serve the town, in addition to neighboring villages.
- The lack of specialized medical staff.
- The lack of an ambulance.

Economic Activities

The economy in Az Zawiya is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market which absorbs 30% of the town's workforce (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Az Zawiya are as follows:

- Israeli Labor Market (30%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (20%)
- Trade Sector (20%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Industry (10%)
- Services Sector (10%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Az Zawiya

Source: Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012

Az Zawiya has 65 groceries, 1 fruits and vegetable store, 1 bakery, 2 butcheries, 7 service stores, 20 different professional workshops, 1 stone cutter, 1 olive oil-press, 1 store for agricultural tools and 1 agricultural nursery (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Az Zawiya reached 30% in 2012 and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012):

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Industrial workers.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the services sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 32.3% of Az Zawiya labor force was economically active, of whom 78.5% were employed, 67.6% were not economically active, 56.8% were students, and 30.9% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Az Zawiya population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	727	84	122	933	611	2	106	20	22	761	7	1,701
F	133	9	20	162	696	708	106	1	29	1,540	0	1,702
T	860	93	142	1,095	1,307	710	212	21	51	2,301	7	3,403

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

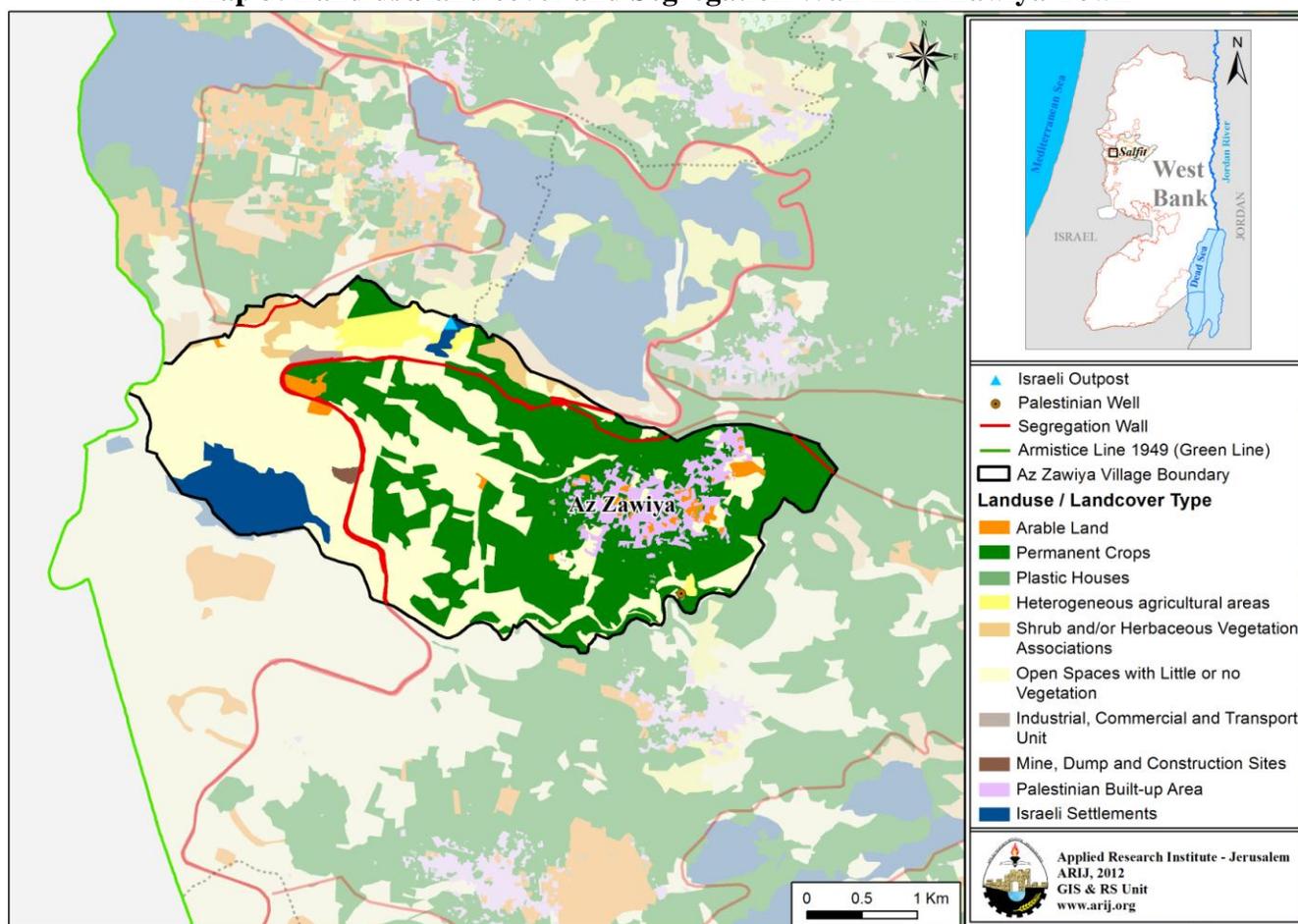
Az Zawiya has a total area of around 12,000 dunums of which 5,548 are 'arable' land and 603 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Az Zawiya town (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,548)				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					
12,000	603	5,000	7	348	193	0	0	4,885	80	885

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Az Zawiya. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are tomatoes, green beans and cauliflowers.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Az Zawiya (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.
17	53	0	27	0	15	0	9	0	0	17	104

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Az Zawiya is famous for olive cultivation; there are approximately 2,250 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the town.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Az Zawiya (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.
2,250	0	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0	60	0	2,377	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Az Zawiya, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 130 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Az Zawiya (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.
130	0	33	0	44	0	3	0	27	0	0	0	21	0	258	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

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 difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 5% of the residents in Az Zawiya rear and keeps domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Az Zawiya

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
7	1,680	0	44,000	84

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There approximately 45 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Az Zawiya Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	12
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	6
For animals only	15
Unsuitable	12

Source: Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012

The agricultural sector in the town faces some problems, including (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of suitable agricultural roads.
- The lack of water sources and artesian wells to be used for cultivation.
- The decreasing attention on the agricultural sector.
- The lack of agricultural projects and support for farmers.

- The existence of the Segregation Wall which prevents farmers from accessing large areas of their lands.

Institutions and Services

Az Zawiya town has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012):

- **Az Zawiya Municipal Council:** Founded in 1997 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of the town issues and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **Abdul Qader Abu Nab'ah Cultural Center:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Interior, with the goal of providing various cultural, educational and instructional activities.
- **Az Zawiya Sports Club:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Club is interested in sports, cultural and social activities for youth.
- **Young Leaders Club:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Club is interested in youth as it provides them with various cultural, sports, social and educational activities and programs.
- **Az Zawiya Women Charitable Society:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Cultural, aiming to provide women and children with different activities and services.
- **Youth Rehabilitation Society:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, and is interested in developing young person's capacities.
- **Springs Cultural Center:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Cultural, aiming at the development of the cultural sector.
- **Sanabil al Balad Center:** Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Cultural, aiming at the development of the cultural sector.
- **An Noor Society:** Founded in 2008 by the Ministry of Cultural, interested in educating young people and developing their capacities.
- **Az Zawiya Cooperative Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Society is interested in farmers as it assists them in reclaiming and developing their lands, as well as constructing agricultural wells.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Az Zawiya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1993. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town, and approximately 100% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily the aged electrical network and its need for rehabilitation and maintenance (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

Az Zawiya is also connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 80% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

Transportation Services:

There are 11 taxis and 2 public buses in Az Zawiya. However, residents suffer from the lack of vehicles in the town, the poor infrastructure of roads, the existence of the Segregation Wall and the lack of a direct transportation line between Az Zawiya town and Ramallah city (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012). There are 11 km of main roads and 16 km of secondary roads in Az Zawiya (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Az Zawiya town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	3	5
2. Paved but in poor condition	6	8
3. Unpaved	2	3

Source: Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012

Water Resources:

Az Zawiya is provided with water by the 'West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1982. All housing units are connected to the water network (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Az Zawiya town in 2010 was recorded at approximately 188,605 cubic meters (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 100 liters/day. However, no Az Zawiya citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 22% (PWA, 2010). 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 Az Zawiya is 78 liters per day (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012). The average water consumption of Az Zawiya residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 3.5 NIS (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

The town has 7 springs; 4 of which are embedded, whereas water from the rest of 3 springs is used as drinking water for livestock in the town (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012). Moreover, located in the town are 40 household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

Sanitation:

Az Zawiya lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks, as a main means for wastewater disposal (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 322 cubic meters, or 117,689 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 63 liters per day. The wastewater

collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council of West Salfit is responsible for 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 amounting to 10 NIS/ month is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste, especially considering only 80% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012)

Most of the population in Az Zawiya benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 60 containers, located at various points in the town. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's dumping site, 2 km from the town, where it is burnt and buried in an un-environmental way (Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Az Zawiya is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Az Zawiya residents is nearly 5.4 tons, or 1,976 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Az Zawiya 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 town neighborhoods, for numerous reasons:
 1. Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. In addition, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli Companies in order to meet the citizens' water needs.
 2. High rate of water losses, due to the water networks- aged condition in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that Az Zawiya residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into 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, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. 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:

- Zahrat al Finjan landfill, in Jenin Governorate, (approximately 32 km in distance from the center of Salfit Governorate) is considered the central sanitary landfill which is supposed to serve Salfit Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Salfit Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout the Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. As a result, wastes are being disposed randomly in these landfills causing an abomination to health, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects, and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke emitted when burned. All of this has harmful effects on human health and the environment.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Az Zawiya and 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. The main impediment cited is that 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 Az Zawiya

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Az Zawiya was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,138 dunums (9.5% of the town’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth noting that most of the town’s population resides in area B which constitutes a small percentage of the town’s total area. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 10,862 dunums (90.5% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (table 12). In area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the

Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area Care agricultural areas, open spaces, Israeli settlements and lands isolated behind the Segregation Wall.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Az Zawiya – Salfit Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,138	9.5
Area C	10,862	90.5
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	12,000	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Practices in Az Zawiya Town

Az Zawiya town has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the town territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan represented by the Segregation Wall. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations to have negatively affected Az Zawiya town territories:

During their occupation of the Palestinian territories, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated 662 dunums (5%) in Az Zawiya to establish Mazor Atiqa (Israeli Quarry) industrial settlement west of the town, located behind the Segregation Wall. The settlement was established in 1986 on lands owned by citizens of Az Zawiya. Through these quarries, the occupation authorities seek to exploit Palestinian natural resources and control over more land. It is worth noting that at the end of 2011, the Israeli Supreme Court issued a decision that allows the Israeli quarries to continue its work within the occupied West Bank, in response to the economic requirements of the Israeli entity of raw materials, without establishing new quarries in the West Bank. This decision came after two years of submitting an objection by a number of human rights and humanitarian organizations against quarries in the West Bank. In a report carried out by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), it shows that Israel transfers and sells 94% of what is extracted from the occupied Palestinian territories to Israel, which constitutes approximately 25% of raw materials that Israel consumes. Also Israel exploits other natural resources such as water, an essential life preserving entity which is a clear breach of International Law. International Law claims that occupation should not exploit the natural resources existing in the occupied Palestinian territories for its economic favor, which should be used only for the benefit of those who are under occupation or temporarily for military purposes.

Following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities established a number of Israeli military checkpoints in Az Zawiya town. Of the main checkpoints is “Kafr Qasem” permanent military checkpoint west of the town, established on Israeli bypass road 5. This represents a crossing to the occupied Palestinian territories inside 1948 boundaries, and which only allows entry to people holding the blue ID or those with special permits.

There is another checkpoint, a road gate established on the entrance of “Megen Dan” Israeli outpost of “Elkana” Israeli settlement, northwest of Az Zawiya town. A third checkpoint, a walled gate on the Segregation Wall route west of the town, allows Palestinian farmers at certain times during the year, to access their lands isolated west of the Wall. They are only allowed entry through the granting of special

permits. These checkpoints aim at restricting Palestinian movement, in addition to the Israelis allegation of protecting settlers living near Palestinian villages.

In addition, lands of Az Zawiyah town have been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to establish “Megen Dan” Israeli outpost of “Elkana” Israeli settlement, in an attempt to expand the settlement and control more Palestinian land. This settlement was established in 1999 on a total area of 76 dunums of Az Zawiyah town lands. Moreover, during the past two decades Israel constructed 232 outposts within the West Bank. These outposts are considered the nucleus for the development of new settlements. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans on the stolen lands by the settlers and represent a contiguity of a mother settlement that is near. It is worth mentioning that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a “Sharonian” call for Jewish settlers to take control over Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although the successive Israeli governments haven’t legalized this phenomenon, they managed to find a security and logistic cover to justify the act and its continuity. After 2001 the then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in the number of outposts within Palestinian areas. In addition, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) helped Israeli settlers to move and settle in those outposts, in addition to protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

Moreover, the Israeli Government confiscated thousands of agricultural and non-agricultural dunums to open several bypass roads that stretch thousands of kilometers from the north to south of the West Bank in order to link Israeli settlements, dismember Palestinian lands and enhance security control over it. Israel has additionally confiscated lands from Az Zawiyah for the construction of the Israeli bypass road no. 5 known as “Samaria Crossing” and bypass road no. 505, on lands to the north and west of Az Zawiyah. Both roads extend for 6.3km on the town’s land. The real threat of the bypass roads however lies in the buffer zone formed by the 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.

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Az Zawiyah Town

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan had a negative and destructive impact on Az Zawiyah residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website in 2007, shows that the existing Wall on Az Zawiyah northern and western town lands, extends for 8.2km and confiscates 4,264 dunums (36%) of the town’s total area, and isolates more lands for Israeli settlement activities. The majority of lands isolated by the Wall includes agricultural areas, open spaces, and Israeli settlements constructed on the town lands, in addition to shrubs, herbaceous vegetation, and others (See Table 13).

Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Az Zawiyah Town – Salfit Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Open Spaces	2,489
2	Israeli Settlements	662
3	Agricultural Areas	645
4	Shrubs and Herbaceous Vegetation	291
5	Wall Zone	125
6	Israeli Crossing	42
7	Soil Landfill Area	10
Total		4,264
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

The Wall scheme has also shown that the urban area in Az Zawiyah town (in addition to Palestinian urban areas in villages of Rafat and Deir Ballut) will become isolated from neighboring Palestinian villages as they will be encircled by the wall from all sides. There is a wall west of the town and a planned wall to be built to the east, north and south of the town. Upon the completion the wall's construction in the region, "Az Zawiyah Isolation" (which also includes the villages of Rafat and Deir Ballut) will be linked with villages of Salfit through a small tunnel linking Az Zawiyah town with Mas-ha village and passes under Israeli bypass road 5; known as "Samaria Crossing".

Furthermore, Palestinian farmers in Az Zawiyah town are being deprived by Israeli occupation authorities from accessing their land which have become isolated west of the wall (within the Western Segregation Zone) and which cannot be accessed without special permits issued by the Israeli civil administration office (ICA). These lands must now be reached through a special gate that has been established on the wall route in the region. It is worth noting that access to isolated land is restricted only to farmers who are able to prove their ownership of the land before official Israeli departments (such as the Israeli civil administration). Permits are issued to owners of land, usually older people, whose names are listed in the real estate property deeds. One should be noted that the Israeli Civil Administration issues these permits in certain agricultural seasons, which makes it difficult for owners to cultivate their agricultural land by themselves, especially since these permits do not include laborers or equipment needed to cultivate lands.

It should also be noted that villages of Salfit Governorate are known for their fertile soil, their beautiful nature and the abundance of water and large trees, especially olive trees. This makes the region an important target for Israeli settlement activities, in addition to being the second Governorate after Jerusalem on the list of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction.

Military Orders Issued in Az Zawiyah Town

The Israeli occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Az Zawiyah town:

- Israeli Military Order No. (24/04/T): Issued on the 4th March 2004, confiscating a total area of 317 dunums of Az Zawiyah, Deir Ballut, Mas-ha and Rafat village lands in order to construct the Israeli Segregation Wall.

- On the morning of January 8¹ 2012, the Israeli Civil Administration Office handed military notifications that states the confiscation of more lands in Az Zawiya town and Mas-ha village, west of Salfit Governorate. The notifications included the following:
 - Israeli Military Notification No. (88/04/T) (validity extension of No. 2): Issued on 29^{th2} January 2012, and confiscates an area of 40.4 dunums of Az Zawiya and Mas-ha lands for security purposes, to build the Segregation Wall in the region. It should be noted that the notifications of land seizure that had been previously confiscated by the occupation, came because the occupation authorities did not complete the construction of a section of the wall (fence) at the planned site as stated in the Military Order. This was due to petitions submitted by Palestinians to the Israeli Supreme Court against the construction of the wall (fence) in the area, questioning the legitimacy of its location, which upon its implementation will deprive Palestinians from their agricultural lands. This in turn prompted the Israeli government to issue a validity extension of the Israeli military order; first in 2009 and then in 2011, so that Israel can complete the construction of the wall (the fence) in the region and tighten its isolation process.
 - Israeli Military Order No. (79/06/T): Issued on the 9th September 2006 and confiscates an area of 72.2 dunums of Az Zawiya town land for military purposes. This is in order to establish a road for Israeli military patrols. On 29th January 2012, the Israeli occupation authorities handed inhabitants of Az Zawiya Israeli Military Order No. (06/79/T) (validity extension of No. 3) to confiscates an area of 78 dunums of land in Az Zawiya town for security purposes. The Israeli government issued a validity extension of the Israeli military order for the first time in 2008, the second time in February 2010 and for the third time in the beginning of 2012, so that Israel will be able to complete the construction of the wall (fence) in the region and tighten its isolation process.
 - The Israeli occupation authorities issued another military notification under the name of **‘A command for Building Control (Judea and Samaria) No. 393, a declaration to prevent and stop construction No. 11/01/August in the seam zone barrier 5772-2011,’** which includes the prevention of construction in the area known as “Al Wa’rah” in Az Zawiya town; 2 km in length and 8 km in width from both sides along the Segregation Wall in the region, which serves as a bouncing or safe zone imposed by the Israeli army along the Wall. Here, Palestinians are not allowed to construct or use the lands for any purpose.
- Moreover, on the 8th January 2008, Israeli occupation authorities announced their intention to confiscate 9 dunums of agricultural in Mas-ha and Az Zawiya localities through notification No. 41/07/T to construct a settlement road for Israeli security reasons. The construction of this new Israeli bypass road, which is 2 km long according to the Military Order, started on the 15th of January 2008 and confiscated 20 dunums of Palestinian land which is double the area that was announced in the military order. The affected territories are owned by citizens Jamal Abdullah Abu Bih and Raafat Hasan Qadoos from Az Zawiya town, and Sadeq Dheeb Odah and Abdul Khaliq Hasan Amer from Mas-ha village.

¹ Confiscation until further notice in Az Zawiya and Mas-ha - Salfit Governorate
http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=4126

² Confiscation until further notice in Az Zawiya and Mas-ha - Salfit Governorate
http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=4126

- On 20th December 2007, Israeli occupation authorities distributed a map that shows the path of the road to be constructed in the region. It is claimed that the road will serve Palestinians through facilitating the movement of farmers to their agricultural lands located in Khirbet Sirisya to the north-west of Az Zawiya town and adjacent to the Racial Segregation Wall, however, the nature of land that will underlie the street is unsuitable for cultivation and reclamation, and Palestinians are not allowed to use it under the pretext that the area is classified as a "closed military zone" because of its proximity to Elkana settlement and Israeli bypass road No. 5 (Samaria Crossing). For this reason, the construction of this street comes in order to link Elkana settlement with the Israeli bypass road (5) which is conjoined with the existing Israeli settlements within the 1948 borders.

Additionally, on the morning of May 3, 2011, the Israeli occupation authorities handed Palestinian farmers a militarily notification signed by the commander of the occupation army in the West Bank named 'Abi Libnski Mizrahi'. The notification holds number (07/14/T) under the title 'continuing the occupation of lands' with an area estimated of approximately 381 dunums. It should be noted that the first confiscation of land was in 2007 with the aim of surrounding 'Azzun 'Atma village with the Wall from three sides; western, eastern and southern, and isolating it from surrounding Israeli settlements (Etz Efrayim, Sha'are Tikva, Benot Orot Yisra'el and Elkana). The lands threatened with confiscation are located in the villages of 'Azzun 'Atma, Sanniriya, Beit Amin and Az Zawiya, in addition to Kafr Qassem town, inside the Green Line. The Israeli occupation authorities notified the villagers of the aforementioned localities for the first time in October 2007, to confiscate 381 dunums to build the Racial Segregation Wall around 'Azzun 'Atma village from three sides; Southern, Eastern and Western, and to put one outlet to the village from the north, to be controlled by the Israeli occupation in term of enter and exit. It is worth noting that since before 2010 this gate has been guarded by the Israeli occupation army.

Additionally, during April 2012, the Israeli occupation authorities handed a militarily notification which included the confiscation of least 3000 dunums of agricultural lands in Az Zawiya, Deir Ballut and Rafat villages, that fall within an "isolation" area according to the Segregation Wall plan. This area, according to Israeli authorities must be isolated under security pretexts. The military notification came under the title '**An order for the closure of an area (to prevent entry and stay) No. 93/3/S (Amendment of Borders)**,' to continue the confiscation of more than 3000 dunums to the west of Salfit Governorate, where Palestinian farmers presence on their agricultural lands, in addition to cultivating or changing their features is forbidden, under the pretext of being within closed military territories.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Az Zawiya Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Az Zawiya during the past five years (See Table 14).

Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Az Zawiya during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing a headquarters, a pool and a park for Az Zawaiya Municipality	Public Services	2007	Belgium Cooperation
Constructing Az Zawaiya Co-educated Elementary School	Educational	2007	PECDAR
Paving and rehabilitating internal roads	Infrastructure	2008	Municipalities Fund
Constructing concrete road shoulders.	Infrastructure	2008	ACTED
Supplying water and electricity tools and equipment	Public Services	2008	Municipalities Fund
Opening and rehabilitating agricultural roads	Agricultural	2009	PECDAR
Paving and rehabilitating internal roads	Infrastructure	2010	Kuwaiti Arab Fund
Rehabilitating agricultural roads, wells and mountain chains	Infrastructure	2010	Red Cross Society

Source: Az Zawaiya Municipality, 2012

Proposed Projects

Az Zawaiya 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 viewpoints of the participants' in the workshop:

1. Operating the health center and supplying it with a medical staff of various medical specialties, in addition to equipment and an ambulance for emergencies.
2. Rehabilitating and renewing the water network (approx. 20 km).
3. Rehabilitating the municipal stadium, and providing it with lights and grass.
4. Constructing additional classrooms in the Boys Elementary School and the Co-educated Elementary School, along with constructing a guarding fence around the later. In addition there is needed construction of a storehouse and a computer lab with all equipment in the Boys Secondary School, and rehabilitating and paving the Girls Elementary School's playground (area of 1500 square meters).
5. Expanding the structural plan of the town.
6. Constructing two new typical schools; one for boys and one for girls.
7. Maintaining and expanding the electricity network (approximately 4 km).
8. Constructing roads (7 km) and paving and rehabilitating existing roads (8 km).
9. Renovating the old town buildings and archaeological sites.
10. Creating small development projects to accommodate the town's labor force, such as sewing workshops and food processing factories.
11. Constructing a headquarters for the youth club.
12. Classifying and providing a Deed for the town territory.
13. Establishing an industrial zone in the town.
14. Establishing a dairy factory in order to create new jobs.
15. Establishing a sewage network (approximately 20 km).

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Az Zawiya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the municipal council's point of view.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Az Zawiya

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			14 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			16 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			3 km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			3 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			7 springs
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500 m ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network		*		30 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		4 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection		*		20 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill		*		
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			2 health centers
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			2 health centers
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			elementary school for boys
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			The Girls Secondary School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			computer labs
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			12,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns		*		7 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks			*	
4	Provision of Veterinary Services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals			*	
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		5 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds			*	
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies			*	

[^] 3 km main roads, 4 km secondary roads and 7 km are agricultural roads

Source: Az Zawiya Municipality, 2012

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