

Haris Village 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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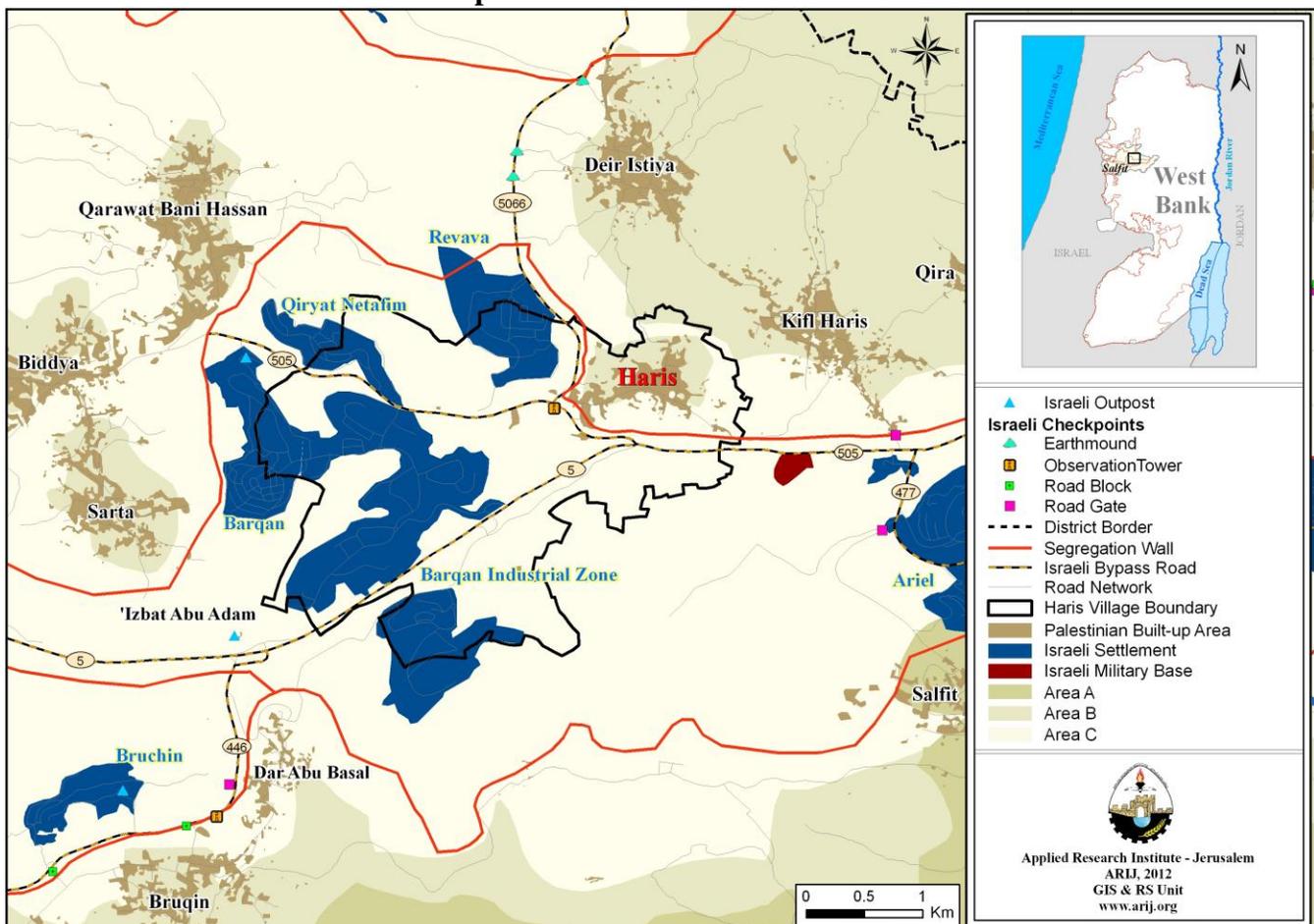
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Haris Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Haris is a Palestinian village in the Salfit Governorate located 5.11 km north-west of Salfit City. Haris is bordered by Kifl Haris town to the east, Salfit city and Bruqin town to the south, Sarta and Qarawat Bani Hassan villages to the west, and Deir Istiya town to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Haris location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Haris is located at an altitude of 486 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 630 mm. The average annual temperature is 18 C° and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 1996, Haris has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 8 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also 3 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the Joint Services Council of East Salfit. The Council however does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Haris Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Haris, including (Haris Village Council, 2012):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, road construction and restoration, and social development services.
- The organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites in the village.
- Protection of governmental properties.

History

Haris village, which literally means ‘the guard’, was named so due to a guard who was appointed to protect an ancient castle on village lands. However, people believe there was a treasure hidden within the castle, meaning the entire village was guarding this treasure located atop its hill.

The village was established 2000 years ago, which is proved by the existence of the ancient Hill Castle that was established on village territory before Christ. Most of its residents are descendent from Yemen, ‘Salt’ (Jordan) and Jamma’in town (Haris Village Council, 2012).

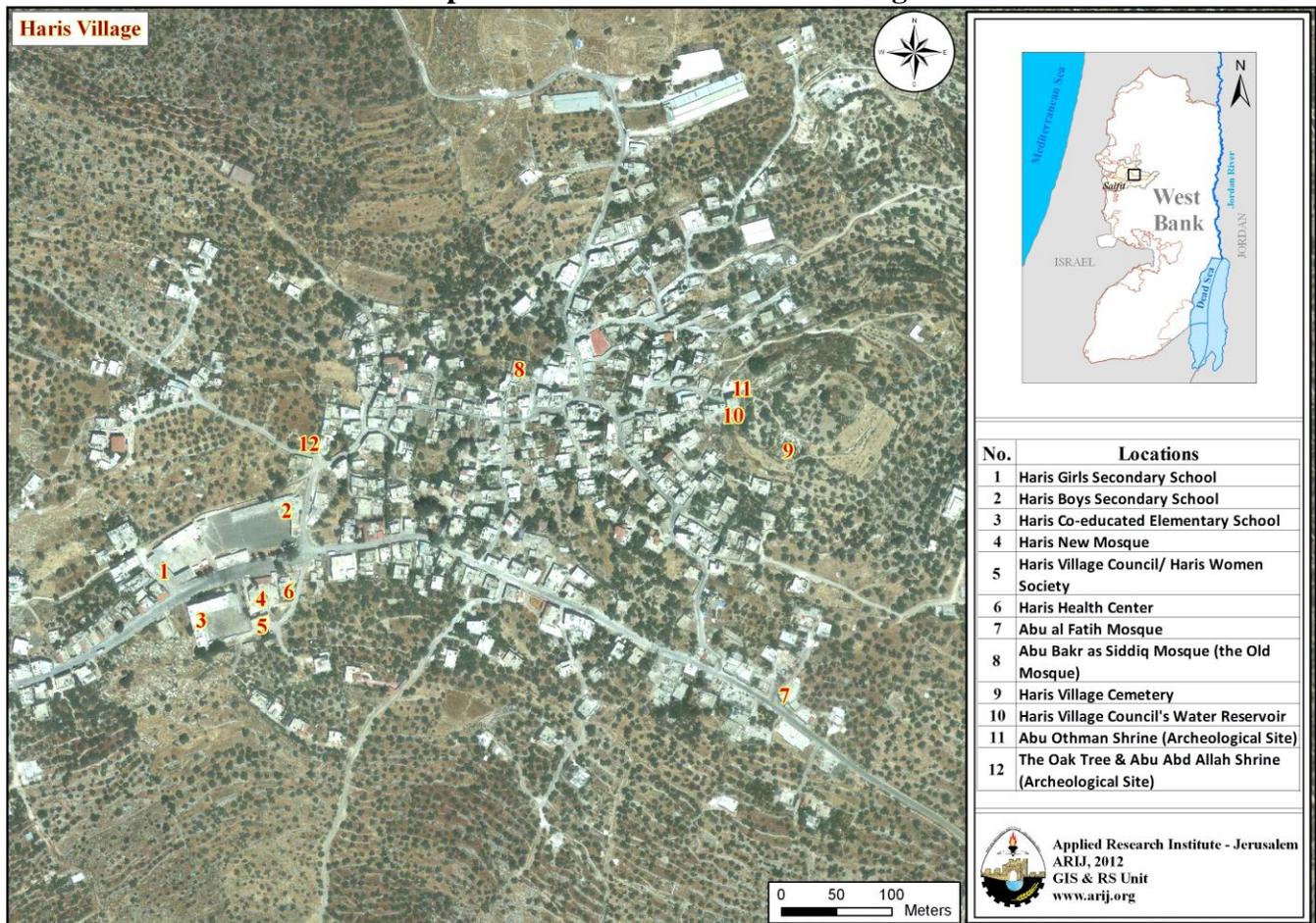
Photo of Haris



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the village; Abu al Fateh, the Old and the New Mosques. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including: the ancient Roman pools, Abu Abdullah Shrine, Abu Othman Shrine, the Omari (Old) Mosque and the Hill Castle. None of these however sites are qualified for tourism (Haris Village Council, 2012) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Haris Village



Population Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Haris in 2007 was 3,071, of whom 1,525 were male and 1,546 female. There were 534 households registered as living in 614 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 Haris is as follows: 46.5% were less than 15 years of age, 51% were between 15 and 64

years of age, and 2.4% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 98.6:100, meaning that males and females constitute 49.7% and 50.3% of the population, respectively.

Families

Haris residents are from several families, including Shamlawi, Daoud, Alsofi, Sultan, Qasem, Kaleeb, Salamah, 'Attallah, 'Awwad, Ash Shayeb, Sabbagh, 'Athamla and Jaber families (Haris Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Haris population is approximately 4.8%, of whom 73% are females. Of the literate population, 13.1% could only read and write, with no formal education, 26.1% had elementary education, 30.6% had preparatory education, 16.5% had secondary education, and 8.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Haris by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Haris 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	27	125	259	308	191	52	60	2	4	0	2	1,030
F	73	150	289	335	156	26	35	0	1	0	3	1,068
T	100	275	548	643	347	78	95	2	5	0	5	2,098

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Haris Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Haris Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Haris Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

In the village there are 1,020 students, 64 teachers, and 39 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 26 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

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

Table 3: Kindergartens in Haris village by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Haris Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Birds of Paradise (Tuyoor al Jannah) Kindergarten	2	3	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

The educational sector in Haris village faces a number of obstacles, mainly (Haris Village Council, 2012):

1. The lack of qualified teaching staff.
2. The lack of a sufficient number of teachers available in schools.
3. The lack of teachers with different specialties.
4. The need for an elementary boys' school.
5. The occupation forces harassments represented in hindering the access of students into schools.
6. The existence of some partial checkpoints and a military tower on the village entrance which also hinders students' access into schools.

Health Status

Haris has one governmental health center, a governmental general physician clinic 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 (15 km away) (Haris Village Council, 2012).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (Haris Village Council, 2012):

- The lack of medical laboratory in the health center.
- The lack of a resident physician to work daily in the health center.
- The lack of a physician to work night shifts at the health center.
- The lack of an ambulance.

Economic Activities

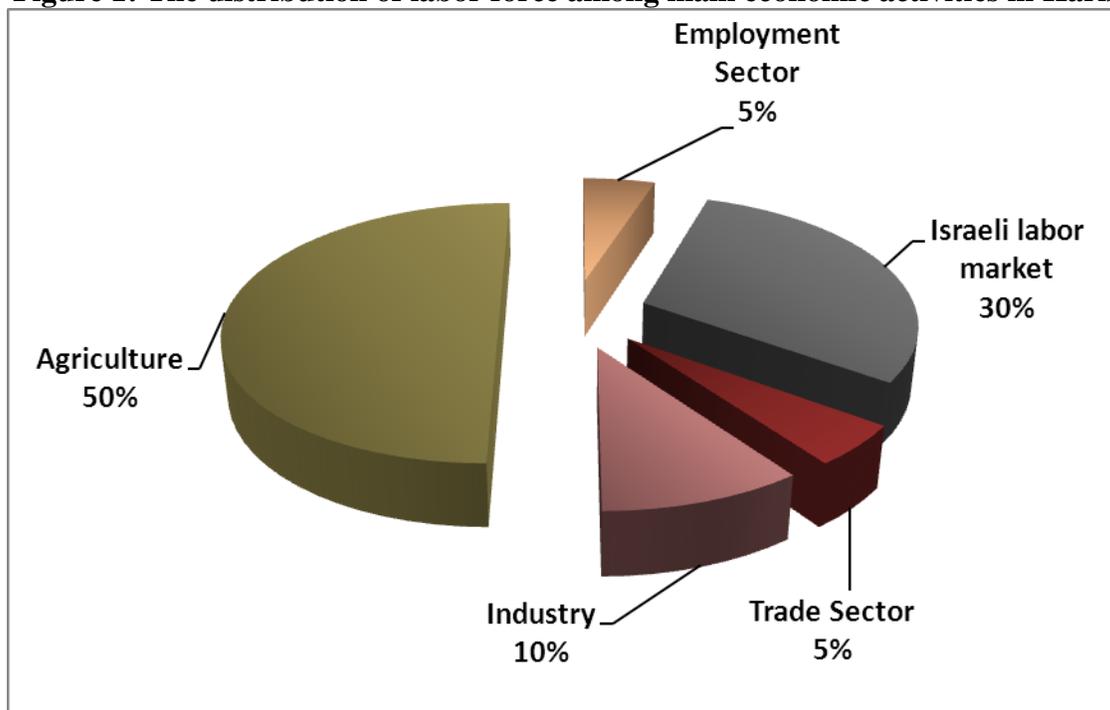
The economy in Haris is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector which absorbs 50% of the village's workforce (Haris Village Council, 2012) (See Figure 1).

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

- Agriculture sector (50%)
- Israeli labor market (30%)
- Industry (10%)

- Trade sector (5%)
- Government or other employees sector (5%)

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



Source: Haris Village Council, 2012

Haris has 3 groceries, 6 fruits and vegetable stores, a bakery, a butcher, 3 service stores, 6 different professional workshops and an agricultural nursery (Haris Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Haris reached 40% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Haris Village Council, 2012):

- Agricultural workers.
- Labor force workers.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.9% of Haris’s labor force was economically active, of whom 80.8% were employed, 68.8% were not economically active, 56.7% were students, and 35.5% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Haris 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	471	61	61	593	368	2	53	6	7	436	1	1,030
F	54	0	2	56	451	510	47	0	0	1,008	4	1,068
T	525	61	63	649	819	512	100	6	7	1,444	5	2,098

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

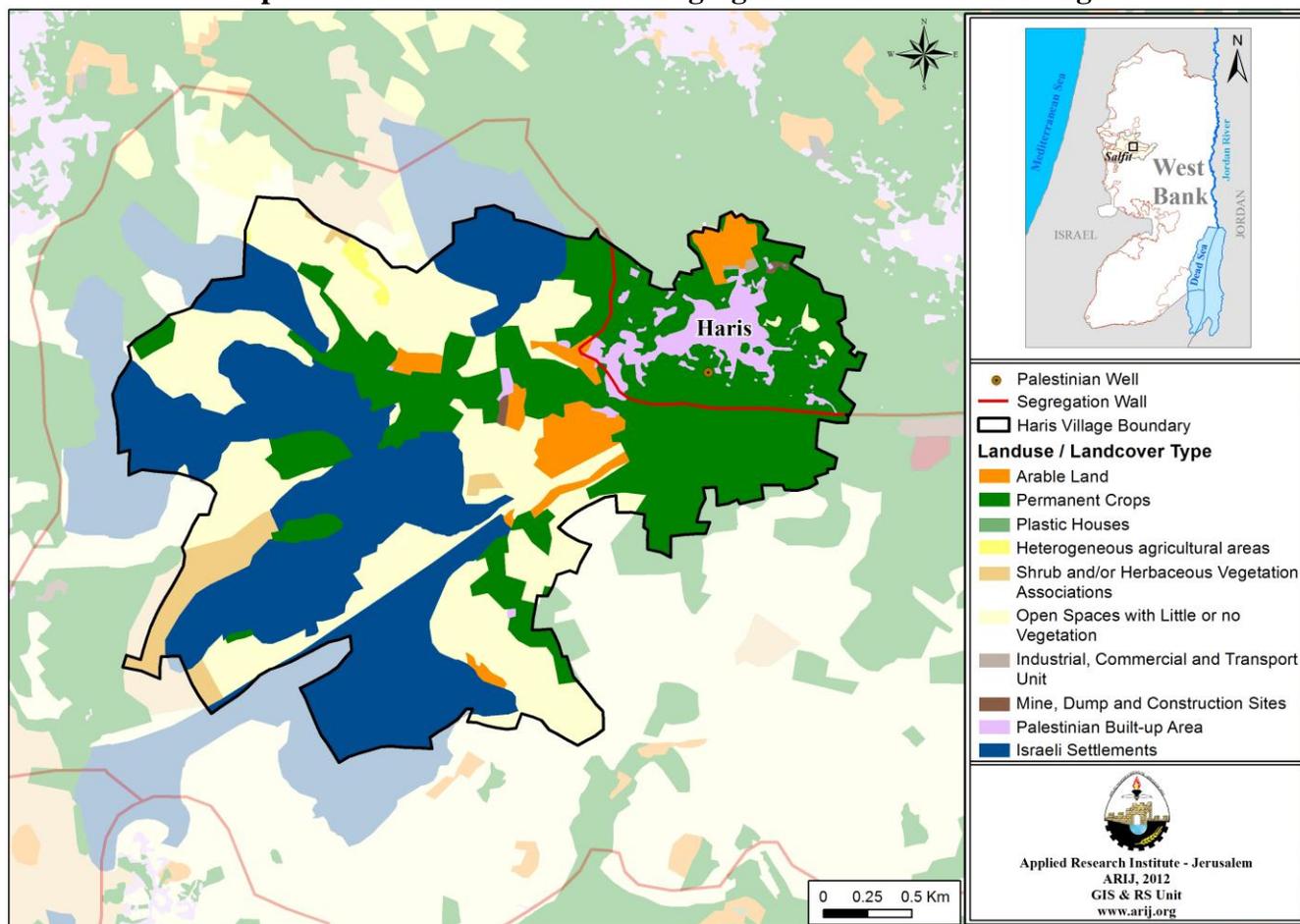
Haris has a total area of approximately 8,446 dunums of which 3,079 are 'arable' land and 301 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Haris village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (3,079)				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					
8,446	301	2,485	0	239	355	0	0	2,235	19	2,812

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Haris. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are tomatoes and snakecucumber.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Haris (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.
11	20.5	0	9	0	7	0	2	0	0	11	38.5

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Haris is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2,510 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Haris (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.
2,510	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	2,598	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Haris, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of around 65 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Haris (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.
65	0	13	0	20	0	1	0	19	0	0	0	9	0	127	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 (MoA) 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 MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey using a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas and 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.

ARIJ's field survey shows that just 4% of the residents in Haris rear and keeps domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Haris

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
2	287	-	88,000	216

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There are approximately 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Haris Village Council, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Haris Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	-
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	3

Source: Haris Village Council, 2012

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including (Haris Village Council, 2012):

- The lack of farmers' experience.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The difficulty in marketing agricultural products.
- The problem of taxes and of the Israeli siege of Palestinian lands.

- The confiscation of agricultural lands by the occupation forces in addition to the difficulty in accessing a large part of them.
- The lack of water resources.
-

Institutions and Services

Haris village has no governmental institutions but a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Haris Village Council, 2012):

- **Haris Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of the village issues and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **Haris Women Society:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of Interior. The Society is interested in women through organizing various courses and providing different services in several health awareness fields.
- **Ikhlas (Loyalty) Charitable Society:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Interior. The Society organizes summer camps and medical service days through a public clinic in the village. It further organizes health education courses, voluntary works, distribution of food baskets and others.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Haris has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982. It is served by the Israeli 'Qatariya Electricity Company,' which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 90% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. Village residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily the weak electrical current, the poor electrical power and the network's need for expansion (Haris Village Council, 2012).

Haris is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 60% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Haris Village Council, 2012).

Transportation Services:

There are 3 taxis in Haris. However, residents suffer from the lack of vehicles in the village to serve all travel needs in addition to impediments caused by the existence of earth mounds and military checkpoints on roads. Due to the lack of public vehicles, residents use their own private cars (Haris Village Council, 2012). There are 8 km of main roads and 2 km of secondary roads in Haris (Haris Village Council, 2012) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Haris village

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

Source: Haris Village Council, 2012

Water Resources:

Haris is provided with water by the ‘West Bank Water Department’ through the public water network established in 1981 and approximately 90% of the housing units are connected to the water network (Haris Village Council, 2012)

In 2010, the quantity of water supplied to Haris village was recorded at approximately 120,000 cubic meters/year (Haris Village Council, 2012). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 97 liters/day. However, no Haris 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 Haris is 76 liters per day (Haris Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Haris 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 5 NIS (Haris Village Council, 2012).

The village has an underground well which is not being used due to the Israeli opposition (Haris Village Council, 2012). Moreover, located in the village is a public water reservoir with a capacity of 300 cubic meters in addition to 50 individual domestic rainwater harvesting cisterns (Haris Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 205 cubic meters, or 74,880 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 61 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 East Salfit’ 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 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 70% of these are collected from the citizens (Haris Village Council, 2012)

Most of the population in Haris benefits from solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 40 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the village's dumping site, located 15 km from the village, where it is subsequently burnt (Haris Village Council, 2012). This represents an unhealthy and environmentally unsound means of solid waste disposal

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Haris is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated total amount of solid waste produced per day from all Haris residents is nearly 2.4 tons, or 863 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Haris 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 village 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.
 3. Approximately 10% of houses have no access to the water network.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Haris 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 village. 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 as well as the environment.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Haris and other neighboring communities in the Governorate is mainly due 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 (Oslo Accords II) and under therefore under Israeli administrative and civil 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 both groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces both bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation**Geopolitical status in Haris**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Haris was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 523 dunums (6% of the village’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. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 7,923 dunums (94% 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 “C” are agricultural areas, open spaces, Palestinian built-up areas and lands confiscated for Israeli settlements.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Haris – Salfit Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	523	6
Area C	7,923	94
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	8,446	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Practices in Haris Village

Haris village 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 village 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 Haris village territories.

During their occupation of the Palestinian territories, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) confiscated 2,811 dunums (33%) in Haris to establish 4 Israeli settlements: Barqan industrial Zone, Revava, Qiryat Netafim and Barqan, all located on the village western lands to be separated from Haris village by the Segregation Wall planned in the village, in addition to the bypass roads surrounding the village. The four settlements are currently inhabited by approx. 3,106 Israeli settlers (See Table 13).

Table 13: Israeli settlements established on lands of Haris village

Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Lands confiscated from Haris village	Population
Barqan industrial Zone	1981	2,124	-
Barqan	1981	201	1,359
Revava	1991	304	1,113
Qiryat Netafim	1982	183	634
Total		2,811	3,106

Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ, 2013

Israeli settlers living in settlements established on Haris lands have had a significant impact on Palestinians and their properties in Haris village, represented in a series of violent and aggressive attacks. These attacks have contributed to the loss of Palestinian lands adjacent to settlements as landowners are prevented from accessing their plots, which have been fenced in with barbed wire and planted with trees¹. Israeli settlers have also carried out a series of attacks² against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate them and deter them from returning to their lands adjacent to the aforementioned settlements.

¹ ARIJ field team

² Setting 12 dunums of Palestinian lands ablaze in Haris village

http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=5178

Following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, Israeli occupation authorities established two Israeli military checkpoints on Haris village's western entrance which are represented as a military observation tower and an iron gate. The gate is currently open to village residents but is often sporadically closed due to security matters, which causes uncertainty and disrupted travel of village citizens. However, the village has another entrance to the east through Kifl Haris town entrance, on which an iron gate and observation tower are established. The village is considered a prison with two iron gates and two observation towers on its eastern and western entrances, which can be closed at any time to Palestinians residents.

Moreover, following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities established a military checkpoint on the northern entrance of Salfit city, which is represented as an iron gate established near the western entrance of Ariel settlement. Closing the northern entrance of Salfit city has had a negative impact on Palestinians lives during the last decade, as it restricts their freedom of movement and connection with villages north of Salfit and the rest of the West Bank. This has caused numerous material losses for Palestinians and increased economic burden, as they are forced to use longer distances in order to reach villages in the north. The closure of this checkpoint was carried out under the pretext of protecting settlers in Ariel settlement in addition to other nearby settlements. This checkpoint represents a part of the Segregation Plan adopted by the occupation forces through the establishment of settlements, annexing them through the Segregation Wall into the 'Western Segregation Zone'³ and changing Palestinians' movement through the establishment of military checkpoints on roads. The checkpoint north of Salfit was closed to Palestinians for more than 10 years and was recently partially opened (during 2011) for public vehicles only (taxis and buses), while private cars are still forbidden to cross it. Due to the closure of this main entrance to Salfit city and its neighboring villages, citizens started using the eastern entrance of the city which passes through Yasuf and Iskaka villages, then to Salfit city. However, the citizens are forced to cross through another military checkpoint that is considered a main feature of the Palestinian daily suffering. The checkpoint is called "Za'tara" (Kfar Taffuh) military checkpoint which separates north of the West Bank from its center.

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. This has been carried out in order to link Israeli settlements, dismember Palestinian lands and enhance security control over it. Israel has additionally confiscated lands from Haris, to the south and west for the construction of Israeli bypass road no. 5 (known as "Samria Crossing"), road no. 505 and no. 5066; all of which extend for 8.6 km on the village's land. These roads surrounding Haris village suffocate the village, confining it to 15% of its total area. These bypass roads have separated it from extended agricultural lands and promoted a racial segregation plan between Arab and Jewish communities. 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 Haris Village

³ The Western Segregation Wall: the area located between the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line) and the route of the Israeli Segregation Wall as set by the latest Israeli Segregation Wall Map published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense Web Site on April 2007. This area, which is a home to 66 Palestinian communities (more than 300 thousand Palestinians), is to become annexed to Israel upon the Wall completion.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Haris residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website in 2007, shows that the Wall planned to be constructed on Haris village southern and western lands, will confiscates 7,274 dunums (86%) of the village's total area and isolates most of the village lands for Israeli settlement activities. The majority of lands planned to be isolated by the Wall includes Israeli settlement established on the village lands in addition to agricultural areas and open spaces (See Table 14).

Table 14: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Haris Village – Salfit Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Israeli Settlements	2,811
2	Open Spaces	2,220
3	Agricultural Areas	1,966
4	Shrubs and Herbaceous Vegetation	239
5	Palestinian Built-up Area	31
6	Construction Sites	7
Total		7,274
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

Upon the completion of the Segregation Wall plan, the planned Segregation Wall will isolate most of Haris village's land, representing mainly fertile agricultural lands filled with trees. This will threaten the future agricultural and economic situation of the Palestinian population in the region, and will include many Israeli settlements within the Wall area known as the "Ariel Finger"⁴ scheme. This will lead to the isolation of Haris village from Salfit city and villages south and west of Salfit, as this plan aims to dismember Palestinian land, restricting the movement of the Palestinian population and confiscating and isolating more agricultural and non-agricultural lands for Israeli settlement purposes.

- One should also note that Salfit Governorate villages 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 the being the second Governorate after Jerusalem in terms of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction (ARIJ-UMD, 2012).

Israeli Military Orders Issued in Haris Village

⁴ The 'Ariel finger' penetrates deep inside the northern part of the West Bank, on lands of Salfit Governorate, about 22 km east of the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line), (ARIJ GIS, 2012). The Israeli updated Wall map of April, 2007 which was published on the [Israeli Ministry of Defense website](#) showed that the Wall around Ariel bloc will annex 21 Israeli settlements to Israel proper, at the same time, it will isolate more than 10 Palestinian communities from the center of life in Salfit city and the nearby Palestinian villages.

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders and notifications to confiscate lands or halt construction in Haris:

- Israeli Military Order No. 11/11/T: Issued on January 16, 2012 and confiscated a total area of 21.3 dunums of lands in Haris, Sarta and Qarawat Bani Hassan for military purposes.
- Israeli Military Order under the "law of land acquisition for public projects," No. 321: Issued on May 1, 2005, and confiscated a total area of 400 square meters of lands in Haris village for the purpose of establishing a military observation tower.
- A series of Israeli military orders (13 military order of which are given as an example below) holding the following numbers: No. (146145), (147354), (147356), (147357), (147359), (147385), (147386), (147387), (147388), (147389), (147390), (147391) and (147392): all of which were issued between 2010 and 2012 requiring a halt in construction works on a group of buildings, most of which are houses for citizens in Haris village. These orders came on the pretext of not obtaining a building permit from the Israeli authorities and also due to its presence in Area C locations.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Haris Village Council has implemented several development projects in Haris during the past five years (See Table 15).

Table 15: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Haris during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing additional classrooms in Haris Girls' Secondary School	Educational	2010	Ministry of Finance
Constructing additional classrooms in Haris Co-educated Elementary School	Educational	2011	Islamic Bank
Rehabilitating part of the main road	Infrastructure	2011	CHF

Source: Haris Village Council, 2012

Proposed Projects

Haris 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 viewpoints of the participants' in the workshop:

1. Expanding the village's structural plan.
2. Establishing a sewerage network (approx. 8 km).
3. Increasing the electric power in the village and expanding the network by approx. 3 km.
4. Installing prepaid meters to the public water network, maintaining the available water reservoir and expanding the water network by approx. 6 km.
5. Providing a fund for the construction of a boys' secondary school f (the required land and all legal procedures are available and ready).
6. Constructing, rehabilitating and paving secondary and agricultural roads.
7. Constructing a youth club headquarters and a women's center to accommodate young people in the village.
8. Reclaiming agricultural lands of area not less than approx. 500 dunums.
9. Constructing an advanced health center and providing it with an ambulance in addition to all needed equipment and devices.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Haris suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's point of view.

Table 16: Development Priorities and Needs in Haris

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			6 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			5 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			2 km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			5 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		3 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			50 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste		*		1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			a health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			a health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			secondary school for boys
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			the Girls Secondary School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			all schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			1000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			70 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			20 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			200 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 2 km main roads, 2 km secondary roads and 2 km are agricultural roads

Source: Haris Village Council, 2012

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