

Sarta Village Profile (including ‘Izbat Abu Adam Locality)



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2013

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, 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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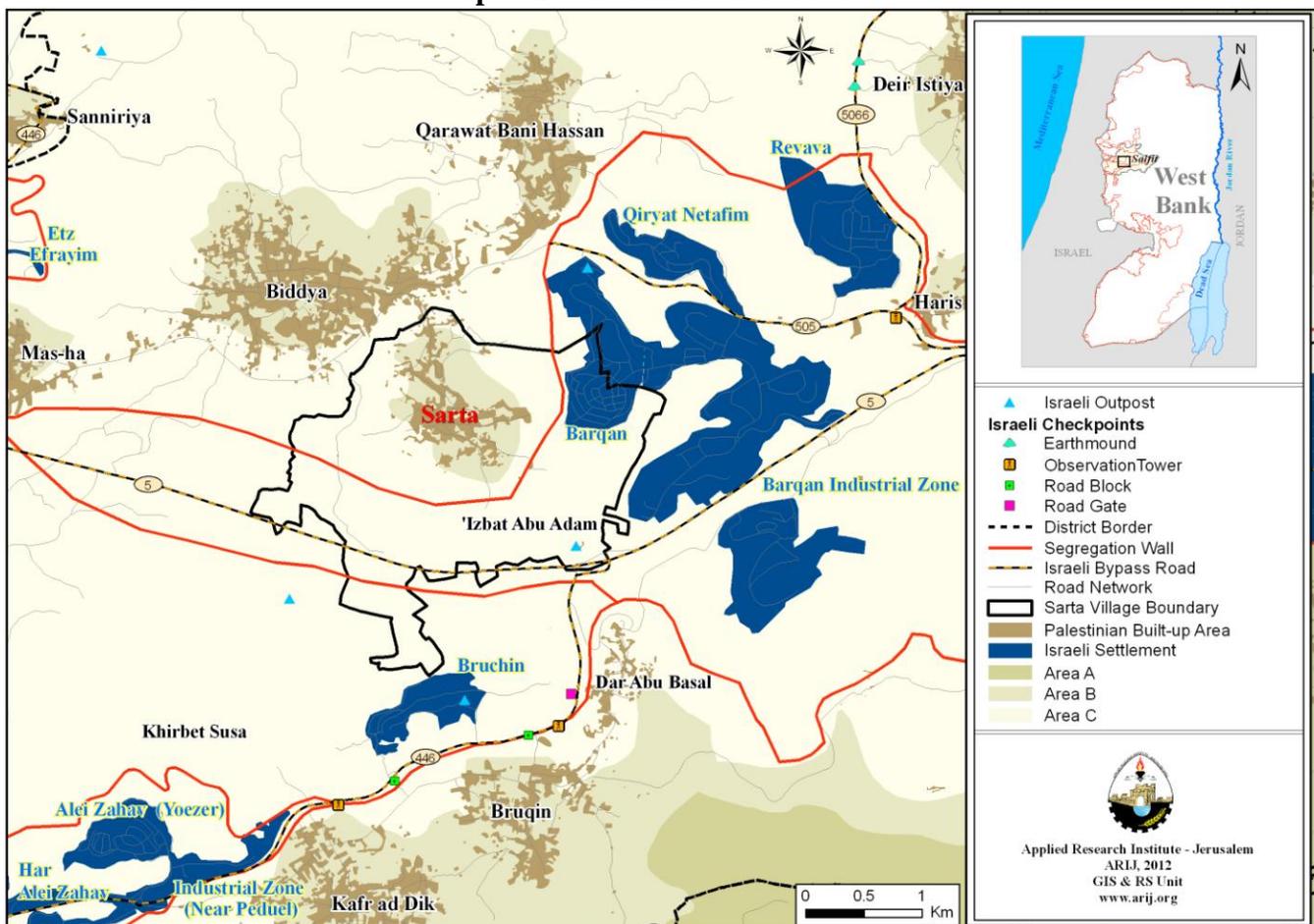
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Sarta Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Sarta is a Palestinian village in the Salfit Governorate located 8.8 km west of Salfit City. Sarta is bordered by Haris village to the east, Bruqin town to the south, Biddya town to the west, and Qarawat Bani Hassan town to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Sarta location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Sarta is located at an altitude of 376 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 612.9 mm. The average annual temperature is 18 C° and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

While ‘Izbat Abu Adam, which is located within Sarta village boundaries, is located at an altitude of 414 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 615.6 mm. The average annual temperature is 18 C° and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 1996, Sarta has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 6 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. Furthermore, there are 5 staff members working in the permanent headquarter, which is included within the Joint Service Council of West Salfit (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

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

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Provision of kindergartens.

History

is The name “Sarta” derived from the Syriac word “Sart” which means *fear* or *isolation*, referring to an isolated or cold place.

The village was established in 1396 A.D. Its residents however are originally from the Hijaziya homes, descendants of Abdullah ben Omar ben al Khattab, as the villages’ family tree meets with Qatanna villages’ (in Jerusalem Governorate) family tree (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

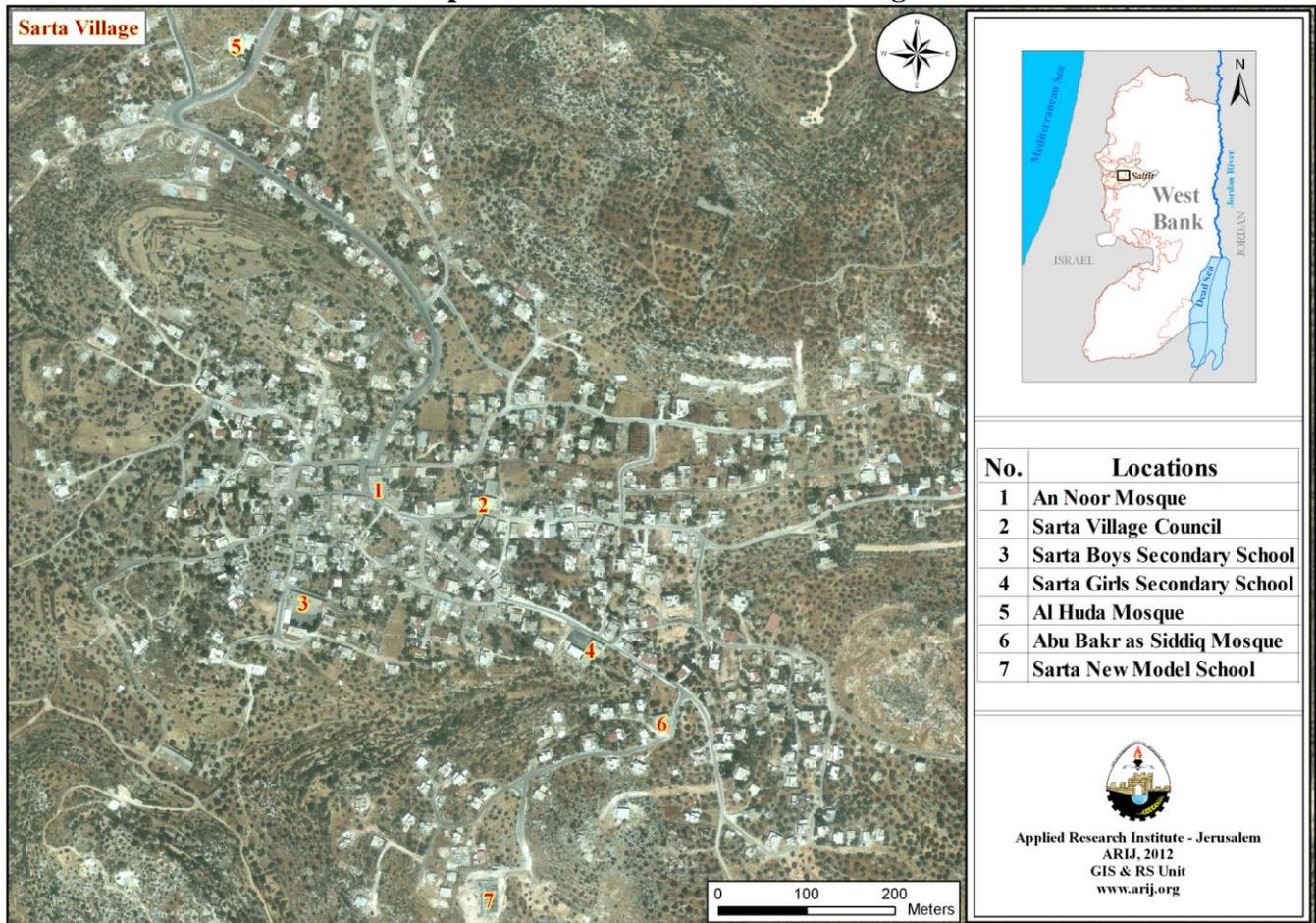
Photo of Sarta



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the village (An Noor, Al Huda and As Siddiq Mosque). The village also has several sites of archaeological interest including: Ash Sheikh Abdullah Area, An Nawamees Area, the Omari (Old) Mosque and the Hill. None of these sites are qualified for tourism as indicated by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Sarta Village Council, 2012) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Sarta Village



Population Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Population¹

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Sarta in 2007 was 2,509, of whom 1,330 were male and 1,179 female. There are 467 households distributed to 517 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender²

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Sarta is as follows: 43.4% were less than 15 years of age, 54.1% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.6% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males and females in the village is 112.8:100, meaning that the gender distribution in the village is 53% to 47%.

¹ These data include both of Sarta village and ‘Izbat Abu Adam locality

² These data include both of Sarta village and ‘Izbat Abu Adam locality

Families

Sarta residents are from several families, including Sarsoor, Salah, Khatib, Muslih and Salih families (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

Education³

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Sartas population is approximately 6.7%, of whom 72.6% are females. Of the literate population, 17% with no formal education can write and read, 26.9% had elementary education, 26.1% had preparatory education, 14.5% had secondary education, and 8.8% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Sarta by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Sarta population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment (2007)⁴

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	32	171	262	237	133	23	63	1	9	3	0	934
F	85	126	209	221	122	8	47	0	0	1	0	819
T	117	297	471	458	255	31	110	1	9	4	0	1,753

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village (both run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education) (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (see Table 2), and a Quran school, known as the Holy Quran House (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Sarta Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Sarta Boys Secondary School	Government	Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

In the village there are 795 students, 55 teachers, and 34 classes. The average number of students per teacher is nearly 14, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 23 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

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

³ These data include both of Sarta village and 'Izbat Abu Adam locality

⁴ These data include both of Sarta village and 'Izbat Abu Adam locality

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

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Ruwwad al Mustaqbal Kindergarten	2	3	Private
Bara'em al Amal Kindergarten	2	2	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

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

- The lack of teachers.
- The lack of classrooms.
- The small area of sports fields and the lack of scientific laboratories in the village schools.
- The lack of desks in the classrooms.

Health Status

Sarta has one governmental health center, a mother and child care center, a private 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 (20 km away) or to the Medical Scientific Society in Biddya town (2 km away) (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

An overview of the main obstacles and problems in the village's health sector, gives the following list:

- The lack of a permanent headquarter with health standards and specifications for Sarta health center, approved by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, which could absorb more patients and share burdens.
- The lack of a resident physician who works seven days a week in the health center (the available physician works only two days a week).
- The permanent shortage of medicines for patients, particularly for those suffering from chronic diseases.
- The lack of an ambulance.

Economic Activities

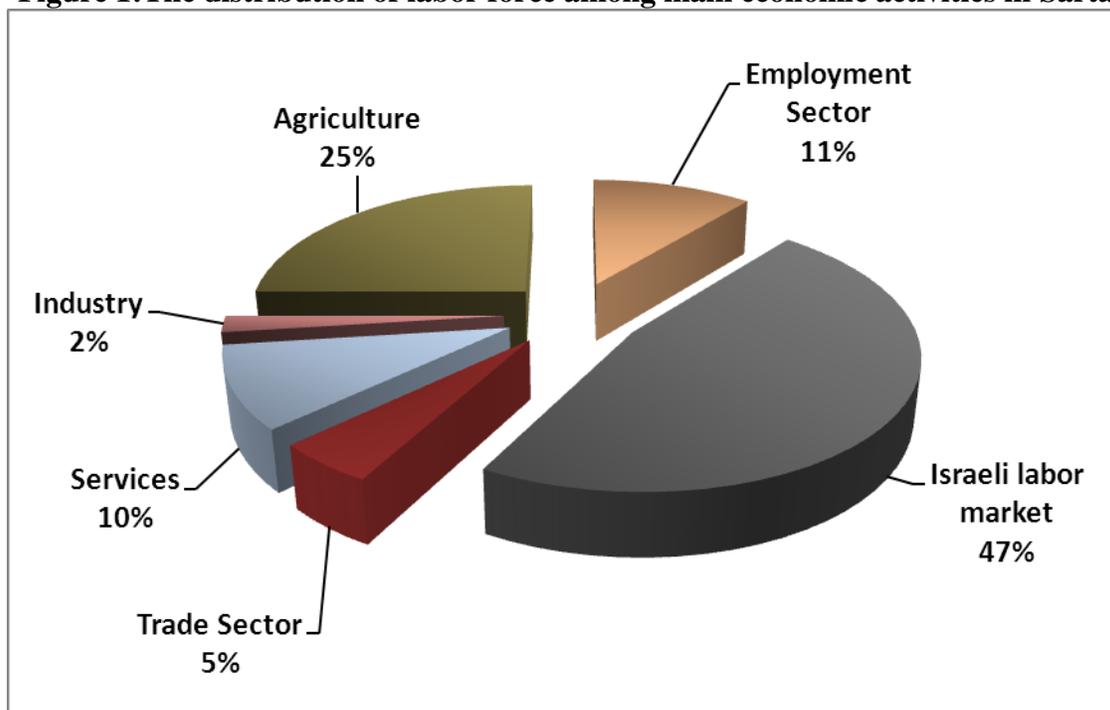
The economy in Sarta mainly depends on the Israeli labor market which absorbs 47% of the village's workforce (Sarta Village Council, 2012) (See Figure 1).

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

- Israeli Labor Market (47%)
- Agriculture Sector (25%)

- Government or Other Employees Sector (11%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Trade Sector (5%)
- Industry (2%)

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



Source: Sarta Village Council, 2012

Sarta has 1 grocery, 5 fruit and vegetable stores, 3 service stores, 3 different professional workshops, 1 olive oil-press, 4 stone cutters and 6 stone crushers and quarries (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Sarta reached 10% in 2012. The groups whose economic situation has been especially affected by the Israeli restrictions are (Sarta Village Council, 2012):

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Labor force workers.

Labor Force⁵

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 32.9% of Sarta labor force was economically active, of whom 85.2% were employed, 67.1% were not economically active, 56.4% were students, and 34.7% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Sarta population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status, 2007⁶

⁵ These data include both of Sarta village and ‘Izbat Abu Adam locality

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	456	55	16	527	350	0	50	3	4	407	0	934
F	36	2	12	50	313	408	39	4	5	769	0	819
T	492	57	28	577	663	408	89	7	9	1,176	0	1,753

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

Sarta has a total area of around 5,617 dunums of which 4,174 dunums are 'arable' land and 376 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

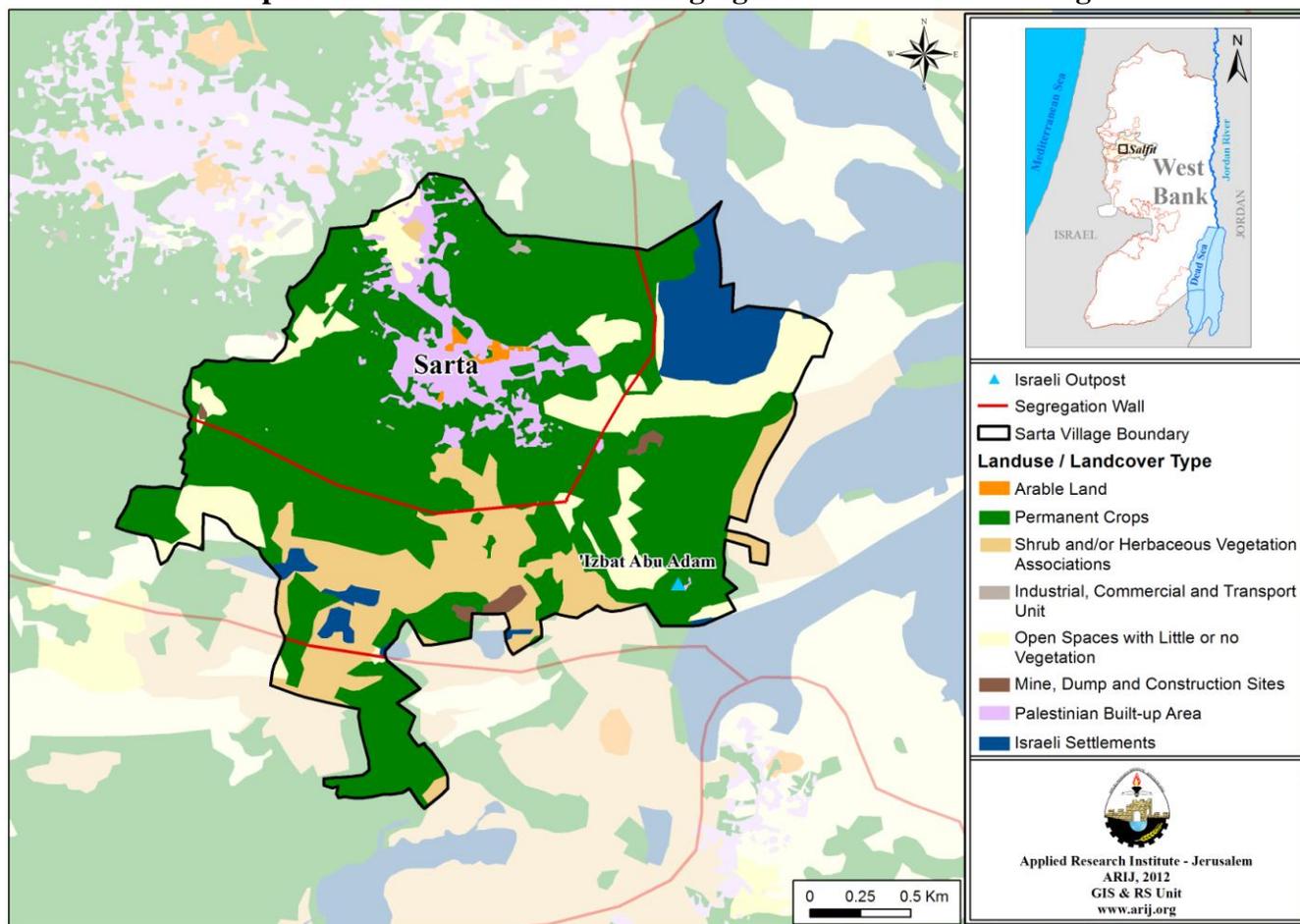
Table 5: Land use and land cover in Sarta village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (4,174)				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					
5,616	376	3,386	0	768	20	0	0	672	42	353

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

⁶ These data include both of Sarta village and 'Izbat Abu Adam locality

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Sarta. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are tomatoes, jew’s melon and green beans.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Sarta (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.
10	22	0	11	0	6	0	2	0	0	10	41

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Sarta is famous for olive cultivation; there are approximately 3,850 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Sarta (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.
3,850	0	0	0	82	0	0	0	0	0	95	0	4,027	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated in Sarta, covering an area of about 60 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Sarta (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.
60	0	9	0	21	0	1	0	15	0	0	0	10	0	116	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows, that just 6% of the residents in Sarta rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Sarta

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
-	704	-	7,000	124

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There approximately 15 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Sarta Village Council, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Sarta Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	8
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	7
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	-

Source: Sarta Village Council, 2012

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

- The lack of expertise among farmers.
- The high prices of water and the lack of water resources.
- The difficulty marketing agricultural products and the lack of available markets for these products, mainly for olive oil.
- The lack of capital for farmers in the absence of real and sufficient support by donors.
- The confiscations of lands by the Israeli occupation and settlers.
- Residents resort to work inside the Green Line and the settlements, causing the neglect and the lack of attention to lands.

Institutions and Services

Sarta village has a post office division in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Sarta Village Council, 2012):

- **Sarta Village Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim to take care of the village issues and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **Sarta Cultural Center:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Local Government. The Center is administrated by the Village Council and is interested in providing cultural and scientific services to students and citizens.
- **Sarta Sports Club:** Founded in 1998 it was registered later by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, with the goal of providing young people with various sports activities.
- **Sarta Alumni Society:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Culture, the Alumni Society is interested in graduates of the village, as it organizes assisting education courses for secondary school students, cultural seminars and various scientific competitions.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Sarta has been connected to a public electricity network since 1984. It is provided by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village and approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily because of the weak electric current as the Israelis refuse to increase the electricity power, the lack of transformers; only one is available serving all of village facilities, and the high costs of electricity compared with neighboring localities (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

Sarta is also connected to a telecommunication network of which approximately 60% of the housing units are connected to (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

Transportation Services:

There are 4 taxis in addition to 7 illegal/unlicensed cars in Sarta. However, residents suffer from the lack of vehicles in the village to serve them, thus, they use their own cars for transportations (Sarta Village Council, 2012). There are 9.5 km of main roads and 8 km of secondary roads in Sarta (Sarta Village Council, 2012) (See Table 11).

Table 1: Roads in Sarta Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	2.5	3
Paved but in poor condition	2	2
Unpaved	5	3

Source: Sarta Village Council, 2012

Water Resources:

Sarta is provided with water by the 'West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1984. All housing units are connected to the water network (Sarta Village Council, 2012)

The quantity of water supplied to Sarta village in 2010 was recorded at approximately 108,000 cubic meters/year (Sarta Village Council, 2012). Therefore, the rate of water supply per capita can be estimated at approximately 108 liters/day. However, due to the massive water losses of 22% (PWA, 2010), no Sarta citizen consumes this amount of water. The main source of the water losses can be found at major transport lines as well as at the household level and the distribution networks. Hence, the rate of water consumption per capita in Sarta is 84 liters per day (Sarta Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Sarta 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 (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

The village has a public water reservoir with a capacity of 300 cubic meters in addition to 110 household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Sarta Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 184 cubic meters, or 67,392 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 67 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. It should be noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites which poses a serious threat to the environment and the public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council of West Salfit, generated by citizens and establishments in the village, is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 10 NIS/ month is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. 90% of these fees are collected from the

citizens, while the rest of fees (10%) are covered from the Village Council's budget (Sarta Village Council, 2012)

Most of the citizens in Sarta benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 70 containers (of 1.5m³ 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, 1 km from Sarta, where it is subsequently burnt (Sarta Village Council, 2012)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Sarta is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Sarta residents is nearly 1.9 tons, or 701 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Sarta 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.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Sarta 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 and the environment.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Sarta 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 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 resulted from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

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

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Sarta (including 'Izbat Abu Adam) was divided into areas "B" and "C". Approximately 946 dunums (16.8% 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. It is worth noting that most of the village's population resides in area B which constitutes a small part compared to the village's total area. The rest of the village's area, constituting 4,670 dunums (83.2% 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 area "C" are agricultural areas, Israeli settlements and shrubs.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Sarta – Salfit Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	946	16.8
Area C	4,670	83.2
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	5,616	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Practices in Sarta Village

Sarta village has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the village territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan realized through the Segregation Wall. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of Sarta village territories:

Throughout the years of occupation, Israel has confiscated 353 dunums in Sarta to establish “Barqan” settlement east of the village. The settlement was established in 1981 and is currently inhabited by 1,360 Israeli settlers.

Israeli settlers, living in the settlements established on Sarta lands, have had a significant impact on Palestinians and their properties in the village. 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 trees. Adjacent to the aforementioned settlements, Israeli settlers have also carried out a series of attacks against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate them and deter them from returning to their lands. According to the data provided by Sarta Village Council, the last of these attacks was on June 10, 2009, as settlers from "Barqan" settlement, guarded by the Israeli occupation forces, started expansion works in their colony through razing approximately 290 dunums of agricultural lands planted with olive trees, which are owned by citizens of the village.

Furthermore Sarta village experiences environmental damages caused by pumping waste water and water from factories located in “Barqan” industrial settlement which is neighboring the village from the eastern side. In this settlement are located several factories, such as plastic and oil factories, resulting in damages to the agricultural land and the spread of insects and unpleasant odors, all causing many diseases.

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 Sarta, to the south, for the construction of the Israeli bypass roads no. 5 and no. 466; both of which extend for 1.6 km on the village’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 Sarta Village

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan had a negative and destructive impact on Sarta residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website in 2007, shows that the planned Wall on Sarta village southern lands, will confiscate 2,807 dunums (50%) of the village's total area and will isolate more lands for Israeli settlement activities. Through this Wall Plan, Israel seeks to include six Israeli settlements from Ariel settlements bloc to its territory which is often referred to as the "Ariel Finger". The majority of lands, which are isolated upon the completion of the Wall, include agricultural areas and Israeli settlements established on the village lands, in addition to shrubs and herbaceous vegetation and open spaces (See Table 13).

Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Sarta Village – Salfit Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Agricultural Areas	1,369
2	Shrubs and Herbaceous Vegetation	615
3	Open Spaces	433
4	Israeli Settlements	355
5	Construction Sites	34
6	Palestinian Built-up Area	1
Total		2,807
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

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 in terms of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction (ARIJ-UMD, 2012).

Military Orders Issued in Sarta Village

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

- **Israeli Military Order No. 11/11/T:** Issued on January 16th 2012, the order implies the confiscation of 21.3 dunums of lands in Sarta, Haris and Qarawat Bani Hassan for military purposes and establishing a fence around Barqan Israeli settlement which is located within Ariel settlements bloc. The occupation authorities have given people of Sarta, Qarawat Bani Hassan and Haris villages only 10 days, starting from the issuance date of the Israeli military order, to object to the Israeli DCO 'Ephraim' in Ma'ale Efrayim settlement. The Israeli military order targeted the following areas: Haris village (Basin No. 2: Khallit Hadida site), Qarawat Bani Hassan (Basin No. 3, Sariba site) and Sarta village (Basin No. 2, Najih ash Shami site). It is worth noting that the inhabitants of Sarta, Qarawat Bani Hassan and Haris villages did not receive the Israeli Military Order No. (11/11/T) until the 23rd of February 2012; meaning that the residents received the order forty-two days after its issuance date, hence, the 10 days period they were given as their right to object against the military order in the Israeli DCL (Efrayim) in Ma'ale Efrayim settlement was ended. An analysis of the Israeli order military (11/11/T) and the attached aerial photos, showed that in addition to the wall that is being built around Ariel Israeli settlements bloc, which upon its completion will include each of Ariel, Barqan, Qiryat Netafim, Revava, Barqan industrial zone and the industrial zone west of Ariel settlement to Israel, Israel is seeking to build a security fence around Barqan settlement to provide more protection for this settlement which was illegally established on Palestinian land. It is worth noting that a heavy fence, composed of barbed wires and is identical to the planned security fence shown in the Israeli aerial maps, which are attached with the military order, is currently surrounding Barqan Israeli settlement, which indicates that the issued Israeli military order came to legitimize what has been previously confiscated illegally from the territory of the Palestinian villages mentioned above (Sarta, Qarawat Bani Hassan and Haris), without giving attention to the harm caused by the Israeli confiscations of Palestinian land to their owners.
- **The Israeli Military Order No. 176/05/T,** was issued on October 31st in 2005, implying to confiscate a total area of 10 dunums of land in Sarta, Haris and Bruqin villages for military purposes. As a continuation of the policy of confiscation of Palestinian land in Sarta village, the Israeli occupation authorities handed out military notifications to inhabitants of Sarta, Haris and Bruqin villages, that included continuing the seizure of land in these villages (10 dunums), which had been confiscated in 2005 in favor of establishing a section of the Racial Segregation Wall in the vicinity of Barqan industrial settlement. However, since the work on the Wall in that region was not finished, the Israeli occupation authorities extended the military order, in order to finish the Segregation Wall scheme in the region and to seize more Palestinian land. According to the military notification, the seizure of already confiscated lands was extended until December 2014. It is noteworthy that the occupation authorities proceeded to confiscate large areas of land in the region in 2005 in order to build a wall to isolate Barqan industrial settlement from Palestinian areas, within the settlement scheme of "Ariel Finger".

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Sarta Village Council has implemented several development projects in Sarta during the past five years (See Table 14).

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

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Expanding Sarta Boys' School	Educational	2008	ANERA
Constructing and paving a road linking Sarta with Biddya	Infrastructure	2009	Belgium
Rehabilitating the health unit in Sarta Girls' School	Educational	2010	Islamic Relief
Constructing, expanding and paving sub roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Constructing concrete street shoulders	Infrastructure	2009	French Institution
Constructing sidewalks for the main street	Infrastructure	2011	UNDP
Constructing sidewalks for sub roads	Infrastructure	2011	CHF
Constructing additional classrooms in Sarta Girls' School	Educational	2011	CHF
Constructing a typical school	Educational	2012	Belgium

Source: Sarta Village Council, 2012

Proposed Projects

The Sarta Village Council, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years, in cooperation with the civil society organizations and the village residents,. 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. Constructing a health center in accordance with the specifications and standards of the Palestinian Ministry of Health.
2. Expanding the public water network by approximately 3 km.
3. Expanding the electricity network by approximately 3 km, and constructing and paving the sub roads in the structural plan of the village.
4. Constructing a headquarters for the sports club (a land for this purpose is available).
5. Constructing and rehabilitating agricultural roads (approx. 5 km).
6. Paving sub roads (approx. 5 km).
7. Paving 'Izbat Abu Adam road (approximately 1.5 km).
8. Constructing retaining walls (approximately 3 km).
9. Establishing a typical kindergarten building (a land for this purpose is available).
10. Rehabilitating the cultural center and the library.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Sarta suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's point of view.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Sarta

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			12 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			17 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			3 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	*			13 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	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			additional classrooms in Sarta Boys' Secondary School
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Sarta Girls' Secondary School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			all schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			600 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			32 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			6 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			50 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			5 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 8 km are agricultural roads.

Source: Sarta Village Council, 2012

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