

As Sawiya 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 Nablus Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Nablus 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 Nablus 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 Nablus 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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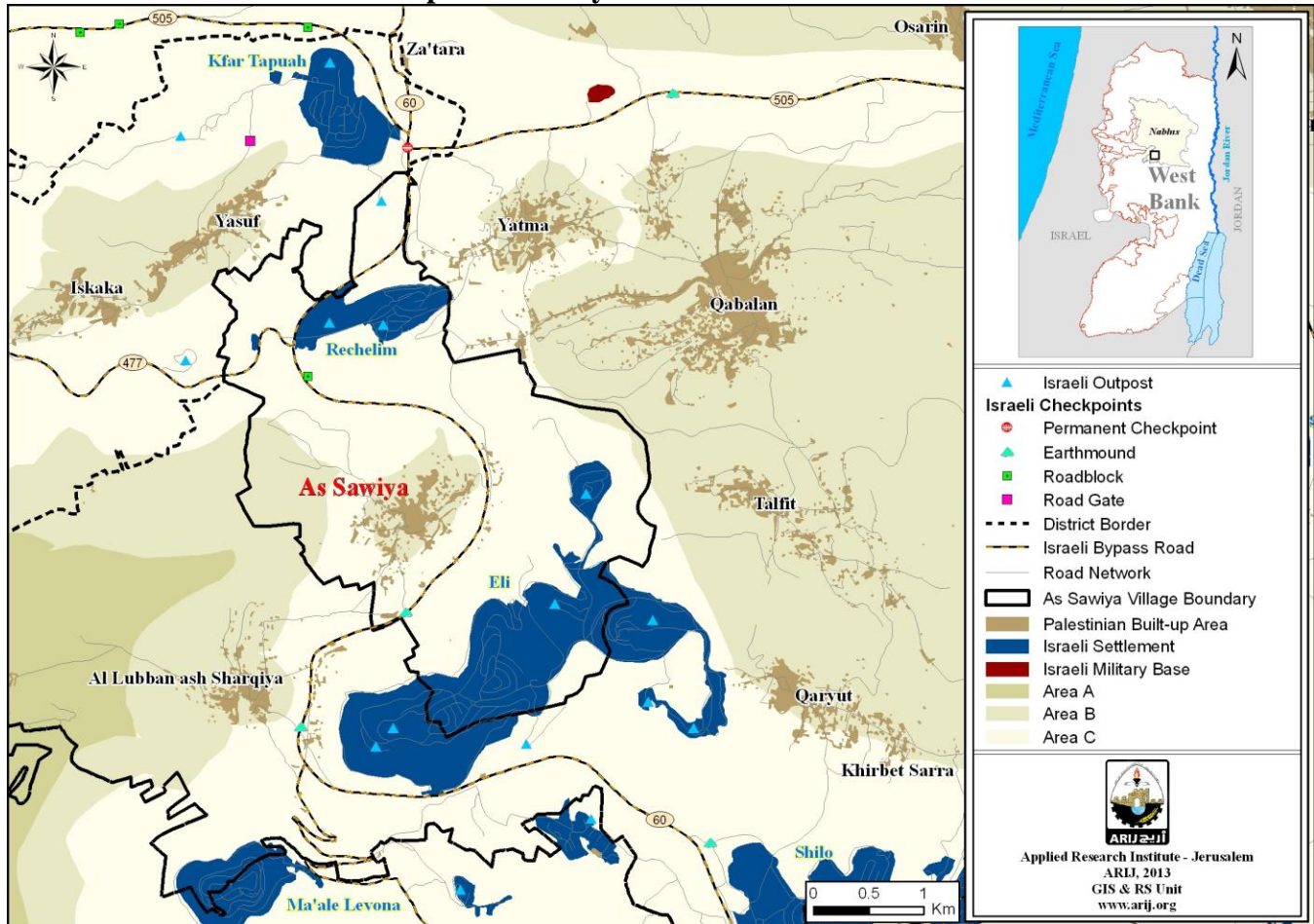
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As Sawiya Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

As Sawiya is a Palestinian village in Nablus Governorate located 15km south of Nablus city. It is bordered by Talfit and Qaryut to the east, Al Lubban ash Sharqiya to the south, Iskaka and Al Lubban ash Sharqiya to the west, and Yatma, Qabalan and Yasuf to the north. (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: As Sawiya location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

As Sawiya is located at an altitude of 640m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 540mm. The average annual temperature is 18°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of As Sawiya village consists of approximately 10,733 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which were stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of

Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the demographic variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent the space and the borders of private property in the district and they are not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1996, As Sawiya has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There is additionally one employee working in the council. The village council has a permanent headquarters located within the South Services Council of Nablus. The Council does not have a vehicle to collect waste, but has a tank perfusion (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of As Sawiya, including (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water network.
- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity network.
- Collect waste and clean streets.
- Public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Provision of educational kindergartens.

History

The village is named As Sawiya because of its location in the middle of Palestine. The current village was established since the time of the Turks. Inhabitants of the village of As Sawiya are originally from Jericho and Jerusalem (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

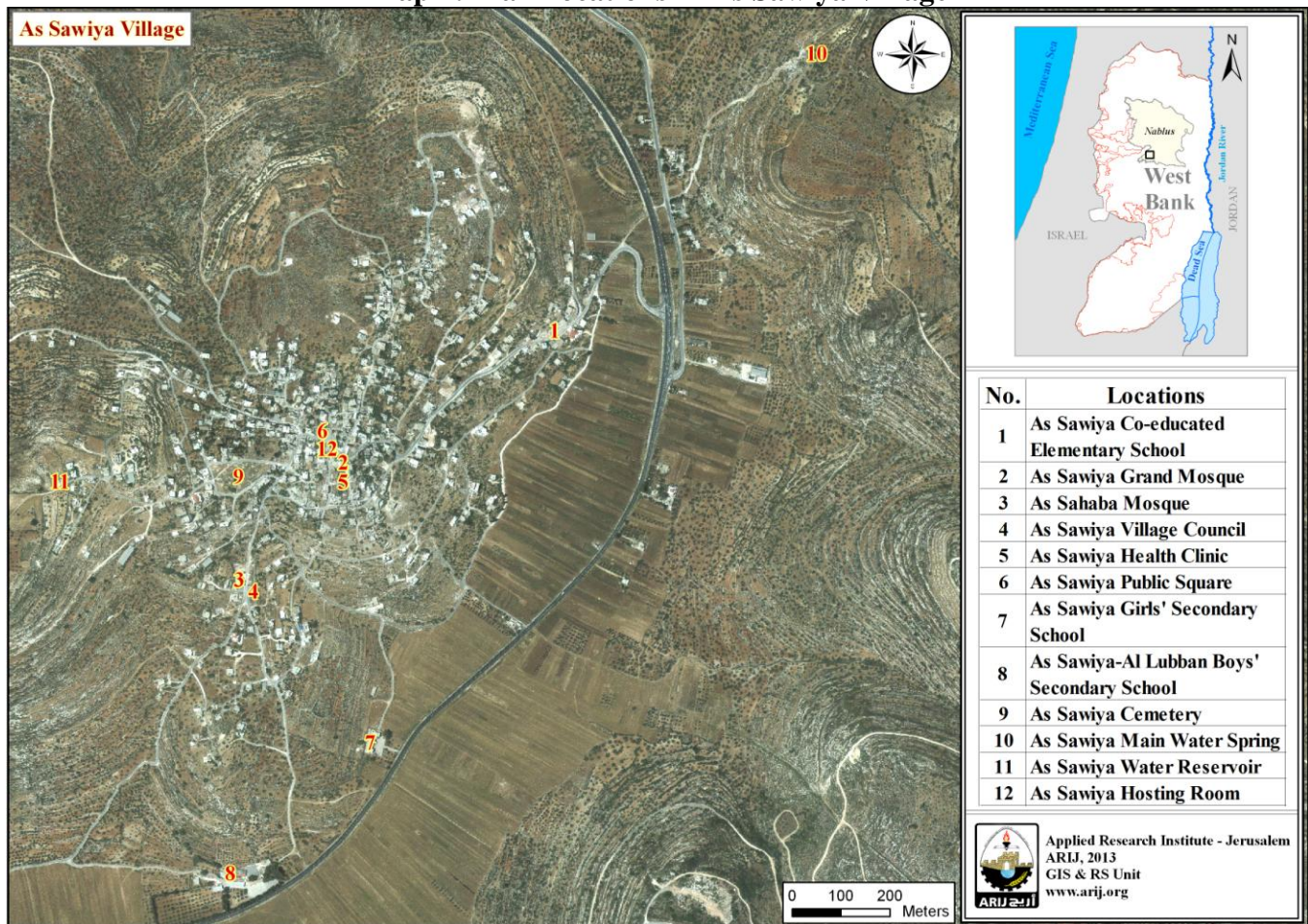
Photo of As Sawiya



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village; As Sawiya mosque and As Sahabah mosque. There are also a number of archeological sites in the village, including Barket water spring, Al Omari mosque, Ad Darajah Khirbet, Kamoniya Khirbet and As Sawiya Khirbet (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in As Sawiya Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of As Sawiya in 2007 was 2,356; of whom 1,209 were male and 1,147 female. There were additionally 383 households registered as living in 478 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 As Sawiya is as follows: 43.3% were less than 15 years of age, 52.6% were between 15

and 64 years of age, and 4.1% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 105.4:100; meaning that males and females constitute 51.3% and 48.7% of the population, respectively.

Families

As Sawiya residents are from several families, including Ahmad, Al -Khatib, Saleh, Ad-Dik, Khalil and others (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 6 persons have left the village since the Al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, the illiteracy rate among As Sawiya population is approximately 8%, of whom 83.5% are females. Of the literate population, 9.9% could only read and write, with no formal education, 20.1% had elementary education, 28.2% had preparatory education, 21.4% had secondary education, and 12.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of As Sawiya by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: As Sawiya 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	22	81	167	232	205	48	85	5	4	0	1	850
F	112	84	169	238	152	24	38	0	2	0	0	819
T	134	165	336	470	357	72	123	5	6	0	1	1669

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
As Sawiya Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
As Sawiya/ Al Lubban Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed
As Sawiya Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 1,030 students, 60 teachers, and 36 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are two kindergartens in As Sawiya village, both of which are run by private organizations (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012). (See Table 3).

Table 3: Kindergartens in As Sawiya village by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
An Nour Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Al Anoar As Sharqah Kindergarten	3	4	Private
Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012			

Some schools have been exposed to harassment, for example, As Sawiya Girls Secondary School's store was burned by settlers (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

In the absence of an educational stage in the village such as the secondary level (industrial and commercial), students head to schools in Nablus City (18km away), or to Qabalan schools (5km away) (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

The education sector in As Sawiya village faces a number of obstacles, including (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

- Lack of classrooms and overcrowding in current classrooms.
- Location of schools far from the village center.

Health Status

As Sawiya has a governmental health clinic, a government-run mother and child care center, a government-run general physician clinic, a clinic run by Medical Relief, and one private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to health centers and governmental hospitals in Nablus City (18km away) (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of an ambulance.
- The lack of a radiology center.
- The lack of specialized doctors.

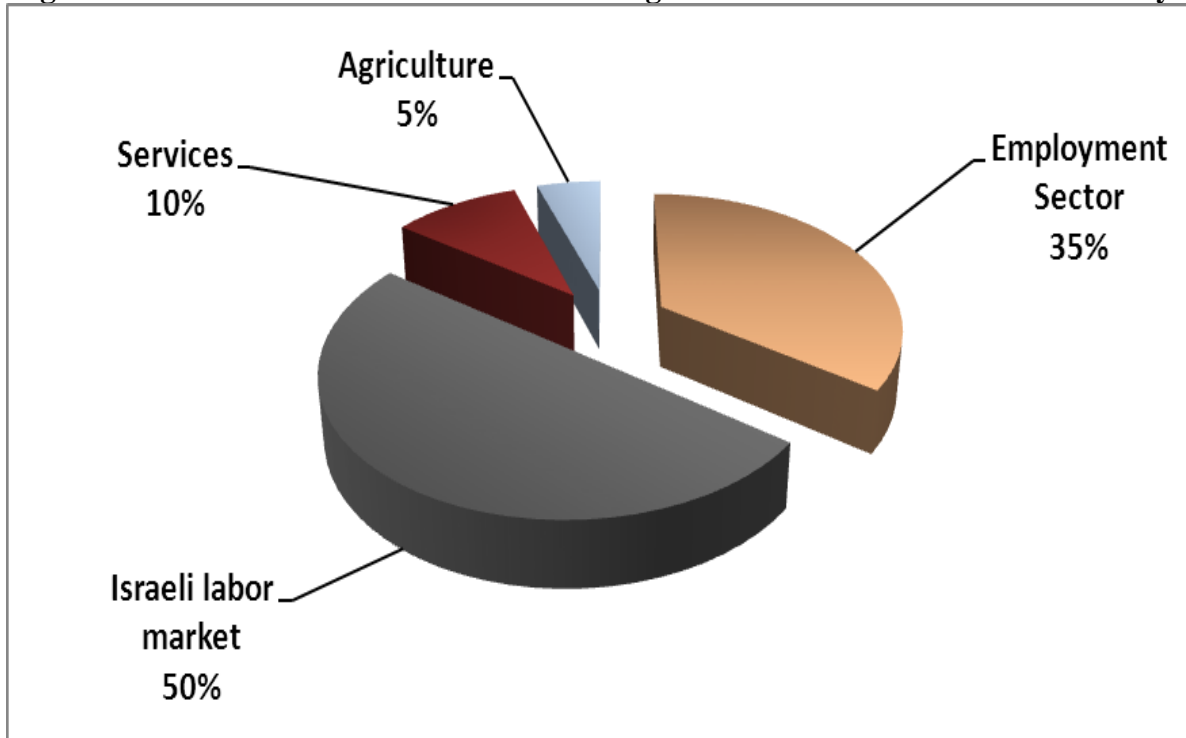
Economic Activities

The economy in As Sawiya is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market which absorbs 50% of the village's workforce (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ field team in 2013 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in As Sawiya are as follows:

- Israeli labor market (50%)
- Government or other employees sector (35%)
- Services Sector (10%)
- Agriculture sector (5%)

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



Source: As Sawiya Village Council, 2013

As Sawiya has 7 groceries, 1 bakery, 1 butchery, 1 fruit and vegetable store, 1 professional industry store, 5 different professional workshops and 1 store for agricultural tools (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in As Sawiya reached 20% and the group most affected economically by Israeli restrictions are as follows (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

- Agriculture sector.
- Israeli labor market.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 32.1% of As Sawiya's labor force was economically active, of whom 78.7% were employed, 67.9% were not economically active, 56.1% were students, and 31.6% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: As Sawiya 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	371	65	33	469	326	0	43	8	4	381	0	850
F	51	5	11	67	310	358	70	0	14	752	0	819
T	422	70	44	536	636	358	113	8	18	1,133	0	1669

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

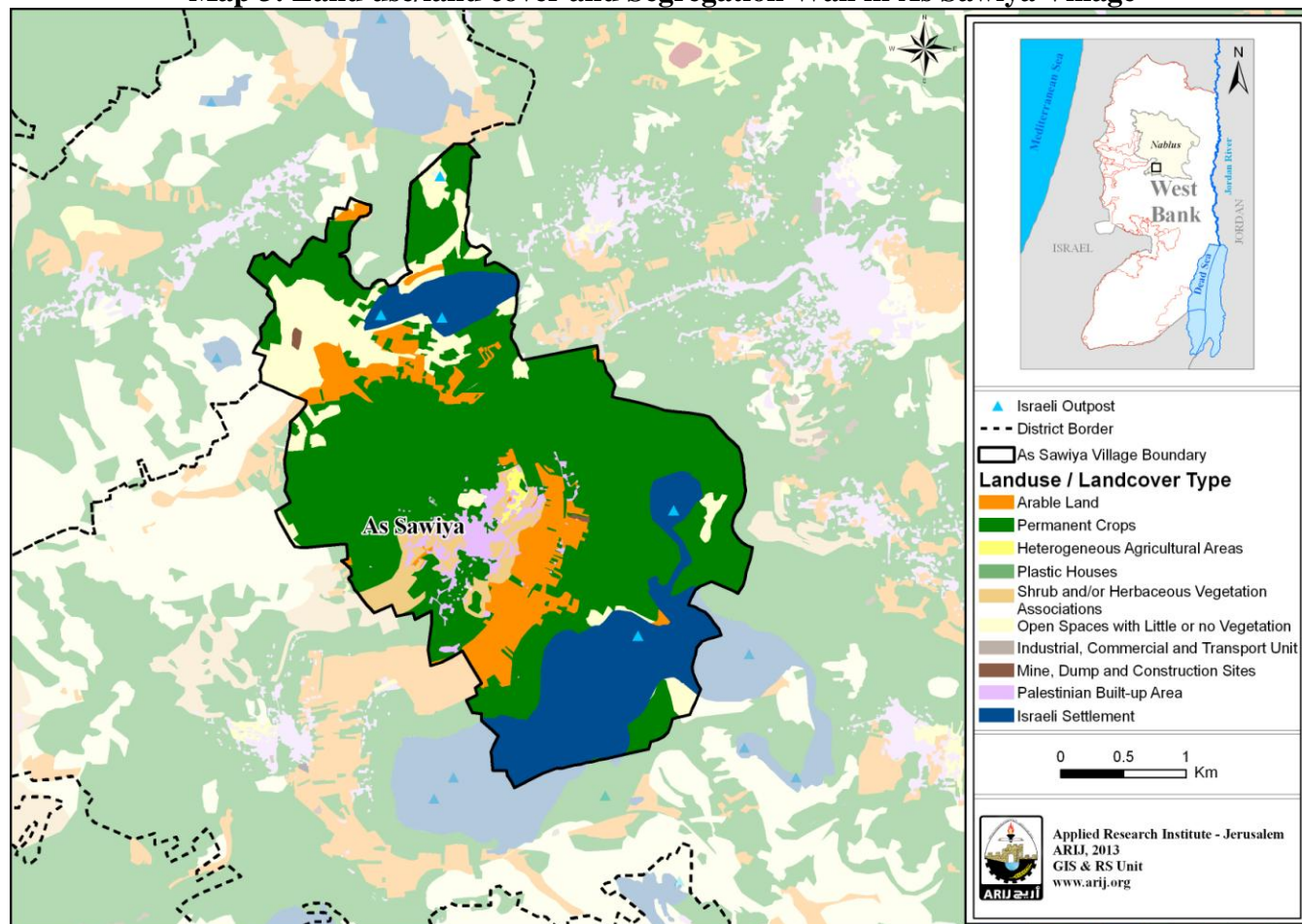
As Sawiya has a total area of approximately 10,733 dunums of which 7,447 are 'arable' land and 286 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

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

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (7,447)				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					
10,733	286	6,079	1	365	1,002	0	0	1,056	16	1,928

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

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



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in As Sawiya. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are tomatoes and cucumbers. (Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in As Sawiya (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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. As Sawiya is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 3,100 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in As Sawiya (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.
3,100	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	86	0	80	0	3,268	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in As Sawiya, cereals (wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 765 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in As Sawiya (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.
765	0	12	0	65	0	8	0	120	0	0	0	23	0	993	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and 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 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 and 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 the ARIJ team shows that 15% of the residents in As Sawiya rear and keeps domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in As Sawiya

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
32	290	350	0	0	0	0	15,000	0	35

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 10 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in As Sawiya Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	1
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	2
For animals only	7
Unsuitable	0

Source: As Sawiya Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces a number of problems including (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of economic feasibility.
- The lack of capital for agricultural investment.
- The lack of water resources.
- The confiscation of land by the Israelis.
- Lack of access to agricultural land.
- Lack of sufficient experience of farmers.
- Lack of interest by the Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural sector.

Institutions and Services

As Sawiya village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013):

- **As Sawiya Village Council:** Founded in 1996 and registered later by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **As Sawiya Sport Club:** Founded in 1975.
- **Sharek Youth Forum:** Founded in 2013.
-

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

As Sawiya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1990. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

As Sawiya is also connected to a telecommunication network; approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

There are 11 taxis and one public bus in As Sawiya village used by the residents for transportation. In the absence of transportation in the locality, citizens use their private cars. There are 8km of main roads and 8km of secondary roads in As Sawiya (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in As Sawiya Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	3	-
2. Paved & in poor condition	1	3
3. Unpaved	4	5

Source: As Sawiya Village Council, 2013

Water Resources:

As Sawiya village is provided with water by Mekorot through the public water network established in 1989. 100% of housing units are connected to the water network (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to As Sawiya village in 2012 was recorded at approximately 60,000 cubic meters/year (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 62 liters/day. However, no As Sawiya citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 10% (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013). 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 As Sawiya is 56 liters per day (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013). The average water consumption of As Sawiya residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

There is one water spring in the village, which is used for agriculture. In addition there are 300 domestic wells which collect rain water and two water tanks with a capacity of 50 and 200 cubic meters respectively (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4.5 NIS (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

As Sawiya lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 188 cubic meters, or 43,200 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 45 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 in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid Waste Management:

As Sawiya Village Council 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 8 NIS/month per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. Almost 100% of these fees are collected (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in As Sawiya benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, located at various points in the village. As Sawiya Village Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site 1.5km away from the village. Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally-sound way (As Sawiya Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in As Sawiya is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the As Sawiya residents is nearly 1.9 tons, or 679 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, As Sawiya experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis

- Interruption of water for long periods, especially in the summer.
- Increase in the size of the waste water network by 10%.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that As Sawiya residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. These methods cause environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases. 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:

As Sawiya village suffers from unavailability of containers to collect solid waste in the village, so the citizens leave the solid waste in bags in the front of their homes, until the waste vehicle comes to collect them. This causes accumulation of solid waste in the streets and in the front of their homes, and attracts insects and stray animals. The lack of a sanitary landfill and a central service in the village, like other

villages and towns of the Nablus Governorate, means that the village disposes its solid waste in Zahret al Finjan landfill in the Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environment-considering landfill serving the village in addition to most of the other localities in Nablus Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in As Sawiya village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, As Sawiya was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 1,466 dunums (14% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 9,267 dunums (86% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of As Sawiya's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land or has been taken for Israeli settlements. (See Table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of As Sawiya village according to Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	1,466	14
Area C	9,267	86
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	10,733	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

The Israeli Occupation practices in As Sawiya village

Thousands of dunums of land belonging to As Sawiya village have been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military bases and the construction of Israeli settlement roads. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of land of the village of As Sawiya:

Israel has confiscated 1,927 dunums from As Sawiya village for the establishment "Alie" and "Rechalim" settlements. The combined population of both settlements is approximately 3,482 Israeli settlers. (See table 13).

Table 13: Israeli settlement established on the territory of As Sawiya village

Settlement Name	establishing year	Area confiscated from the territory of As Sawiya village	Number of settlers living in the settlement
Alie	1984	1,551	3,259
Rechalim	1991	3,76	223
Total		1,927	3,482

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Residents of As Sawiya village, as well as the neighboring villages, have been negatively impacted by “Kfar Tapuah” settlement bloc located to the north of the village, built on lands belonging to the neighboring village of Yasuf. The settlement bloc constitutes “Kfar Tapuah “settlement, an Israeli military base, and Tapuah military checkpoint. Tapuah military checkpoint is known to Palestinians as Za'tara checkpoint; it is an important site which links the northern and southern governorates. This outpost has been in place since the Second Intifada, and has continued to be a central point for Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians, such as killings, arrests, torture, denial of access and resulting traffic.

Israeli checkpoints around As Sawiya village

During the Second Intifada, the Israeli occupation authorities established checkpoints upon As Sawiya land. Many earth mound barriers were constructed to close the agricultural roads that link the village and Israeli bypass road No. 60.

Residents of As Sawiya village, as well as the neighboring villages, have been negatively impacted by Za'tara permanent checkpoint situated to the north of the village; it is considered an important checkpoint as the site cuts through the West Bank, as previously mentioned. Palestinians are often detained and searched. However Israeli forces have reduced these procedures in recent years.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of residents. Checkpoints continue to hinder freedom of movement and sever the links between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, as well as the connection between the villages and their agricultural lands. This has resulted in heavy economic losses for residents of the village as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed.

Israeli bypass roads in As Sawiya village

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli security control.

Israel has confiscated land from the east side of As Sawiya village to construct Israeli bypass road No. 60. Israel also controls the old road and has converted it into a link between “Rechalim” settlement and “Ariel” settlement. The length of these two roads extends approximately 7km onto As Sawiya village territory, and isolates agricultural land.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the amount of the confiscated lands which will be taken for the purpose of what is known as the (buffer zone). The buffer zone is imposed by the Israeli army and usually occupies 75 meters on both sides of the road.

In addition, Israeli occupation authorities have amended a section of the main bypass road No. 60, with a length of approximately 4.5 km, that connects the villages of Qabalan and Yatma, with another bypass passage approaching the western side of the two villages, at the expense of the territory of As Sawiya.

Settler attacks on As Sawiya village

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on As Sawiya land has had a profoundly negative impact on village residents and their property. Palestinian land owners are unable to access their lands, as they have been fenced off with barbed wire. Settlers have planted trees in these areas to reinforce their control over the area. The settlers have damaged and burned a number of Palestinian owned trees and plants. Settlers have also attacked the land owners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their land.

Israel has confiscated some lands from As Sawiya and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements in the area for the purpose of the establishment of Israeli settlements, but also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Since the establishment of these settlements, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked homes, places of worship, cars and other private property.

Israeli outposts in the village of As Sawiya

As Sawiya village land has been taken by force by Israeli settlers in order to establish three settlement outposts around the area of “Rechalim” and “Alie” settlements, to the north and south the village. These outposts overlook the village of As Sawiya, extending the settlement-controlled area. As a result, the settlers control more Palestinian land. These outposts form a barrier which surrounds Palestinian areas and their population, and is a source of abuse and violations against Palestinian civilians and land.

During the past two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Bank. The outposts are foundations for new settlements, and tend to be extended branches of a mother settlement a few miles away. The process usually begins with the establishment of mobile caravans on the land that has been taken by the settlers. Establishing settlement outposts was encouraged by Ariel Sharon; the aim was for Jewish settlers to occupy Palestinians hill tops and create facts on the ground, so that Palestinians could

not claim the land if there was ever to be a future solution between the two sides. Consecutive Israeli governments have provided security and logistical support for these outposts. Since 2001 when Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister, there has been a significant increase in the number of outposts across the West Bank. The Israeli army has also supported illegal Israeli settlers in their relocation to the settlements, in addition to providing security and infrastructure support. This is to ensure the permanence of the settlements.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

As Sawiya Village Council has implemented a number of development projects in As Sawiya during the past five years (See Table 14).

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

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Paving of internal roads	Infrastructure	2009	Ministry of Finance
Establish a water tank	Infrastructure	2009	Hydrology Group
Establish retaining walls	Infrastructure	2012	French institution
Establish walls	Infrastructure	2012	World Vision

Source: As Sawiya Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

As Sawiya Village Council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the workshop participants:

1. Expanding the master plan for the village.
2. Establish a new school.
3. Support the agricultural sector and develop a response to the threat of wild boars.
4. Road rehabilitation, construction and paving internal roads (3km) and agricultural roads (10km).
5. Renewal of the public water network.
6. Establish a public garden and park for children in the archaeological Al-Ain area, which is threatened with confiscation by the Israeli authorities.
7. Establish a public hall.
8. Establish a new sewage network (5km).
9. Develop projects to assist needy families such as sheep herding, bee-keeping, poultry and others.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

As Sawiya 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 perspective

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in As Sawiya

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			14km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		12km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			6km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			1 spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			20km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection			*	
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres		*		1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools		*		
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Elementary level
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Elementary and secondary levels
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands		*		2,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns		*		100 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	*			20 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			
Other Needs					
1	Bagger and a private car for the village council	*			
2	Expansion of the master plan	*			
3	Oil-press	*			

[^] 4km main roads, 4km secondary roads and 6km agricultural roads.

Source: As Sawiya Village Council, 2013

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