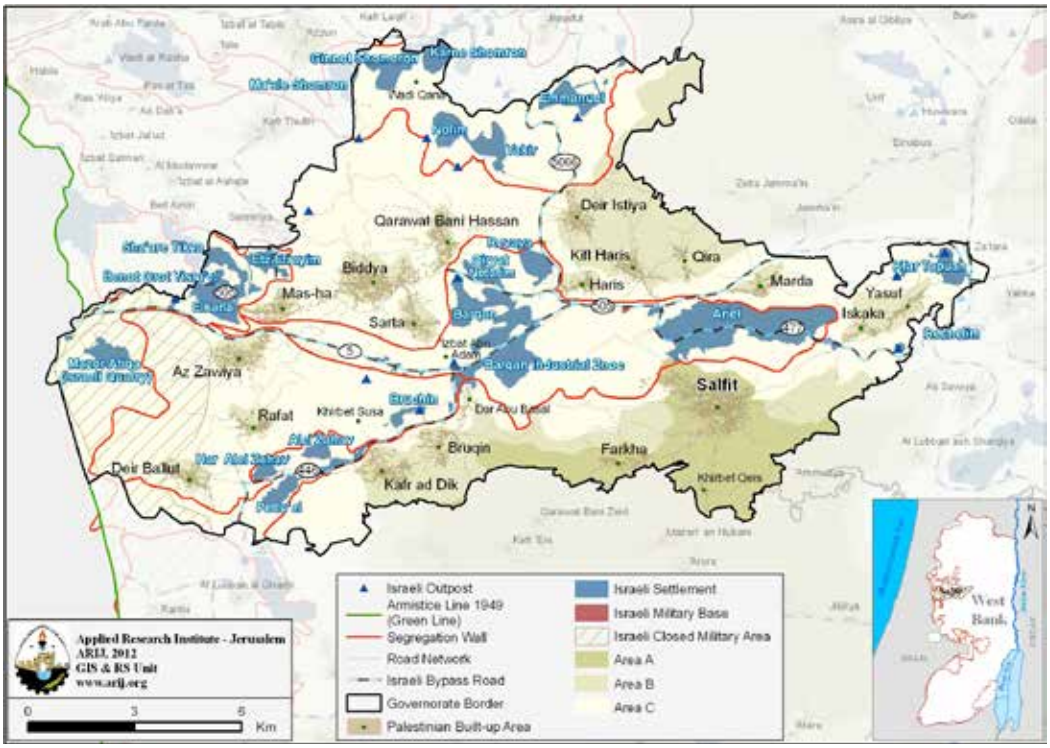
Locality Profiles and Needs Assessment in Salfit Governorate



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2014

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, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and civil society organizations for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

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PART ONE
Introduction

This study comes as a result of a comprehensive analysis of all localities in the Salfit Governorate. It aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the region along with presenting plans to assist in developing the local populations' welfare and livelihoods. This has been accomplished through the 'Village Profile and Needs Assessment in Nablus, Qalqilya and Salfit'; a project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

1.1. Project Description and Objectives:

The 'Village Profile and Needs Assessment in Nablus, Qalqiliya and Salfit' was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions in each of the aforementioned regions. On the basis of this investigation, resultant programs and activities necessary to mitigate the impact of the current insecurity of these conditions were formulated and presented in this integrated report. In undertaking this, there has been a particular focus on water, environment, and agricultural issues in these regions.

The project's objectives were to survey, analyze and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources in Salfit Governorate, along with their existing limitations and the need for the development of rural and marginalized areas in the region. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability; the main focus being on the agricultural sector, given its size and importance to human welfare in Salfit Governorate. Examples of analysis conducted in each respective location includes measuring the impact of the Israeli occupation and settlement construction/expansion in Palestinian communities, the efficiency of local water services/ management, the status of agricultural production/marketing, food security levels, household educational level etc.

1.2. Project Activities

1.2.1. Data Collection

During the methodological design of the project, the selection of regions and localities from which data would be retrieved was an essential consideration. All localities included within Salfit Governorate according to various set administrative boundaries were selected to be targeted for the study. There are three different historical administrative boundaries for the Palestinian territory:

i. The borders drawn by the British Government in 1922 during the 'Mandate Period.'
ii. The physical classifications adopted by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in 1994.
iii. The 'Integrated Physical Classification System' developed by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), and the Central Election Commission (CEC).

In all profiled localities the 'Integrated Physical Classification System' (IPCS) was chosen for boundary demarcation and subsequent data collection. This was done so on the grounds that these delineations are comparatively recent and are used in national data collection projects by bodies such as the PCBS, and are deemed more relevant in so far as this boundary demarcation refers to the most recently delimitated regions, by which data from Palestinian national sources is regionally classified. It is also the most suitable for a surveying project and research purposes reflective of the current Palestinian context.

In terms of land coverage, Salfit Governorate covers 26,699 dunums of land classified as 'built up areas.' Up to 8,793 dunums of these are Palestinian built up areas, whilst the remaining 17,906 dunums are classified as Israeli settlements (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011b). According to the aforementioned Palestinian integrated physical classification system, Salfit Governorate was divided into 22 localities, which are identified under 18 main administrative boundaries. These boundaries are further classified into three main administrative regions: those run by i) Municipal councils, ii) Village councils and iii) Project committees. See map 1 for a presentation of the different administrative boundaries by location and council.

1.2.2 Data Analysis

The methodological approach of the village profiling project very much centers upon community participation, with a focus on the inclusion of marginalized persons and groups in data analysis. Therefore, data collection involved a community questionnaire being developed by Village Profiling staff, which was subsequently completed by locality officials on behalf of numerous different groups (women, youth, agricultural workers, housekeepers etc.) in the Governorate localities, under the supervision of the project specialists.

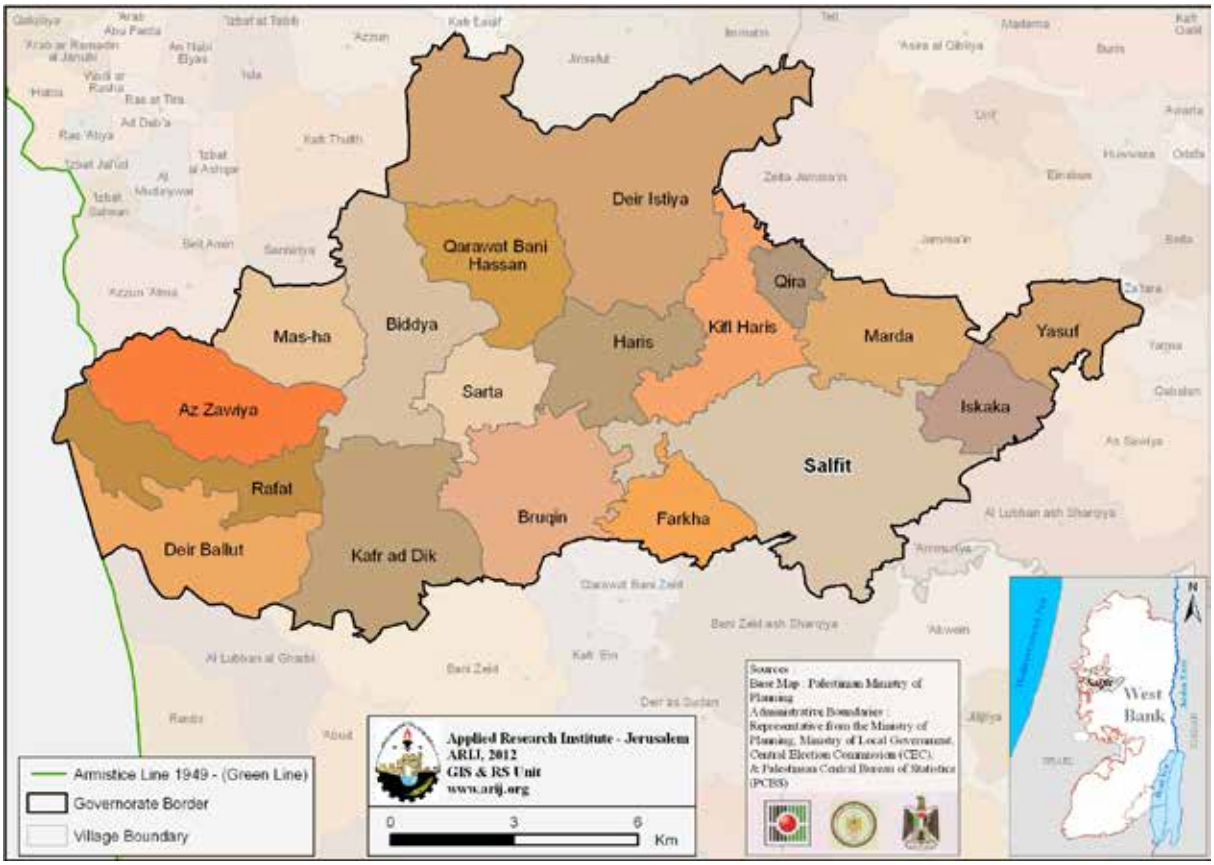
The data provided in the questionnaire deals with profiling the needs of the different localities, by posing questions relating to economic, cultural, social and health issues. In addition to this, data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and other related organizations has been analyzed and collated in one village profile, and includes data concerning demography, history, education, health, economy, natural resources, agriculture, geopolitical conditions, infrastructure, local institutions and services.

It is noted that all information taken from the PCBS refers to the Governorate of Salfit, whereas other data sources may pertain only to Salfit boundaries.

ARIJ's GIS (Geographic Information System) and Remote Sensing Unit developed explanatory maps for each locality in the Governorate. Each profile contains 3 maps; i) location, ii) information, and iii) a land use/land cover mapping.

18 locality profiles were developed, which include all localities in the Salfit Governorate. Further to this, there is a final project presentation to be produced, which will summarize and present the finding of all Village Profiling efforts in Salfit through conducting final workshop at the Governorate level. In addition, each profile contains a list of the locality's developmental needs and priorities. This report contains integrated information about Salfit Governorate, and needs for developmental project proposals (formulated as a response to the collected data) at a Governorate level. The completed profiles of all communities with their fact sheets and needs for development matrices are available online at (http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile/Salfit)

Map 1: Localities' administrative boundaries



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

1.2.3. Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) Workshops

Many meetings, interviews and focus groups were conducted with farmers, local authorities and active institutions in the area in order to conduct a collective analysis, upon which all resultant development plans have been based.

The aim of the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) approach was to learn from the communities and the key people/institutions working within them regarding their knowledge, attitudes and practices concerning agriculture and the management of available natural resources. This was conducted with the focus of enabling local people to assess these issues, and allow them to make their own plans to address them.

18 PRAs took place in the villages' councils and municipalities (table 1). The eighteen PRAs were conducted (one for each administrative locality) along with a Governorate level meeting to gain feedback from an authority perspective. This was in order to prepare a needs assessment and development planning proposal in response to information gathered from previous workshops and meetings. A final workshop is conducted at the end of the Salfit village profiling. The collected data was documented and analyzed, and several developmental plans and projects were formulated. As a result, eighteen village profiles were developed and subsequently translated into both Arabic and English.

Table1: Name of surveyed localities by type, population number and administrative body

Locality	Population	Type	Administrative body
Deir Istiya	3146	Rural	Municipality
Qarawat Bani Hassan	3801	Rural	Municipality
Qira	1143	Rural	Village Council
Kifl Haris	3248	Rural	Municipality
Marda	1992	Rural	Village Council
Biddya	8064	Urban	Municipality
Haris	3112	Rural	Village Council
Yasuf	1621	Rural	Village Council
Mas-ha	2003	Rural	Village Council
Iskaka	912	Rural	Village Council
Sarta	2541	Rural	Village Council
Az Zawiya	4754	Urban	Municipality
Salfit	9022	Urban	Municipality
Rafat	1861	Rural	Village Council
Bruqin	3236	Rural	Municipality
Farkha	1366	Rural	Village Council
Kafr ad Dik	4553	Rural	Municipality
Deir Ballut	3195	Rural	Municipality

Source: PCBS, 2009e.

1.2.4. Internet Database

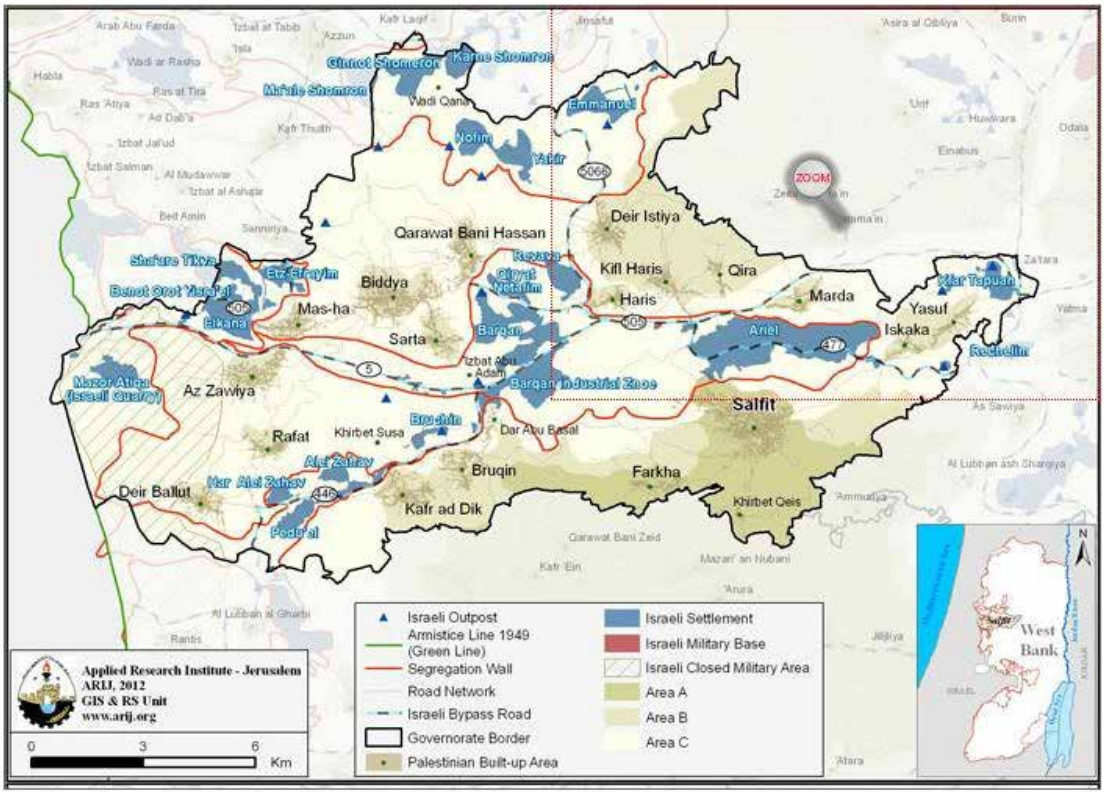
ARIJ's Computer and Information Technology (IT) unit developed an online resource for Salfit Governorate locality profiles in both Arabic and English. All data has been posted on the internet in a well-organized and comprehensive database, which is both easy to navigate and accessible to all. The profiles, maps, and fact sheets, and development needs for each locality as well as the integrated proposed project profiles can be found at the following website: (http://proxy.arij.org/vprofile/Salfit)

HOME | SALIF MAP | PROJECT DESCRIPTION | COMMUNITY DATA | NEEDS FOR DEVELOPMENT

عربي | EN

The Palestinian Community Profiles and Needs Assessment

Bethlehem | Hebron | Tubas | Jericho | Jerusalem | Ramallah & Al Bireh | Salfit | Qalqiliya | Nablus



PART TWO:
Location, Physical Characteristics & Socio-Economic Conditions in Salfit Governorate

2.1. Location and Physical Characteristics

Salfit Governorate is located in the middle of the West Bank. It is bordered by the Qalqiliya and Nablus Governorates to the north, Nablus Governorate to the east, the Green Line (the 1949 Armistice Line) to the west, and Ramallah Governorate to the south. As a region, Salfit covers a total land area of 203,707 dunums (203.707km2); distinguished into 12 major land use classes (see table 20). These include Palestinian built up areas, Israeli settlements, closed military areas, military bases, open spaces, forests and construction sites (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011b) (see map 2).

There are 18 localities in the Salfit Governorate, broken down into 20 geographical and 18 administrative areas. 8 localities are run by village councils and 8 by project municipalities, whilst 2 small communities are not under any official administration. It is noted that Palestinian 'built-up areas' constitute 4.3% of the total area of the Governorate.

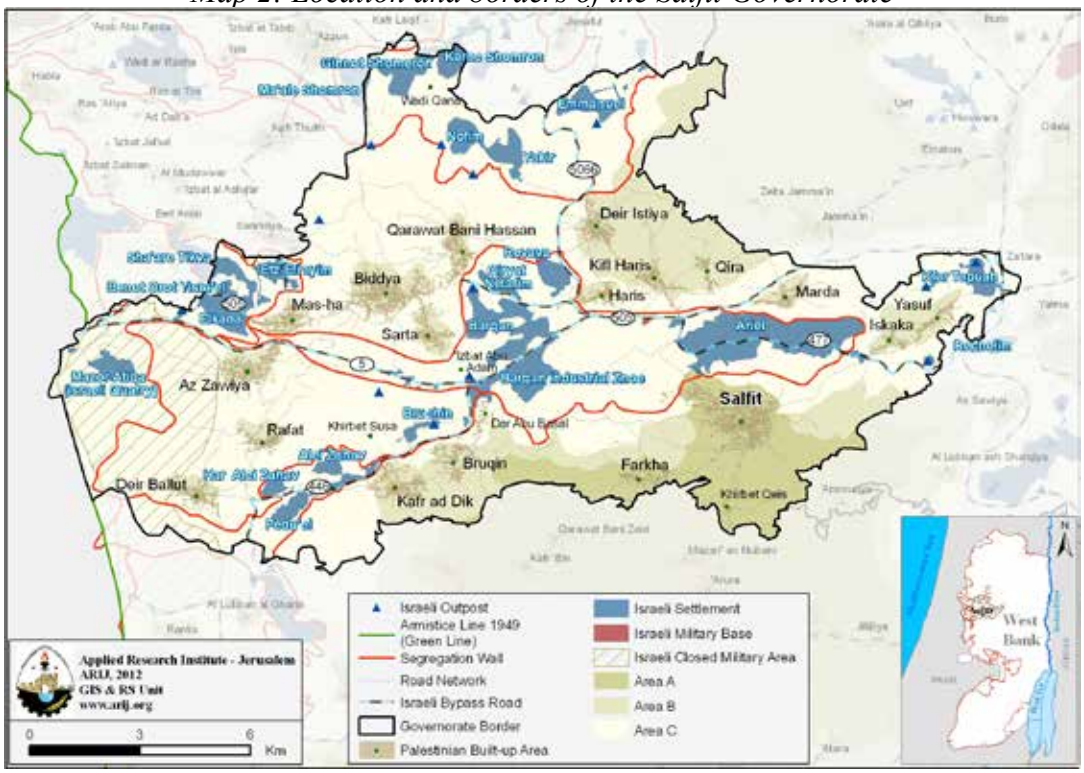
Table 2 (below) provides the names of each locality, their status as 'geographical' or 'administrative' and those areas designated as refugee populations:

Table 2: Salfit Governorate by geographical and administrative locality

Administrative Locality	Geographical Locality	Type of Administration
Deir Istiya		Municipality
Qarawat Bani Hassan		Municipality
Qira		Village Council
Kifl Haris		Village Council
Marda		Village Council
Biddya		Municipality
Haris		Village Council
Yasuf		Village Council
Mas-ha		Village Council
Iskaka		Village Council
Sarta	Sarta	Municipality
	'Izbat Abu Adam	
Az Zawiya		Municipality
Salfit	Salfit	Municipality
	Khirbet Qeis	
Rafat		Village Council
Bruqin		Municipality
Farkha		Village Council
Kafr ad Dik		Municipality
Deir Ballut		Municipality

Source: PCBS, 2009a.

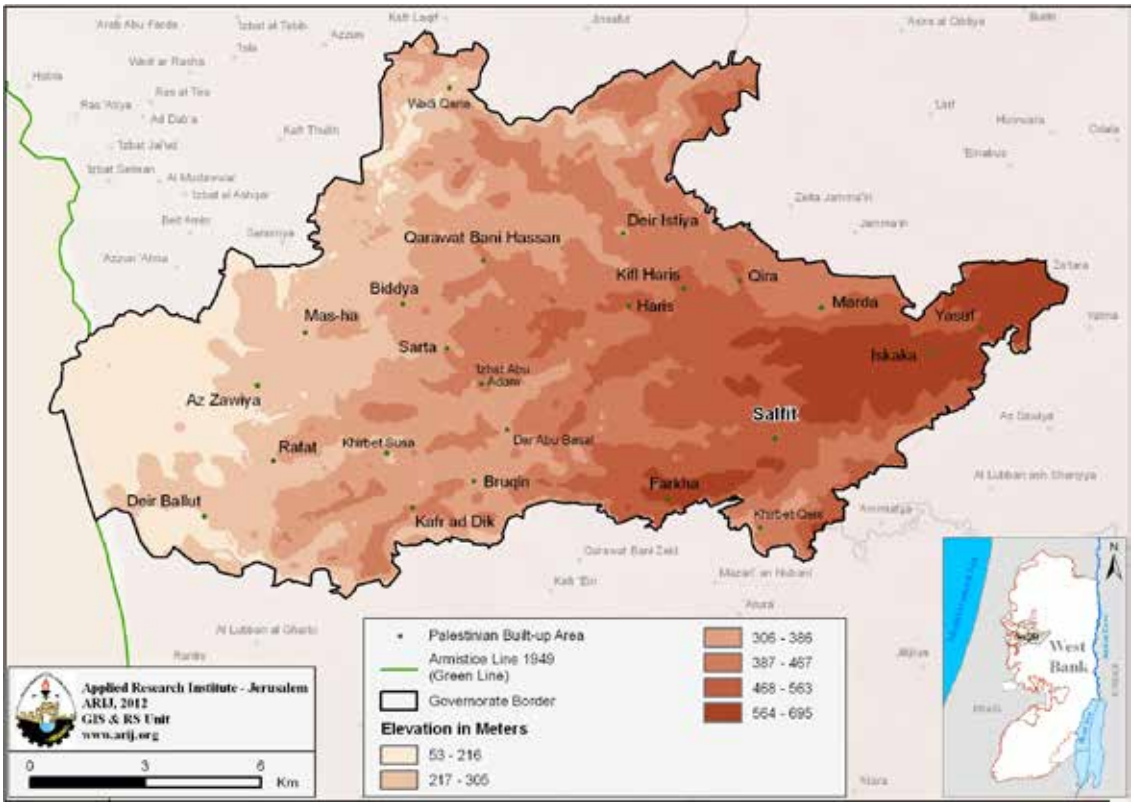
Map 2: Location and borders of the Salfit Governorate



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Salfit Governorate is further characterized by variation in its topography and altitude. It has an elevation varying between 569m above sea level in the west, and 672m above sea level toward the west and northwest. (ARI – GIS Unit, 2011c) (see map 3).

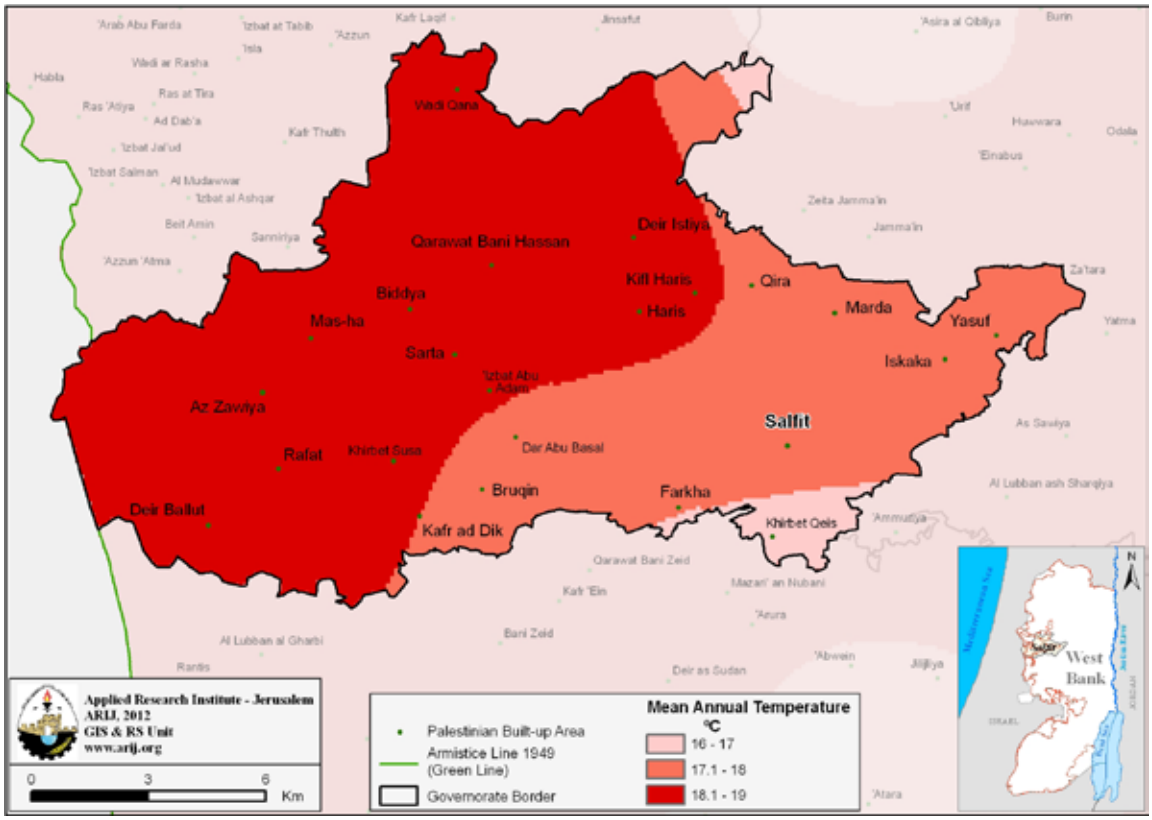
Map 3: Topography of the Salfit Governorate



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

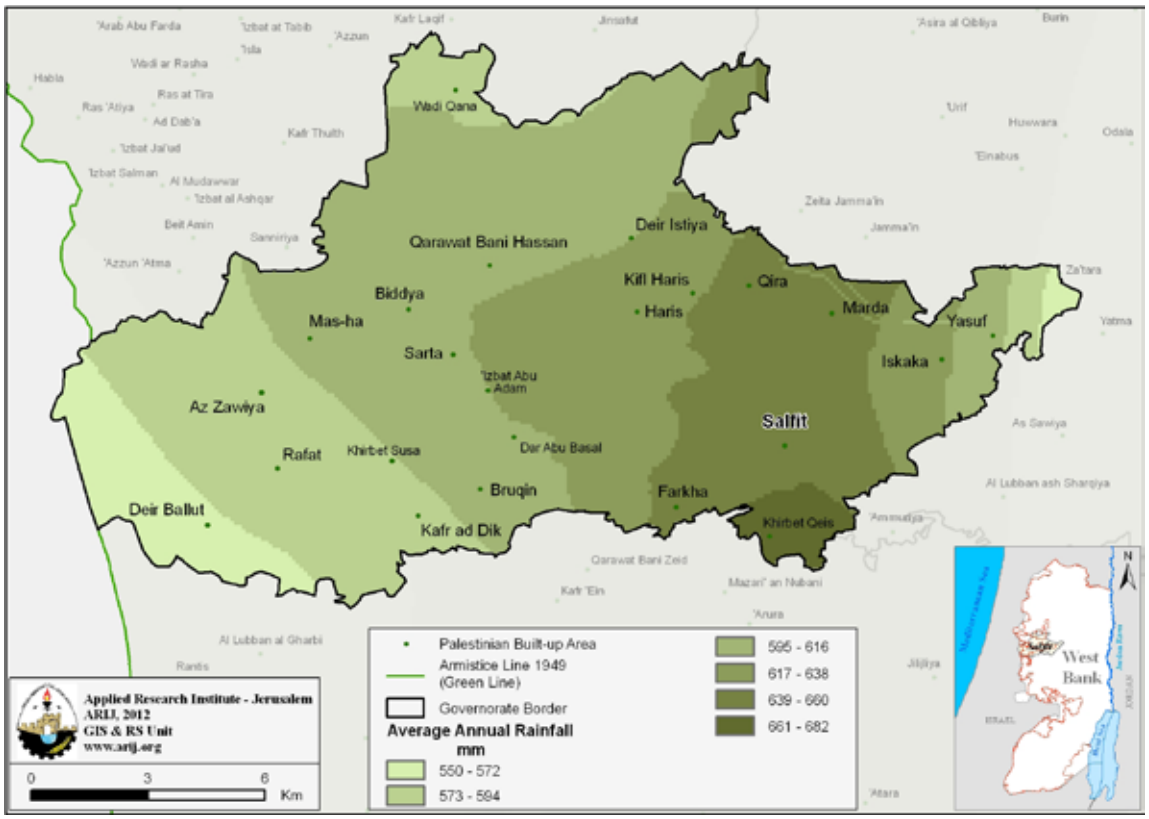
Salfit Governorate's climate is generally hot and dry in the summer, with mild winters. The mean average temperature across the region is 18.230C (see map 4). While the quantity of rainfall varies from year to year, the mean annual rainfall is 614.39mm, with an average humidity of 61.43% (ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2011a) (see map 5). In 2011, the yearly rainfall substantially differed across different localities in Salfit, there being the highest rainfall at 660mm in Iskaka region, whilst the lowest was calculated at 233mm in Deir Ballut.

Map 4: Temperature in the Salfit Governorate



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Map 5: Rainfall in the Salfit Governorate



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

2.2. Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), Salfit Governorate's total population in 2007 was 59,570 people; forming approximately 2.53% the West Bank's total population[1] . Table 3 (below) shows the distribution of the population by sex and type of region (urban, rural and camp):

Table 3: Population in Salfit by type of area and gender disaggregation (2007)

Location	Male	Female	Total
Rural Area	19,347	18,609	**37,956**
Urban Area	10,928	10,686	**21,614**
Camp Area	-	-	-
Total Area	**30,275**	**29,295**	**59,570**

Source: PCBS, 2009a

According to the PCBS's classification[2] for the types of Palestinian localities (2007 statistical census), 36.3% of Salfit Governorate's population live in urban areas, and 63.7% in rural areas (see table 3). Table 4 compares the population of the Salfit Governorate between 1997 and 2007.

1 Includes population counted during the period 1-16/12/2007 and uncounted population estimates according to a post enumeration survey.

2 *An urban area is any locality whose population amounts to 10,000 persons or more. This applies to the entire Governorates' center regardless of their size. Additionally, it refers to all localities whose population varies from 4,000 to 9,999 persons- provided they have at least four of the following elements: a public electricity network, a public water network, a post office, a health center with a full-time physician and a school offering a general secondary education certificate.

*A rural area is any locality whose population is less than 4,000 persons or whose population varies from 4,000 to 9.999 persons lacks four of the aforementioned elements.

*A refugee camp is any locality referred to as a refugee camp and administrated by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestinian Refugee in the Near East (UNRWA).

Table 4: Total population of the Salfit Governorate in the years 1997 and 2007

Population of Salfit Governorate	Years	
	1997	2007
Male	24,695	30,275
Female	23,538	29,295
Total population	**48,538**	**59,570**
Household	7,833	11,103

Sources:PCBS, 1997. / PCBS. 2009a

In 1997, refugees constituted an estimated 7.7% of Salfit Governorate population. By 2007, refugee density in the Governorate is thought to have slightly increased to 8%[3] (See Table 5).

Table 5: Total refugees' population in the Salfit Governorate, 2011

Governorate / Region	Total	Refugee Status		
		Not Stated	Not-refugee	Refugee
Salfit	58,773	146	53,747	4,660
West Bank	2,279,969	55,351	1,600,551	624,067

Source: Ramallah Statistical Yearbook 2011.

In addition, the average household size across the Governorate was recorded at 5.4 members, in comparison with 5.8 for the whole Palestinian territory. Table 6 (below) provides updated data regarding housing conditions in Salfit Governorate:

Table 6: Selected indicators for housing conditions in Salfit Governorate, 2007

Housing Indicators	
Average Household Size	5.4
Average of Rooms in housing Units	3.7
Average of Housing Density	1.5

Source: PCBS. 2009. Census Final Results – Summary- (Population, Buildings, Housing, Establishments)- Salfit Governorate . Ramallah – Palestine.

The 2007 PCBS Census further shows that 41.4% of the population in Salfit Governorate were less than 15 years of age, 54.5% were between the ages 15 - 64 years, 3.9% were 65 years of age or older, and 0.2% did not state their age.

Table 7 presents the population in the Governorate by age and by area.

Table 7: Age Statistics for Salfit Governorate

Governorate	Age Group,2007				
	Sex	0 - 14	15 – 64	+ 65	Not Stated
Salfit	M	12499	16404	935	46
	F	11829	15675	1356	56

Source: PCBS. 2009. Census Final Results – Summary- (Population, Buildings, Housing, Establishments)- Salfit Governorate . Ramallah – Palestine.

3 http://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2010012035949.pdf

2.3. Labor Force

Salfit Governorate registered an unemployment rate of 19.3% in 2013 compared with an average of 18.6% for the West Bank. The labor force at this time formed approximately 45.9% of the population. The average daily wage in 2013 was up to 92.1 NIS (around $26.8 at the time of publication).This matches the average daily wage for the West Bank, which is calculated at 88.9 NIS (PCBS, 2014a) (see table 8).

Table 8: Labor force participation rate, unemployment rate and average daily wage in NIS for wage employees in the Salfit Governorate, 2013

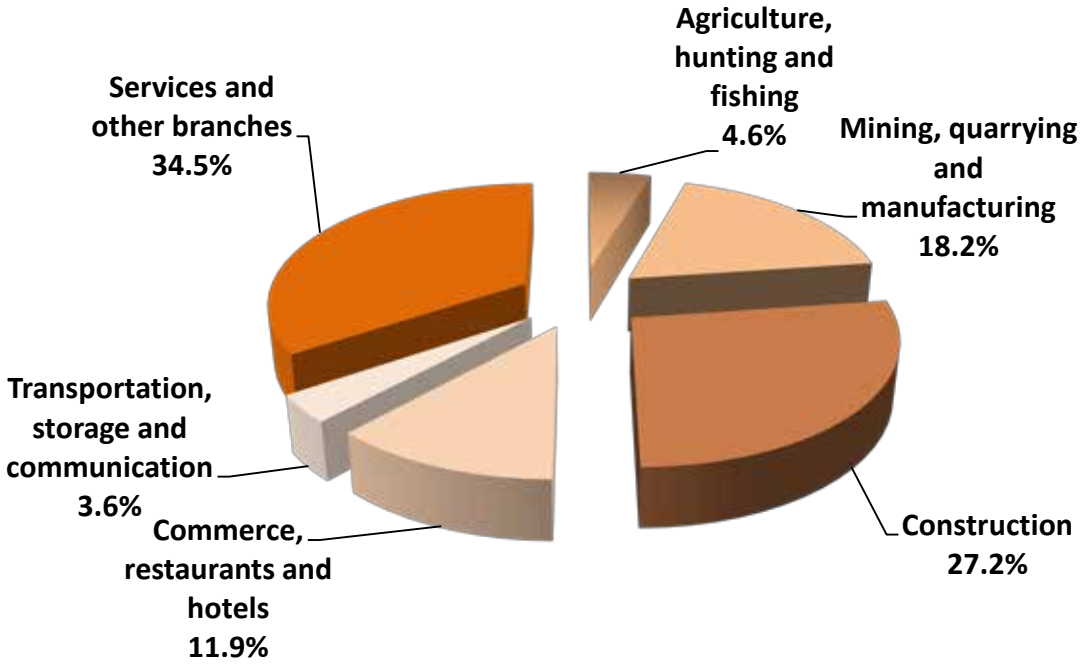
Governorate	Labor Force Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Average Daily Wage in NIS for Wage Employees
Salfit	45.9	19.3	92.1*

**The workers in Israel and Settlements are not included.*

Source: PCBS, 2014a.

The PCBS's annual report of their labor force survey conducted for the year 2013 showed that the 'Services and other economic activities' sector ranked first in the number of working persons in Salfit (34.5%) followed by the 'construction sector' with 27.2%, then 'mining, quarrying and manufacturing' with 18.2%, and 'commerce, restaurants and hotels' ranking fourth at 11.9%. The agricultural sector ranked fifth with 4.6%, and 'transportation, storage and communication activities' came sixth with 3.6%. Please refer to table 7 for the full listing (PCBS, 2014a). Salfit Governorate also has the highest percentage of formally registered mining, quarrying and manufacturing workers in the West Bank (see figure 1 and table 9).

Figure 1: Labor force activity for the Salfit Governorate (% amongst employed persons)



Source: PCBS, 2014a

Table 9: Percentage distribution of employed people from the Salfit Governorate by economic activity, 2013

Economic Activity	Governorate (%)	
	Salfit	West Bank
Agriculture, Hunting and Fishing	4.6	11.5
Mining, Quarrying and Manufacturing	18.2	15.1
Construction	27.2	19.3
Commerce, Restaurants and Hotels	11.9	19.8
Transportation, Storage and Communication	3.6	5.6
Services and Other Branches	34.5	28.7
Total	**100**	**100**

Source: PCBS, 2014a

According to the distribution of employed people by employment sector during the first quarter of 2014, the private sector has the biggest share of employed persons in Salfit Governorate with a percentage of 49.9%, followed by workers in Israel and other Israeli settlements, then the public sector (see table 10).

Table 10: Percentage distribution of employed persons aged 15 years and above in the Salfit Governorate by sector (ILO Standards), January - March, 2013

Governorate	Sector (%)				Total
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Other Sectors	Israel and Settlements	
Salfit	23.1	49.9	1.1	25.9	**100**
West Bank	15.9	65.7	1.8	16.6	**100**

Source: PCBS, 2014b

The 2007 PCBS census in Salfit Governorate showed that 70.8% of the population were within the working age group (10 years and above[4]). Of these 42,172 people within the working age range (10 years and above), approximately 34.2% were economically active; 18.3% of whom were females and 81.7% males. Consequently, 65.7% were not economically active (outside the labor force); 65.6% female and 34.4% male (PCBS, 2011a). The largest groups within the non-economically active population were students and housekeepers, constituting 56.6% and 30.6% of that population respectively. Table 11 shows the labor force statistics in the Governorate (as of 2007).

4 This includes students, not only labour force participants. Across the whole of the oPt (occupied Palestinian territory) in 2010, just 4.8% of 10-17 year olds were registered as 'in the labour force'- making under-age workers a very small percentage of formal labour force activity in the country.

Table 7: Nablus population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status, 2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Emp-loyed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House Keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	10,072	982	725	**11,779**	7,733	17	1,308	215	250	**9,523**	28	**21,330**
F	2,110	164	369	**2,643**	7,951	8,474	1,513	73	168	**18,179**	20	**20,842**
T	12,182	1,146	1,094	**14,422**	15,684	8,491	2,821	288	418	**27,702**	48	**42,172**

Source: PCBS, 2009a

2.4. Educational Status

According to the 2007 PCBS census, 6.7% of Salfit residents were illiterate, with women comprising a greater percentage (78.6%) than their male counterparts (21.4%). 12.7% could read and write with no formal education, 23.1% had completed elementary education, 26.7% preparatory education, 18.1% secondary education whilst only 12.7% had achieved a higher education. Table 12 shows the education status in Salfit Governorate by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 12: Population (10 Years and above) in the Salfit Governorate by sex and educational attainment, 2007

SEX	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	BSc.	Higher Diploma	MSc.	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	604	2,746	4,981	5,990	3,998	888	1,783	41	236	54	9	**21,330**
F	2,214	2,603	4,766	5,258	3,636	681	1,608	8	43	6	19	**20,842**
T	2,818	5,349	9,747	11,248	7,634	1,569	3,391	49	279	60	28	**42,172**

Source: PCBS. 2009a.

Salfit Governorate has just one educational directorate, with the governmental sector having the biggest share of schools there (forming approximately 96% of the total number of educational institutes).
The private sector also controls 3 schools, all of which are co-educational (see table 13).

Table 13: Distribution of schools in the Salfit Governorate by supervising authority and gender, 2013/2014

Supervising authority in the Salfit Governorate	Male	Female	Co-education	Total
Government	23	29	20	**72**
UNRWA	-	-	-	**-**
Private	0	0	3	**3**
Grand Total	**23**	**29**	**23**	**75**

Source: MOEHE, 2014.

The Palestinian population is a youthful one, and this holds true for Salfit. As of 2011, 60.5% of the West Bank's population was classified as under 24 years of age, with this rising to 62.4% for all of the oPt[5]. There is no big difference between the participation of females and males in the educational system; males constitute 50.6 %, whilst females constitute 49.4 % of students in Salfit Governorate. Amongst the students in the Governorate, 96% attend governmental schools and 4% attend private schools. (MOHE, 2014) (See table 14).

Table 14: Distribution of students in Salfit Governorate by supervising authority and gender, 2013/2014

Supervising authority in the Salfit Governorate	Male	Female	Total
Government	9,388	9,415	**18,803**
UNRWA	-	-	-
Private	415	171	**586**
Grand Total	**9,803**	**9,586**	**19,389**

Source: MOEHE, 2014

There is a shortage of classrooms in the Salfit Governorate, and many schools operate on a 2 shifts system, with half the school's student population attending classes in the morning and the others in the afternoon. In terms of class size, in the governmental sector there are on average 26 students per class, whilst in the private sector there are 20 (MOHE, 2014) (See table 15).

Table 15: Distribution of classes in the Salfit Governorate by supervising authority and gender, 2013/2014

Supervising authority in the Salfit Governorate	Male	Female	Co-education	Total
Government	335	318	80	**733**
UNRWA	-	-	-	-
Private	4	0	25	**29**
Grand Total	**339**	**318**	**105**	**762**

Source: MOEHE, 2014

2.5. Health Status

As of 2012 there were 29 health care centers in the Salfit Governorate; 60.7% of these being run by the governmental sector (see table 16). There is also one governmentally run general hospital, which has 54 patient beds (MOH-PHIC, 2013). However most of these facilities are located in Salfit city and people from small and distant villages face great difficulties in reaching these health care centers.

Table 16: Distribution of public health care centers in Salfit, 2012

Providers					Population per Centre
MoH	NGOs	UNRWA	PMMS	Total	
17	10	1	1	29	2,389

Source: MOH-PHIC, 2013.

There is only one general hospital in Salfit (Yasser Arafat) providing a total of 50 beds (MOH-PHIC, 2013).

As for medical staff in the Governorate, data is only available for the governmental sector. Table 17 shows the numbers of health care staff (2012) in the one MoH (Ministry of Health) run hospital.

5 Source: Report by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; Palestinians at the end of 2011.

Table 17: Number of health care staff in the Salfit Governorate's public health care centers, 2012

Health care specialization	Number of health care staff
General physician	15
Specialist physician	3
Dentist	2
Pharmacist	3
Nurse	35
Midwife	3
Paramedic	30
Administration	35
Total	**126**

Source: MOH-PHIC, Annual Health Report, Palestine- 2013.

Statistics in 2012 showed that the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Salfit Governorate has declined to 2.0%. The average IMR in the West Bank reached 1.04% in 2012, making Salfit's rate higher than this regional average (see table 18).

Table 18: Infant mortality rate in Salfit Governorate (2012)

Live Births	Infant Deaths					Infant Mortality Rate %
	Male	%	Female	%	Total	
1,553	16	2.48	15	2.33	31	2.0

Source: MOH-PHIC, Annual Health Report, Palestine- 2013.

The final results of the PCBS's Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007) showed that the number of people in Salfit Governorate who had at least one disability was 3,921. See table 19 for the number of people with special needs, disaggregated into type of difficulty.

Table 19: Number of people with special needs in the Salfit Governorate by type of difficulty, 2007

Sex	Type of Difficulty					Total with Disability	Not Stated
	Communication	Cognition	Moving	Hearing	Visual		
Male	307	311	794	586	1087	2013	679
Female	267	274	959	552	1090	1908	690
Total	**574**	**585**	**1753**	**1138**	**2177**	**3921**	**1,369**

Source: PCBS. 2009. 'Population, Housing and establishment, Census - 2007, Final Results.'

2.6. Poverty and food insecurity

To understand the causes behind deteriorating livelihood conditions in Salfit, various economic, demographic, agricultural, nutritional, health, environmental and food security issues must be considered. The basic causes of food insecurity translate into underlying and immediate causes of poverty and food scarcity at the household level. These causes include limitations on food availability, negative effects on agricultural production and food trade/market supplies, insufficient economic access to food, and artificially high prices but few opportunities to secure employment.

A number of quantitative studies have been carried out in Palestine in order to determine the levels of food insecurity, its effects and associated causes across the country. However, to date there is limited

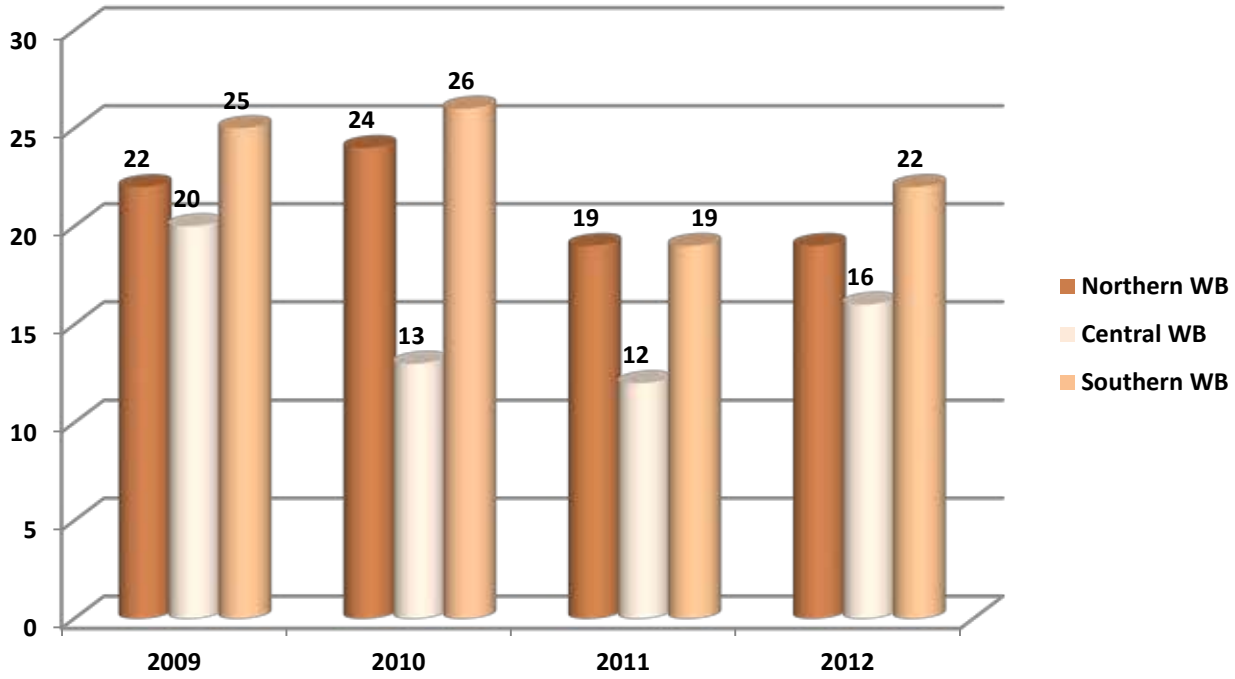
data on food insecurity, disaggregated at the locality level. FAO, WFP and PCBS conducted a socio-economic and food security survey (SEFSec), in order to gauge changes in the living conditions of Palestinian households by monitoring socio-economic and food security indicators. The survey collects data related to a number of food security indicators, including food acquisition, dietary diversity, household food insecurity Access Scale, income and consumption/expenditure patterns and coping mechanisms. This survey does not cover specific localities but it is disaggregated into regions (north, south, east and west of the West Bank).

The results of the 2012 SEFsec survey depict a harsh situation. Overall, 34% of Palestinian households' approximately 1.57 million individuals' were found to be food insecure in 2012. This level is 7% points higher than in the 2011 figures, this represents an almost complete reversal of the progressive improvements in food security reported since 2009. The surge in food insecurity mainly reflects the deterioration of socio-economic conditions in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, resulting from the combination of sustained economic constraints and of the shock generated by the PA fiscal crisis in late 2012 (PCBS, FAO, UNRWA, WFP, 2012).

The North West Bank (including Qalqiliya, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Tubas and Salfit governorates) continues to show the level of food insecurity at 19%, compared to 16% across central regions of the West Bank. Food insecurity estimates did not fluctuate in the northern West Bank households relying more on agricultural and livestock production (46% of West Bank households own agricultural land and 47% of those owning livestock are located in the North), and have access to wider range of income sources (PCBS, FAO, UNRWA, WFP, 2012).

The SEFSec report 2012[6] further shows that the North West Bank had a decrease of 3 points in levels of food insecurity since 2009 (see Figure 2) (PCBS, FAO, UNRWA, WFP, 2012).

Figure 2: Food insecurity by geographical region in the West Bank, 2012

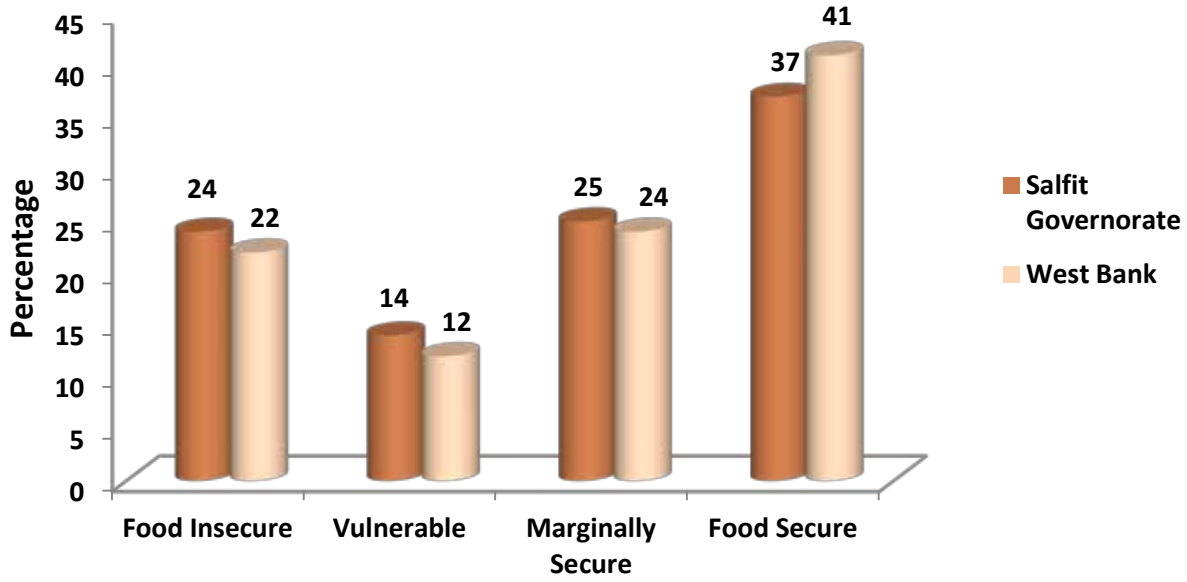


Source: FAO/UNRWA/WFP/PCBS, 2012

6 Food insecurity rates are "post-assistance" rates, i.e. after food assistance and relief transfers are taken into consideration. Households evaluated as food insecure are characterized by their low levels of income and/or consumption compared to the cost of a minimum food basket and other essential expenditures (housing, health, education, transportation).

24% of Salfit Governorate's households were found to be food insecure during 2010, in comparison to 22% of households across the West Bank (WFP/FAO/PCBS, 2011). This figure represents nearly 15,156 food insecure people, with a further 8,841 persons being classified as 'vulnerable to food insecurity' (14%). Additionally, 15,787 persons are 'marginally secure' (25%) with just 37% of the governorate being classified as 'food secure' (see figure 3). Food insecure households in Salfit Governorate are unable to secure sufficient income to meet their essential food and non-food requirements, mainly due to the lack of income-earning possibilities. This obliges families to decrease their intake of food items in terms of both quality and quantity.

Figure 3: Food Security Levels in Salfit Governorate, 2010



Source: WFP/FAO/PCBS, 2011

The current geo-political restrictions, significant increases in food prices, shrinking incomes and high unemployment rates have jeopardized household economies and led to heavy indebtedness and changes in eating habits. Previously self-reliant families are progressively falling into the poverty trap and are unable to escape their situation in the absence of job opportunities. Unemployment reached 16% in Salfit in the year 2011 (in comparison to 17.3% for the West Bank). The daily nominal wage is NIS 85.6 per day per capita, in comparison to the average of NIS 85.0 across the West Bank. These figures show that although unemployment is lower than the regional average, the daily wage is also significantly lower; thus more of the population are working but in lower paid positions (PCBS, 2012a).

Furthermore, the PCBS's 2007 statistical census showed that Salfit Governorate has a medium average family size (5.4 persons per household) in comparison to other West Bank Governorates; the average of the West Bank at the same time was 5.5 persons. These larger families increase food consumption and household expenses. According to the WFP (World Food Program) in 2009, the Salfit wealth index quintiles show that the poorest quintile comprised 13.8% of the total population of the governorate. This is in comparison to 19.5% across the West Bank; thus indicating the high level of poverty at governorate level (WFP/ARIJ, 2010). In addition, the percentage of households with a poor food consumption rate reached 7.3% in 2009, in comparison to 10.2% in the West Bank at the same time (WFP/ARIJ, 2010).

Palestinians are increasingly forced to rely on negative coping mechanisms in their fight against poverty and instability with the combination of decreased incomes and increased food prices forcing poorer households to change their food consumption patterns. Increasing food prices have significantly worsened the food-security situation of households in the Salfit Governorate, as a high percentage of household expenditure (37%) goes toward food (WFP/ARIJ, 2010). Up to 34.5% of Salfit Governorate residents reduced their food expenditures as a main coping strategy against food insecurity, forcing these families to buy fewer food items and to substitute normal foods with cheaper/less desirable items (PCBS/WFP/FAO, 2009). The strategy of food reduction, mainly regarding the quantity of meat purchased/consumed, was adopted by 30.5% of Salfit Governorate. Many households (27.7%) in Salfit chose to consume less food as a coping strategy against food shortages and rising food prices (WFP/ARIJ, 2010).

It is noted that even if such coping mechanisms are reversible (e.g.. switching to less preferred but cheaper food, decreasing the amount of food consumed, forgoing health or education expenditures, and purchasing food on credit), they can have a permanent cost on lives and livelihoods through poor health and nutritional problems. In addition, many Palestinians are also having to rely upon international or national assistance in terms of food security solutions, given that humanitarian assistance is a proven crucial complement to households own coping strategies. This intervention, however, does not always assist Palestinians in designing and implementing strategies to combat food insecurity in the long term. In Salfit, it was found that 15.7% of families received some form of livelihoods assistance in 2009, with 22.4% of this assistance in the form of food aid (WFP/ARIJ, 2010).

As a consequence of food security, children are most adversely affected by malnutrition. Poor environmental conditions may increase infections and contribute to deficiencies in micronutrients. Additional factors include unemployment, the poor economic situation and changes in household food consumption patterns, with reduced amounts of animal products, vegetables, and fruit. This contributes to a decrease in the quantity of minerals and vitamins ingested. Such micronutrient deficiencies can contribute to delayed growth, stunting and wasting in young children. Statistics show that iron deficiency anaemia[7] affected approximately 44.7% of children (under 3 years of age) and 28% of pregnant women (tested in their first antenatal appointment) in Salfit Governorate in 2012, compared to 46.6 % and 29.2 %, respectively in the West Bank (MoH, 2013). The malnutrition statistics for the governorate are also of concern. In 2012, 1% of children were classified as 'underweight'[8] , with 0.6% in the 'wasting'[9] children category. In addition, 1.1% were classified as 'stunted'[10] in growth (MoH, 2012).

7 Anaemia is a condition in which haemoglobin is less than normal; the recommended dietary allowances of iron are 15mg a day for women and 10mg for men.
8 'Weight for Age' of children under 5 years= > 2SD
9 'Weight for Height' of children under 5 years= > 2SD
10 'Height for Age' of children under 5 years= >2SD

PART THREE:
Agricultural & Environmental Status in Salfit Governorate

3.1. Land Use/ Land Cover

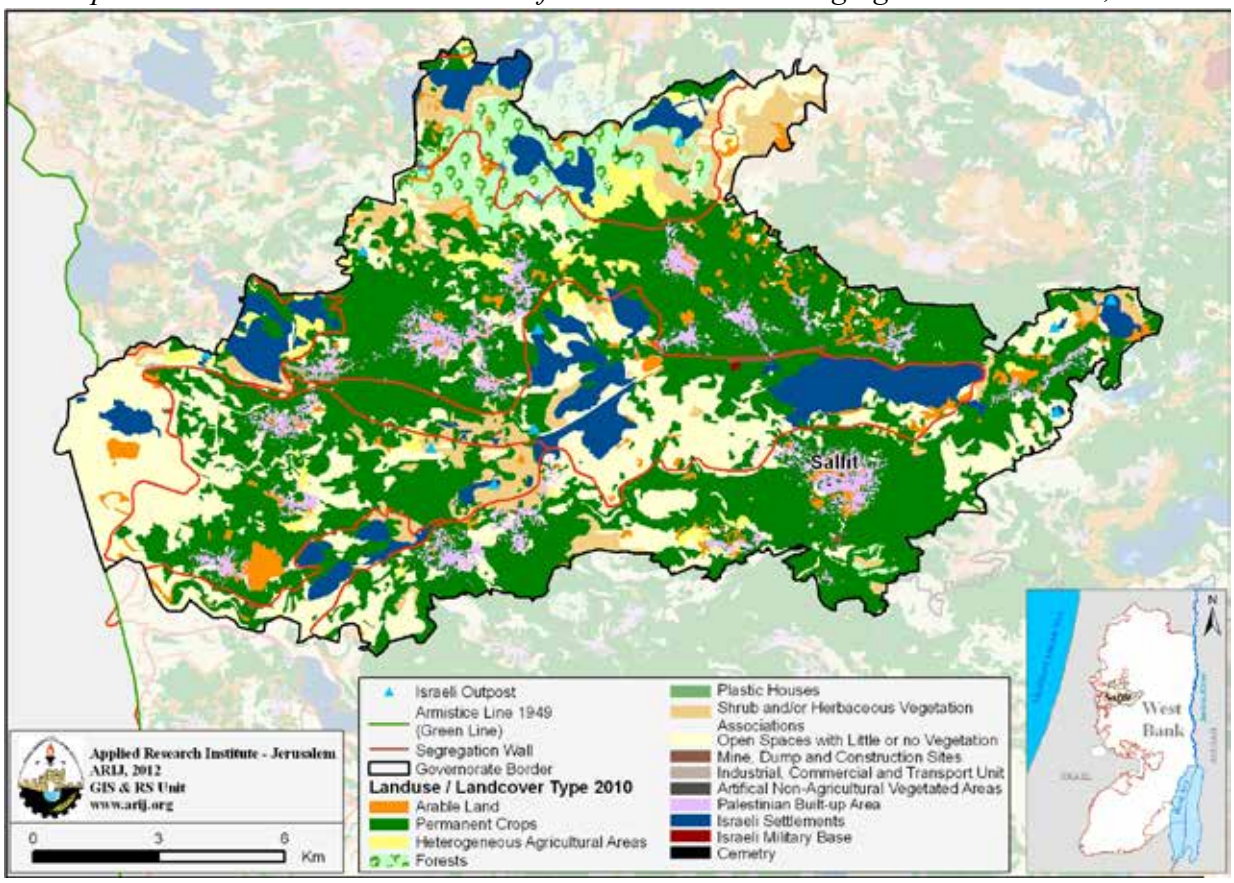
The Palestinian agricultural sector serves a population of approximately 3.8 million persons (PCBS, 2009a), acting both as an economic base and as the main source of food for many Palestinians. During the past decade, the agricultural sector in the oPt (occupied Palestinian territory) has proven itself to be the most appropriate sector for dealing with emergencies erupting as a result of the extreme Israeli measures / artifacts carried out against Palestinians since occupation and mainly after the first and second Palestinian Intifada (2000, 2004). Economic shocks from the Intifada, such as rising unemployment, restrictions in economic and labor markets and freedom of movement resulted in a widespread increase in both 'poverty' and 'deep poverty' levels in the region (Ajlumi, 2003). Other factors that contribute to the poor economy in addition to the continued expensive conflict with Israel which has drained Palestinian resources, mismanagement of economy by Palestinians, the high dependence of the economy on international assistance; thus yielding a false economy. As a result, agricultural practices acted as a remedy to these problems, by aiding Palestinians to grow their own food and avoid falling into deeper poverty or suffering from food insecurity.

The PCBS and MoA conducted a recent (2011) survey, which calculated the total area of agricultural lands in the oPt at 1,207,061 dunums, of which 1,105,146 are found in the West Bank and 101,915 in the Gaza Strip. The type of survey undertaken was mainly based on a certain definition for the size of agricultural holdings, pertaining also only to physical agricultural areas and not seasonal ones[11] . The research compares findings from 2011 with 2008, which shows there has been decrease of 646,939 dunums in agricultural lands in the oPt. Compared to this however, ARIJ's, 'GIS Unit, 2011' analysis for agricultural areas in the year 2010, showed that the West Bank's total agricultural area was 2,150,800 dunums (ARIJ, 2011a).This difference is due to the fact that PCBS and MoA surveyed the 'actual' agricultural lands (as according to the aforementioned methodological classification), whilst dismissing fragmented small size agricultural lands dominant in urban areas and in certain spaces where springs are located. ARIJ's surveying discovered a high percentage of small and fragmented ownership (family cultivations) across the opt. This means an additional 1,045,654 dunums of small land ownerships could be added to the PCBS and MoA's official 2010 agriculture survey.

In Salfit Governorate, as of 2012, 5.2% of the total labor force (male and female) work in agriculture, in comparison to the average of 12.8% across the West Bank (PCBS, 2013a). The total area of the Salfit Governorate is estimated to be 203,707 dunums, with nearly 104,719 dunums of agricultural land; of which 92,855 dunums yield permanent crops, 6,715 are seasonal crops, 5,076 are heterogeneous agricultural areas and 73 are classified as 'protected agriculture'(ARIJ- GIS Unit, 2011) (See table 20 and map 6).The PNA and key international players recognize the importance the agricultural sector plays in supporting both the Palestinian economy and individual livelihoods, and as such have recently formulated a National Development Plan for the years 2011-2013. This has the stated vision of, "Establishing the State and Building our Future", where the agricultural sector has been defined as the 'agriculture and rural development sector,' with allocated budgets (of total development expenditures) for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 of US $34.2, $60.7, and $83.0 million, respectively.

11 The survey only registered land <half a dunum as agricultural holding for 'irrigated lands' and those with an area equal to one dunum <are considered to be a 'rain-fed' holding).

Map 6: Land use/land cover in the Salfit Governorate and Segregation Wall Route, 2010



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Table 20: Land use/land cover in the Salfit Governorate, 2010

Type of land use/land coverage	Area (Dunums)*
Agricultural land	104,719
Artificial non-agricultural vegetated areas	29
Forests	9,519
Industrial, commercial and transport unit	421
Mine, dump and construction sites	465
Open spaces with little or no vegetation	46,658
Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation associations	13,023
Cemetery	7
Israeli military base	34
Israeli settlements	18,890
Israeli outpost	103
Palestinian built-up area	8,768
Segregation Wall zone	1,071
Total	**203,707**

**Dunum = 1,000 m2 = 0.1 Hectare*

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

It is noted that the allocated budgets by government and/or donors for agricultural development are very limited and do not respond to the real needs of this vital sector. For example, of the total expenditures in all sectors, donors have spent less than 1% in support of agriculture in the oPt.

Even through the UN endorsed 'Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP)'; the agricultural sector did not manage to receive more than 22% of the sector appealed budget for the year 2010. However, statistics have demonstrated that the agricultural sector in Salfit is of high importance in terms of economic performance, provision of sustainable food solutions and continuation of the farming culture of many local communities. There is a need for the Salfit Governorate, as one of the largest agricultural producers in the Palestinian territory, to be supported by both the PNA and relevant international groups in order to sustain the existing effective areas of the agricultural sector, whilst simultaneously developing the weaker components. This will have a positive impact on the local economy, the livelihoods of many individuals and families and poverty and food security levels in the region.

Salfit suffers severe problems in terms of adequate irrigation supply for crop production and other agricultural activities and there is a lack of much-needed irrigation methods and technologies. Of all of the West Bank and Gaza Governorates, Salfit has the fewest effective working irrigation methods. Table 21 below details the number of plant and mixed holdings in the Governorate by the main source of irrigation.

Table 21: Number of plant and mixed holdings in the Salfit Governorate by main source of irrigation, 2010

Main Source of Irrigation	Number of plant and mixed holdings
Rain-fed	4,069
Artesian wells	12
Streams and valleys	0
Dug wells	1
Tanks, ponds and collective wells	9
Springs	-
Public network	33
Tanks	0
Other sources	0
Not stated	5
More than one source of irrigation	347
Total	**4,476**

Source: PCBS, 2011b.

The PCBS's 2010 Agricultural Survey shows that the total number of agricultural holders in Salfit Governorate reached 4,686. Table 22 shows the types of agricultural holding by purpose.

Table 22: Number of agricultural holdings in Salfit Governorate by main purpose of production, type of holding 2009/2010;

Main Purpose of Production and Type of Holding									
Not Stated			For Sale			For Household Consumption			Total
Mixed	Plant	Animal	Mixed	Plant	Animal	Mixed	Plant	Animal	4,686
-	9	-	105	236	90	392	3,734	120	

Source: PCBS, 2011 'Agricultural Census; 2009/10'

The size of agricultural holdings in Salfit also provides an interesting perspective on the state of the agricultural sector and its relationship with food security in the region. Data provided by the

PCBS shows that the majority of agricultural holdings in Salfit are small in size so as to indicate a household or small community cooperative level of production (see table 23). This shows that many individuals and families in Salfit rely on their food consumption to come from self or local community level agricultural production.

Table 23: Area of agricultural holdings in the Salfit Governorate, 2010

Area Group of Holding (in Dunums)	Units of Agricultural Holdings
Up to 2.99	1,366
3 – 5.99	1,122
6 – 9.99	745
10 – 19.99	755
20 – 29.99	295
30 – 39.99	142
40 – 49.99	75
50 – 59.99	51
60 – 69.99	28
70 – 79.99	27
80 +	80
Total	**4,686**
Average size of holding	**11.66**

Source: PCBS. 2011b.

3.2. Agricultural Activities

Agriculture is one of the most important economic pillars in the oPt, as well as being considered an integral part of its history, culture and identity. Agriculture has become a symbol for the Palestinian people in protecting their lands from confiscation, and it is the sector that hosts refugee laborers from other sectors during political conflicts and economic crises. The Salfit Governorate constitutes 1.45% of the total value of agricultural production across the Palestinian territory (PCBS, 2009g).

The type of agriculture practiced in the Salfit Governorate varies according to region, but in general it can be divided into two groups; plant (both rain-fed and irrigated), and livestock production.

In terms of available agricultural data for Salfit, the PCBS, in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), have produced a number of comprehensive yearly agricultural surveys for the Palestinian territory. These have been conducted up to the agricultural year 2007/8. They use a number of base-line measures with a combination of agricultural/socio-economic indicators to report on the agricultural, food security and economic status of the Palestinian territory, disaggregating the data at a regional and Governorate level as far as possible.

Most of the information used in this section pertaining to agricultural statistics in Salfit has been taken from the last agricultural survey reporting session, of the agricultural year 2007/8. This is due to the fact that this report has the most comprehensive range of statistics covering multiple indicators at a Governorate and (where methodologically appropriate) gender disaggregated level, and production values. However, the PCBS has more recently produced an 'Agricultural Census' for the year 2010, which contains a range of statistical data relating to agricultural indicators for the West Bank and Gaza for 2010. In many places, information is presented at a Governorate level; thus, where this is available for Salfit, 2010 data from this census has been compared with the same

indicators for 2007/8, to report on any changes in the sector during this period. However it is worth noting that the 2010 statistics did not include the production value of the agricultural sector. Below is a matrix (table 27) showing the available and relevant data for the years 2007/8 and 2010 pertaining to various agricultural measures.

3.2.1. Plant Production

The total cultivated area in the oPt is categorized into 'fruit trees', 'vegetables', and 'field crops and forages'. As of 2010, nearly 90.9% of the entire area of plant production was described as 'rain-fed' (only 407 dunums were registered as irrigated areas for cultivation).

According to the PCBS, the total area of plant production in the Salfit Governorate in the agricultural year 2007/2008 reached 87,642 dunums with total plant production of 13,133 tons; creating a total value of US$12,813,000. Compared to the year 1997/1998, one notices an increase of approximately 3.95% of the total planted area, representing a 85% increase in total production, and a 37.1% increase in the total production value (PCBS, 2009d).

Furthermore, rain-fed agriculture largely dominates Salfit's agricultural sector, forming nearly 90.9% of the cultivated area in the year 2010, with all but 407 dunums of a total 49,272 dunums of agricultural lands in Salfit being cultivated though irrigated methods. According to the PCBS's 2010 Agricultural Census, the total area cultivated with vegetables in the Palestinian territory during the agricultural year 2009/2010 was 1,880 dunums; 100,579 dunums in the West Bank and 26,678 in the Gaza Strip (PCBS, 2011b).

As previously mentioned, agriculture in the Salfit Governorate is mainly dependent on irrigated methods, which requires good water availability, water systems and efficient water management plans, all of which are vulnerable to the joint Israeli/Palestinian control of water supplies. Currently, irrigated agriculture covers approximately 12% of cultivated lands in the oPt and uses two thirds of Palestinian water resources whilst contributing a gross output of around $500 million annually. To sustain the viability of this sector, coping plans and strategies should be developed in order to mitigate the impact of negative Israeli and Palestinian water authority policies. This should include encouraging good governance by both parties involved in water management and developing funding plans for improved water systems in terms of effective supply and distribution.

Fruit Trees Production

During the 2007/2008 agricultural season, the total cultivated area of fruit trees in the Salfit Governorate reached 81,677 dunums, of which 4.75% were un-bearing and 99.8% were rain-fed. The total value of fruit trees for the year 2008 in Salfit was US$10,219,000; making up 3.8% of the total revenue produced from agricultural production during the same year. The value added[12] of agriculture production in Salfit stood at US$12,813,000 for the years 2007/8, which equates to 1.55% of the Palestinian territory total value added cost during the agricultural year 2007/2008, which amounted to US$876.2 million (PCBS, 2009g).

The total production of fruit trees reached 9,431 tons with a total value of US$10,219, 000. Olive production constituted most of the fruit production, making up 95% of the fruit tree area in the Salfit Governorate, followed by (hard) almonds at 1.5%. Compared to the year 1997/1998, one notices a

12 For the preparation of this report, value-added is calculated on the basis of agricultural year, which extends from 01/10/2007 until 30/09/2008 (PCBS,2009f).

6.9% increase in the total area of land being used for the cultivation of fruit trees[13] . In addition, the total amount of fruit being produced from cultivations in Salfit has noticeably increased (by 4,166 tones) from the year 1997/8. There has therefore been a resultant increase in the value of fruit tree production in Salfit, from an annual total of US$9,343,000 in 1997/8 to US$10,219,000 by 2008/9, representing an increase of 9.4% during this time period (PCBS, 2009g).

As shown in table 24, date and banana trees are the most highly cultivated fruit trees in the Salfit Governorate. All fruit is produced on irrigated lands, given the climatic problems with utilizing rain-fed agricultural technology in the region.

Table 24: Area, yield and production of fruit trees in the Salfit Governorate by crop and type, 2007/2008

Crop	Bearing				Unbearing		Total Area	Pro-duc-tion
	Rainfed		Irrigated		Rainfed Area	Irrigated Area		
	Area	Yield	Area	Yield				
Olive	73,875	105	-	-	3,730	-	77,605	7,757
Almond (Hard)	1,235	180	-	-	15	-	1,250	222
Grape	1,006	684	-	-	12	-	1,018	688
Fig	745	500	-	-	0	-	745	373
Plum	395	200	-	-	45	-	440	79
Apricot	150	50	-	-	40	-	190	8
Pomegranate	135	500	-	-	-	-	135	68
Apple	95	300	-	-	4	-	99	29
Peach	35	400	-	-	34	-	69	14
Lemon	-	-	50	2,000	-	-	50	100
Aloe	20	500	-	-	-	-	20	10
Shammoty Orange	-	-	15	2000	-	-	15	30
Navel Orange	-	-	15	1500	-	-	15	23
Valencia Orange	-	-	10	2000	-	-	10	20
Pears	7	400	-	-	1	-	8	3
Walnut	5	700	-	-	-	-	5	4
Clement	-	-	2	1500	-	-	2	3
Quince	1	400	-	-	-	-	1	0
Total	77,704		92		3,881	-	81,677	9,431

Area: Dunum, Yield: Kg/Dunum, Production: metric tons *Source: PCBS, 2009g.*

Vegetable Production

Results from the agricultural year 2007/8 indicated that approximately 1,880 dunums of cultivated land were used for vegetable production in Salfit, comprising just 1% of the total area of cultivated lands for vegetable production in the Palestinian territory. In addition, regionally, vegetable production is by far the smallest agricultural market in Salfit, as it makes up just over 2.15% of all cultivated agricultural produce in the Governorate (PCBS, 2009g). Of the cultivated areas used for vegetable production, 66% occurred on irrigated lands, with 28% on rain-fed agricultural lands and 6% in greenhouses. The total production of vegetables, for the year 2007/8 reached 3,126 tons with a total value of US$ 2,124,000.

13 From 9215 Dunums in 1997/98 to 6903 in 07/08

Compared to the year 1997/8, one can see an increase of 103% in the total area planted with vegetables, a 170% increase in the total area of greenhouses, a 855% increase in total production, and (approximately) an 653% increase in the total production value.

Tomatoes, snake cucumber, and okra are the main crops of vegetables produced, comprising 38% of the total area of vegetables in the Salfit Governorate. Table 25 shows the vegetable production in the Governorate.

Table 21: Area, yield and production of vegetables in the Nablus Governorate by crop and type, 2007/2008

Crop	Production	Total Area	Surface tunnel		French tunnel		Plastic houses		Irrigated		Rainfed	
			Yield	Area	Yield	Area	Yield	Area	Yield	Area	Yield	Area
Tomato	1,288	284	-	-	-	-	20,000	44	3,000	120	400	120
Snake Cucumber	51	235	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	35	200	200
Okra	42	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	400	80	85	120
Squash	98	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	70	350	80
Cucumber	612	131	-	-	-	-	6,931	71	2,000	60	-	-
Broad Bean (Green)	88	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	125	-	-
Jew's Mallow	165	110	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500	110	-	-
Cauliflower	194	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	97	-	-
White Cabbage	240	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	96	-	-
Egg-Plant	100	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	50	-	-
Chick Peas (Green)	25	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	50	-	-
Spinach	23	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	45	-	-
Kidney Bean (Green)	23	43	-	-	-	-	1,500	1	500	42	-	-
Lettuce	41	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	41	-	-
Peas	20	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	40	-	-
Onion (Green)	20	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	40	-	-
Parsley	11	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	35	-	-
Cowpea	8	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	27	-	-
Radish	13	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	25	-	-
Paprika	18	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	800	22	-	-
Gourd	38	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	19	-	-
Hot Pepper	8	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	15	-	-
Total	3,126	1,880		-		-		116		1,244		520
Chick Peas(Green)	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	10
Radish	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	9	-	-
Turnip	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	3	-	-
Total	**18,325**	**5,911**		**2,065**		**3**		**267**		**3,282**		**294**

Area: Dunum, Yield: Kg/Dunum, Production: metric tons

Source: PCBS, 2009g.

Field Crops and Forages Production

In the 2007/8 agro-production season, all lands used for agricultural purposes are shown to be rain-fed as opposed to irrigated. This is due to the drought conditions experienced in the region, coupled with the lack of adequate drought mitigation technology required to harvest rain-fed technology. The total production of field crops and forages reached 576 tons with a total value of US $470,000, in the same year.

Compared to the year 1997/8, there was decrease of approximately 41.5% in the total area planted with field crops and forages in 2007/8. There was also a resultant decrease of approximately 52% in the total production, accompanied by a 4.3% decrease in the total production value of this cultivation.

Wheat production made up 22% of the total field crops and forages area of Salfit, with dry onion being classified as the second most produced crop, at 19% (see table 26).

Table 26: Area, yield and production of field crops and forages in the Salfit Governorate by crop and type, 2007/2008

Crop	Rainfed		Irrigated		Total Area	Production
	Area	Yield	Area	Yield		
Wheat	1,400	90	-	-	1,400	126
Barley	550	125	-	-	550	69
Sern	370	150	-	-	370	56
Broad Bean	350	120	-	-	350	42
Dry Onion	270	400	-	-	270	108
Dry Garlic	250	200	-	-	250	50
Thyme	200	200	-	-	200	40
Chick Peas	200	50	-	-	200	10
Lentil	150	40	-	-	150	6
Vetch	130	100	-	-	130	13
Broom Corn	70	40	-	-	70	3
Safflower	65	20	-	-	65	1
Sesame	55	40	-	-	55	2
Potato	25	2,000	-	-	25	50
Total	4,085		-		4,085	576
Fenugreek	12	15	-	-	12	0
Total	**35,949**		**2,470**		**38,419**	**13,966**

Area: Dunum, Yield: Kg/Dunum, Production: metric tons
Source: PCBS. 2009g.

3.2.2. Livestock Production

The total production of livestock in the Salfit Governorate during the agricultural year 2007/2008 reached 1,043 tons of meat (red and white), 1, 967 tons of milk, 9 millions eggs and 8 tons of honey (PCBS, 2009f).

The value of livestock production in the agricultural year 2007/8 registered approximately US$6,938,000, an increase of 66% compared to the year 1997/8 (PCBS, 1998). The contributions

of different sectors from the total livestock production value were as follows: 57% meat, 28% dairy, 12% eggs, 1.5% honey and 1.5% in the 'other livestock' category. It is noted that there is no fish production in Salfit.

Compared to the year 1997/8, there was an increase of approximately 71.5% in the total production value of meat (red), an increase of 111% on the total production value of milk, and a decrease of 1 % on the total egg production value. Additionally, there was an increase in the honey production value by 110% (PCBS, 1998).

Cattle Production

The total number of cattle in the Salfit Governorate during the agricultural year 2007/8 was 285 heads, with a total value of production (meat & milk) of approximately US$832,000 (PCBS, 2009g). Compared to 1997/8, there has been a 6.5% reduction in the total number of cattle farmed in Salfit, however in terms of cattle value; there has been a 40% increase (PCBS, 1998; PCBS, 2009g). Despite this, when compared to other agricultural activities cattle production is not a large industry in Salfit, as it constitutes just 12% of livestock production across the Governorate and 1% of the total cattle production across the entire Palestinian territory.

Table 27 compares the total number and type of cattle farmed in Salfit Governorate and the whole Palestinian territory.

Table 27: Number of cattle by strain, sex and age in Salfit Governorate compared to the total in the Palestinian territory, 2007/2008

Type of cattle farmed in Nablus Governorate		Region	
		Salfit	Palestinian territory
Local cattle	Cows	62	2,910
	Bull Claves	25	918
	Heifer Claves	-	638
	Bulls	2	185
	Total Local Cattle	89	4,651
Friesian cattle	Cows	136	16,504
	Bull Claves	40	7,141
	Heifer Claves	19	4,310
	Bulls	1	380
	Total Friesian Cattle	196	28,335
Total no. of cattle		**285**	**32,986**

Source: PCBS, 2009g.

The total number of cattle in the year 2010 was 423 heads, an increase of 48% of heads compared to 2007/08 (PCBS, 2011b).

Sheep and Goat Production

During the agricultural year 2007/8 the total number of sheep and goats in the governorate reached 7,288 and 7,259 heads respectively. The total value of the production of sheep and goats combined (meat and milk) reached approximately US$3,535,000 (PCBS, 2009g) in 2008.

Compared to 1997/8, the number of sheep and goats has increased by 69% and the values of meat and milk have increased by 126% and 158% respectively (PCBS, 1998).

See table 28 for types and numbers of goats and sheep in the Salfit Governorate and in the entire Palestinian territory (2007/8).

Table 28: Number of sheep and goats in Salfit Governorate compared to total heads across the Palestinian territory, 2007/2008

Governorate	Goats			Sheep		
	Local	Other	Total	Local	Other	Total
Salfit	6,705	554	**7,259**	6,175	1,113	**7,288**
Palestinian territory	274,888	47,194	**322,082**	453,554	235,345	**688,899**

Source: PCBS. 2009f.

It is worth noting that sheep and goats numbers increased by 15.3% and decreased by 46% respectively in the year 2010, compared to the year 2007/08. The total number of sheep reached 8,403 heads and the goats 3,904 heads in 2010 (PCBS, 2011d).

Poultry Production

During the agricultural year 2007/8, the total number of poultry in Salfit Governorate was 410,000 birds (comprising 37,000 layers and 373,000 broilers). This constituted just 1.35% of the total poultry production in the Palestinian territory at the same time. The total value of poultry production (meat & eggs) stood at approximately US$2,341,000 (PCBS, 2009g).

Compared to the agricultural year 1997/8, the number of laying poultry has dramatically decreased by 12%, whilst broiler bird production decreased by 6.3% (PCBS, 1998; PCBS, 2011d). However there was an increase of approximately 20% on the total production value of poultry; both layers and broilers combined.

Table 29 compares the total number of layer and broiler birds in the Salfit Governorate and the Palestinian territory for the agricultural year 2007/8.

Table 29: Number of broilers and layers in the Salfit Governorate compared to the total in the Palestinian territory, 2007/2008

Governorate	Poultry numbers in thousands	
	Layers	Broilers
Salfit	37	373
Palestinian territory	2,695	27,682

Source: PCBS. 2009g.

It is worth noting that poultry numbers decreased by 14% in 2010 compared to 2007/8. The total number of layers reached 20, 600 birds and the broilers reached 333,250 birds in the year 2010 (PCBS, 2011b).

Beehives Production

The total number of beehives in the Salfit Governorate in 2007/8 reached 2,605 (PCBS, 2009g). In comparison, in 2010 there were 1,818, representing a 30% decrease over the three-year period.

The total production value of the beehive industry in Salfit reached approximately US$103,000, making up 3.6% of the total annual honey production value in the Palestinian territory for the year 2007/8 (and 4.5% of West Bank production) (PCBS, 2009g) (see table 30).

In 2007/8 compared to 1997/8, there is shown to be a 200% increase in the number of beehives and a 110% increase in the total production value of beehives in the Governorate (PCBS, 1998; PCBS, 2009g).

Table 30: Number of beehives in the Salfit Governorate compared to the total for the Palestinian territory, 2007/08

Region	Beehives		
	Modern	Traditional	Total
Salfit	2,586	19	2,605
Palestinian Territory	63,782	2,951	66,733

Source: PCBS, 2009g

Table 31: Agricultural data (selected indicators) for Salfit 2007/8-2010

Indicator	2007/8 (Annual survey)	2010 (Census)	Quantitative difference
Total cultivated area (trees, vegetables, field crops)	87,642*	39,567.37*	-26.37%
Cultivated area of fruit trees	81,677*	38,522.13*	+ 1.51%
Rain-fed agricultural area	82,309*	5,097*	-94%

**in dunums*
Sources: PCBS. 2011b, and PCBS. 2009g.

As one can see, in the case of the selected indicators there have been some notable changes during the selected time period (2007/8-10). For example there has been a noticeably large decrease (53%) in the total cultivated area of trees. (PCBS, 2011b).

3.3. Forests and nature reserves

The forested area in the Salfit area is a rich base for biological diversity since it is a habitat for diverse types of forests and numerous plant and animal species. There are almost 9,519 dunums of forested area in Salfit Governorate (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2010) (see map 6). This comprises 12% of the total forested area in the West Bank. In addition, there is a large area (13,023 dunums) of shrubs and herbaceous vegetation cover in the governorate. There are 21,987 dunums nature reserves[14] in Salfit governorate that were declared by Israel[15] (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011) (see map 7).

Salfit has 7 forested areas including Wadi Qana, Al A'urood, Jabal AL Deeb, Al Balaha forests; all of them are under the Israeli control and subjected to Israeli military practices, settlement expansion, etc. Despite the limited size of forests in this area, Salfit governorate is located in the Central Highlighted ecosystem which record the highest number of plant families among the different ecosystems in the West Bank. Here, there are 105 different plant families growing, with the Zannichelliaceae, Araliaceae, Elatinaceae, and Meliaceae families growing only in this ecosystem (ARIJ, 2007).

14 This area was included in the land use land cover but under different classification as graded in the land use land cover table (20).
15 There are doubts concerning the declared protected area in terms of their biological components and the reasons behind their declaration, since in most cases the protected areas overlaps with Israeli closed military areas, settlements, and degraded lands with minor or no biodiversity which do not fit the international standards/criteria of a declared protected area

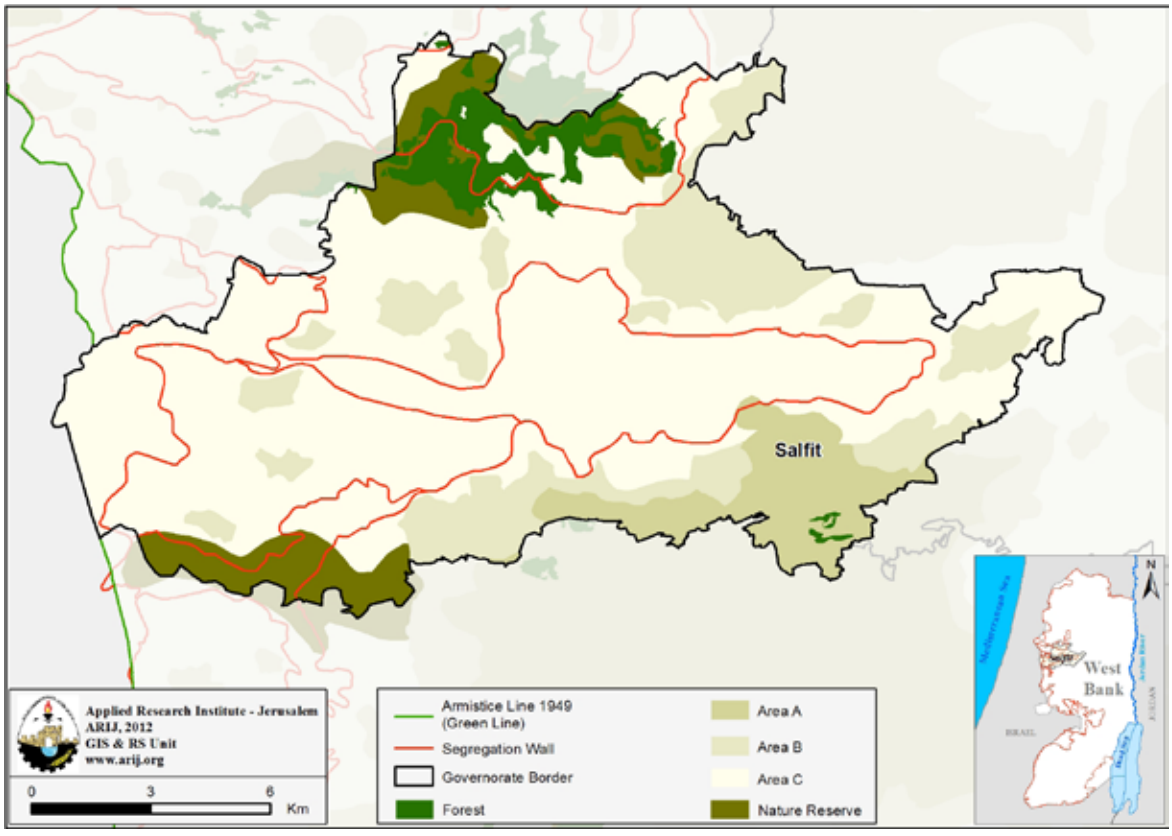
Forests play a crucial role in landscape and green coverage preservation, in addition to watershed protection in the oPt.

Salfit forests are characterised by their Mediterranean ecosystem, where the temperatures are moderates and rainfall amounts are medium to high. The climate in general tends to be semi-dry to humid east to west and south to north in the governorate. Most of Salfit forests are located on fertile soil types such as Alluvial and Brown soils, and some beds of Terra Rosa soils (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011). Forests in Salfit Governorate are natural forests and are diverse in nature; compromised mainly of the Scelrophyllons Oak forest and maquis, which is an oak and Lentisk forest and Carob forest (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011).

The Scelrophyllons Oak forest and maquis is characterized by diverse natural plantation in reference to its distance from the mountains belt including mainly Quercus Calliprinos, Pistacia lentiscus, P. Palaestina, Styrax officinalis, Rhamnus lycioides (Palaestinus), Phillyrea media, Laurus nobilis, Ceratonia siliqua, Arbutus andrachne, and Cercis siliquastrum (Abu A'yash. A., et-al. 2007).

All Salfit forested areas are governmental lands. However up to 97.2% of them are located within geopolitical Area C[16] , where the forests are under Israeli control and the MoA has no management authority (ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2011) (see map 7). It is worth noting that the forests in Salfit being part of the Central highlands ecosystem then it well-known habitats for 57 endemic species and several endangered wild plants such as Salvia ceratophylla, Salvia eigii (Labiatae) and Sclerochloa dura. Rare species in the Central Highlands ecosystem form 58.7% of total rare species growing in the West Bank (ARIJ, 2007); hence there is a need for further management and conservation to sustain such a valuable natural resource.

Map7: Forested areas in Salfit Governorate



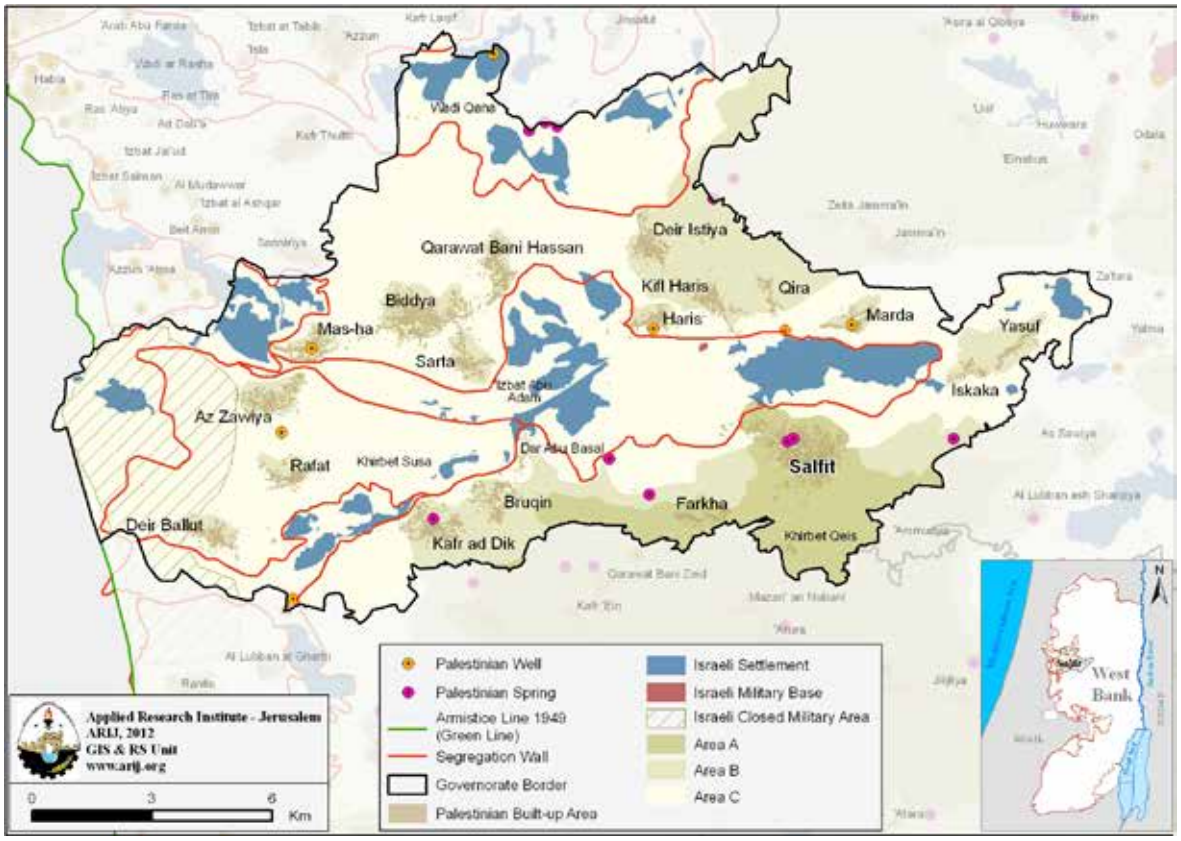
Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

16 The rest is in Area B.

3.4. Water Resources

The renewable water resources in Salfit Governorate consist primarily of groundwater resources, all of which are located in the Western aquifer system. In 2011, around 0.115 MCM (million cubic meters) were produced from the Western Basin from the 5 major Palestinian springs located in the Salfit Governorate (PWA, 2012). Four springs are utilized for domestic purposes, whilst the other is utilized for both domestic and agriculture purposes (see map 8). There are two Palestinian groundwater wells in the Salfit Governorate. However, the Israeli water company Mekorot controls one well located within the governorate.

Map 8: Distribution of ground water springs in Salfit Governorate

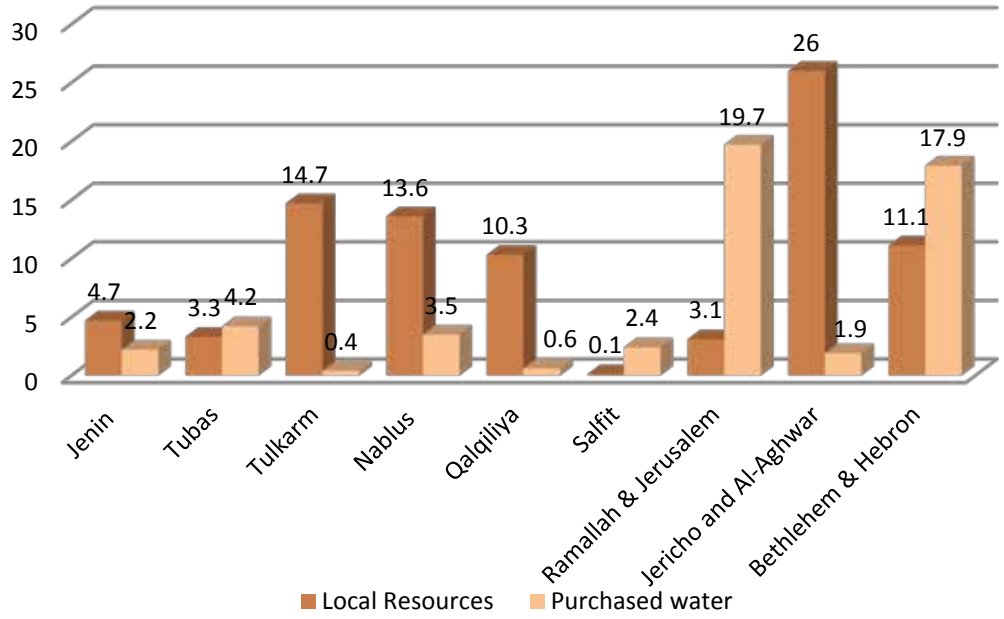


Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Drinking water resources in the Salfit governorate are divided into two main sources: (1) local resources from springs, and (2) purchased resources from Mekorot, the Israeli National Water Company. The quantity of water purchased from Mekorot in Salfit Governorate for domestic use in 2011 was 2.4 MCM, which represents about 96% of the total water resources of the governorate. This was set at a cost of 2.4 NIS/cubic meter (PWA, 2012).

Figure 4 shows the amount of domestic water from local resources and water purchased from Mekorot by each West Bank governorate, including water supplied to the Israeli side as per agreement (2.4 MCM). It can be seen that the Salfit Governorate has 4.5% of the total purchases of the West Bank, as a result of the low population density in the governorate (PWA, 2012).

Figure 4: Quantity of domestic water from local resources and water purchased from Mekorot in



Source: PWA, 2012

There was a water deficit as the domestic water supply did not meet the needed quantity of water. Table 32 below shows the needed, available and consumed quantities and deficit of water in the Salfit Governorate in 2011.

Table 32: Needed, available and consumed quantities and deficit in Salfit Governorate, 2011

Governorate	Needed Quantities of Water(1)	Water Supply for Domestic Sector	Deficit	Water Consumed	Actual Deficit
	MCM/year	MCM/year	MCM/year	MCM/year	MCM/year
Salfit	3.5	2.5	1	1.8	1.7
(1) Needed quantity of water is calculated based on a water supply of 150 l/c.d					

Source: PWA, 2012.

The water losses in Salfit governorate in 2011 were 0.7 MCM, representing 28% of the supplied water in Salfit governorate (PWA, 2012). The Governorate suffers from an actual deficit in domestic water supply which reach to 1.7 MCM/year, as the amount of consumed water was much less than the needed quantity.

The West Bank Water Department is responsible for the water supply services for the localities in Salfit Governorate. In 2011, the average water consumption rate per capita in Salfit Governorate was 77 litre/day, which was more than the average per capita allocation in the West Bank, which is 73 liter/capita/day (PWA, 2012). However, the consumption rate varies from one locality to another in the Governorate; in some villages such as Iskaka, Borkan, Farkha, Deir Istiya and Qira, this rate is less than 50 litre/capita/day. This volume is below the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation of minimum consumption of 100 liter/capita/day.

The population of Salfit Governorate is distributed over 18 localities served by the water network. However, in some localities such as Borkan, Farkha, Yasuf, Haris and Qarawat Bani Hassan, the water networks coverage in the served communities may not be complete (partial coverage).

These un-served neighborhoods are dependent upon water tankers, rainwater collection systems, agricultural wells and springs (PWA, 2012). Rainwater collection systems are frequently used in the Governorate because the area receives a comparatively high amount of rainfall, reaching around 698 mm annually.

3.5. Waste Water

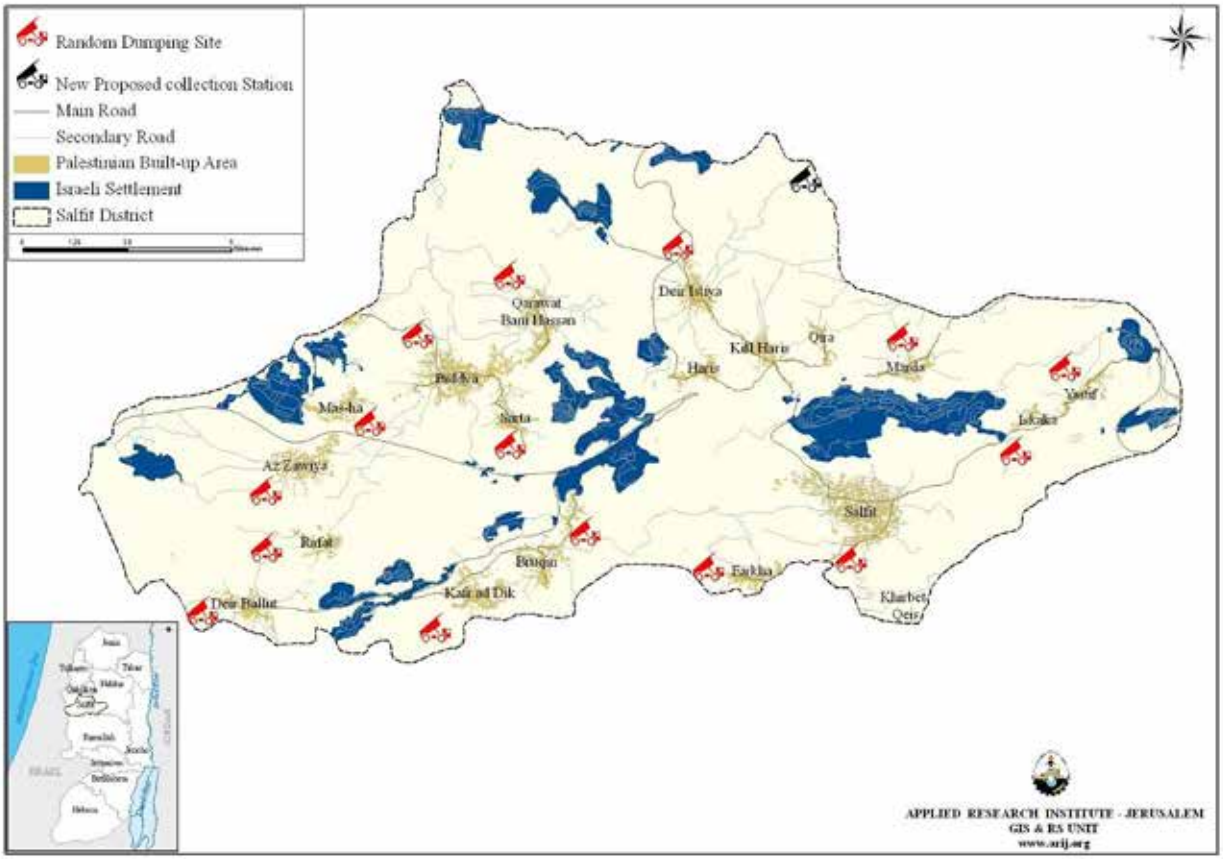
Practices for managing domestic wastewater in Salfit Governorate are limited to the collection of wastewater by cesspits except for within 2 localities out of 18 (approximately 10.1% of the population). These exceptional locations are connected to wastewater collection networks (many of which are old and poorly-designed, causing frequent floods and leaks), whilst other communities discharge their wastewater into cesspits (without appropriate lining, which facilitates its infiltration into the soil) and open channels (ARIJ – WERD, 2013). Vacuum tanks are hardly used due to the high cost of this type of service. Therefore wastewater is almost uncontrolled, and has the potential to cause serious environmental problems and health risks.

Approximately 1.35 MCM of wastewater is generated annually in Salfit Governorate (ARIJ – WERD, 2013). However, wastewater generation could be higher than the figures reported herein as these figures were calculated based on the total volume of municipal freshwater minus the total volume of water unaccounted for and the result was multiplied by 80%. It is worth noting that Salfit governorate localities have no wastewater treatment facilities.

3.6. Solid Waste

Practices for managing solid waste in Salfit governorate include the collection of solid waste and its transportation to random dumpsites (either inside or outside the locality boundaries). Currently the collected solid waste in Deir Istiya, Qira, Kifl Haris and Haris is transferred to a shared dumping site for the JCspd-East Salfit which is located in Deir Istiya. In the remaining localities (Salfit, Yasuf, Iskaka, Bruqin, Farkha, Kafr ad Dik, Marda, Qarawat Bani Hassan, Biddya, Mas-ha, Sarta, Az Zawiya, Rafat and Deir Ballut) the collected solid waste is disposed of in 14 random dumping sites as illustrated in map 9. Open burning of collected solid waste is practiced in all of the uncontrolled dumping sites.

Map 9: Location of solid waste disposal sites used by local authorities and joint council of east Salfit



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Across Salfit Governorate, the responsibility for solid waste collection is split between several authorities; the 'Joint Service Council for Service Planning and Development' (JCspd), the village councils and the municipalities.

Based on the solid waste generation rate[17] and the population figures, it is estimated that the Salfit Governorate produces approximately 51.5 tons of domestic solid waste daily, which equates to 18,780 tons annually (ARIJ – WERD, 2013). The solid waste generated is collected and dumped daily in open and uncontrolled dumping sites.

3.7 Environmental Conditions

Water Crisis

Israeli occupation forces control ground water resources and prevent Palestinians from drilling new wells and water networks or developing existing water infrastructure. The Israeli water company Mekorot also has a significant role in controlling West Bank water resources and in fact controls a well located within the Salfit Governorate. Mekorot's well essentially serves the Israeli settlements with low water prices, whilst selling the same product to Palestinians, which is in fact their own water, at higher prices. The quantity of water supplied to the illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank is far greater compared to the quantity supplied to the Palestinians. Israeli settlers' water consumption for household use is greater than 350 liter per day, while Palestinians in some localities in the Salfit

17 Per capita solid waste generation rate for rural localities is 0.7kg/day and for refugee camps and urban localities is 1.05 kg/day

governorate (such as Iskaka, Borkan, Farkha, Deir Istiya and Qira) are unable to consume more than 50 liter per day, (ARIJ –WERD 2013).

It is worth mentioning here that the reduced water flow in the springs of the West Bank are a direct result of Israel's control over the groundwater wells, as it is common practice for Israeli occupation authorities to dig wells very near Palestinian springs thus preventing the natural flow of water and obtaining the water for Israeli control.

In recent years, water springs in the vicinity of Israeli settlements throughout the West Bank have become the targets of settler activities that seek to eliminate or threaten Palestinian access to these springs. In Salfit Governorate, two springs have been seized by settler groups without formal authorization (OCHA, 2012). The inability to access or use springs has significantly undermined the livelihoods and security of Palestinians living in affected communities. It has also increased expenditure for herders and households who are forced to purchase Israeli controlled water brought in through pipes and tankers (ARIJ, 2012).

Water projects and infrastructure within Area C require an official permit from the Joint Water Committee (JWC) and the Israeli Civil Administration. This is a long bureaucratic procedure, which often results in permission being denied. Projects executed without prior approval are demolished by the Israeli military. Recently, there has been a significant increase in these demolitions including storage and rainwater cisterns, wells, springs, water tanks, and agricultural ponds. Some of these structures were demolished under the pretext that they were constructed without obtaining the relevant Israeli permit, but many were demolished without reason. In Salfit governorate specifically in Kafr ad Dik locality, four rainwater cisterns were demolished in the year 2011, with 87 people affected. This aggressive policy is intentionally restricting, displacing and eliminating Palestinians from certain areas of the West Bank. These are areas of particular strategic interest to Israel, usually because they are designated for the expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure (ARIJ, 2012).

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network in the localities of the Salfit governorate means that most residents use cesspits for the disposal of wastewater and/or discharge wastewater in streets and open areas. These actions cause environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the area. The use of cesspits pollutes the groundwater and springs, making it unfit for human consumption. This is due to the fact that most cesspits are poorly constructed andbuilt without a lining, allowing wastewater to seep into the ground.

Israeli settlers have consistently used their wastewater as another way to defile Palestinian land. Settlers often dispose of their untreated wastewater in the valleys surrounding Palestinian agricultural areas, in full knowledge of the adverse effects on the land and the Palestinian people. The land is continually poisoned, ruining crops and other produce that many Palestinians are completely dependent upon.

An example of this is the wastewater generated from the Ariel settlement located in the Salfit governorate which flows into the Al-Matwe valley, one of the sources feeding the aquifer in the western basin of the region. This wastewater flows towards the neighboring agricultural lands and continues towards Borkan and Kafr ad Dik villages towards the Green Line, resulting in the pollution of many springs in the area as well as the shallow water aquifer.

Since the occupation of the West Bank in 1967, Israel has neglected development projects for water and sanitation in the Palestinian territory despite the fact that Israeli authorities collect taxes from the Palestinians for this purpose. The proceeds of these taxes are mostly invested in the interests of the occupation authorities and settlers. The Israeli state has broken numerous agreements relating to the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources throughout the peace process. Although the Palestinian Authority has attempted to draw up plans and strategies relating to wastewater treatment, Israel has deliberately impeded the implementation of such water and sanitation projects (ARIJ, 2010).

For example, it was proposed that a wastewater treatment plant be constructed in Al-Matwe Valley within the limits of Salfit town, funded by the KFW German cooperation. However obstacles and conditions set by the Israeli side prevented the success of the project. Israel was required to approve and authorize the construction of the wastewater treatment plant, as it was in area "C". The planned plant was intended to be for the use of both Palestinians and those living in the nearby settlement of Ariel. However the Palestinians rejected the Israeli proposal as it was a clear recognition and explicit legitimacy of the illegal Israeli settlements on the Palestinian land.

Illegal Israeli industry within the West Bank puts further pressure on the Palestinian environment. Although within Israel there are strict environmental laws to protect the land, these do not apply within the Palestinian territories. Israeli industries therefore dispose of their wastewater improperly, usually targeting Palestinians, and do not bother to treat any waste as they could and do in Israel. The case of the Barqan industrial zone in Salfit Governorate is a clear example of the potential threat to the West Bank aquifer system. The industrial wastewater generated from Barqan industrial zone is discharged untreated into the villages of Sarta, Kafr ad Dik and Barqan, and passes through the agricultural lands, damaging planted fields. It also affects water resources, accumulating in toxic lagoons which spread diseases and cause health and environmental hazards.

Solid waste management

There are numerous obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions which prevent them from developing good solid waste management services, such as refusing to grant licenses to establish landfills on land within Area C. The lack of sanitary landfills is not only a hazard risk to human health but it also a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leakage of solid waste and a source of unpleasant odors and can cause a distortion of the landscape.

PART FOUR: Geo-Political Status in the Salfit Governorate

4.1. Historical background of the changing boundaries of Salfit Governorate

The Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, concluded Israel withdrawal from more areas of the West Bank and that occupied territory be divided into Areas "A", "B" and "C", which are designated as varying levels of control. Accordingly, the Israeli Army withdrew from lands classified as areas "A", and the Palestinian National Authority assumed complete control. This marked the first time that a Palestinian Government retained sovereignty over any Palestinian land. In area B, Palestinians have full control over the civil administration and Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. While in Area C, the Palestinians have responsibility for civil life such as economics, health, and education; while, Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory.

Under the signed Oslo Accord, Salfit Governorate was classified into areas "A", "B" and "C" as a part of a withdrawal process to be completed before the end of 1999, prior to the initiation of negotiations over the final status issues. Table 33 illustrates the areas distribution

Table 33: The Geopolitical Divisions of Salfit Governorate according to Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in September 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage
Area A	15808	7.8
Area B	35107	17.2
Area C	152792	75
Nature Reserves	0	0
TOTAL	**203707**	**100**

Source: The Geo-Informatics Department, ARIJ - 2013

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, 15808 dunums (15.8 km²) of Salfit Governorate were classified as Area A (areas under Palestinian control), 35107 dunums (35.1 km²) were classified as Area B (areas under Palestinian civil administration but Israel continued to have an overriding control on security), while 152792 dunums (152.8 Km²) were classified as Area C (areas under full Israeli Control).

Map 10: below shows the location of Salfit Governorate in the Occupied Palestinian territory.

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

4.2. Israeli Occupation Practices in Salfit Governorate

During the past four decades of Israeli occupation to Salfit Governorate, 24 illegal Israeli settlements with a total hold of Israeli settlers population of more than 51 thousand were established on an area of 18890 dunums (18.9 km²), (ARIJ database, 2013), see table 34.

Table 34: Israeli Settlements in Salfit Governorate

No.	Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Israeli Settlers Population (2011)	Area (Dunum)
1	Alei Zahav (Yoezer)	1982	690	299
2	Ariel	1978	19544	4791
3	Ariel West Park Industrial		NA	1742
4	Barqan	1981	1513	642
5	Barqan industrial Znoe	1981	NA	1398
6	Benot Orot Yisra'el	1989	NA	176
7	Bruchin	1999	540	278
8	Elkana	1977	4140	1515
9	Emmanuel	1981	3229	839
10	Etz Efrayim	1985	813	546
11	Ginnot Shomeron	1985	NA	761
12	Har Alei Zahav	1982	970	317
13	Industrial Zone (Near Peduel)	1991	-----	246
14	Karne Shomron	1978	7494	688
15	Kfar Tapuah	1978	1070	651
16	Ma'ale Shomron	1980	878	79
17	Mazor Atiqa (Israeli Quarry)	1986	NA	711
18	Nofim	1986	455	705
19	Pedu'el	1984		
	1264			
	599			
20	Qiryat Netafim	1982	744	370
21	Revava	1991	1395	641
22	Rechelim	1991	223	59
23	Sha'are Tikva	1982	5001	176
24	Yakir	1981	1463	661
	Total		**51,426**	**18,890**

Source: The Geo-Informatics Department, ARIJ - 2013

Furthermore, between 1996 and 2013, the Israeli settlers in the Salfit Governorate established 9 settlements' outposts, which became known as settlements' outposts. The Israeli outposts' phenomena started back in the year 1996 by Israeli settlers who contrived to take control of hilltops in the occupied Palestinian territory. The outposts are located mostly within 1-4 miles distant from an existing settlement. The Israeli government did not provide those settlers with direct financial support rendering them to be illegal and unauthorized but simultaneously providing infrastructural support through the Israeli Army who would also provide them with security blanket to carry out their attacks against Palestinian lands. The aim of the outposts established by Israeli settlers, in an indirect manner of collaboration with the Israeli government, was best described in 1998 by the Israeli Agriculture Minister at that time and former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; to take as much Palestinian land as possible before "losing them to Palestinians in negotiations". Table 35 lists the Israeli settlements' outposts that were established in the Salfit Governorate.

Table 35: Israeli Settlements' Outposts in Salfit Governorate

No.	Outpost name	Closest mother settlement	Period
1.	Yair Farm	Yakir	Jan 2001
2.	Elmatan (Ma'ale Shomton South)	Ma'ale Shomron	Jan 2002
3.	Nofei Nehama	Rechalim	Jan 2002
4.	Megen Dan	Elkana	Jan 1999
5.	Bruchin	Barqan	Jan 1999
6.	Tapauch west	Kfar Tapauch	Jan 2001
7.	Tapuah B	Kfar Tapauch	Feb 2001 - Nov 2002
8.	South Immanuel (Construction)	Immanuel	2002 - June 2003
9.	Ma'ale Israel	Barqan	NA

Source: The Geo-Informatics Department, ARIJ - 2013

4.3. The Israeli bypass roads system in and around Salfit Governorate

The term "Bypass Roads" did not come into use until the signing of Oslo agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians in 1993 to indicate designated roads for the Israeli Army and settlers use, to bypass Palestinian towns and communities in the context of the Israeli Army redeployment. From that point on, Israel intensified its efforts to increase the magnitude of the bypass roads in the occupied Palestinian territory as a part of its policy to coerce facts on the ground; ultimately affecting the outcome of negotiation with the Palestinians; including the establishment of a viable contiguous Palestinian State. The majority of the West Bank area is Area "C", which hold all Israeli settlements and consequently the Israeli bypass roads that pierce at many classified "A" and "B" areas establishing a physical obstruction between two controlled Palestinian areas.

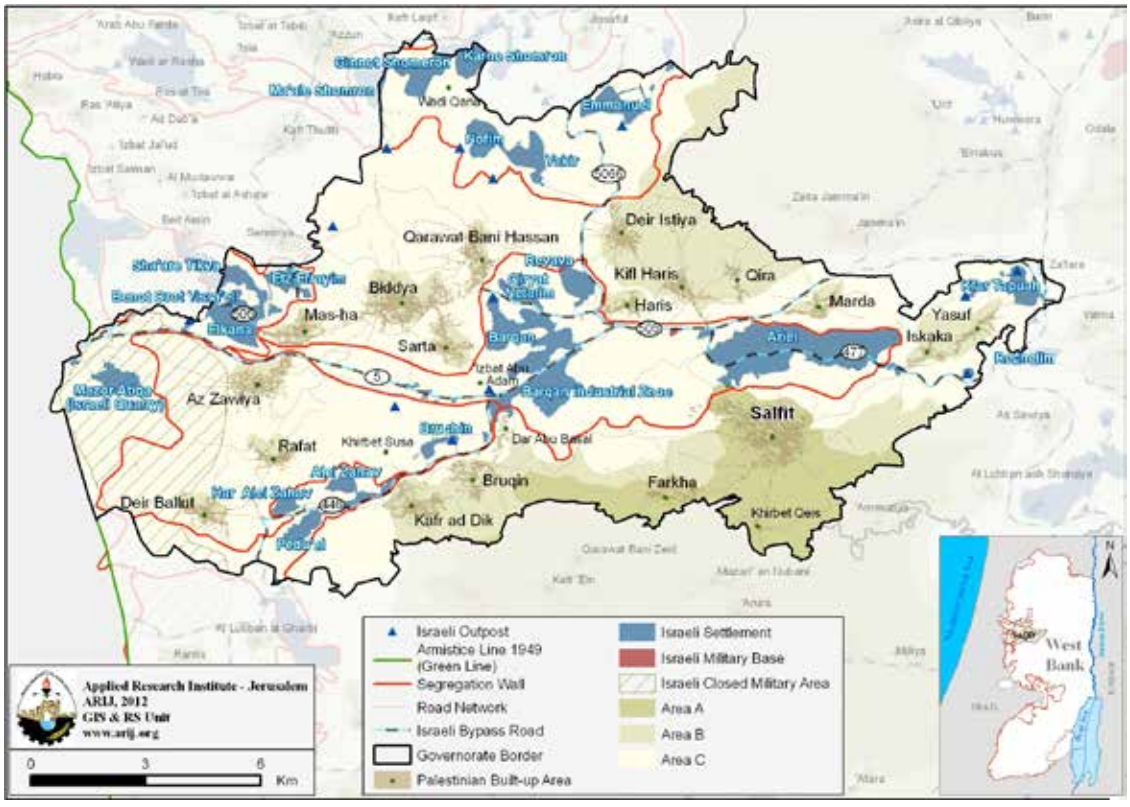
Along with launching a vigorous settlements program following the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) back in 1967, the consecutive governments of the state of Israel adopted a separation concept based on the creation of an Israeli controlled road grid system, which will work to facilitate the construction of Israeli settlements and the Israeli settlers movement between occupied territory settlements and Israel and eventually incorporate the Israeli created and controlled road grid system in the occupied territory with the road grid system in Israel. The Israelis built these roads under the pretext of "security needs"; a term that presented the Israeli Army with legitimate excuse to expropriate Palestinian lands; a procedure that proved its efficiency before when the Israeli Army would expropriate Palestinian lands under the "security needs" pretext to establish an Army base, which later on is turned to Israeli settlers control who would turn it on their part into a civilian inhabitant area. For Israel, that was the only available option or the only loop to bypass the international law, which considers, expropriating land for any purpose other than military use a "grave breach". Israel also argued the military role of the settlements and the bypass roads to its security, which allowed the Army to expropriate private Palestinian lands to build settlements and its roads; Israel also argued that the roads it is building will also benefit the local Palestinian population who would be allowed to travel on these roads. Furthermore, the Israeli built roads on confiscated Palestinian lands thus contributing immensely to stimulate the habitation of the Israeli settlements, which encouraged the Israeli settlers to take initiative and construct roads on their own, but would later on be endorsed and adopted by the Israeli Army to cast a shadow of legitimacy on these roads. In addition to its role in connecting settlements, the Israeli built roads worked to restrain the development of the Palestinian communities in the West Bank by creating de-facto obstructions to areas designated for development.

Prior to the outbreak of the September 2000 Intifada, Palestinians had almost complete access to these bypass roads, except at time when the Israeli Army is on security alerts that Palestinians are no longer allowed to travel on the bypass roads or would have to undergo through a security check conducted by the Israeli Army border patrols, which would take hours at times. However, following the eruption of the second Intifada in late September of year 2000, Palestinians access to all bypass roads became virtually forbidden; unless they are in possession of a special permit issued by the Israeli civil administration. Later on, the Israeli Army would refer to bypass roads where Palestinian are no longer allowed to travel on as "sterile" roads; meaning that these are Palestinians free roads. Today, almost 52 km fall under the bypass roads category in the Salfit Governorate, all come to comply with the Israeli settlements program and to facilitate movement of these settlements with each other and with Israel, beyond the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line). Palestinians today are denied access to the bypass roads network and are blocked from them with cement blocks, trenches, earth-mounds, barbwires and iron gates; all under the pretext of military and/or security purposes.

4.4. The Israeli violations in Salfit Governorate

The Israeli settlement activities in Salfit commenced following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967. Israel's settlements' activities seek to unilaterally and illegally create facts on the ground that will ultimately undermine the Palestinian presence and sustainability and create Israeli majority on the lands extending from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Additionally, during the years of the second Intifada which erupted in September 2000, the Israeli authorities stepped up their belligerent occupation related activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, destroying Palestinian agriculture, confiscating lands, demolishing Palestinian houses, expanding settlements, erecting outposts, expanding bypass roads, imposing severe restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement. Table 36 indicates some of the Israeli violations in Salfit Governorate (see map 11).

Map 11: The Geo-political status of Salfit's Governorate.



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

In case of Nablus Governorate, the actual land area set for the existing settlements with future expansion sites (according to the master plans) is calculated at 29,246 dunums; which is almost two times larger than Israeli settlements current built- up area in Nablus Governorate. The following map (12) shows the areas of Israeli settlement, including the master plans in Nablus Governorate.

Table 36: Israeli violations in Salfit Governorate during the years 2000 and 2013

Date	Confiscated lands (dunums)	Uprooted trees	No. of demolished Palestinian houses	No. of threatened Palestinian houses
2000	1020	200	0	0
2001	265	2115	0	7
2002	0	30	3	0
2003	40	1100	3	3
2004	106	400	8	4
2005	16	1660	1	7
2006	64	0	6	3
2007	405	100	2	36
2008	0	0	0	21
2009	1049	0	0	22
2010	614	1035	1	31
2011	1523	2517	4	24
2012	2241	786	19	13
2013	23	40	1	0
Total	**7366**	**9983**	**48**	**171**

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

4.5 Salfit and the Israeli Segregation Plan

In June 2002, the Israeli Government launched its policy of unilateral segregation between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) by establishing a Segregation Zone along the western terrains of the occupied West Bank. The Israeli Segregation Zone covers substantial sizeable and significant land areas, rich with natural resources (water aquifers) as it runs along and through the western part of the West Bank from north to south, grabbing the most fertile agricultural lands, isolating Palestinian communities in enclaves, undermining the territorial contiguity between the Palestinian villages and cities, controlling the natural resources, and encapsulating most of the illegal Israeli settlements. At this time, an explanation of the term "Segregation Wall" should be made obvious as it reflects two shapes of structures used by the Israeli Army to complete their territorial separation mission in the occupied Palestinian territory, it is either concrete partition of 8-12 meters in height or in the other case, and multi-line fences are used. In both cases, the term Segregation Wall applies.

Based on the characteristic nature of the area, where the Segregation Wall runs, the type of the structure is determined as to say in areas where the Segregation Wall cuts through vast agriculture lands, the Segregation Wall is a fence, which is more devastating to the land as it takes an area of 40-100 meters in width to complete; where double layered fences, reinforced with barbed wires, trenches, military roads and footprint-detection tracks, as well as 4-5 meters high electrified metal fence, supplied with security surveillance cameras. In the other case, in areas with sizeable population and/or in-close perimeter with the Green Line, the Segregation Wall con¬sists of 8-12 meters high concrete partitions appendages with military watchtowers lined-up 250 meters apart.

The latest revised route of the Israeli Segregation Wall which was published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense website on April 30, 2007 showed that the wall extends along 94 kilometers in Salfit Governorate piercing through 16 Palestinian community villages and isolating others as in the case of Kafr Ad Dik, Rafat and Deir Ballut villages behind its path. It is worth pointing out that the Israeli Segregation Wall will end up encompassing 21 (out of 24) Israeli settlements and isolating 71,293 dunums of Palestinian lands behind its path. The following table 37 shows the status of the Israeli Segregation Wall in Salfit Governorate (see map 11).

Table 37: Status of Israeli Segregation Wall in Salfit Governorate

Wall Type	Length (km)
Existing sections	26
Planned sections	68
Under Construction	0
Total length	**94**

Source: The Geo-Informatics Department, ARIJ - 2013

In Salfit Governorate, the Segregation Wall, upon completion, will isolate 71293 dunums (71.3 Km²) of Palestinian lands and disrupt the life in most Palestinian villages in the Governorate. The residents of these isolated and disrupted villages have a harsh time when it comes to their movement to areas already segregated by the Wall in case they want to reach their homes or lands; thereby affect their livelihood and other vital social, health and educational services as well. Table 38 shows the Land Use/ Land Cover of area isolated behind the Segregation Wall in Salfit Governorate.

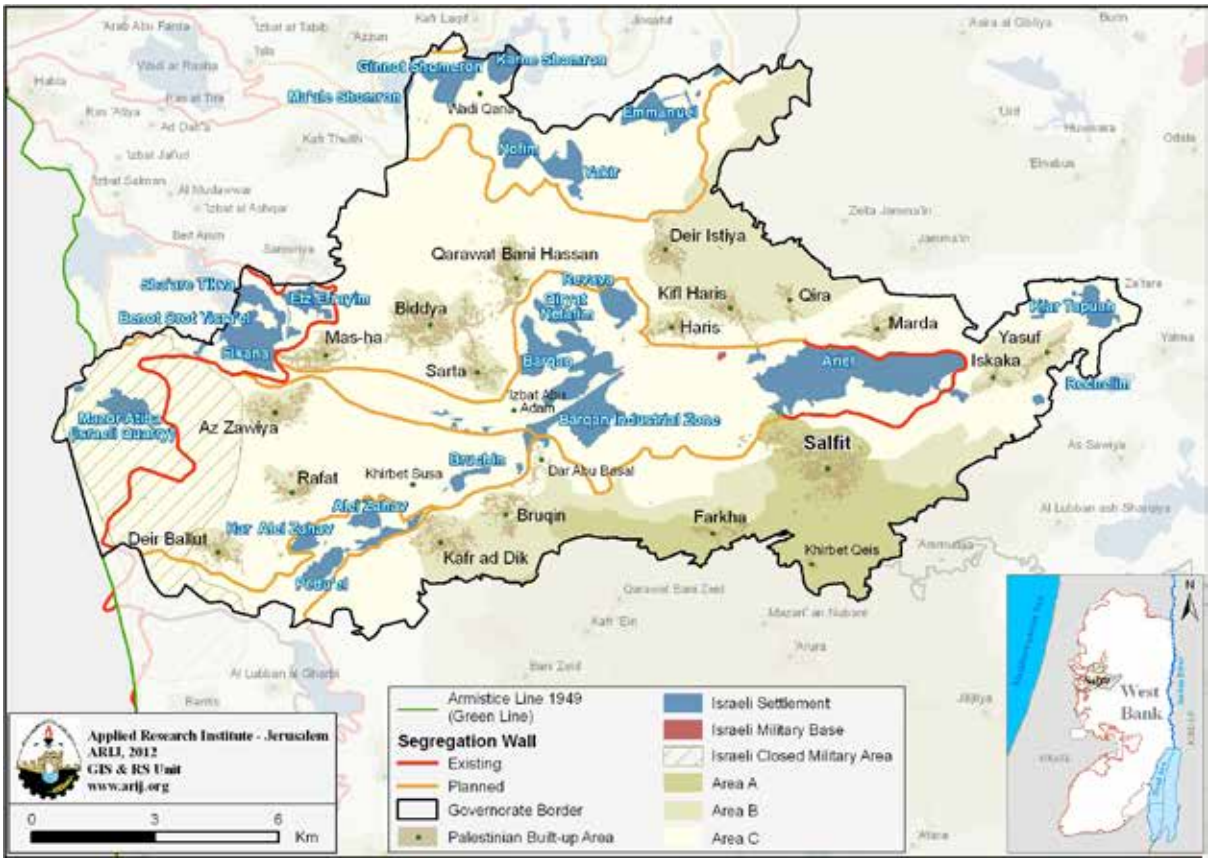
Table 38: Land Use Land Cover of area isolated behind the Segregation wall in Salfit Governorate

Land Type	Area (Dunums)
Arable land	19,987
Forests	5,945
Industrial, commercial and transport unit	280
Open spaces with little or no vegetation	26,709
Israeli Military Base	34
Israeli Outpost	94
Israeli Settlements	17,555
Palestinian Built-up Area	83
Wall zone	606
Total Area	**71,293**

Source: The Geo-Informatics Department, ARIJ- 2013

Entrance to the isolated agricultural lands is (or will be, upon all completion) restricted to those who are able to prove landownership authenticated by the Israeli civil administration, which means that only owners who have their names listed in the ownership deeds (usually the eldest of the families) will receive permits. Furthermore, issuance of permits by the Israeli civil administration is on seasonal basis and owners find a hard time to manage their cultivated lands on their own especially that the permits do not include additional labor and/ or equipments.

Map 12: The work status of the Israeli Segregation Wall in Salfit Governorate



Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

The Negative Impacts of the Segregation Plan on Salfit Governorate

The construction of the Segregation Wall has negative impacts on the, economical, social as well as environmental aspects of the Palestinians' lives. Following is a summary of those major impacts.

Political Impact

- The Israeli Segregation Wall redraws the political boundary of Salfit governorate.
- The Segregation Wall redefines the demographic balance of the governorate with more than 46.6 % of its area taken in toward Israel.
- The segregation Wall created new demographic facts that led to forced migration among Palestinians who lost their livelihoods
- The Plan severs the organic tie between Salfit and other Palestinian Governorates

Economic Impact

- The Segregation Plan causes severe damages to the Palestinian agricultural sector and to the Palestinian farmers as a result of land confiscation and the constraints imposed on mobility and marketing
- Israel maintains control over Palestinian trade and tourism
- Unemployment as well as poverty levels increase
- Rise in land prices and reduction of investment opportunities

Social Impact

- Thousands of Palestinian citizens are cut-off from the main urban centers where health, educational and social services are located

- Harsh measures are imposed on Palestinian mobility and movement, transportation from or to the segregated areas is extremely difficult
- The Segregation Zone is cutting-off social relations between Palestinian citizens living on either sides of the Wall
- Increased urbanization pressure and population density
- The Segregation Wall places many Palestinian communities in geographically disconnected and segregated enclaves or ghettos

Impact on the Palestinian Environment

- Decline in the space areas designated for landfills and wastewater treatment sites.
- Diminish areas designated as natural reservations, forests, pastures, open spaces and recreation areas.
- Loss of grazing area and increase in desertification
- Distort wildlife cycle and cuts-off different kinds of animals from their natural habitat particularly during migration seasons.
- The Segregation Plan is altering the Palestinian natural landscape
- Many archeological and historical sites related to Palestinian cultural heritage will be segregated behind the wall.
- Loss of open space which poses a threat to the sustainability of the urban and rural areas as well as a threat to more losses of the natural resources and biodiversity

The International Legal Status of the Segregation Wall

In July 2004, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) passed an advisory opinion declaring that the Israeli Segregation Wall Israel is illegal. The Court based its decision based on international laws, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Regulations, various human rights treaties and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

> ***Recalling relevant United Nations resolutions affirming that actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to change the status and demographic composition of Occupied East Jerusalem have no legal validity and are null and void, Noting the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in the context of the Middle East peace process.***

The Israeli Segregation Wall violates virtually every existing humanitarian code, human rights and civilized laws; including the right to Self-Determination, the right to freedom of movement, the right to work, the right to medical treatment, the right to education, the right to an adequate standard of living and access to holy places. The ICJ decision upholds the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, which the Israelis deny them the right to exercise as the Segregation Wall disrupts the territorial integrity, unity and contiguity. 'Self-defense' or 'state of necessity' cannot be used as justification for violating this right and other international legal principles and therefore Israel must cease construction and all other states must refrain from supporting Israel in building the Wall.

Moreover, the construction of the Segregation Wall is an explicit violation of all peace agreements signed between the Israelis and Palestinians and a breach to Oslo Interim Agreement which states that: "Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations" (Article XXXI, clause 7).

4.6 Israeli colonial Plans in Salfit Governorate

1. Israel retroactively authorizes buildings in settlements' outposts in Salfit and Bethlehem Governorates

The Israeli state prosecutor, Moshe Lador, informed the Israeli High Court of Justice, on May 24, 2010, on the state's intentions to retroactively authorize dozens of buildings in various illegal settlements' outposts situated in occupied Palestinian territory, beyond the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line), three of which, are in Salfit Governorate. The state's declaration came in response to appeals filed by Israeli settlers demanding that the Israeli Civil Administration [I.C.A.] retroactively' legalize homes built without permits in Israeli settlements built in the occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt). Accordingly, the Israeli settlers are pursuing their fight on the basis of the claim that the I.C.A has legalized 1,600 constructions built in Area 'C', therefore, Israeli settlements outposts should be legalized. The targeted outposts are Native Ha'avot in Bethlehem Governorate and Givat Hayovel, Harsha and Rahelim in Salfit Governorate.

2. A new Israeli Settlement in Salfit Governorate

In August 2013, the Israeli daily newspaper, Maariv, reported that the Israeli Minister of Housing and Construction, Uri Ariel, inaugurated a new neighborhood called Leshem, as part of the existing Alei Zahav settlement in Salfit Governorate. The neighborhood is being built on occupied Palestinian land owned by Deir Ballut and Kafr Ad Dik villagers in Salfit Governorate. According to Maariv newspaper, 72 Jewish families have already moved to live in their homes in Leshem neighborhood, and 70 more Jewish families are expected to move and live in the new neighborhood during the year 2014. In total, the plan includes the construction of around 400 housing units. (Maariv, 2013)

3. Israel's relentless expansion of Settlements and Outposts

The Israeli colonial plans and policies in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) are clearly reflected on land and people. Ever since Israel occupied the Palestinian territory back in 1967, it boosted up its control over the Palestinian lands through the construction of Israeli settlements, and intensifying settlement construction in these settlements as years went by, and allowed itself to occupy more lands for the various Israeli military purposes such as the establishment of military bases, the construction of bypass roads, setting up checkpoints, and the establishment of Israeli outposts on Palestinian hill tops in an attempt to confiscate and annex them to Israel for the favor of Israeli settlers; this is in addition to the building of the Israeli Segregation Wall in the western part of West Bank, and imposing new borders for the "State of Israel" on the expense of Palestinian lands. In a recent study conducted by the Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) and based on the analysis of high precision aerial photos of August 2012 showed that Israel continues to commit violations of the international law rules through the constant building in Israeli settlements and outposts in the occupied Palestinian territory.

ARIJ's study showed that out of the 199 illegal Israeli settlements established on lands of West Bank, settlement construction occurred in 151 illegal Israeli settlements (76% of total number of settlements) all over the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, with the construction of 1872 structures including 1018 buildings and 854 caravans (mobile homes). Most of the expansion took place in Israeli settlements built in Ramallah, Salfit, Jerusalem, Qalqilyah and Bethlehem Governorates, where settlements in Ramallah Governorate witnessed the highest construction rate in terms of added buildings (see table 39)

Table 39: Buildings and Caravans added to Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory by Governorates Zone

Governorate	Buildings	Caravans	Expanded Israeli settlements
Bethlehem	117	51	15
Hebron	40	130	22
Jenin	30	43	5
Jericho	35	81	16
Jerusalem	198	105	25
Nablus	45	109	11
Qalqilyia	160	52	14
Ramallah	191	218	21
Salfit	188	53	15
Tubas	3	0	3
Tulkarem	11	12	4

Source: ARIJ Geo informatics Department, November, 2012

As for the Israeli expansion taking place in Israeli outposts in the West Bank, the study (conducted by ARIJ) pointed out that expansion occurred in 32 Israeli outposts in the West Bank through which included the addition of 111 new caravans in these outposts on the expense of the Palestinian lands nearby. The Salfit, Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron Governorates have an astoundingly high construction rates among other Palestinian Governorates. The outposts are a new technique improvised by the Israeli settlers in 1996 along with indirect government concession to confiscate more Palestinian lands and build new settlements. The practice involves capturing land on Palestinian hilltops or in-close perimeter of existing settlements (1mile to 4 miles away) and setting-up mobile caravans, declaring the site as a new settlement or a new neighborhood of adjacent settlement (see Table 40).

Table 40: Expansion of Israeli outposts in the West Bank Governorates

Governorate	No. of Caravans	No. of Israeli Outposts
Bethlehem	20	7
Hebron	22	7
Jericho	1	1
Jenin	0	0
Nablus	27	5
Qalqilyia	0	0
Jerusalem	5	2
Tubas	0	0
Ramallah	4	3
Tulkarem	0	0
Salfit	32	7
Total	**111**	**32**

Source: ARIJ Geo informatics Department, November, 2012

4. A new Israeli neighborhood in Karnei Shomron settlement in Salfit Governorate

In August 2013, the Israeli Housing and Construction Minister, Uri Ariel, took part in a ceremony marking the start of construction of Ganey Shemer, a new neighborhood of 96 units in the Karnei

Shomron settlement in Qalqilyia & salfit Governorates, as part of "Karnei Shomron 2020" program to turn Karnei Shomron and surrounding settlements into another "settlement bloc.

5. Adopting a master plan for Nofim settlement in Salfit Governorate

On April 3, 2011, the Israeli daily newspaper "Haaretz" revealed that the Israeli Prime Minister, Benyamin Netanyahu and his Defense Minister Ehud Barak [that time], adopted new master plans for five Illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank, two of which, are located in Salfit Governorate, they are: Nofim and Qiryat Netafim northwest of Salfit Governorate. This Israeli step means that there are additional lands to be allocated for the interest of expanding the aforementioned settlements in the future on the expense of the surrounding Palestinian lands. The three other settlements that were targeted for expansion in the occupied West Bank are: Rotem settlement in Tubas Governorate, Eshkelot- Sensana settlements in Hebron Governorate and Halamish settlement in Ramallah Governorate. The Israeli decision to adopt new master plans for the five Illegal Israeli settlements is no more than a desperate attempt to manipulate the world by the use of formal tools in order to give the settlements null and void legitimacy. Furthermore, the unilateral Israeli actions on the ground constitute deliberately Israeli steps toward reshaping the map of the West Bank to prevent any real possibility for the establishment of an independent, sovereign, viable, Palestinian State as part of the Palestinians' legitimate right to "self-determination".

6. Wadi Qana Nature Reserve: Systematic Eradication

Wadi Qana, which separates Salfit and Qalqilyia Governorates, is considered one of the most prominent natural attractions in Palestine. This valley is surrounded with Palestinian villages such as Deir Istiya, Qarawat Bani Hassan, Biddya, Sanniriya, Kafr Thulth, 'Azzun, Kafr Laqif, Immatin and Jinsafut, etc. The valley is famous for its natural beauty, the abundance of water, the many springs located in it and its natural plants. The area is also known for the prevalence of trees, crops and livestock. This has made it an obvious target of Israeli occupation forces and settlers, given its beauty and availability to natural resources to utilize. The occupation forces, through the Israeli Civil Administration's (ICA) Protection of Nature Committee announced its control over this region under the pretext of being an Israeli nature reserve area, as it is located within Area "C" (Oslo II Agreement).

Israeli occupation forces have, on top of the Qana Valley, established seven settlements and eight outposts (Revava, Yakir, Immanuel, Nofim, Ma'ale Shomron, Karne Shomron and Ginnot Shomron and Qiryat Netafim); and today Israel have almost full control over the water sources in this valley which is rich in groundwater. The Israeli deep water drillings in Wadi Qana (Qana Valley) have caused the drying up of 21 Palestinian wells and springs in the area and are today consumed by Israel and its illegal settlements surrounding Wadi Qana. Only few water resources (estimated at 3) are left for Palestinian farmers in Wadi Qana to use and are barely sufficient for the daily use.

Additionally, the surrounding settlements have caused the contamination of this valley and sunk it in waste water flowing from these settlements. Furthermore, the occupation forces have always prevented farmers from cultivating their lands which comes in addition to the settlers' harassments represented in the burning of hundreds of trees, attacking Palestinian farmers and expelling them from their lands. As part of the Israeli systematic attacks on Wadi Qana Valley, the Israeli Occupation Nature Authority along with the Israeli Civil Administration, handed in April 2011, five Palestinian farmers from Deir Istiya village north of Salfit at the northern parts of the West Bank, stumbled on Israeli military orders hanged on the trees while they were cultivating their lands in Wadi Qana area.

The orders hold numbers 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 respectively and stipulate that Palestinian land owners to evacuate their own lands and to remove and dismantle all what exists on the land, this includes but not limited to trees, infrastructure installations, or anything else, under the pretext that the lands area is "Nature Reserve". The orders also indicated that the owners of the lands have 24 hours to evacuate the lands otherwise they will be subjected to fine, imprisonment and other punitive measures not specified in the notifying orders. Below is a brief description of some of the Israeli attacks that targeted Wadi Qana area:

On June 28, 2011, the Israeli Occupation Environmental Protection Authority uprooted 300 olive seedlings in Wadi Qana. All the uprooted seedlings were confiscated and taken away. Additionally, On July 11, 2011, the Israeli Occupation Authorities declared Wadi Qana as a "closed military zone" before attacking the area along with a number of Israeli bulldozers and officers of the Environmental Protection Authority and uprooted 660 olive seedlings from the area and took them to a nearby settlement, (LRC, 2011).

Later in September 2011, Israeli settlers of Revava settlement near Wadi Qana area and in an unprecedented move ravaged 500 olive trees planted in 23 dunums of lands in Abu Dras area in Wadi Qana. The trees constitute a major source of income to the affected family, Hassan family, (LRC, 2011).

Also On September 19, 2012, an order signed by the Israeli Environmental Protection Authorities gave eviction order to a Palestinian farmer in Wadi Qana area and demanding the uprooting of 30 olive trees which were planted 6 years ago. The order gave the owner till October 1 to remove the trees while claiming that Wadi Qana area is a nature reserve and shall not be altered. Similar orders were handed to four other Palestinian farmers on September 23, 2012. They were justified similarly, (LRC, 2012). The orders hold number 2063, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2071 and 2072 and target around 220 trees in the Wadi Qana area.

Furthermore, in July 2013, the Israeli Environmental Protection Authority along with the Israeli Civil Administration marked 2268 trees in Wadi Qana (Qana valley) in preparation to uproot them. The act was justified that the trees were illegally planted in what Israel classifies as a "Nature Reserve", in reference to Qana valley, (LRC, 2013). Later in January 2014, the Israeli bulldozers uprooted more than 1000 trees in Wadi Qana area owned by Farmer Abdel Kareem Mansour, Qasem Mansour and Abdel Qader Abu Hajla.

7. An Israeli plan to legalize three illegal settlements in the West Bank

On the 17th of April 2012, the Israeli Prime Minister approved a plan to legalize three illegal settlements in the West Bank, after he got recommendations approved by the Israeli Defense Minister, Ehud Barak (that time), to formalize the status of Bruchin and Rechalim settlements in Salfit Governorate and Sensana settlement in Hebron Governorate. According to the plan, Bruchin settlement is proposed to be part of Eli Zahav (2 km between them) while Rechalim settlement is proposed to be part of Kfar Taphuh settlement (1.5 km) and Sensana settlement to be part of Eshkelot settlement (2.5 km).

8. Israeli colonial project towards a sustainable occupation in the Palestinian territory

The Israeli government in its session held on January 29, 2012, approved a new colonial project entitled "National Priority Areas" which includes series of benefits and financial allocations to be

granted to the targeted areas. According to the map of national priority areas adopted by the Israeli government, 90 illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank out of 557 communities targeted in the project, out of which, 10 Israeli settlements are in Salfit Governorate, they are: Alei Zahav, Ariel, Immanuel, Karnei Shomron, Kfar Tapuh, Ma'ale Shomron, Nofim, Qiryat Netafim, Revava and Ykir, will benefit from the cabinet's decision where the allocations would include the following, Grants and tax benefits for Industry sector such as Employer support, Aid to factories in crises, Help in developing infrastructure for industry, Grants for industrial research and development costs, Priority in funding technological , incubators, Grants and tax benefits for agriculture, Aid to rural settlements through the settlement division (agriculture or industrial...). Allocations also include Housing Incentives and discount on land prices. The Israeli desire for preparing the "National Priority Areas" project was actually revealed in the year 2002 when the former Israeli PM at that time, Ariel Sharon, set up a map for the proposed communities to be classified as national priority areas, while the project had been subjected to amendments during the Olmert's and Netanyahu's eras as follows:

- Ariel Sharon Government Map -2002: The map at the time included all of the illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank except those in the city of Jerusalem.
- Ehud Olmert Government Map -2008: On August 24, 2012, Olmert's government adopted a peripheral areas as a national priority with a new map based on the geographical criterion of physical and transportation distance for the city of Tel Aviv, where according to that map the Israeli settlements in Hebron Hills and in the Jordan Valley are classified as national priority areas.
- Netanyahu Government Map: When Netanyahu's government took office in 2009, and according to what is so-called "National Priority Areas Law 5747-2007", which was included in the economic arrangements law, the government decided to establish, along with the criterion of socioeconomic strength and geographical location, an additional criterion for other needs and standards of the population in the areas which necessitate its advancement and development for the priority areas, where at the end, the map included 90 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, 70 of which adopted formally in the government session on January 29, 2011.

It is worth pointed that according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, that the socioeconomic status of the illegal settlements in the West Bank is better than the average in "Israel", e.g. (1) The level of income for the Israeli family in the settlements (13,566 NIS per month) which is 10% higher than the national average in Israel which is (12,242 NIS per month), (2) The unemployment level in the settlements is below the national level (6.5% in settlements compared to 7.3 % throughout Israel), where as an example the unemployment rate in Efrat settlement is 1.6% and 1.2 % in Beit El settlement while it is 5% in Ashkelon city and 5.5% in Ashdod; and (3), The Israeli settlements shows strong socioeconomic indicators despite the fact that 1/3 of the settlers population-according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics - is ultra-orthodox, a group that ranks among the poorest in Israel population, but the economic figures for those (ultra-orthodox settlers) living in the Israeli settlements are higher than the average rate in Israel, which is a clear example of the effects of the government economic benefits policies for the Israeli settlements.

Conclusion

Despite international denunciation, Israel is proceeding with its unilateral plans to build the Segregation Wall; isolating and confiscating large tracts of Palestinian lands in Salfit. If this continues, the Palestinian communities in Salfit Governorate will be completely surrounded by a complex of Walls, settlements and roads that will eliminate any future possibility for the Palestinian community to expand and thus jeopardize sustainable development. The Applied Research Institute-Jerusalem

(ARIJ) emphasizes the imperativeness that Israel complies with the international legitimacy, laws and resolutions of the United Nations; stresses the necessity to hold Israel accountable for its acts in the occupied Palestinian territory; calls for Israel's long time apathy of the international community's will to end and thus Israel be made to conform with the United Nation's resolutions including: Security Council Resolution 452 (1979) which calls upon 'the Government and people of Israel to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem,' Security Council Resolution 446 (1979) which determines that the policy and practices of Israel in establishing settlements in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967 have no legal validity and constitute a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East'.

PART FIVE:
General Needs Assessment in the Salfit Governorate

5.1. Development priorities and needs in Salfit Governorate

During ARIJ's field survey of the localities in Salfit Governorate, a general needs assessment was conducted. As mentioned in the methodology section, each locality's needs were ascertained through the use of surveys which collected information on a set of relevant indicators provided in a questionnaire sheet and completed by community leaders. The survey showed that 94% of the localities in Salfit Governorate are in need of paving and constructing new roads, 72% of the localities stated that they need new schools to cover increasing student numbers, and 67% of the localities are in need of clinics and healthcare centers. In addition, the water networks in Salfit Governorate need a great deal of attention, as 78% of the localities stated that they need to extend the water network to cover new built up areas. As for the agricultural sector, 83% of the localities are in need of agricultural land rehabilitation.

Table 41: Development priorities and needs in the Salfit Governorate, 2012/2013

Needs by sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority
Infrastructural needs (%)			
Rehabilitation and paving of roads	94	6	-
Rehabilitation of old water networks	56	17	28
Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	78	11	11
Constructing new water networks	17	17	67
Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	28	6	67
Construction of water reservoirs	33	22	44
Construction of a sewage disposal network	89	11	-
Construction of a new electricity network	44	17	39
Providing containers for solid waste collection	67	17	17
Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	33	17	50
Providing a sanitary landfill site	67	28	6
Health needs (%)			
Construction of new clinics or health care centers	67	11	22
Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centers	50	-	50
Purchasing of medical equipment and tools	94	-	6
Educational needs (%)			
Construction of new schools	72	6	22
Rehabilitation of old schools	78	6	17
Purchasing of new equipment for schools	89	11	-
Agricultural needs (%)			
Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	83	6	11
Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	78	17	6
Construction of barracks for livestock	56	22	22
Provision of veterinary services	67	17	17
Provision of seeds and hay for animals	67	11	22
Construction of new greenhouses	56	17	28
Rehabilitation of greenhouses	28	22	50
Provision of field crops seeds	67	11	22
Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	67	22	11

5.2. Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA)

The Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) is a qualitative research tool used to identify problems and formulate solutions. Its aim is to enable people to access an issue and formulate their own plans to address it.PRA emphasizes the empowerment of local people. It enables them to assume an active role in analyzing their problems and potentials in order to come up with solutions.

The PRA approach was chosen for this study because it provides guidelines for the fast appraisal of a certain situation in the field, the main advantages being:

1. It involves a relatively short time in the field.
2. It focuses on a few specific topics.
3. It involves the community and their institutions.

In light of the above, 18 PRAs were conducted at the locality level, where community leaders, farmers, women's associations and local co-operatives' representatives (agricultural, environmental, societal etc.) were in attendance. Another general workshop took place at the Governorate level, where a number of governmental bodies (including representatives from the Salfit Governorate Office, the Salfit Education and Higher Education, Agriculture and Health Directorates), and relevant NGOs working in Salfit attended. During the workshops, a discussion among the attendees was opened in order to result in a comprehensive vision and analysis for the gaps and needs of the Salfit Governorate as a whole entity.

During the PRA workshops, each community presented us with its points of strength, weakness, threats, proposed solutions, and needs priorities in relation to agriculture, water, and environment. Based on these results, the following needs and development projects were proposed at locality level.

PART SIX
Proposed Development Projects (Agriculture, Water & Environment) for the Salfit Governorate

One objective of the "Village Profiles Needs Assessment in Salfit Governorate" project is to present development programs and activities to assist in developing the livelihood of the governorate's population.

Based on the survey and the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshops conducted in Salfit Governorate in consultation with the Agriculture Directorate of Salfit, the following concept papers were developed addressing the major needs for livelihood development in the governorate with main focus on water, environment and agriculture interventions.

6.1 Proposed Project: Rehabilitating Agricultural lands, and constructing/rehabilitating rainwater harvesting cisterns in Salfit Governorate to diversify the fruit trees production

<table>
<tr><td>Project Title</td><td>Rehabilitating Agricultural lands, and constructing/rehabilitating rainwater harvesting cisterns in Salfit Governorate to diversify the fruit trees production.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Project Duration</td><td>30 months</td></tr>
<tr><td>Estimated Budget</td><td>The project will construct/rehabilitate 428 rainwater cisterns and rehabilitate 2475 dunums of arable lands (mainly in area C) in 16 localities in Salfit Governorate.

<u>The total budget is estimated at around US $ 3,011,850. The farmers will contribute by 15% of the actual cost (cash/in-kind)</u></td></tr>
<tr><td>Stakeholders</td><td>The project stakeholders will be the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), agricultural associations and NGOs.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Targeted Areas</td><td>The project will target 16 localities in Salfit Governorate as follows:</td></tr>
</table>

No.	Locality	land rehabilitation (dunum)	Rain water cisterns
1	Marda	100	25
2	Az Zawiya	500	50
3	Iskaka	200	35
4	Biddya	100	35
5	Deir Ballut	200	30
6	Haris	200	30
7	Sarta	150	28
8	Farkha	100	20
9	Rafat	100	20
10	Bruqin	100	25
11	Yasuf	50	20
12	Salfit	200	35
13	Deir Istiya	100	15
14	Kafr ad Dik	200	25
15	Qarawat Bani Hassan	75	10
16	Qira	100	25
Total		**2475**	**428**

Targeted Areas	The targeted localities contained agricultural areas where farmers need support to ease their access to the existing lands and increasing their cultivated areas through rehabilitating additional area. This will encourage farmers to increase cultivated and productive areas. Based on the developed strategy and the assessment study the farmers are looking to diversify the fruit trees cultivation to improve the fruits production system based on market demand and increase food self-sufficiency. To meet this need and improve the existing cultivation system in the targeted localities, rainwater harvesting cisterns will be rehabilitated /constructed for supplementary irrigation, wherever needed.
Beneficiaries	The project will serve up to 2,750 dunums of the arable areas (40% of the arable lands of the Governorate) in 16 communities of Salfit Governorate, through enhancing farmers' access to their lands, increasing the existing agricultural areas (increasing the Governorate agricultural area by 2.3%) and the production capacity through supplementary irrigation or irrigated where springs and ground water is available. Up to 550 farming families will be benefited from the project.
Project Description	Salfit Governorate is highly affected by the Israeli settlement activities as there are 20 settlements are located on the Palestinian lands, including the separation wall, military basses and outposts. Thus, the farmers need the support to stay cultivating their lands and to bring back the available arable lands into production system. This approach will assist in increasing food security, and reducing the potential of land confiscation by the occupation authorities. Furthermore, enhancing farmers access to their lands is an important issue that means more land owners will come back to cultivate and taking care of their lands. This project will assist in increasing the role of the agricultural sector in improving food security, diversifying fruits production, increasing job opportunities, better livelihood and increasing the rainwater management. The project will create an opportunity of 20,400 working days (paid and in-kind) for land rehabilitation and cisterns construction/rehabilitation.
Project Objectives	• To enhance farmers' access to their lands in the Salfit Governorate, especially in area C, and Seam zones. • To increase the total cultivated area in the Salfit Governorate under rainfed and under supplementary irrigation conditions. • To create job opportunities for both genders and thus decreasing the high unemployment rate in the area. • To reduce land degradation through land rehabilitating lands and cultivating them. • To assist farmers in increasing their income through cultivating new lands. • To assist local authorities in implementing their strategic development plans. • To improve the livelihood of the targeted families. • Encouraging the participation of existing agricultural cooperatives.

Project Activities	• Announcing the launch of the project with related Ministries (MoA, and PWA and local authorities) and other NGOS, CBOs. • Communicate with local authorities in the targeted communities. • Form project community committees (steering committee and technical committee for each locality). • Land rehabilitation: a. Announcing about the activity in public places of targeted communities and receive the applications (land rehabilitation and cisterns rehabilitation/construction). b. Determining beneficiaries according to the project selection criteria. c. Follow up the implemented activities by the targeted beneficiaries and re-impress them according the achieved progress in the field work. • The project technical committee will approve the accomplishment of the construction activities to finalize the project. • Preparing the final reports and disseminating the results. • Capacity building: a. Provide the project beneficiaries with required knowhow to improve their agro-activities.
Expected Results	• 2,750 dunums of agricultural/arable lands become accessible to the farmers cultivated. • 428 rainwater harvesting and storage cisterns with a capacity of 70 m3 rehabilitated/constructed with total storage capacity of 29,960 m3 annually. • 20,400 working days (paid and in-kind) working days created through implanting the project main interventions. • Agricultural production and profitability in the targeted areas increased. • Lands become more protected especially in the sensitive geopolitical areas. • 550 farming families became more food secured and achieved better livelihood.

6.2 Proposed Project: Rejuvenate the old olive trees to become more productive and producing olive oil with better quality in Salfit Governorate

Project Title	**Rejuvenate the old olive trees to become more productive and producing olive oil with better quality in Salfit Governorate.**
Project Duration	24 months
Estimated Budget	The project will rejuvenate up to 22,100 old olive trees (around 2,210 dunums) in 15 localities in Salfit Governorate. The total budget is estimated at around US $ 211,408.
Stakeholders	The project stakeholders will be the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), local and international agricultural associations and NGOs as well as the community agricultural cooperatives.

Targeted Areas

Salfit is one of the main governorates of the West Bank where the olive trees are dominated and most of its groves are planted with olive. Also, the Occupation is targeting these lands wheatear through confiscation the lands, building settlements, by pass roads and the separation wall. The statistics showed that large percentage of the grown trees are old and need rejuvenate to make these trees more vigorous, more productive and can continue producing olive fruits for more years. Thus in cooperation with the Agricultural Directorate of Salfit the targeted communities and the proposed number of old trees was estimated per community to be targeted by rejuvenating the old olive trees in Salfit Governorate.

This will increase the profitability of olive groves and the farmers can get more production as well as increasing their livelihood.

The project will target 15 localities in Salfit Governorate as follows:

No.	Locality	No. of old trees	Area in dunums
1	Marda	800	80
2	Iskaka	1,000	100
3	Biddya	2,000	200
4	Deir Ballut	500	50
5	Haris	800	80
6	Kifl Haris	1,500	150
7	Sarta	1,500	150
8	Farkha	1,000	100
9	Bruqin	1,500	150
10	Yasuf	1,000	100
11	Salfit	5,000	500
12	Deir Istiya	3,000	300
13	Kafr ad Dik	1,500	150
14	Qarawat Bani Hassan	500	50
15	Qira	500	50
Total		**22,100**	**2,210**

Beneficiaries

The project will serve up to 2,210 dunums of the olive areas in 15 communities of Salfit Governorate, through supporting 442 farming families. This project will enhance farmers' access to their lands, increasing the productivity of existing agricultural areas.

Project Description

The olive cultivation is the dominant cultivation in Salfit Governorate and it contributes significantly to the economy of the Governorate and its farming families. But the Israeli restrictions are continued through land confiscation, uprooting trees and restricting the access of the farmers to their lands which affecting the impact of such important sector. Additionally, due to the occupation restrictions on the access of farmers to their lands and the limited economic power of the farmers. The farmers used to take care of their trees minimally, leaving their olive trees growing without suitable pruning or management (fertilization and pest control), which resulted in lowering the olive trees production qualitatively and quantitatively. Thus the farmers

Project Description	need the support to continue cultivating their lands with olive trees and keep managing them, not only visiting them for harvesting once a year. By this this project the farmers will improve their trees and encourage to continue taking care of them, as they become more economic.
Project Objectives	• To encourage farmers' to keep cultivating and managing their lands planted with olive trees in the Salfit Governorate, especially in area C, and Seam zones. • To rejuvenate the existing old trees in the farmers olive groves to become more vigorous and productive. • To increase the contribution of olive trees in the income of farming families to encourage them to keep managing their lands despite the occupation restrictions. • To enhance the growing environment of live trees in Salfit Governorate. • To assist local authorities in implementing their strategic development plans. • To improve the livelihood of the targeted families. • Encouraging the participation of existing agricultural cooperatives.
Project Activities	• Announcing the launch of the project with related Ministries (MoA, and PWA and local authorities) and other NGOS, CBOs (agricultural cooperatives). • Communicate with local authorities in the targeted communities. • Form project community committees (steering committee and technical committee for each locality). The agricultural directorate and agricultural cooperatives will be the main partners. • Announcing about the project activity in public places of targeted communities and receive the applications (rejuvenate old olive trees). • Determining beneficiaries according to the project selection criteria (land sensitivity and the age of the trees). • Conducting the rehabilitation program: a. Each farmer will be supported to rejuvenate 5 dunums of old olive trees (50 trees). b. Training the key farmers form the targeted village on rejuvinate olive trees pruning. c. Each old tree will be severely pruned by the trained professional staff from the village key farmers. d. Each old tree will be treated with Bordo mixture for the tree trunk to protect the tree from pests. e. The tips of the main pruned branches will be covered with Luven mastic to keep its humidity and prevent bleeding of the sap. f. Each tree will be fertilized with organic fertilizer (20 kg/tree) g. Each tree will be sprayed by Copper Hydroxide to control the Peacock Eye. h. The project will cover the cost of the trained experts to prune the olive groves of selected farmers. i. The project will provide the cooperatives with the materials and equipment (1 chain saw, 2 long armed seizer, 2 pruning seizer, and 2 hand saw and 1 spraying machine/each cooperative)

Project Activities	j. The farmers will cover the branches and the trunks and spy the trees as a contribution to the project costs. • Follow up the implemented activities by the targeted beneficiaries and re-impress them according the achieved progress in the field work. • The project technical committee will approve the accomplishment of the construction works to finalize the project. • Preparing the final reports and disseminating the results.
Expected Results	• 2,210 dunums of old olive trees (22000 old olive trees) pruned covered with special protection materials and fertilized. • 70 key farmers trained on pruning and treating the old olive trees (5 persons /village) • 442 farmers had practice the rejuvenate punning on their trees and they can manage them easily and they can continue the process to the remained land by themselves. • The cooperative having the required equipment and expertize to serve the remind areas of old olive trees. • Olive groves of old trees become more productive and more vigorous.

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