

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Profile (including ‘Ammuriya Locality)



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets came about as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate, and aim to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present developmental plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions in the Nablus Governorate.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in the Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with a focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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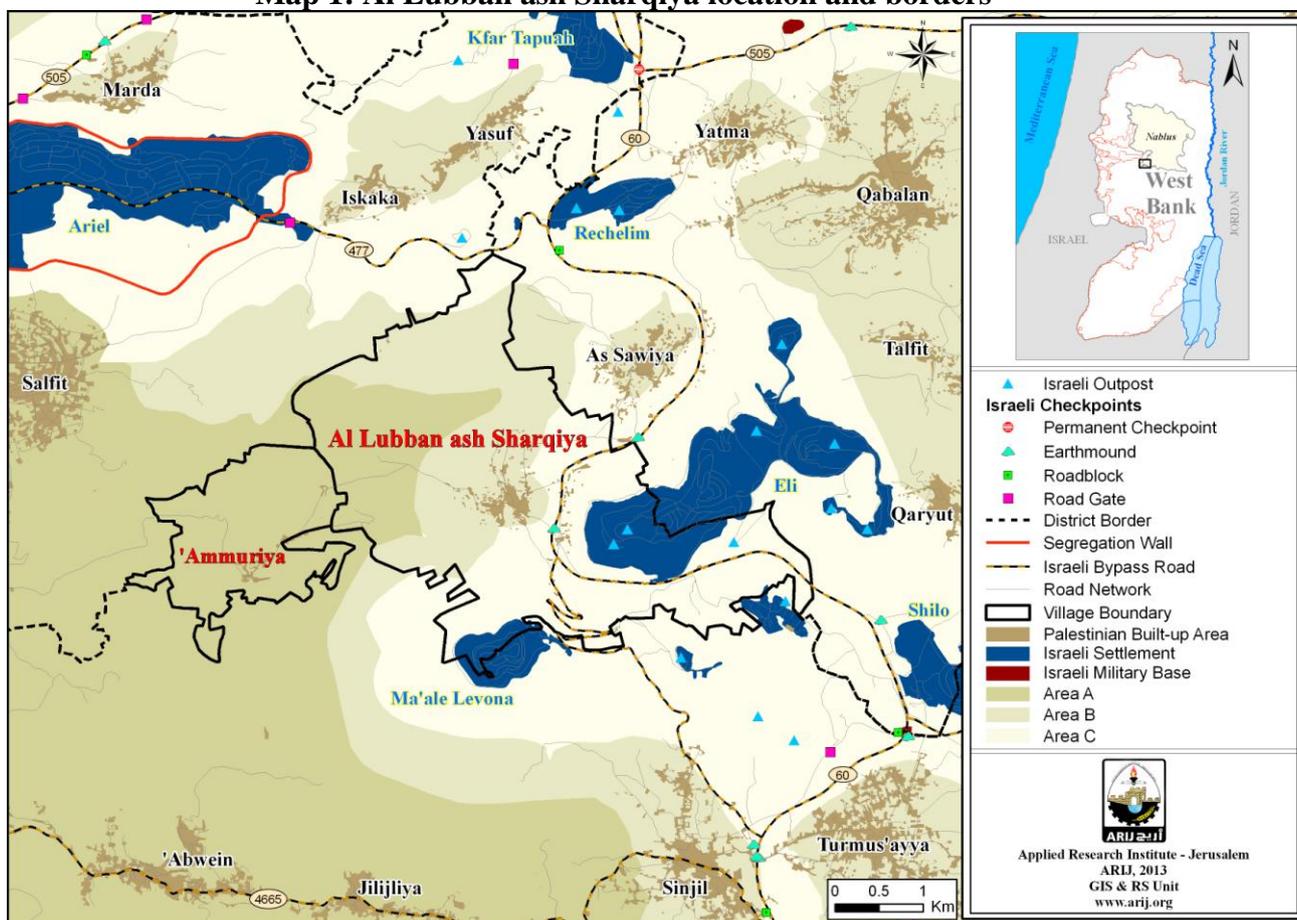
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Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Profile (including ‘Ammuriya Locality)¹

Location and Physical Characteristics

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya (including ‘Ammuriya) is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 17-1km south of Nablus City (distance from the center of the village to the city center of Nablus). It is bordered by Qaryut and As Sawiya to the east, As Sawiya, Iskaka and Salfit City to the north, Khirbet Qeis to the west, and 'Abwein and Sinjil to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is located at an altitude of 564-699m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 585-650 mm. The average annual temperature is 17°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

Until 2012, a project committee was responsible for ‘Ammuriya locality. However, this locality was incorporated within the boundaries of the larger population center "Al Lubban ash Sharqiya". This

¹ The information in this profile include Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village and ‘Ammuriya locality data; based on the local government's decision to merge Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village and ‘Ammuriya locality in 2012.

was done via a resolution adopted by the Palestinian Cabinet and the Ministry of Local Government in 2012, and according to this resolution, 'Ammuriya and Al Lubban ash Sharqiya came under the administrative authority of one municipal council which is called "Al Lubban ash Sharqiya" Municipal Council.

The total area of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village consists of approximately 15,637 dunums. The borders of this locality are set according to the new local councils' borders which were defined by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government. The new borders of the Palestinian localities were set by the Palestinian National Authority, represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in the year 2011. These governmental institutions reset the borders of the localities for the purpose of the Palestinian elections that took place in 2011. Accordingly, ARIJ adopted these new borders in this report since it found that the newly adopted borders, to a certain extent, better suit the demographic, environmental and agricultural variables and facts on the ground. Also, ARIJ uses these defined borders only for the sake of this research and study. It is worth noting that these borders do not represent the areas and borders of the private properties at the locality level and are not included in the PNA files of the private land holdings.

Since 1996, Al Lubban ash Sharqiya has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There is also 1 employee working for the council, which owns its permanent headquarters. It is located within the Joint Services Council of Beita. The council does not own a waste collection vehicle (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water resources
- The establishment and maintenance of the electricity network
- Street cleaning, solid waste collection, road rehabilitation, construction and paving, and provision of social services
- Protection of government properties
- Protection of historical and archaeological sites
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village

(Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013)

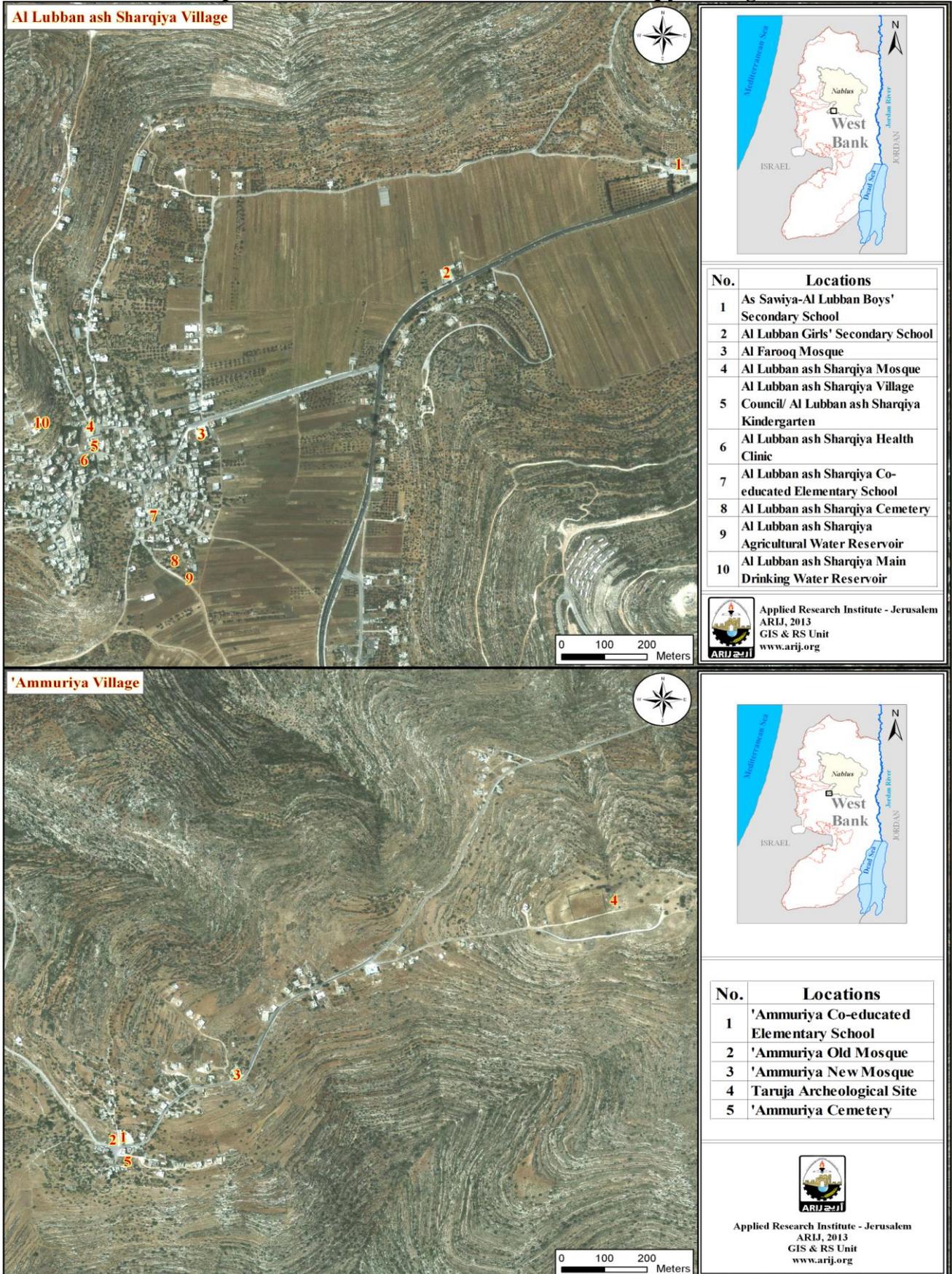
Historical Background

The village of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya was named for "Al Lubban" which means easy and broad, and the word "eastern", due to its location in the east, and to distinguish it from Al Lubban al Gharbi (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council 2013). The date of the establishment of the assembly is ancient. The origins of the inhabitants of the village come from Al Lubban ash Sharqiya, Walaja, and Yemen (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013) (see photo 1).

Photo of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya**Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are three mosques in the village: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya, Al Omari, and Al Farouq Mosques. There are also a number of archeological sites in the village, including: Al Omari Mosque, the Al Khan area, and the ancient tomb of As Shaykh (Al Aruri). It is worth mentioning that none of them are eligible for designation as an official tourism site with the exception of Al-Omari Mosque (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village



No.	Locations
1	As Sawiya-Al Lubban Boys' Secondary School
2	Al Lubban Girls' Secondary School
3	Al Farooq Mosque
4	Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Mosque
5	Council/ Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Kindergarten
6	Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Health Clinic
7	Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Co-educated Elementary School
8	Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Cemetery
9	Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Agricultural Water Reservoir
10	Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Main Drinking Water Reservoir

No.	Locations
1	'Ammuriya Co-educated Elementary School
2	'Ammuriya Old Mosque
3	'Ammuriya New Mosque
4	Taruja Archeological Site
5	'Ammuriya Cemetery

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya in 2007 was 2,725, of whom 1,373 were male and 1,352 female. There were 458 households registered as living in 511 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya as follows: 44.2% were less than 15 years of age, 51% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4.3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 100:101.6, meaning that males and females constitute 50.4% and 49.6% of the population, respectively.

Families

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya residents originate from several families, including: Tilan, Abu Khader, Salman, Al Seid, Deeb, Hijaz, Samara, Ahmed Ali, Al Nawaserah, Hamad, Nubani, Al Hakawati, Rabie', Nassar, Ahmed Abdel-Jalil, Al Mokhader, and Abed families. (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that approximately 15 people have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Al Lubban ash Sharqiya population is approximately 8%, of which 80.7% are females. Of the literate population, 14.4% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27.7% had elementary education, 29.6% had preparatory education, 13.3% had secondary education, and 6.9% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	29	160	278	278	113	21	42	1	6	1	1	930
F	122	113	246	282	138	22	37	0	1	0	0	961
T	151	273	524	560	251	43	79	1	7	1	1	1,891

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

Table 2: Schools in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
‘Ammuriya Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 630 students, 40 teachers, and 26 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 24 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There is one kindergarten in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village, which is run by a private organization (See Table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Flowers Kindergarten	4	5	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

Occupation Forces have several affects on students in the village, such as: inability to reach village schools, exposure to temporary and permanent barriers, and military attacks and breaking into the village schools (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of computer and other equipment in the scientific labs
- The crowding of students inside classes

(Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013)

Health Status

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya has several health facilities available, including a private health clinic (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Health Clinic), 1 private physician's clinic (NGO), an ambulance (Palestinian Medical Relief Society) and a private pharmacy.

In the absence of necessary health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidiya or the National Hospital, or Ar Rahmah (Mercy) health clinic, or go to private health clinics in Nablus city, which is about 23km away. In addition, some go to Qabalan Health Clinic (6km away), or to Salfit Hospital in Salfit City (7km away) (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of certain types and quantities of medicine, which are not available in the health clinic

- The lack of medical staff in the health clinic
 - The lack of medical equipment in the health clinic
- (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013)

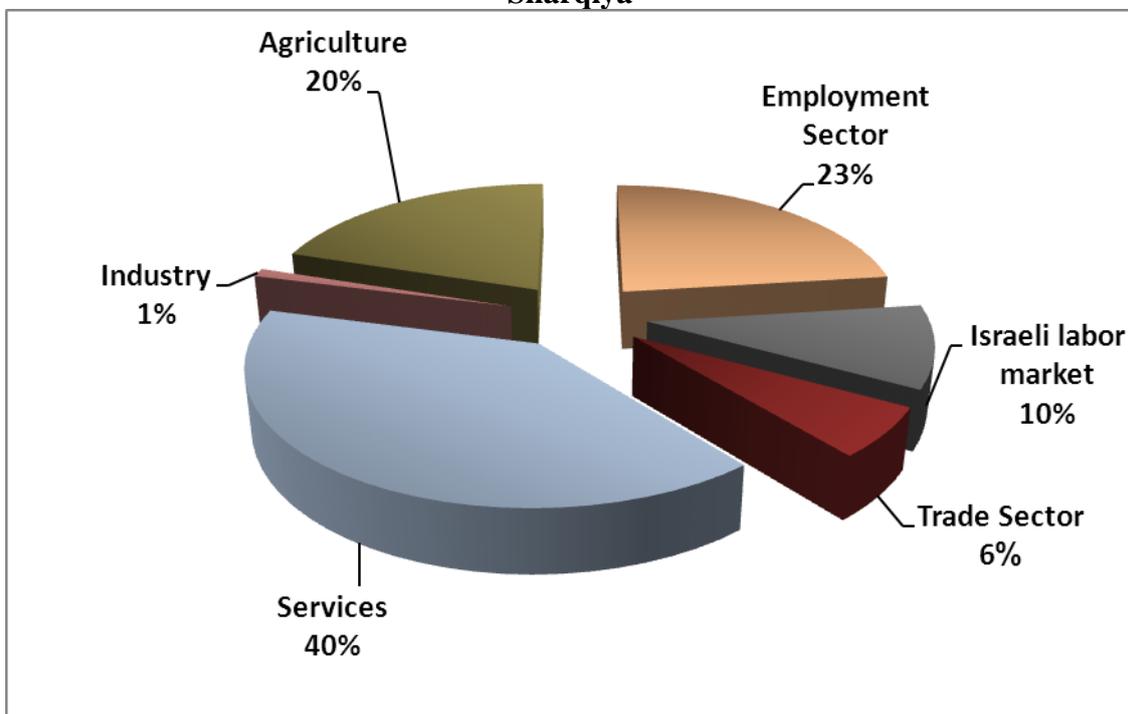
Economic Activities

The economy in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is dependent mainly on the services sector, which absorbs 40% of the village’s workforce (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 looking at the distribution of labor according to economic activity in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya are as follows:

- Services sector (40%)
- Public employees sector (23%)
- Agricultural sector (20%)
- Israeli labor market (10%)
- Trade sector (6%)
- Industry (1%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labour force among main economic activities in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya



Source: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya has 50 markets, 1 bakery, 3 butcher shops, 1 fruits and vegetables store, 4 different professional workshops, 7 industrial shops (blacksmith, carpentry, etc.), 3 quarries, 2 stone cutters, and 1 oil press (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya reached 20% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in the Agricultural sector
- Workers in the Israeli labor market
- Workers in the Trade sector
- Workers in the Services sector
- Workers in the Public employees sector

(Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013)

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31% of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya's labor force was economically active, of whom 85% were employed. 69% were not economically active, of whom 50.5% were students, and 35.4% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	463	21	57	541	323	0	55	8	3	389	0	930
F	37	1	8	46	335	461	93	2	24	915	0	961
T	500	22	65	587	658	461	148	10	27	1304	0	1,891

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

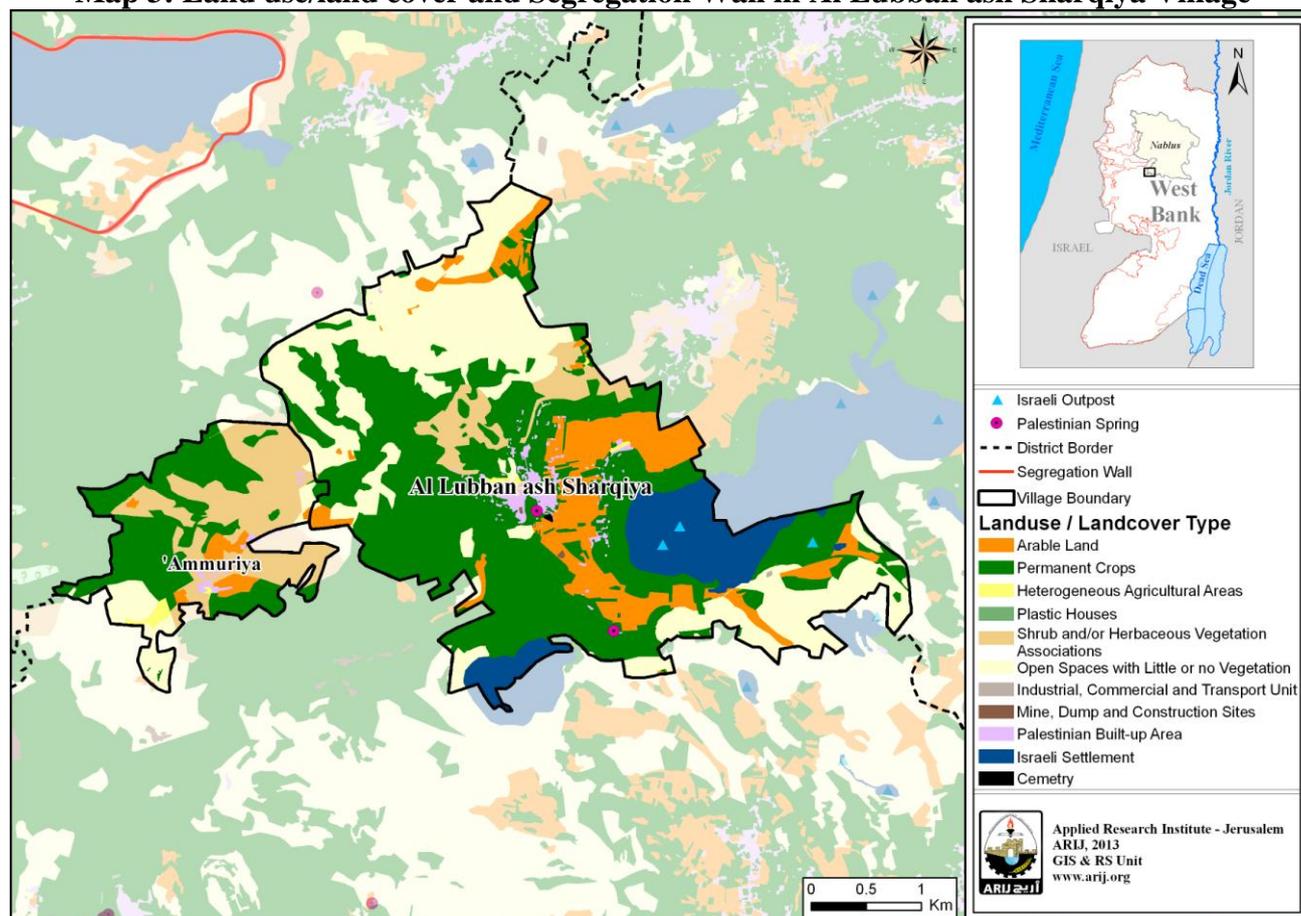
Al Lubban ash Sharqiya has a total area of approximately 15,637 dunums of which 10,243 are 'arable' land and 266 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (10,243)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone	Tombs
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arab le lands						
15,637	266	6,779	1	1,747	1,716	0	0	3,969	11	1,144	4

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

There are several different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are fruity vegetables such as "snake cucumbers" and tomatoes. In addition to the cultivation of 11 dunums of rain-fed land, 3 dunums are also cultivated in greenhouses (Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is famous for olives and there are approximately 4,152 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
4,152	0	0	0	3	0	8	0	91	0	151	0	4,405	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the field and forage crops in the village, which cover about 1,040 dunums, mostly with wheat.

Table 7: Total area of field and forage crops in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya (area in dunums)

Grain		Bulbs, Tubers, and Roots		Dry Legumes		Oily Crops		Forage Crops		Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Crops		Other Crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Rf.	Irr.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
1,040	0	22	0	160	0	14	0	217	0	0	0	34	0	1,487	0

Rf: Rain-fed; Irr: Irrigated

Source: Ministry of agriculture- Nablus, 2010

The difference in size of agricultural areas between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas and did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore, accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 9% of the residents in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep and others (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broiler Chickens	Layer Chickens	Bee Hives
13	870	690	0	0	0	0	50,000	1,000	110

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 80 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, categorized as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	40
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	40
For animals only	0
Unsuitable	0

Source: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- Rising costs of production inputs
- The lack of agricultural extension and insufficient awareness of the farmer
- The lack of government support and ignoring of agriculture in Palestine
- The lack of economic feasibility

(Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and Services

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council: Founded in 1996, and later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, its aim is to bring attention to the issues in the village and to provide all services to the population; in addition to providing infrastructure services.

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Sports Club: Established in 1994 and later registered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, it was created in order to interest young people, train them, and provide services to them to improve their athletic skills. (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1994. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the North Electricity Company, 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the increase in the pressure on the electricity network (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 10% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

There are 20 taxis in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya. If there is a lack of transportation, taxis from the main street (Nablus –Ramallah) will be used (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013). There are some problems facing the citizens such as the presence of military checkpoints. There are 15km of main roads and 7km of secondary roads in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya (See Table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	15	5
2. Paved & in poor condition	0	0
3. Unpaved	0	2

Source: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013

Water Resources

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is provided with water by West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1996. The percentage of housing units connected to the public water is approximately 100% (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village in 2012 was approximately 120,000 cubic meters/year (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2012). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 107 liters/day. However, no Al Lubban ash Sharqiya citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 30% (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village Council, 2013). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is 75 liters per day (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013). This rate is low compared to the minimum proposed by the World Health Organization of at least 100 liters per capita per day.

The village has nine water springs, which are used for livestock, in addition to 50 domestic wells to collect rain water. The village also has a water tank with a 500 cubic meter capacity (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013). The price of one cubic meter of water from the public network is 4 NIS (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013).

Wastewater Status

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day is 184 cubic meters, or 67,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 60 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly into open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid Waste Management:

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village is responsible for managing solid waste collection and disposal of the waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. Due to the fact that solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 15 NIS per house per month is charged to the population for the service of domestic solid waste collection and transportation. The rate of fee collection is 100% (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village council, 2013).

Most of the population in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it through the use of a waste collection vehicle to the random dumping site for the village, 3km away from the village. Here the waste is subsequently burned and buried in an unhealthy way (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Al Lubban ash Sharqiya residents is nearly 2.1 tons, or 785 tons per year (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

The village of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya and other towns in the Nablus Governorate suffer environmental problems that must be addressed, for instance:

Water Sector

- Interruption of water for long periods, especially in the summer

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network means that the residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and septic tanks for the disposal of wastewater and sometimes dispose of wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods cause environmental damage, health problems and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. The wastewater also contaminates the groundwater and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater-harvesting cisterns). Most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. Thus, ground water cannot be used as drinking water. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health. (Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village council, 2013).

Solid Waste Management

The village of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya suffers from some problems in the solid waste management, such as the absence of containers to collect waste in the village, leading the citizens to collect the waste and leave it in front of their houses, causing accumulation in the streets and in front of houses which attract insects and stray animals. Also the lack of a sanitary landfill and a central service for the village, like other villages and towns in the province of Nablus, forces residents to dump their waste in a landfill in Jenin called Zahrat Al Fanjan, which serves the village and most of the population centers in Nablus.

Geopolitical Status in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

Geopolitical status in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Al Lubban ash Sharqiya was divided into Area A, B and C. Approximately 5,428 dunums (35% of the village's total area) were assigned as Area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and public order, while 3,476 dunums (25% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the PNA has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting of 6,233 dunums (40% of the total area), were classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over the security and administration of the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through the consent or

authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya's population resides in Areas A and B, while most of the land lying within Area C is open spaces and agricultural land or has been taken for Israeli settlements. (See Table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village according to Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	5,428	33
Area B	3,476	25
Area C	6,233	40
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	15,637	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

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

Israel has confiscated 1,144 dunums from Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village for the establishment of "Alie" and "Ma'ale Levona" settlements; approximately 4,000 Israeli settlers live within these two settlements. (See Table 12).

Table 12: Israeli settlement established on the territory of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

Settlement Name	establishing year	Area confiscated from the territory of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village	Number of settlers living in the settlement
Alie	1984	915	3259
Ma'ale Levona	1983	229	793
Total		1144	4052

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli checkpoints around Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

During the Second Intifada, the Israeli occupation authorities established checkpoints upon Al Lubban ash Sharqiya land, particularly near bypass road No.60. Earth mound barriers were established to close agricultural roads that link between the village and bypass road No. 60.

Residents of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village, as well as the neighboring villages, have been negatively impacted by Za'tara permanent checkpoint; it is an important site which links the northern and southern governorates. This outpost has been in place since the Second Intifada, and has continued to be a central point for Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians, such as killings, arrests, torture, denial of access and resulting traffic. However, Israeli forces have reduced these procedures in recent years.

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

Israeli bypass roads on Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli security control.. Israel has confiscated land on the east side of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village in order to construct Israeli bypass road No. 60. The old road has been transformed so as to link with “Ma'ale Levona” settlement. These two roads extend approximately 7.4km onto Al Lubban ash Sharqiya territory and isolate agricultural land.

Israeli occupation authorities have amended a section from the main bypass road No. 60, with a length of approximately 6.5 km and connects the villages of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya and Sinjil, with another bypass passage approaching the settlements of "Shilo and “Alie" at the expense of the territory of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village and the neighboring villages, Israel dominated the old section to connect the settlement of "Ma'ale Levona" with road No.60 Street, as we mentioned earlier.

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

Settler attacks on Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village

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

Israel has confiscated land from Al Lubban ash Sharqiya and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements in the area for the purpose of the establishment of Israeli settlements. But also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Since the establishment of these settlement, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks from settlers living in these settlements, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked homes, cars and other private property, and places of worship, for example, the village mosque was razed in 2010.

Israeli outposts in the village of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya

Some of Al Lubban ash Sharqiya village lands were taken by force by the Israeli settlers for the purpose of establishing three settlement outposts on the eastern side of "Alie" settlement, which is partially built on land confiscated from 'Asira al Qibliya. These outposts overlook the village of 'Al Lubban ash Sharqiya, with the aim of extending the territory controlled along the western side of the settlement, and as a result, control more Palestinian land. These outposts form a security barrier which surrounds the Palestinian areas and its population and is a source of abuses and violations against Palestinian civilians and their land.

During the past two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Bank, which later became known as settlement outposts. The outposts are foundations for new settlements, and tend to be extended branches of a mother settlement a few miles away. The process usually begins with the establishment of mobile caravans on the land that has been taken by the settlers. Establishing settlement outposts was encouraged by Ariel Sharon; the aim was for Jewish settlers to occupy Palestinians hill tops and create facts on the ground, so that Palestinians could not claim the land if there was ever to be a future solution between the two sides. Consecutive Israeli governments have provided security and logistical support for these outposts. Since 2001 when Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister, there has been a significant increase in the number of outposts across the West Bank. The Israeli army has also supported illegal Israeli settlers in their relocation to the settlements, in addition to providing security and infrastructure support. This is to ensure the permanence of the settlements.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council has implemented several development projects in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya during the past five years (See Table 13).

Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Domestic water reservoir	Water	2010	UNDP
Agricultural water resevoir	Agriculture	2011	Spanish Government
Construction of roads	Infrastructure	2012	CHF
Rehabilitation of 'Ammuriya - Khirbet Qeis roads	Infrastructure	2012	World Vision

Source: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

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

- 1 – The project for a sanitation system, and rehabilitation of the system for solid waste collection
- 2 - The need to create retaining walls
- 3 - The need to reclaim about 1,000 dunums of land
- 4 - The need to construct agricultural roads, length of 20km
- 5 - The need for agricultural productivity projects to support women
- 6 - The need to rehabilitate and pave road linkages between the areas of 'Ammuriya and Khirbet Qeis with the length of 4km
- 7 – The need to build a secondary school for girls
- 8 - The need to pave internal roads of 11km
- 9 - The need for projects to support the livestock sector and veterinary services
- 10 - The need for small productive projects to secure income for needy families

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al Lubban ash Sharqiya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Al Lubban ash Sharqiya

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and paving of roads	*			7 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			7 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas		*		7 km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs		*		9 springs
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			7 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		7 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			50 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			One vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill		*		
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Female School
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Female School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			10,000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			250 wells
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		30 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		400 ton per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			100 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		1 greenhouse
8	Provision of field crops seeds		*		
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies		*		
Other Needs					
1	The need for equipment for the village council such as: vehicle and Bagger bulldozer	*			

[^] 7 km secondary roads

Source: Al Lubban ash Sharqiya Village Council, 2013

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