

Talfit Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate which aims 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" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current 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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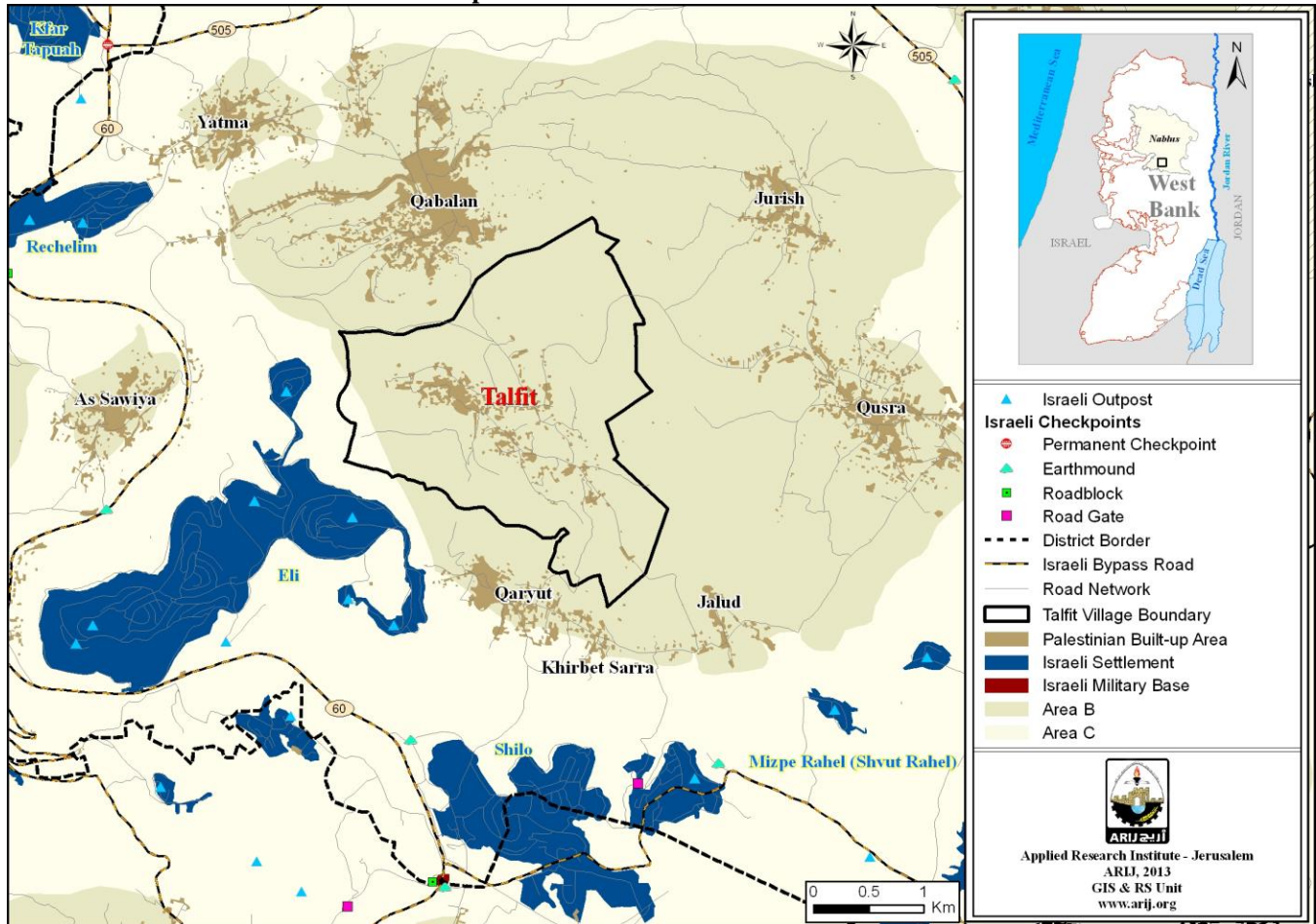
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Talfit Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

Talfit is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate located 15.1 km south Nablus City. It is bordered by Jalud and Qusra to the east, Jurish and Qabalan to the north, As Sawiya to the west, and Qaryut to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (see map 1).

Map 1: Talfit location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Talfit is located at an altitude of 675m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 476.4mm. The average annual temperature is 18°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 59% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Talfit village consists of approximately 5,767 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which was stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of local government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies

for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the demographic variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent the space and the borders of private property in the district. It is also not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1996, Talfit has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also two employees working for the council at their permanent headquarters, which is included within the Southern Joint Services Council. The Council does not own a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Talfit, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, street cleaning, and road paving, construction and restoration.
- Implementation of projects and studies
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Provision of educational kindergartens.

History

Talfit village's name derives from two words; "Tal" which stems from the location of the village on a hill, and "Fit" which comes from the Roman Emperor who ruled the village during the Roman period.

The village was established in 1900 A.D, however the ancestors of its residents originally came from Yemen (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

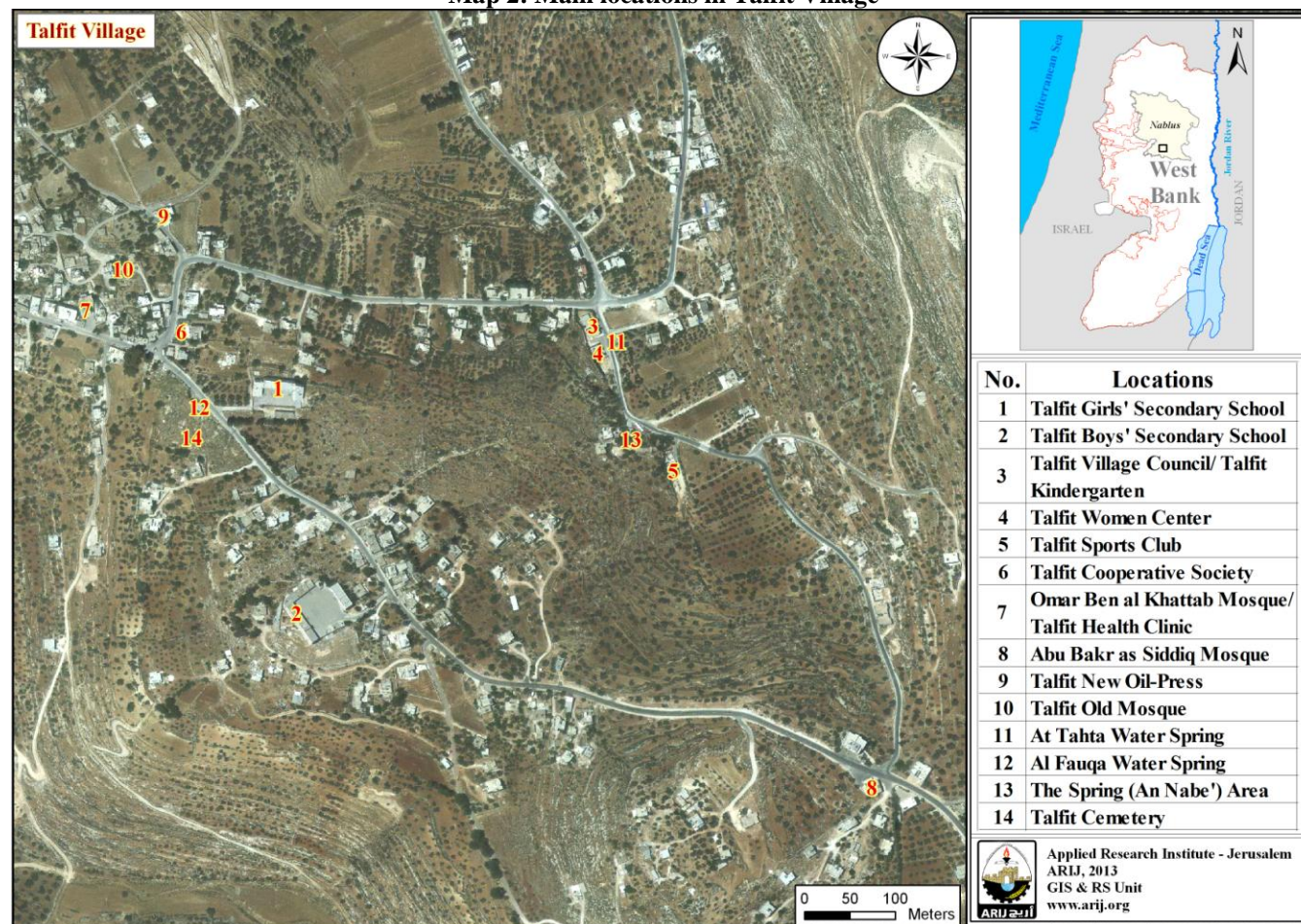
Photo of Talfit



Religious and archaeological sites

There are three mosques in the village: Umar ibn Al Khattab, Abu Bakr As Siddiq, and Al Omari Mosque. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including the old Omari mosque, the shrine of Al Sheikh Hamoudeh, Mount Ain Inaa', old water springs, and ancient Roman Khirba (ruins) and shrines. However none of these sites are suitable for tourism as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiques (Talfit Village Council, 2013) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Talfit Village



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Talfit in 2007 was 2781, of whom 1404 were male and 1377 female. There were 420 households registered as living in 481 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing, carried out by the PCBS in 2007, showed that the distribution of age groups in Talfit was as follows: 43.6% were less than 15 years of age, 52.8% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.6% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 102:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.5% and 49.5% of the population respectively.

Families

Talfit residents are from several families, including Dar Shahren, Awwad, Al Haj Muhammad, Musallam, Da'jan, Faraj, Abu Ghazi, and Dar Khalaf families (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, the illiteracy rate among Talfit's population is approximately 5.1%, of whom 82% are females. 17.9% could only read and write with no formal education, 27.7% had elementary education, 28.2% had preparatory education, 13.2% had secondary education, and 7.9% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Talfit by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Talfit population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

S E x	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master s	PhD	Unknow n	Total
M	18	131	277	308	153	49	56	3	3	1	0	999
F	82	221	268	247	106	13	31	0	0	0	1	969
T	100	352	545	555	259	62	87	3	3	1	1	1,968

Source: PCBS, 2007.

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 2).

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

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Talfit mixed Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Talfit Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

There are 945 students, 54 teachers and 35 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is 18, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 27 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are also 2 kindergartens in Talfit village which are run by two different private organizations (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see table 3 below).

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

Name of kindergarten	No. of classes	No. of teachers	Supervising authority
Al Nahda Kindergarten	3	4	Private
Zohor Talfit Kindergarten	1	1	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

Because of the lack of secondary stream (commercial and industrial) in the village schools, the students go to study at the schools in Nablus city which is located 25 km away from the village (Talfit village council , 2013).

The educational sector in Talfit village faces a number of obstacles including:

- The lack of classrooms in some schools and overcrowded classrooms.
- The lack of educational supplies and equipment available in the village schools.
- The village schools are old and in need of refurbishing.

Health status

Talfit has some governmental health facilities: a health center, general physician clinic, medical lab, and mother and child care center. The village also has a private pharmacy and a general physician clinic provided by a non-governmental organization (NGO). In emergencies, patients are transferred to Nablus governmental hospital in Nablus city which is 25km away, or to Qabalan health center which is 5 km away. (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

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

- The lack of an emergency room in the village
- The lack of a resident physician working on a daily basis in the health center
- The lack of an ambulance service
- The lack of a radiology center (Talfit Village Council, 2013)

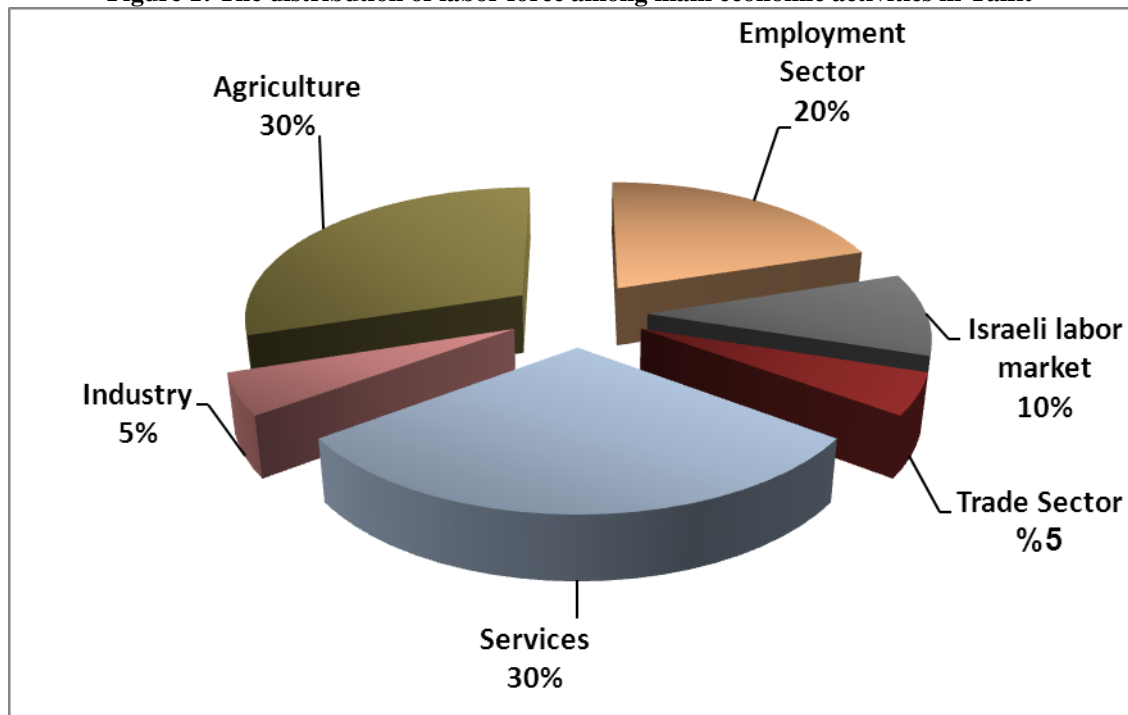
Economic activities

The economy in Talfit is dependent on several sectors, mainly on the agricultural and services sector which absorbs 30% of the village's workforce (Talfit Village Council, 2013) (see figure 1).

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

- Agricultural sector (30%)
- Services sector (30%)
- Employees sector (20%)
- Israeli labor market (10%)
- Trade sector (5%)
- Industry (5%)

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



Source: Talfit Village Council, 2013

Talfit has 13 grocery stores, 1 butcher, 2 fruit and vegetable stores, 14 service stores, 12 different professional workshops (such as blacksmiths, carpenters...etc.), 4 quarries, 1 olive oil press and 1 agricultural nursery (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

In 2013 the unemployment rate in Talfit reached 50%. The groups most economically affected by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in Israel
- Workers in the trade sector
- Workers in the agricultural sector.
- Workers in the industrial sector

(Talfit Village Council, 2013)

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, 28.9% of Talfit's labor force was economically active. Of the villages residents, 70.6% were employed, 71.1% were not economically active, 53.1% were students, and 34.7% were housekeepers (see table 4).

Table 4: Talfit 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	376	100	56	532	369	1	57	9	31	467	0	999
F	26	2	9	37	374	485	69	1	3	932	0	969
T	402	102	65	569	743	486	126	10	34	1,399	0	1,968

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

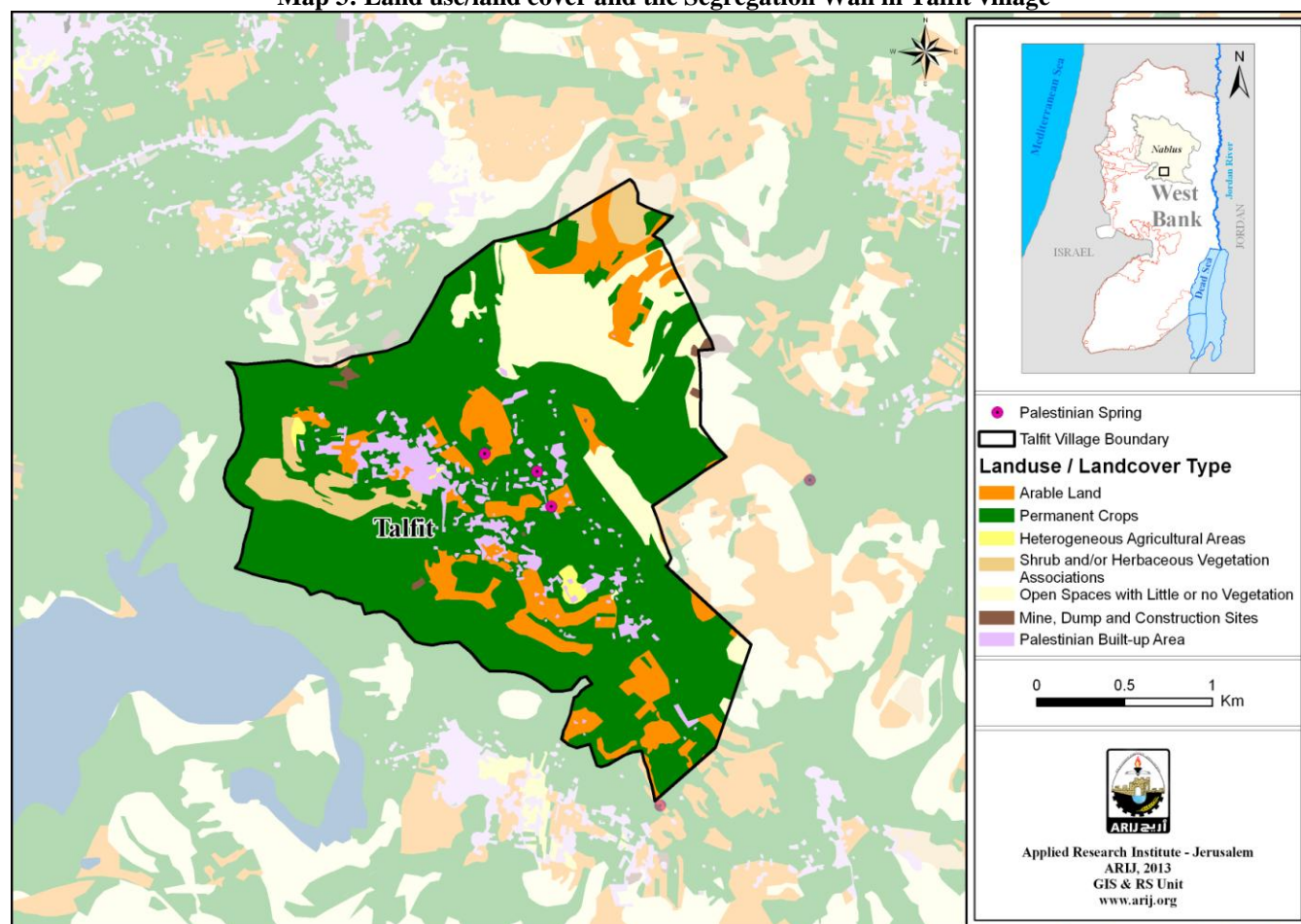
Agricultural sector

Talfit has a total area of approximately 5,767 dunums of which 4764 dunums are arable land and 285 dunums are registered as residential (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Talfit village (area in dunums)

Total Area	Built up area	Agricultural area (4,764)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
5,767	285	3,799	0	244	721	0	0	696	22	0

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014

Map 3: Land use/land cover and the Segregation Wall in Talfit village

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Talfit is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2066 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Talfit (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2,066	0	0	0	6	0	4	0	64	0	105	0	2,245	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture - Nablus 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Talfit, cereals are the most cultivated (particularly wheat), covering an area of around 300 dunums (see table 7).

Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in Talfit (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
300	0	5	0	38	0	1	0	60	0	0	0	14	0	418	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture - Nablus, 2010

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

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 20% of the residents in Talfit rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Talfit

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
25	170	540	0	0	0	0	10,000	1,500	8

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablu, 2010

There are approximately 15km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural roads in Talfit village and their lengths

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

Source: Talfit Village Council, 2013

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

- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The confiscation of land by the Israelis.
- The lack of capital for farmers.

(Talfit Village Council, 2013)

Institutions and services

Talfit village has no governmental institutions but it has local organizations which provide services to various sectors of society, these include:

- **Talfit Village Council:** Founded in 1994, it was registered later by Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the town and providing various services and infrastructure to its residents.

- **Talfit Women Society:** Founded in 2003 by the Ministry of interior, with the aim of training women in food processing, manual labor, embroidery...etc.
- **Talfit Sports Club**
- **Talfit Livestock Society**
- (Talfit Village Council, 2013)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

Talfit has been connected to a public electricity network served by the Israeli Qatari Electricity Company since 2000. It is the main source of electricity in the village and 95% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village's residents face multiple problems concerning electricity, primarily the weak electrical power supplied, the high amount of electricity wastage, electricity transformers are in poor condition, the inability to connect new subscribers far from the village center to electricity, and the lack of electricity poles. (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

Talfit is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 55% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

Transportation services:

There are 8 taxis, 4 illegal private cars and 1 public bus in Talfit. Whenever there is a lack of transportation the residents use their own private cars. The lack of vehicles in the village is considered to be one of the main obstacles faced by the passengers (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

There are 24km of main roads and 28km of secondary roads in Talfit (Talfit Village Council, 2013) (see table 9).

Table 9: Roads in Talfit village

Status of internal roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved and in good condition	9	3
2. Paved and in poor condition	6	15
3. Unpaved	9	10

Source: Talfit Village Council, 2013

Water resources:

Talfit has not been provided with a public water network so residents buy water for their private water tanks. This comes with a high cost amounting to 10 NIS per one cubic meter (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

The village has a well that is used for agricultural purposes, in addition there are 350 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

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

The approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day cannot be estimated in the village because there is no estimated daily per capita water consumption due to the lack of a public water network. 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. 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:

The Joint Services Council for Solid Waste is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 12 NIS per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. Approximately 90% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Talfit benefits from the solid waste services whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags located in front of houses and stores. The Joint Council collects the solid waste once daily and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site 0.5 km from the village, where it is subsequently burnt in an environmentally friendly way (Talfit Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Talfit is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by Talfit residents is nearly 2.2 tons, or 801 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

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

Water crisis

The lack of a water supply service due to the lack of a public water network, which results in residents buying water at a high cost.

Wastewater management

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

and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to the residents' health.

Solid waste management:

Talfit village residents suffer from a lack of solid waste containers. Residents collect and dispose of solid waste in front of their households until the waste truck service collects it. The solid waste is piled up in streets and in front of houses and accumulates animals and bugs until it is collected.

The lack of a central and sound solid waste container in the village means that, as with the rest of the Nablus Governorate villages and towns, Talfit's waste is disposed of in Zahret al Finjan landfill in the Jenin Governorate which is the main environmentally responsible landfill serving the town.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Talfit village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Talfit village was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 5,582 dunums (97% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 185 dunums (3% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Talfit's population resides in Area B. (See Table 10).

Table 10: The Geopolitical Divisions of Talfit village according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	5,582	97
Area C	185	3
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	5,767	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Talfit village

Despite the fact that there are no current settlements and camps established on Talfit village lands, the village still suffers from Israeli occupation practices; settlements, camps and Israeli military checkpoints still exist not far from the village. “Alie” settlement is located to the west of the village, built on lands belonging to the neighboring village of As Sawiya. This settlement and the surrounding outposts are hot spots for a number of settler attacks against Palestinians, their property and lands.

Talfit village and the southern villages of Nablus Governorate have been negatively impacted by “Kfar Tapuah” settlement bloc, “Tapuah” military base, and “Tapuah” military checkpoint, which separate the villages and Nablus city. “Kfar Tapuah” settlement bloc encompasses the settlement of “Kfar Tapuah”, and “Tapuah” Israeli military base, and “Tapuah” military checkpoint is known to Palestinians as “Za'tara” checkpoint; it is an important site which links the northern and southern governorates. This outpost has been in place since the Second Intifada, and has continued to be a central point for Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians, such as killings, arrests, torture, denial of access and traffic.

Talfit village as well as neighboring villages have been affected by Israeli bypass road No. 60, from the west side and bypass road No. 505 from the north side. These roads serve to confiscate more Palestinian land and to enhance Israeli security control on Palestinian towns and villages , in addition to establishing more military checkpoints on these roads.

Settler attacks on Talfit village

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements on Talfit 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 some lands from Talfit and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements, but also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Since the establishment of these settlements, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked homes, places of worship, cars and other private property.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

The Talfit Village Council has implemented several development projects in Talfit during the past five years (see table 11).

Table 11: Implemented development plans and projects in Talfit during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Building new schools	Educational	2010	Talfit Village Council
Construction and paving of roads	Infrastructure	2011	European Union

Source: Talfit Village Council, 2013

Proposed projects

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

1. Constructing a new elementary school
2. Constructing agricultural roads (approx. 20 km)
3. Constructing secondary roads (approx. 7km)
4. Expanding and rehabilitating old clinics and developing an emergency centre
5. Constructing a playing field for the village's youth
6. Constructing new water networks in the village's main roads
7. Providing new power transformers, electricity wires and columns
8. Building harvesting cisterns for households and agricultural water
9. Construction of a water tank (300 meter cubic)
10. Establishing a sewage network that complies with the hygienic and ecological specifications for the disposal of wastewater safety
11. Establishing walls and a yard for the existing village schools
12. Paving the village roads (approx. 4 km)
13. Establishing a new public park in the village
14. Implementation of awareness programs and youth rehabilitation
15. Establishing productive projects for poor families such as sheep farms, poultry farms... etc.
16. Developing Talfit's medical lab and providing it with advanced equipment.
17. Providing educational kindergartens
18. Supporting Palestinian farms and marketing their olive oil
19. Providing the village council with farming machines such as: tractors... etc.
20. Building retaining walls (approx. 1 km)

Locality development priorities and needs

Talfit suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the Village Council.

Table 12: Development priorities and needs in Talfit

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			70km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas			*	
4	Construction of new water networks	*			7km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs		*		Water spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs		*		500meter cubic
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			18km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			100 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 Vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			1
Health needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools	*			one Elementary and one Secondary School
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			30 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			30 Cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		5 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		300 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			
Other Needs					
1	Providing the village council with special car and Bagger for road maintenance				
2	Need for ambulance car				

[^] 15km secondary roads, 25km agricultural roads, and 30km agricultural roads

Source: Talfit Village Council, 2013

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