

AL-Zaytouneh Town 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 Ramallah Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Ramallah Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "towns village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Ramallah 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 Ramallah Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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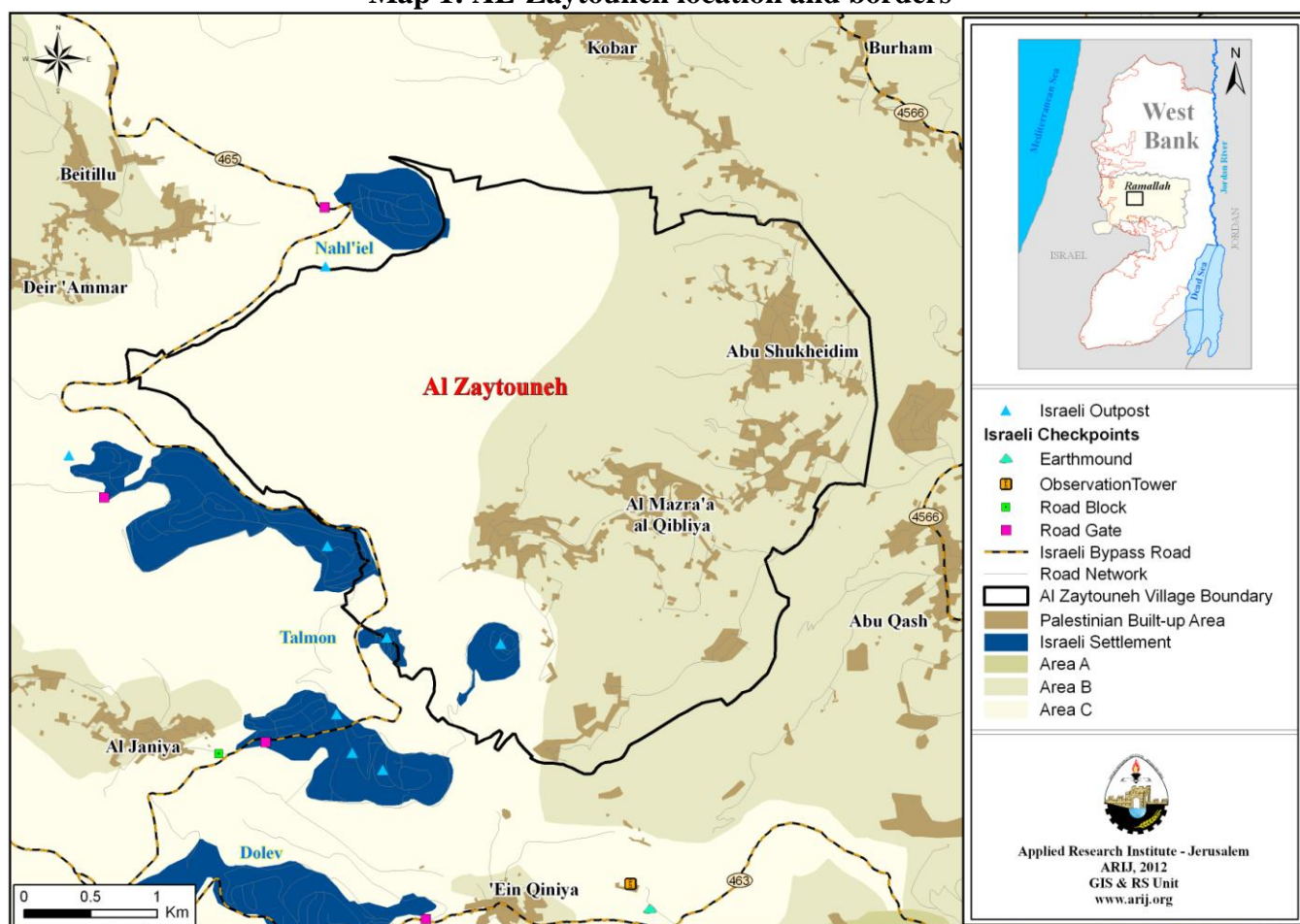
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AL-Zaytouneh Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

AL-Zaytouneh is a Palestinian town in the Ramallah Governorate located 7.76km from Ramallah City downtown. AL-Zaytouneh is bordered by Bir Zeit and Abu Qash villages to the east, Kobar village to the north, Al-Itihad and Al Janiya territories to the west, and 'Ein Qiniya, Ramallah and Al Janiya territories to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).

Map 1: AL-Zaytouneh location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Al-Zaytouneh is located at an altitude of 579m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 641.1mm. The average annual temperature is 16 °C and the average annual humidity is about 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 2005, Al-Zaytouneh has been governed by a municipal council, which is currently administrated by 13 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are an additional 10 employees

working in the council, which is included within the Joint Services Council for Kobar, Al Mazra'a al Qibliya, Abu Shukheidim, Abu Qash and Surda localities. The Council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste. It also possesses a pickup, a tractor and a bob-cat (AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the municipal council to provide a number of services to the residents of Al-Zaytouneh, including (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

1. Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, and social development services.
2. Organization and oversight of the town's construction and licensing processes.
3. Protection of the historical and archaeological sites in the town.
4. Implementation of projects and studies for the town

History

Al-Zaytouneh (literally 'the olive tree') was founded through integrating Al Mazra'a al Qibliya and Abu Shukheidim villages. A new name had to be selected for this new village; Al-Zaytouneh was chosen because it is an easy name, in addition to the fact that olive trees are an intrinsic part of Palestinian culture and heritage (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

The town was established in 2005. However, residents of Al Mazra'a al Qibliya have been inhabiting the land since more than 500 years ago, and the residents from Abu Shukheidim originate from Hebron (AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011) (See photo below for Al-Zaytouneh town).

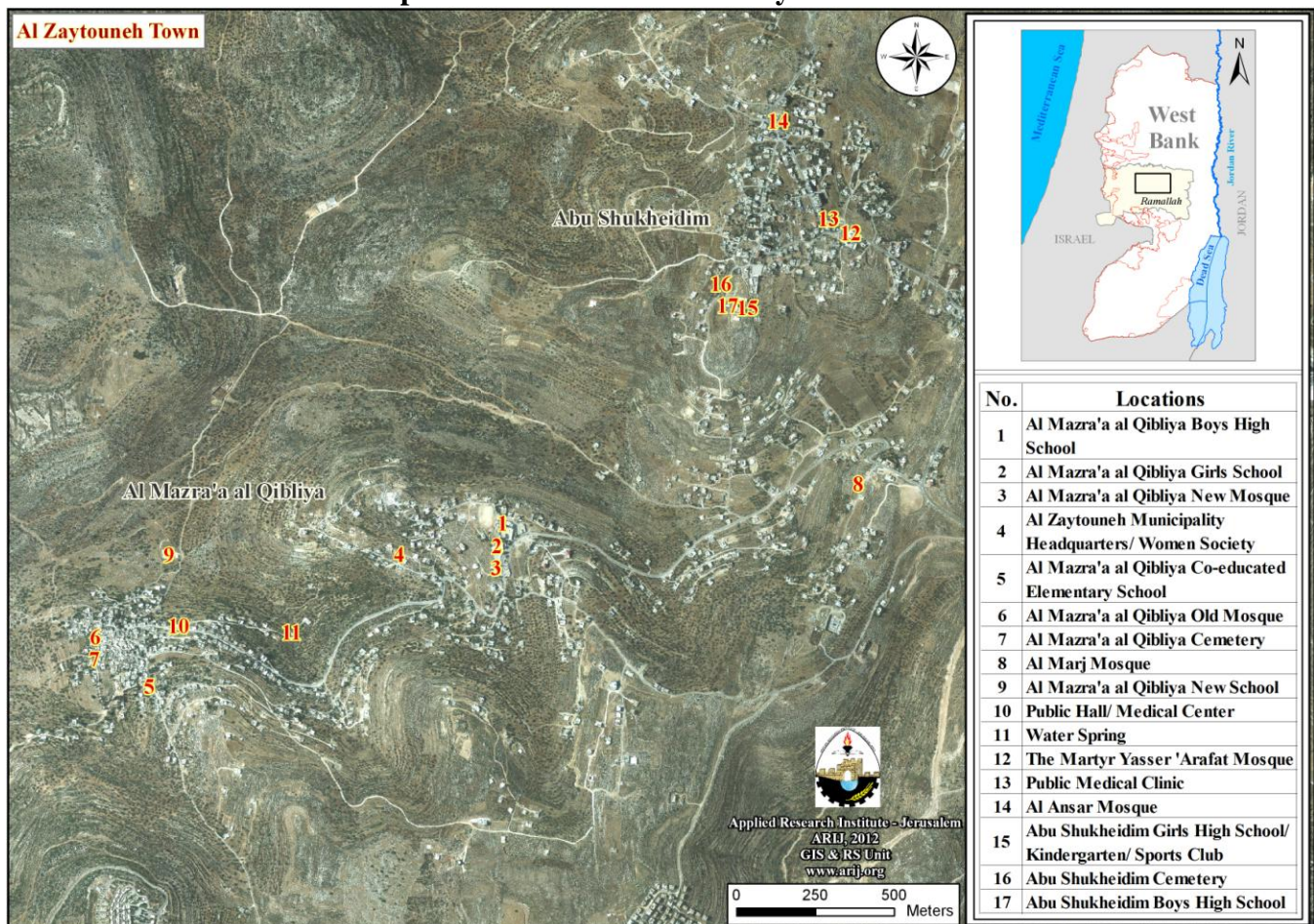
Photos of AL-Zaytouneh



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are six mosques in the town: the Martyr Yasir 'Arafat Mosque, Al Ansar Mosque, Abu Shukheidim Old Mosque, Al Mazra'a al Qibliya Old Mosque, the Eastern Mosque and Ash Sharif Mosque. There are several sites of archaeological interest: Khirbet Harasha, Khirbet Deir Sa'idah, Khirbet Na'lan, Khirbet Ash Sheikh Issa and Khirbet ad Deir in addition to Ash Sheikh Issa, Ash Sheikh Saleh and Al Hajj Ramadan shrines. Each of these sites is qualified for tourism (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Al-Zaytouneh Town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Al-Zaytouneh in 2007 was 5,819, of whom 3,013 were male and 2,806 were female. There were 1,027 households living in 1,198 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-Zaytouneh was as follows: 41% were less than 15 years of age, 55.5% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 107.4:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51.8% and 48.2% of the population respectively.

Families

Al-Zaytouneh residents are from several families, mainly the Shreiteh, Al Ladawdah, Abu Rabi', Qunlah, Abu Thaher, Abu Shukheidim, As Soos, Abu Qare' and Issa families (AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the Al-Zaytouneh population is about 6.8%, of whom 84% are females. Of the literate population, 14.8% can only read and write, with no formal education 26.3% had elementary education, 28.9% had preparatory education, 13.4% had secondary education, and 9.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Al-Zaytouneh by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: AL-Zaytouneh population (10 years of age 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	46	281	596	704	298	77	131	3	18	2	5	2,161
F	241	344	518	519	268	85	88	2	1	-	3	2,069
T	287	625	1,114	1,223	566	162	219	5	19	2	8	4,230

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

There are five public schools in the town, which are all run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There are no kindergartens (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in AL-Zaytouneh by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2010/2011)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Abu Shukheidim Boys Secondary School	Government	Male
Abu Shukheidim Girls Secondary School		Female
Al Mazra'a al Qibliya Co-educated Elementary School		Mixed
Al Mazra'a al Qibliya Girls Secondary School		Female
Al Mazra'a al Qibliya Boys Secondary School		Male
Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011		

In the town there are 1,636 students, 108 teachers, and 65 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2009). The average number of students per teacher in the school was nearly 15, and the average number of students per class was approximately 25.

The educational sector in Al-Zaytouneh town faces some obstacles, primarily (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

1. The small classrooms and old school buildings.
2. The lack of academic provision, specifically in areas such as English language and mathematics.

Health Status

There are a number of health centers and services available in Al-Zaytouneh town, including one governmental physician's clinic, one physician's clinic run by a charitable society, a private otolaryngology clinic, a dentist clinic run by an NGO, a private dentist clinic, a private pharmacy, and a nongovernmental health center (Al-Zaytouneh Medical Center). In emergencies or in the absence of required health services, patients use Ramallah Governmental Hospital or private clinics in Ramallah city, approximately 12km from the town (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

The health sector in the town struggles with some obstacles and problems, including (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

- The lack of specialized physicians.
- The lack of integrated medical laboratories.
- The lack of necessary medicines in the governmental centers.
- The lack of an emergency center that operates all day.
- The lack of a town ambulance.

Economic Activities

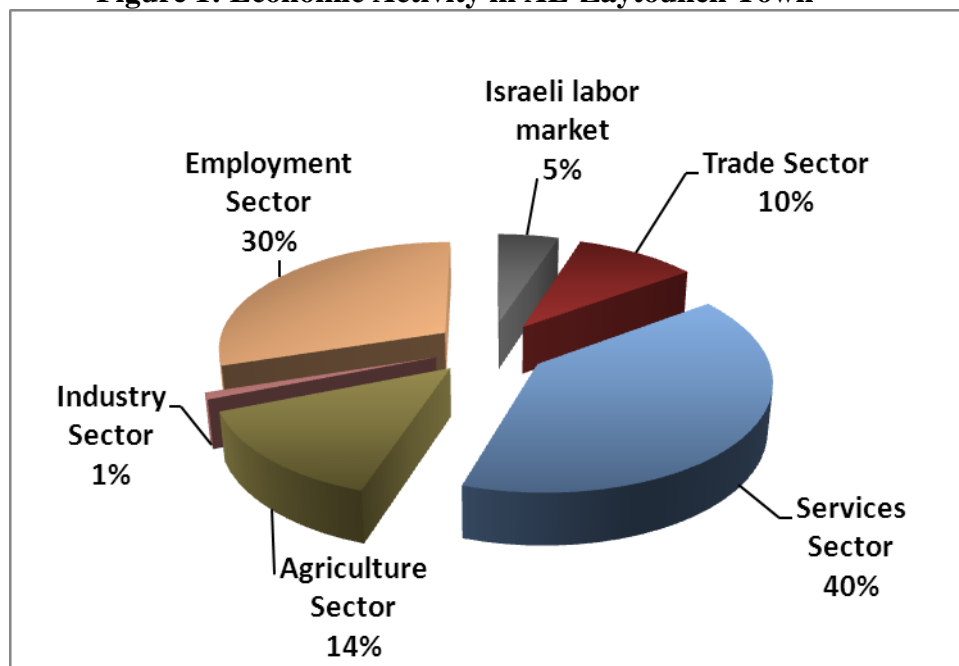
The economy in Al-Zaytouneh is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the services sector, which absorbs 40% of the town workforce (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by ARIJ staff in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in AL-Zaytouneh are as follows:

- Services Sector (40%)
- Government or Private Employees Sector (30%)
- Agriculture Sector (14%)
- Trade Sector (10%)
- Israeli Labor Market (5%)

- Industry (1%)

Figure 1: Economic Activity in AL-Zaytouneh Town



Source: AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011

There are 55 groceries, 2 vegetable and fruit stores, one bakery, 18 different service stores, 5 different professional workshops, an olive oil-press, and 3 stores for construction materials in Al-Zaytouneh (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Al-Zaytouneh reached around 15% in 2011, and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions have been (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

1. Workers in the agriculture sector.
2. Former workers in the Israeli labor market.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 32.9% of the Al-Zaytouneh labor force was economically active, of whom 90.1% were employed. 66.8% were not economically active, 53.8% were students, and 35.7% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: AL-Zaytouneh population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

SEX	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Un-known	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total		
M	1,133	76	34	1,243	730	2	127	19	36	914	4	2,161
F	122	15	13	150	790	1,008	106	2	7	1,913	6	2,069
T	1,255	91	47	1,393	1,520	1,010	233	21	43	2,827	10	4,230

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

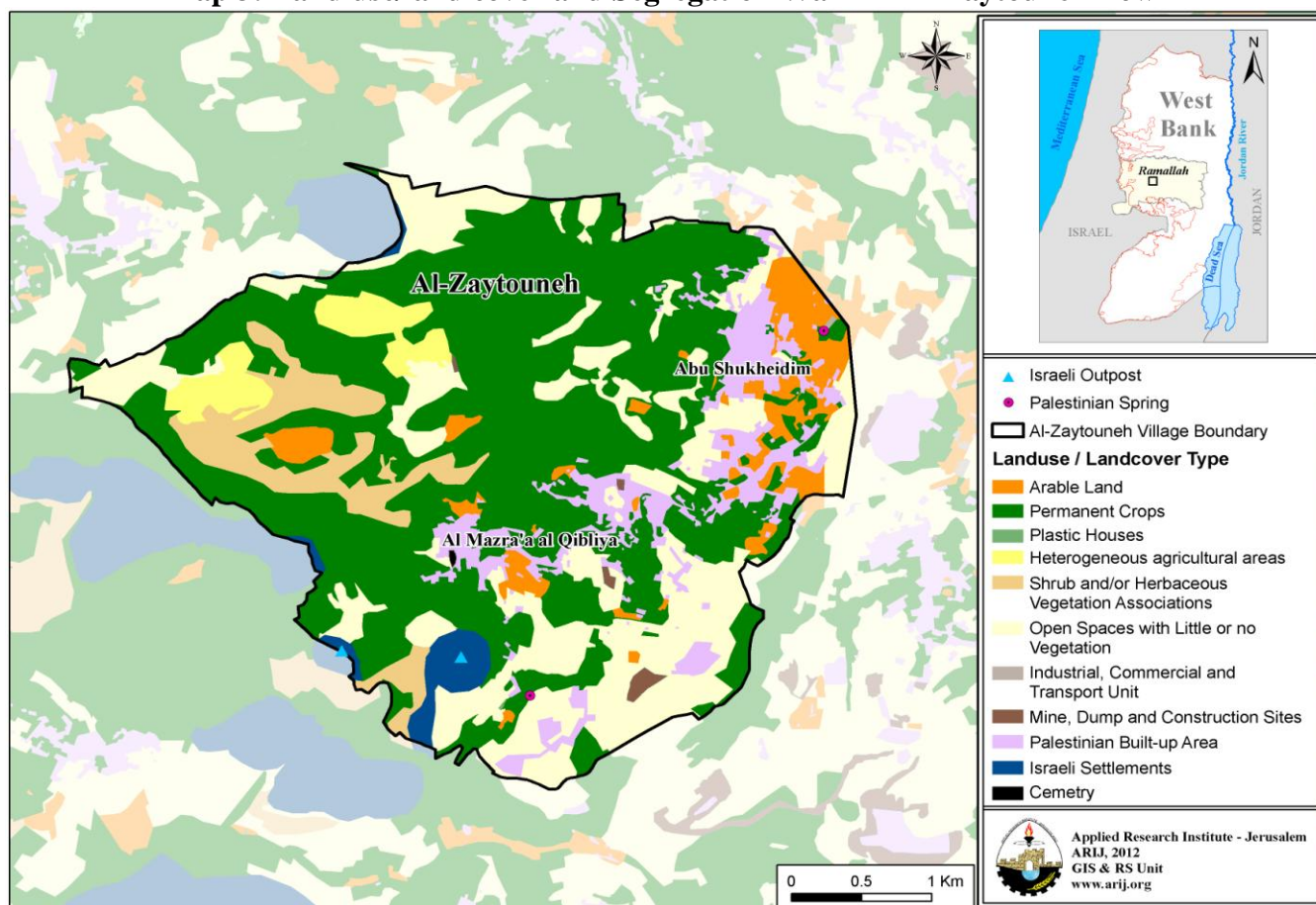
Al-Zaytouneh lies on an area of 15,279 dunums, of which 10,181 dunums are arable lands and 1,297 dunums are dedicated to residential services (see Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover AL-Zaytouneh town in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (10,181)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlement, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Perma-nent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
15,279	1,297	8,373	2	967	839	0	0	3,433	59	309

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in AL-Zaytounch Town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al-Zaytounch. The most commonly cultivated crop within this area is squash.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in AL-Zaytounch town (dunum)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
81	17	0	5	29	0	13	0	10	2	133	24

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Al-Zaytounch is famous for olive cultivation; there are 4,996 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in AL-Zaytounch Town(dunum)

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.
4,996	0	0	15	36	0	0	0	79	0	258	0	5,369	15

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

Cereals (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated field crops in Al-Zaytouneh, covering an area of about 515 dunums (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Al-Zaytouneh town(dunum)

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
515	0	31	0	67	0	10	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	698	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) 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 instead of seasonal ones. The survey 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, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that 10% of the residents in Al-Zaytouneh rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in AL-Zaytouneh town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
2	329	569	0	0	0	0	20,000	6,000	16

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

There are around 30 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows:

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in AL-Zaytouneh Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	10
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	0

Source: AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011

The agricultural sector in the town faces some obstacles and problems, including:

- The confiscation of lands.
- The lack of capital.
- The weak economic feasibility.
- The lack of water sources.

- The high costs of feed.
- The lack of support for farmers.

Institutions and Services

Al-Zaytouneh town has no governmental institutions but has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

- **AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Local Governorate with the goal of taking care of issues in the town and providing various services to its population.
- **Abu Shukheidim Sports Club:** Founded in 2002 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports with an interest in sports, cultural and social activities for young people in the town.
- **The International Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian People:** Founded in 2003 by the International Committee, the Committee is essentially a clinic that provides services for three villages in the evening and provides free care to 75 cases. The Committee has a selected administrative body.
- **Rehabilitation of the Disabled Society:** Founded in 1994 by a local committee in order to provide the disabled with different services.
- **Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior. The Society provides earphones and glasses to the disabled and works as a link between the disabled and other institutions.
- **Al Mazra'a al Qabaliya Women Cooperative Society for Rural Development:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Labor, the Society has implemented some projects and covers women's needs, in addition to raising women's awareness.
- **Al Mazra'a al Qabaliya Club:** Founded in 1997 by the town's youth and currently registered in the Ministry of Youth & Sports. Al Mazra'a al Qabaliya Club is a gym and a cultural club that establishes sports teams and art groups.
- **Falasteen al Ghad Society for Childhood and Joy:** Founded in 2011 by the Ministry of Interior, the Society was registered in the Ministry of Culture and Arts as a non-profit, non-governmental organization focusing its activities on Palestinian rural areas and taking care of children.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Al-Zaytouneh has been connected to a public electricity network since 1981. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town, and approximately 90% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. However, the town residents experience some problems concerning electricity, mainly (AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

1. The new neighborhoods are not connected to the electricity network (approximately 10% of the town).
2. The weak electrical current in some areas.
3. The location of electricity poles near the main streets, which hinders the expansion of the network.
4. The existence of high voltage lines over houses and private lands.

Al-Zaytouneh is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 50% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Transportation Services:

Ten taxis, 5 illegal/ unlicensed cars and one bus are the main means of transportation in Al-Zaytouneh; however, travelers experience difficulties due to the unqualified and poor condition of the town's main streets (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011). There are 7km of main roads and 28km of secondary roads in the town (See Table 10) (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Table 10: Roads in Al-Zaytouneh town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	7	8
2. Paved but in poor condition	-	10
3. Unpaved	-	10

Source: Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the town with water through a water network constructed in 1987. This network supplies water to almost 85% of the housing units in the town. The quantity of water supplied to the town reached approximately 200,000 m³/ in 2010 (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011), and therefore the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 94 liter/capita/day. However, no resident of Al-Zaytouneh consumes this amount of water due to water losses from the transfer of water and its distribution throughout the network from the main company provider to housing units. Such losses reach 26.5 %, and therefore the average water consumption per capita is estimated to be 69 liter/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is less than the recommended minimum amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

There are 200 rainwater harvesting cisterns located in Al-Zaytouneh; these form an alternative water resource during periods of water cut-offs, particularly in summer (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Additionally, there are 10 water springs in the town (as shown in Table 11) which are used to irrigate agricultural lands cultivated with vegetables and fruits. There is also a public water reservoir with a capacity of 200 cubic meters in the town (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Table 11: Water springs in Al-Zaytouneh

#	Name of Spring	Area of Cultivated Land (dunum)	Type of Crops	Irrigation System
1	Harasha	200	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
2	Al Balad	5	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
3	Khalifeh	5	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
4	Umm Qatqoot	5	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
5	Bir Qreiqe'		Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
6	Wad al Bir		Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
7	Al Bweirah	5	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
8	Umm Siraj		Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
9	Jibreen	5	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip
10	Bir al 'Aleg	10	Fruits & Vegetables	Drip

Source: Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 12 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 12: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012

Consumption Category (m ³)	Domestic (NIS/m ³)	Industrial (NIS/m ³)	Tourist (NIS/m ³)	Commercial (NIS/m ³)	Public Institutions (NIS/m ³)
0 – 5	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.4
5.1 – 10	4.5	5.6	5.6	5.6	4.5
10.1 – 20	5.6	6.8	6.8	6.8	5.6
20.1 – 30	6.8	8.1	8.1	8.1	6.8
30.1+	9	9.9	10.8	9	9

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2012

Sanitation

Al-Zaytouneh lacks a public sewage network; most of the population uses cesspits as main means for wastewater disposal (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 322 cubic meters, or 117,600 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 48 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys without concern for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of about 15 NIS is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not sufficient for good management of solid waste, as only 27% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Most of the population in Al-Zaytouneh benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags. The Municipal Council collects the solid waste two times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's dumping site, 2km away, where it is burnt (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Al-Zaytouneh is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by Al-Zaytouneh residents is nearly 6.1 tons, or 2,230 tons per year (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate Al-Zaytouneh experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by the Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time during summer in several neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
 - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources. Consequently, the Jerusalem Water Authority purchases water from the Israeli company of Mekorot in order to satisfy residents' needs.

- (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network means that Al-Zaytouneh residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and open channels for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge 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 facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater and water collected in household cisterns (rainwater harvesting cisterns) because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. The untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid Waste Management

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve in AL-Zaytouneh and the other neighboring communities in the governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Al-Zaytounah Town (Al-Mazra'a Al-Qibliya and Abu Shukhaidim)

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Al-Zaytounah town which includes two Palestinian communities (Al-Mazra'a Al-Qibliya and Abu Shukhaidim) united under one municipality was divided into areas "B" and "C". Approximately 8,277 dunams (54.2% of the town's total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some camps. Notbaly, all of the population in Al-Zaytounah town resides in area B. The rest of the town's area, constituting 7,002 dunams (45.8% of the total area), is 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. It is also worth mentioning that most of the

lands lying within area C in Al-Zaytounah town are agricultural areas, shrubs and open spaces (table 13).

Table 13: The Geopolitical Divisions of Al-Zaytounah Town according to Oslo II Agreement 1995 – Ramallah Governorate

Classification	Area in dunums	Percent from Total Town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	8,277	54.2
Area C	7,002	45.8
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	15,279	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Al-Zaytounah Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Al-Zaytounah town has undergone its share of Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli interests represented in the construction of illegal settlements and outposts on the town territories. The land is also used for the construction of the Israeli bypass roads to connect the Israeli settlements. Following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of Al-Zaytounah town territories:

Table 14: Israeli Settlements constructed over Al-Zaytounah Town lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated from Al-Zaytounah (dunums)	Population of settlers (2009)
Talmon	1989	289	2580
Nahl'iel	1984	19	392
Total		308	2972

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

During the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government confiscated 308 dunams in Al-Zaytounah town to establish two Israeli settlements. The first is the "Talmon" settlement, which is located south-west of Al-Zaytounah and is mainly constructed on the land of the nearby village Al-Janiyato. The second is the "Nahl'iel" settlement which is located north-west of Al-Zaytounah, and is mainly constructed on the land of the nearby town Al-Ittihad. The two settlements are inhabited by about 3,000 Israeli settlers (Table 14).

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements around Al-Zaytounah have had a serious and significant impact on the people of the village and their properties. These attacks allow settlers to control more Palestinian lands adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from accessing their land. Settlers near Al-Zaytounah have used barbed wire to enclose land and planted trees on Palestinian property to increase their control. They have burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands.

In addition, the Government of Israel has confiscated more lands of Al-Zaytounah to construct Israeli bypass road no. 450 to connect the Israeli settlements. It is worth mentioning that the real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), extending approximately 75 m on the roads' sides.

The settler-seized land of Al-Zaytounah has been further used to build two Israeli outposts: "Harasha" and "Horesh Yaron". These were built south-west of Al-Zaytounah town in an attempt to expand the "Talmon" Israeli settlement throughout the surrounding hilltops. During the last two decades, Israel built 232 outposts in the West Bank. These outposts are considered the nucleus for the development of new settlements. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans that are located on lands stolen by the settlers and are contiguous to a mother settlement that is near. It is worth mentioning that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a "Sharonian" call for Jewish settlers to take control of Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although the successive Israeli governments haven't legalized this phenomenon, they've managed to find security and logistical cover to justify the act, its existence and continuity. After 2001, the Prime Minister at that time, Ariel Sharon, unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in their number within Palestinian areas. Also, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) helped the Israeli settlers to move and settle in those outposts; as well as protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Al-Zaytouneh during the past five years (See Table 15).

Table 15: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Al-Zaytouneh During the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Construction of Al Mazra'a new school	Educational	2010	Municipalities Fund
Construction of additional classrooms in the boys' school	Educational	2008	PECDAR & AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council
Rehabilitation of roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Construction of Abu Shukheidim Girls School	Educational	2010	Belgian Government
Rehabilitation of internal roads	Infrastructure	2009	Municipalities Fund
Source: AL-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011			

Proposed Projects

AL-Zaytouneh Municipal council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspective of the participants in the workshop (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011):

1. Expanding the town entrance, establishing sidewalks and a roundabout, and supplying street lighting for the surrounding road (5 km).
2. Paving and rehabilitating internal roads (approximately 10 km).
3. Constructing a headquarters for the municipal council to be located between Abu Shukheidim and Al Mazra'a al Qibliya.
4. Expanding the structural plan, developing the engineering department within the municipality, and supplying the department with equipment.
5. Finishing and rehabilitating Abu Shukheidim and Al Mazra'a al Qibliya schools.
6. Rehabilitating agricultural roads (20 km) and constructing new agricultural roads (around 10 km).
7. Expanding the lighting network in the town by adding 125 lighting units.
8. Constructing a water reservoir with a capacity of 5000 cups to serve all houses in the town.
9. Implementing a deed 'Tabou' project for Al Mazra'a al Qibliya land to identify its ownership.
10. Establishing an integrated health center that covers all medical specialties and providing an ambulance.
11. Constructing a sport, cultural and social club in Al Mazra'a al Qibliya.
12. Rehabilitating existing stadiums and establishing public parks for children and families.
13. Establishing a sewerage network linked to all housing units in the town.
14. Establishing a women's cultural center that would increase the role of women and provide them with opportunities for work and development.
15. Establishing a service complex and a meeting hall in Abu Shukheidim village.
16. Reclaiming agricultural lands and constructing agricultural harvesting cisterns on approximately 5,000 dunums of lands suitable for reclamation.
17. Establishing a center for the disabled and those with special needs to be run by the Rehabilitation Society.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Al-Zaytouneh suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the municipal council's point of view (Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011).

Table 16: Development Priorities and Needs in Al-Zaytouneh

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*		15km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas	*			5km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs	*			4 springs
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*			5000 m ³
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*			20km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection	*			50 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste	*			1
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			4 medical clinics
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			3 medical clinics
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			the new school
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			1,500 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			200 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*			10 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*			150 tons per year
6	Construction of New Greenhouses	*			15 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
8	Field Crops Seeds	*			
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*4km are main roads, 6km are sub roads and 5km are agricultural roads

Source: Al-Zaytouneh Municipal Council, 2011

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