# At Tira Village Profile





The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

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## Background

This report is part of a series of booklets which contain compiled demographic information and a needs assessment of the populations of each city, town, and village in the Ramallah Governorate. These publications come as a result of the comprehensive study of all localities in the Governorate and aim to depict the overall living conditions there, whilst also presenting plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the Jerusalem population. This was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" a 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 of the Ramallah region, along with reporting the programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions there.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and their existing limitations. Based on these findings, the project further aims to conduct a needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in the 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 a focus on the *agricultural sector*.

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

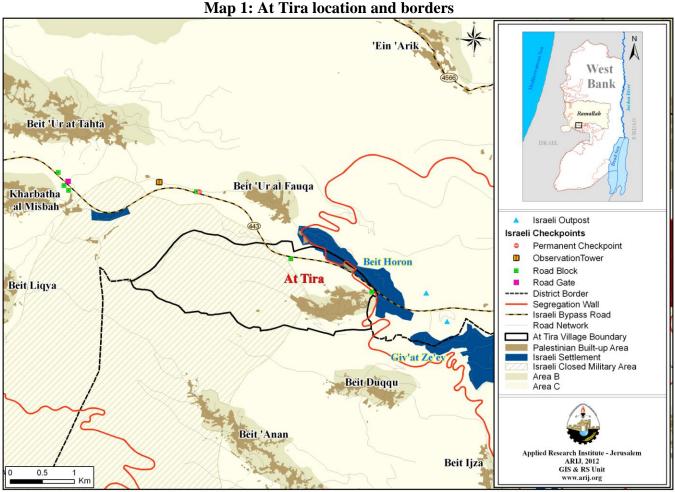
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# **At Tira Village Profile**

## **Location and Physical Characteristics**

At Tira is a Palestinian village in the Ramallah Governorate located 8.3km southwest of Ramallah City. At Tira is bordered by Beituniya town lands to the east, Beit 'Ur al Fauqa village and Beituniya town lands to the north, Beit 'Anan and Beit 'Ur al Fauqa villages' lands to the west, and Beit Duqqu village in Jerusalem Governorate to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1).



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

At Tira is located at an altitude of 623m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 587.8mm. The average annual temperature is 16  $^{\circ}$  C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1998, At Tira has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian Authority. There is also one employee working in the council. The village council owns a permanent headquarters but does possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste.

It is the responsibility of the village council to provide a number of services to the residents of At Tira, including (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

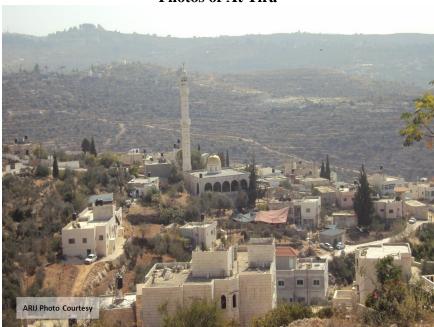
- Infrastructure services, such as supplying water.
- Solid waste collection, street cleaning, and social development services.
- Provision and management of kindergartens.

## History

There are several stories behind the etymology of At Tira's name (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

- The village is shaped like a bird's wing ('Tayr')
- There are a large number of wild birds, including eagles, hawks, crows, and partridges in the surrounding area.
- Other sources indicate that the name is of Canaanite origin, as Mount Carmel was invaded by the Zablon tribe; however, when the army reached a mountain near the village, they were driven back by Canaanites led by Princess Terra or Tira.

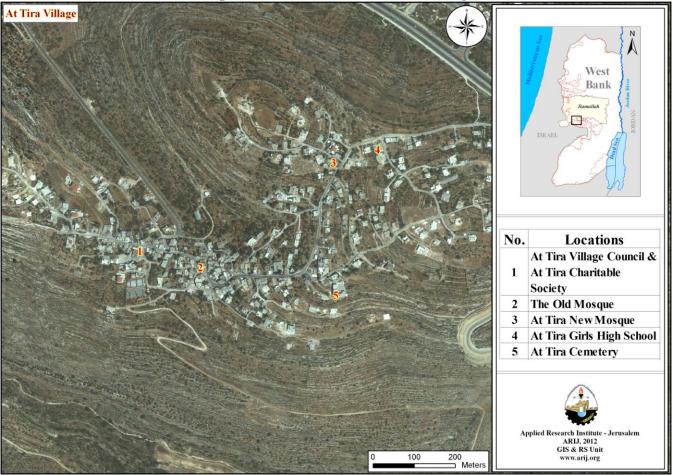
The establishment of the village dates back to 1750 (At Tira Village Council, 2010) (See photo below for At Tira village).

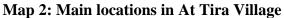


#### **Photos of At Tira**

## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are two mosques in the village, At Tira Old Mosque and At Tira New Mosque. Khirbet Kafarosen is the village's only site of archaeological interest and is qualified for tourism (At Tira Village Council, 2010) (See Map 2).





Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of At Tira in 2007 was 1,276, of whom 621 were male and 655 were female. Additionally, there were 246 households living in 282 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 At Tira is as follows: 37.9% are less than 15 years of age, 56.7% are between 15 - 64

years of age, and 4.8% are 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 94.8:100, meaning that males and females constitute 48.7% and 51.3% of the population respectively.

### Families

At Tira residents are from several families, mainly the Hamad, Muhammad and Salamah families (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

#### Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ in the village showed that around 60 people have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the At Tira population is about 8.1%, of whom 80.8% are females. Of the literate population, 9.6% can only read and write with no formal educational qualifications, 23.7% had only elementary education, 36.7% had only preparatory education, 12.2% had secondary education, and 9.6% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of At Tira, by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

| S<br>E<br>x | Illiterate | Can<br>read &<br>write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary | Associate<br>Diploma | Bachelor | Higher<br>Diploma | Maste<br>r | PhD | Unknown | Total |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|-------------------|------------|-----|---------|-------|
| Μ           | 15         | 45                     | 113        | 193         | 60        | 17                   | 24       | -                 | 2          | -   | -       | 469   |
| F           | 63         | 48                     | 116        | 162         | 58        | 28                   | 22       | -                 | -          | -   | 1       | 498   |
| Τ           | 78         | 93                     | 229        | 355         | 118       | 45                   | 46       | -                 | 2          | -   | 1       | 967   |

Table 1: At Tira population (10 years of age and above) by sex and educational attainment

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

| Table 2: The Schools in At Tira by name, stage     | , sex, and supervising aut | nority      |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|
| School Name  | Supervising Authority      | Sex         |
| Banat At Tira High School                          | Government                 | Co-educated |
| At Tira/ Beit 'Ur al Foqa Co-educated High School  | Government                 | Co-educated |
| Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011 |                            |             |

#### Table 2: The Schools in At Tira by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

In the village there are 453 students, 35 teachers, and 20 classes (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 13, while the average number of students per class is approximately 23.

Furthermore, there are four kindergartens in At Tira run by different bodies. There are 308 children attending these kindergartens in total. Table 3 shows the kindergartens according to their names and supervising authority.

| Kindergarten Name                         | No. of Children | Supervising Authority   |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Evangelical Bishopric Arab Kindergarten   | 111             | Christian Civil Society |
| Ar Ruwwad Kindergarten                    | 100             | Private                 |
| The Roman Orthodox/ Ramallah Kindergarten | 39              | Christian Civil Society |
| At Tira Charitable Society Kindergarten   | 58              | Islamic Civil Society   |
| Source: At Tira Village Council, 2010     |                 |                         |

| Table 3: The Kindergartens in At Tira | by name and supervising authority |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

However, the educational sector in At Tira village faces some obstacles, mainly the difficulty of access to At Tira/Beit 'Ur al Fauqa high school due to partial and permanent checkpoints on the road to the school (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

Due to the lack of high schools in the village, students of At Tira village attend schools in Safa or Beituniya village, 10km from the village, in order to complete their secondary education (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

## **Health Status**

There are very few health centers and services available in At Tira village; these include a governmental physician's clinic and a governmental medical laboratory. In case of emergencies or the absence of required health services in the village, residents of At Tira use Beituniya Health center or Ramallah Governmental Hospital, 6km and 8km from the village respectively (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

The health sector in the village suffers some obstacles and problems, including:

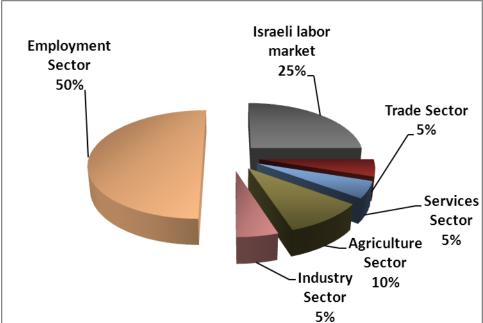
- The lack of permanent clinics open on a daily basis.
- The absence of a pharmacy in the village.
- The absence of an ambulance in the village.
- The absence of a motherhood and childhood care center.

## **Economic Activities**

The economy in At Tira is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the employees sector, which absorbs approximately 50% of the village workforce (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2010 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in At Tira are as follows (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

- Government or Private Employees Sector (50%)
- Israeli Labor Market (25%)
- Agriculture Sector (10%)
- Trade Sector (5%)
- Services Sector (5%)
- Industry (5%)



#### Figure 1: Economic Activity in At Tira Village

Source: At Tira Village Council, 2010

There are 6 grocery stores, 6 different professional workshops (carpentry, blacksmith etc.) and two different services stores in At Tira (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

The unemployment rate in At Tira reached approximately 50% in 2010 and the economic groups most affected by the Israeli restrictions were (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

- 1. Former workers in Israel.
- 2. Workers in the agriculture sector.

#### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.7% of At Tira labor force was economically active, of whom 84.4% were employed, and 67.8% were not economically active, of whom 50.5% were students and 31.6% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

|             | Tuble 11 It III population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status 2007 |                         |                                 |       |                            |                         |                   |   |    |       |              |       |  |  |
|-------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|----|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|
| ~           |   | Economicall             | y Active                        |       |                            | Not Economically Active |                   |   |    |       |              |       |  |  |
| S<br>E<br>X | Employed  | Currently<br>Unemployed | Unemployed<br>(Never<br>worked) | Total | Students House-<br>keeping |                         | Unable<br>to work | Not working<br>& Not<br>looking<br>for work |    | Total | Un-<br>known | Total |  |  |
| Μ           | 223   | 5                       | 30                              | 258   | 159                        | 1                       | 27                | 17  | 5  | 209   | 2            | 469   |  |  |
| F           | 36  | 1                       | 12                              | 49    | 172                        | 206                     | 41                | -   | 28 | 447   | 2            | 498   |  |  |
| Т           | 259   | 6                       | 42                              | 307   | 331                        | 207                     | 68                | 17  | 33 | 656   | 4            | 967   |  |  |

Table 4: At Tira population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

Source: PCBS, 2009.

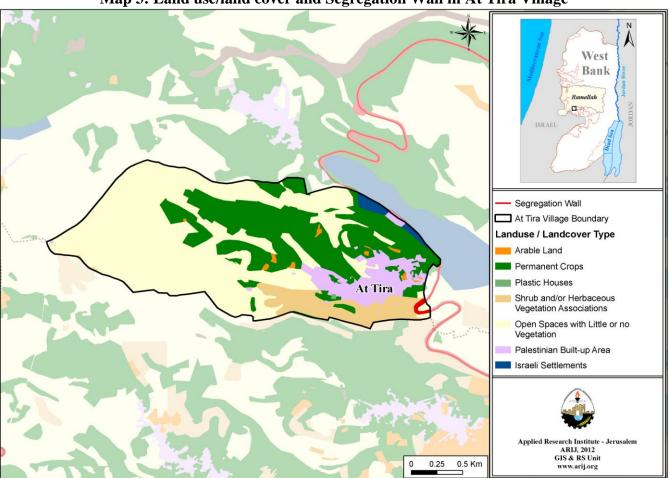
## **Agricultural Sector**

At Tira lies on a total area of about 3,970 dunums of which 1,486 dunums are considered arable land and 323 dunums are residential land (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in At Tira village in 2010 (area in dunum)

| Total<br>Area | al   | Built<br>up | P                  | Agricultura<br>(1,486) |                 |                 | Inland<br>water | Forests    | Open   | Area of<br>Industrial,         | Area of<br>Settlements,<br>Military |
|---------------|------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|               | ea . | rea         | Permanent<br>Crops | Green-<br>houses       | Range-<br>lands | Arable<br>lands |                 | 1 01 05 00 | Spaces | Commercial &<br>Transport Unit | Bases &<br>Wall Zone                |
| 3,97          | 70 3 | 323         | 1,146              | 2                      | 314             | 24              | 0               | 0          | 2,103  | 0                              | 57                                  |

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.



Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in At Tira Village

Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in At Tira. The most common crop cultivated within this area is okra.

| Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrig | gated open cultivated veg | getables in At Tira village (dunum) |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|

| Fruity vegetables |      |    | afy<br>table |    | een<br>Imes | Bulbs |      | Other<br>vegetables |      | Total area |      |  |
|-------------------|------|----|--------------|----|-------------|-------|------|---------------------|------|------------|------|--|
| RF                | Irr. | RF | Irr.         | RF | Irr.        | RF    | Irr. | RF                  | Irr. | RF         | Irr. |  |
| 227               | 0    | 0  | 0            | 18 | 0           | 2     | 0    | 0                   | 0    | 247        | 0    |  |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. At Tira is famous for olive cultivation; there are 763 dunums of land planted with olive trees.

| 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. |
| 763    | 0    | 0      | 0    | 57           | 0    | 1           | 0    | 35   | 0    | 481          | 0    | 1,337      | 0    |

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in At Tira, cereals, (in particular wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 85 dunums (See Table 8).

| Cereals B |     | Bulbs |     | Dry     |     | Oil   |     | Forage |     | Stimulating |     | Other |     | Total |     |
|-----------|-----|-------|-----|---------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
|           |     |       |     | legumes |     | crops |     | crops  |     | crops       |     | crops |     | area  |     |
| Rf        | Irr | Rf    | Irr | Rf      | Irr | Rf    | Irr | Rf     | Irr | Rf          | Irr | Rf    | Irr | Rf    | Irr |
| 85        | 0   | 11    | 0   | 20      | 0   | 0     | 0   | 40     | 0   | 0           | 0   | 0     | 0   | 156   | 0   |

#### Table 8: Total area of field crops in At Tira village (dunum)

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2009

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 8% of the residents in At Tira rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

#### Table 9: Livestock in At Tira village

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 2     | 60    | 120   | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0     | 60,800   | 2,500  | 0         |

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, 2007

There are about 26 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

| Suitability of Agricultural Roads            | Length (km) |
|--|-------------|
| For vehicles                                 | -           |
| For tractors and agricultural machinery only | 6           |
| For animals only                             | 16          |
| Unsuitable                                   | 4           |

### Table 10: Agricultural Roads in At Tira Village and their Lengths

Source: At Tira Village Council, 2010

However, the residents suffer some problems concerning the agricultural sector, mainly (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The lack of capital.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of farmers' agricultural awareness.
- The lack of agricultural marketing.

## **Institutions and Services**

At Tira village has no governmental institutions, but a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

- At Tira Village Council: Founded in 1998 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of taking care of all the issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- At Tira Charitable Society: Founded in 1969 by the village residents, the Society includes a kindergarten and a sports club that provides sports, social and cultural activities for village youth.

## **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

#### **Electricity and Telecommunication Services:**

At Tira has been connected to a public electricity network since 1978. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 95% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. However, the village residents face some problems concerning electricity, mainly (At Tira Village Council, 2010):

- 1. The continuous electricity cut-offs.
- 2. The high prices of electricity and subscriptions.
- 3. The network does not cover all residential houses in the village.
- 4. The network is old and in poor condition.

Furthermore, At Tira is connected to a telecommunication network with approximately 40% of the housing units within the village boundaries being connected to phone lines (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

#### **Transportation Services:**

Buses and taxis are the main means of transportation in At Tira village; there are two buses in At Tira that transport residents from the village to Ramallah, 3 taxis and one illegal/unlicensed car. Residents suffer from the unqualified roads and the lack of sufficient transportation options (At Tira Village Council, 2010). There are 5km of main roads and 3km of secondary roads (See Table 11) (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

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

Table 11: Roads in At Tira village

Source: At Tira Village Council, 2010

#### Water Resources:

At Tira is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

The quantity of water supplied to At Tira in 2008 was approximately 29,694 cubic meters/ year (PWA, 2009); therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in At Tira is 64 liters per day. However, no At Tira citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 40%. 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 At Tira is 38 liters per day (At Tira Village Council, 2010). The rate experienced by At Tira residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters proposed by the World Health Organization.

The village has 25 household harvesting cisterns, in addition to a public water reservoir with a capacity of 140 cubic meters. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

#### Sanitation:

At Tira lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits as their main means of waste water disposal (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 39 cubic meters, or 14,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 27 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

#### Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council for the Development & Planning of West Ramallah Villages is responsible for managing 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 of 20 NIS has been 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, particularly as only 50% of these fees are collected from the citizens.

Most of the population in At Tira benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then and then transferred to 18 containers, spread throughout the neighborhoods. The Joint Council collects the solid waste from the containers twice a week and transports it through a waste vehicle to the village dumping site, 3km from the village, where it is burnt (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in At Tira is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the At Tira residents is nearly 0.9 tons, or 326 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

## **Environmental Conditions**

Like other villages and towns in the governorate, At Tira 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 West Bank Water Department for long periods of time during summer in several neighborhoods of the village for several reasons:
  - (1) Israeli control over Palestinian water resources.
  - (2) High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- The lack of a public reservoir in the village.

#### Wastewater Management

• The absence of a public sewage network means that At Tira residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits 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 village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

#### Solid Waste Management:

• The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve At Tira 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 At Tira

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, At Tira village was divided into areas B and C. Approximately 411 dunums (10.4% of the total village area) were assigned as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has 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. Most of the village's population resides in Area B which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the village. The rest of the village's area (3,559 dunums or 89.6% of the total area), is classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In Area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless with the consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within Area C are agricultural areas and open spaces (Table 12).

| Area           | Area in dunums | Percent of Total village |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Alta           |                | area                     |
| Area A         | 0              | 0                        |
| Area B         | 411            | 10.4                     |
| Area C         | 3,559          | 89.6                     |
| Nature Reserve | 0              | 0                        |
| Total          | 3,970          | 100                      |

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

## At Tira Village and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Thousands of dunums have been lost in the village through Israeli land confiscations for settlements and outposts, bypass roads, and the Segregation Wall. Through the construction of the Segregation Wall, Israel aims to isolate more land in the western part of the West Bank, seizing the most fertile agricultural lands and isolating Palestinian communities into cantons. This undermines the regional integration and territorial contiguity between Palestinian towns and villages. This plan will also allow Israel to control Palestinian natural resources and will incorporate the majority of Israeli settlements into the state of Israel. Below are details regarding the Israeli confiscation of village lands:

Israel confiscated 67 dunums of At Tira village lands (1.7% of the village's total area) to build the Israeli settlement of Beit Horon, which is a part of the Giv'at Ze'ev bloc. Beit Horon is inhabited by more than 1,100 Israeli settlers (Table 13).

| Settlement Name | Year of<br>construction | Area confiscated | Population of settlers |  |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|
| Beit Horon      | 1977                    | 67               | 1,139                  |  |
| Total           |                         | al 67            |                        |  |

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

In 2005 the Israeli government proposed a plan to integrate the large Israeli settlements in the West Bank (such as Ma'ale Adumim, Ariel, Giv'at Ze'ev, Gush Etzion, and Modi'in Illit) within the state of Israel's territorial boundaries. Former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon justified the plan to George Bush as *"[contributing] to the security, political standing, economy and demographics of the Jewish people in the land of Israel"* (11<sup>th</sup> April 2005). 107 Israeli settlements and blocs in total will be incorporated into Israel when the Wall is completed.

The Government of Israel has also confiscated land from At Tira village to construct Israeli bypass road 443<sup>1</sup>, connecting Beit Horon with neighboring Israeli settlements to the east (within the Giv'at Ze'ev bloc), with settlements in east and west Jerusalem, with the Modi'in Illit bloc, and with settlements within the Green Line. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) along these roads, extending to approximately 75 m on the roads' sides.

## The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in At Tira Village

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on the village. According to the latest revised route of the plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007, the wall extends 1.4 km over At Tira lands and causes the isolation and confiscation of 83 dunums of land (1.7% of the total village area). The majority of the isolated lands are open spaces and agricultural areas which constitute an important source of income for many Palestinian families in the village (Table 14).

| Tuble 1 in Lund Chubbineution of the Ibolated lunds in the title | Rumanan Governora |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Land Classification  | Area (in dunums)  |  |
| Agricultural Lands   | 25                |  |
| Open Areas   | 6                 |  |
| Israeli settlements  | 46                |  |
| Palestinian Built-up area  | 1                 |  |
| Wall Zone  | 5                 |  |
| Total  | 83                |  |

Table 14: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in At Tira – Ramallah Governorate

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Israeli bypass road 443 is considered the main link between Ramallah City and many other Palestinian Villages in the southwest of the City. Such villages include Saffa, Beit Sira, Kharbatha al Misbah, Beit 'Ur at Tahta, Beit Ur al Fauqa, At Tira and Beituniya.

## Israeli Military Orders in At Tira Village

The Israeli occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands for the construction of the Segregation wall, including the following:

- The Israeli Military Order No. (110/03/T): it was issued 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2003 and it confiscates 144 dunums of the lands of At Tira, Beit 'Ur al Fauqa and Beituniya for security purposes and the construction of the Segregation Wall.
- The Israeli Military Order No. (111/03/T): it was issued on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2003 and it confiscates 41 dunums of the lands of At Tira, Beit 'Ur al Fauqa and Beituniya for the construction of the Segregation Wall.

## **Development Plans and Projects**

#### **Implemented Projects**

At Tira Village Council has not implemented any development projects in At Tira during the last five years (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

## **Proposed Projects**

At Tira 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 PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

- 1. Establishing a sewerage network.
- 2. Establishing service-institutions (health clinic, sports club, kindergarten and headquarters for associations).
- 3. Continuing communication with donor institutions.
- 4. Creating job opportunities for laborers and graduates.
- 5. Establishing an outdoor garden for kindergartners.
- 6. Providing waste containers (30 containers each with a 1 cup capacity).
- 7. Providing a vehicle for the collection of waste.
- 8. Paving internal roads in the village (8 km).
- 9. Constructing agricultural roads (20 km).
- 10. Providing agricultural equipment in addition to seeds, seedlings and feed.
- 11. Establishing greenhouses (5).
- 12. Establishing playgrounds and public parks.
- 13. Expanding and renovating the electricity network (2 km).
- 14. Establishing cattle barns (5).
- 15. Constructing agricultural cisterns (40).

## **Locality Development Priorities and Needs**

At Tira suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the village council's feedback (At Tira Village Council, 2010).

| No. | Sector   | Strongly<br>Needed | Needed   | Not a<br>Priority | Notes           |  |  |
|-----|--|--------------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|--|--|
|     | Infrastructural Needs                                |                    |          |                   |                 |  |  |
| 1   | Opening and Pavement of Roads                        | *                  |          |                   | 13km×           |  |  |
| 2   | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks                 | *                  |          |                   | 7km             |  |  |
| 3   | Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up    |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
|     | Areas  |                    |          | •                 |                 |  |  |
| 4   | Construction of New Water Networks                   |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
| 5   | Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or         |                    | *        |                   | 1 spring        |  |  |
|     | Springs  |                    |          |                   |                 |  |  |
| 6   | Construction of Water Reservoirs                     |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
| 7   | Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network            | *                  |          |                   | 8km             |  |  |
| 8   | Construction of a New Electricity Network            |                    | *        |                   | 2km             |  |  |
| 9   | Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection      |                    | *        |                   | 20 containers   |  |  |
| 10  | Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste        |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
| 11  | Providing a Sanitary Landfill                        |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
|     | Health Needs   |                    |          |                   |                 |  |  |
| 1   | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres       | *                  |          |                   | a health center |  |  |
| 2   | Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
| 3   | Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools            |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
|     |  | ional Needs        | <b>i</b> |                   |                 |  |  |
| 1   | Building of New Schools                              |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
| 2   | Rehabilitation of Old Schools                        | *                  |          |                   | secondary level |  |  |
| 3   | Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools              | *                  |          |                   |                 |  |  |
|     |  | ture Needs         |          |                   |                 |  |  |
| 1   | Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands                 | *                  |          |                   | 300 dunums      |  |  |
| 2   | Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns               | *                  |          |                   | 20 cistern      |  |  |
| 3   | Construction of Barracks for Livestock               | *                  |          |                   | 8 barracks      |  |  |
| 4   | Veterinary Services                                  | *                  |          |                   |                 |  |  |
| 5   | Seeds and Hay for Animals                            | *                  |          |                   | 20 tons         |  |  |
| 6   | Construction of New Greenhouses                      | *                  |          |                   | 5 greenhouses   |  |  |
| 7   | Rehabilitation of Greenhouses                        |                    |          | *                 |                 |  |  |
| 8   | Field Crops Seeds                                    | *                  |          |                   |                 |  |  |
| 9   | Plants and Agricultural Supplies                     | *                  |          |                   |                 |  |  |
|     |  | er Needs           | ,        |                   |                 |  |  |
| 10  | Small hammer, tractor, bulldozer and truck           | *                  |          |                   |                 |  |  |

**\***3km are main roads, 2km are sub roads and 8km are agricultural. **Source:** At Tira Village Council, 2010.

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