

Turmus'ayya 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 "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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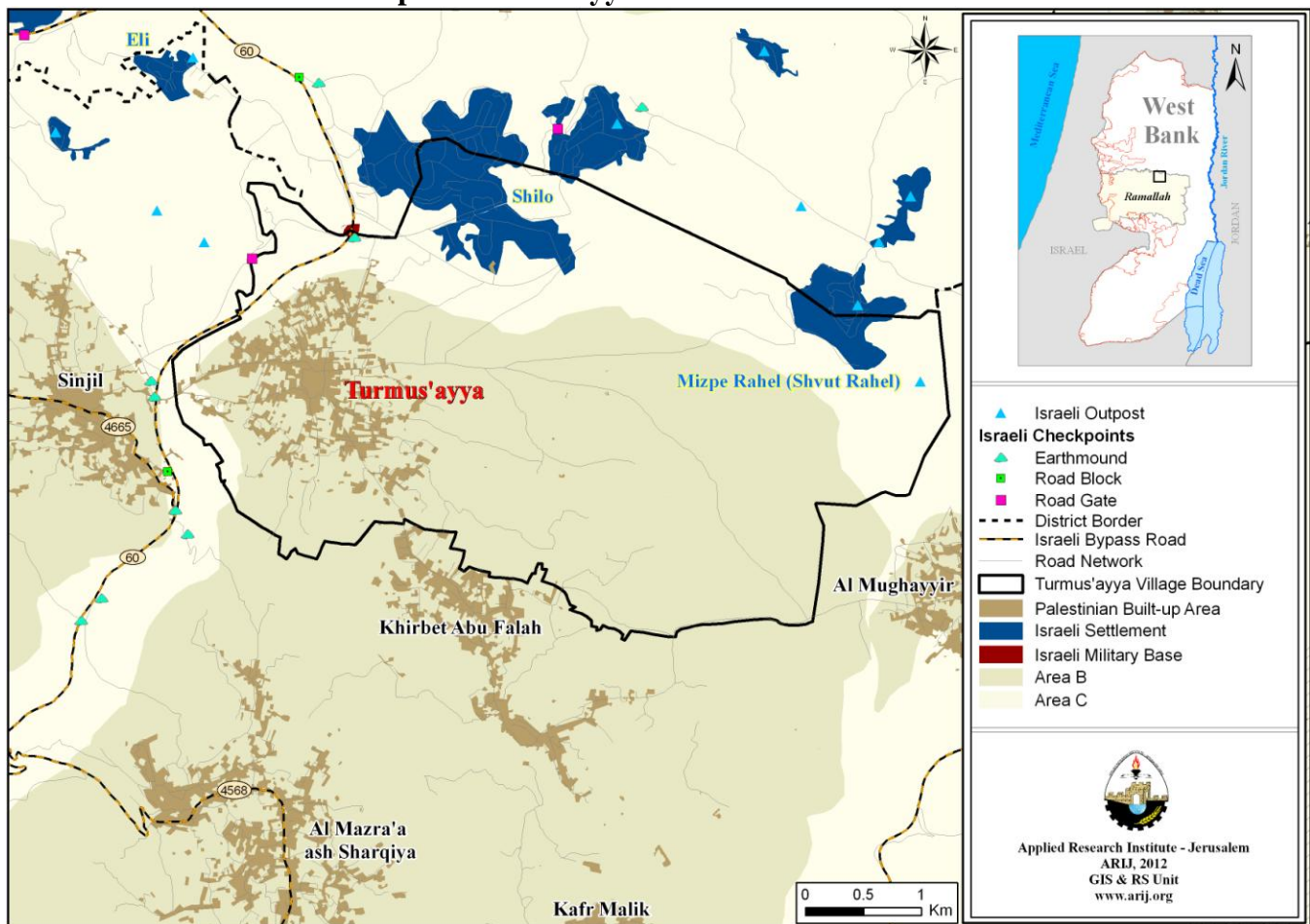
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Turmus'ayya Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Turmus'ayya is a Palestinian town in Ramallah Governorate, located 16.6km northeast of Ramallah City. Turmus'ayya is bordered by Jalud (in Nablus Governorate) and Al Mughayyir villages to the east, Qaryut and Jalud villages (in Nablus Governorate) to the north, Sinjil to the west and Al Mughayyir and Khirbet abu Falah villages and Al Mazra'a ash Sharqiya territories to the south (ARIJ GIS, 2012) (See Map 1)

Map 1: Turmus'ayya location and borders



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Turmus'ayya is located at an altitude of 677m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 462mm. The average annual temperature is 17° C and the average annual humidity is approximately 59% (ARIJ GIS, 2012).

Since 1997, Turmus'ayya has been governed by a Municipal Council which is administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The Council owns a permanent headquarters and a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Turmus'ayya, including:

- Solid waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organizing construction and licensing processes.
- Providing headquarters for governmental services (post, security, etc.).
- Implementing projects and case studies that serve towards the development of the town.

History

Turmus'ayya town was originally named 'Thormasia'. The word may be a combination of three shorter words: Tar, Masha, and Ayya. Tar is a distortion of the word 'Tawr' ('mountain'), Masha is the remains of grapes after being squeezed, and Ayya is from the word 'Awi', meaning ruins (Al Dabbagh, 1991).

The town's residents are originally Majaziyoan from the Murra tribe, descended from inhabitants of Al Batani and Al Jib villages (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Photo 1: Turmus'ayya landscape

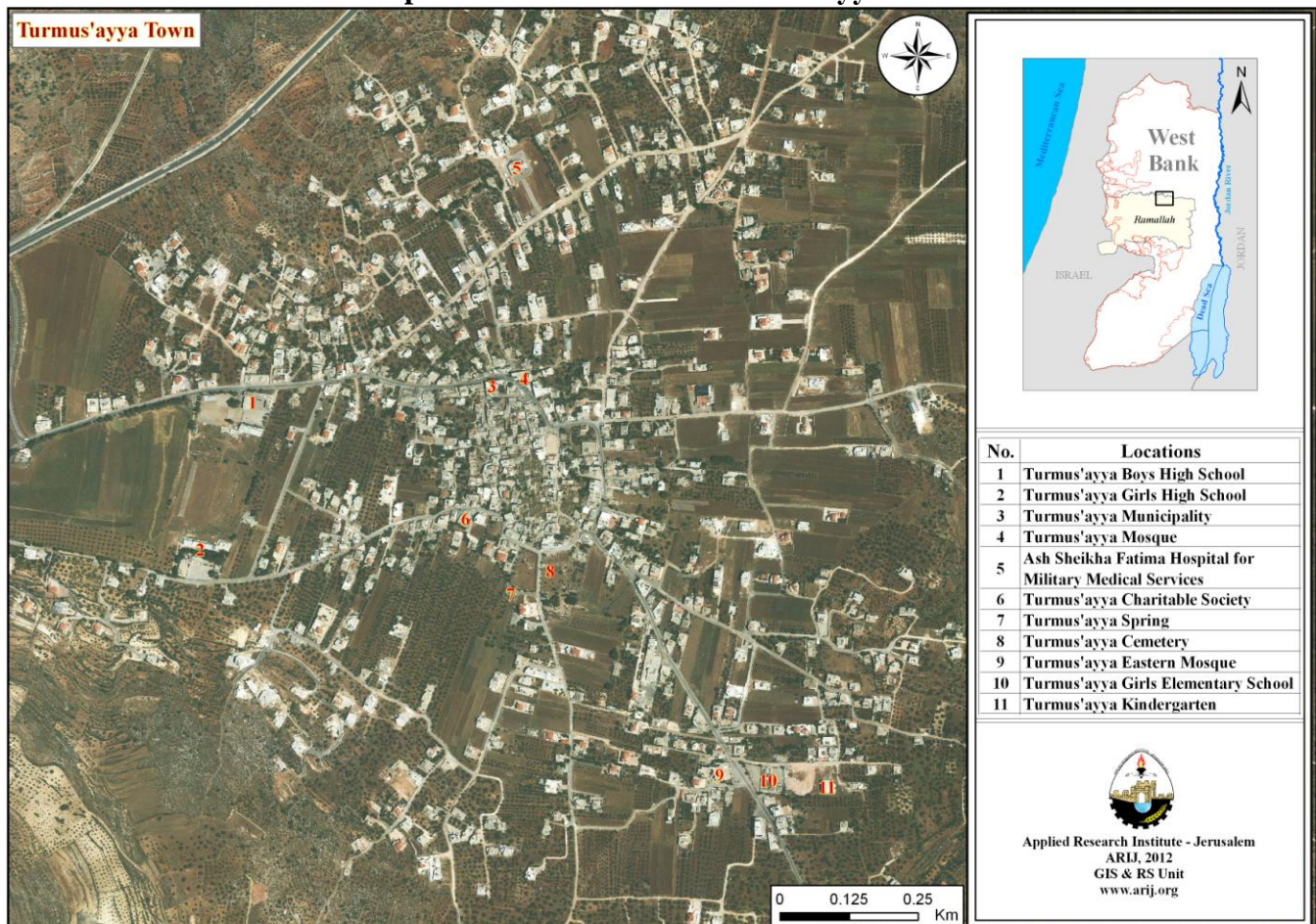


ARIJ Photo Courtesy

Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the town, Al Farooq Mosque and Hamza Mosque. There are a few sites of archaeological interest in the town: Khirbet Abi Malool, Khirbet ash Sheikh Muhammad, Khirbet ‘Ammuriya, and Khirbet ar Rafeed (Turmus’ayya Municipality, 2011). There are also writing and architectural pieces built on modern walls, tombs carved in rocks, remnants of buildings, and the remains of an oil-press with a mosaic-paved floor (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Turmus’ayya Town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Turmus’ayya in 2007 was 3,512, 1,711 of whom were male and 1,801 female. There were 625 households living in 935 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in Turmus'ayya was as follows: 41.4% were less than 15 years of age, 50.3% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 5.4% 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 95:100, meaning that males and females constitute 48.7% and 51.3 % of the population respectively.

Families

The inhabitants of Turmus'ayya town are from several families, mainly the Abu Awwad and Al Hamayel families (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among population was about 7.4%, of whom 86.3% were females. Of the literate population, 14.8% could only read and write with no formal education, 25.3% had only elementary education, 29% had preparatory education, 15.1% had secondary education, and 8.5% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Turmus'ayya by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Turmus'ayya 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	25	187	304	345	190	31	83	1	7	8	1	1,182
F	158	179	323	373	184	32	43	-	5	-	-	1,297
T	183	366	627	718	374	63	126	1	12	8	1	2,479

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are 3 public schools in the town, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (MoEHE) (See Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Turmus'ayya by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Turmus'ayya Girls Secondary School	Government	Female
Turmus'ayya Boys Secondary School	Government	Male
Turmus'ayya Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Source: Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011		

There are 1,062 students, 69 teachers, and 44 classes in the town (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the schools is nearly 15, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 24.

There is one kindergarten in the town run by a private body which is responsible for 116 children (Directorate of Education in Ramallah, 2011).

Due to the lack of a secondary/ scientific stream in the town's schools, students attend Sinjil schools, 4 km from the town, in order to complete their education (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Some schools in the town are exposed to problems due to the Israeli occupation, including permanent and partial checkpoints on roads which create difficulties in accessing schools. This is a particular problem for students attending Turmus'ayya Boys School (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

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

- Some of the classrooms are in need of maintenance.
- The lack of classrooms and other facilities.

Health Status

There are some health facilities available in Turmus'ayya town, including: Ash Sheikha Fatima Hospital for military medical services, a governmental health center, a private physician's clinic, a governmental radiology center, a governmental medical laboratory, and two private pharmacies. The town has an ambulance belonging to Ash Sheikha Fatima Hospital (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

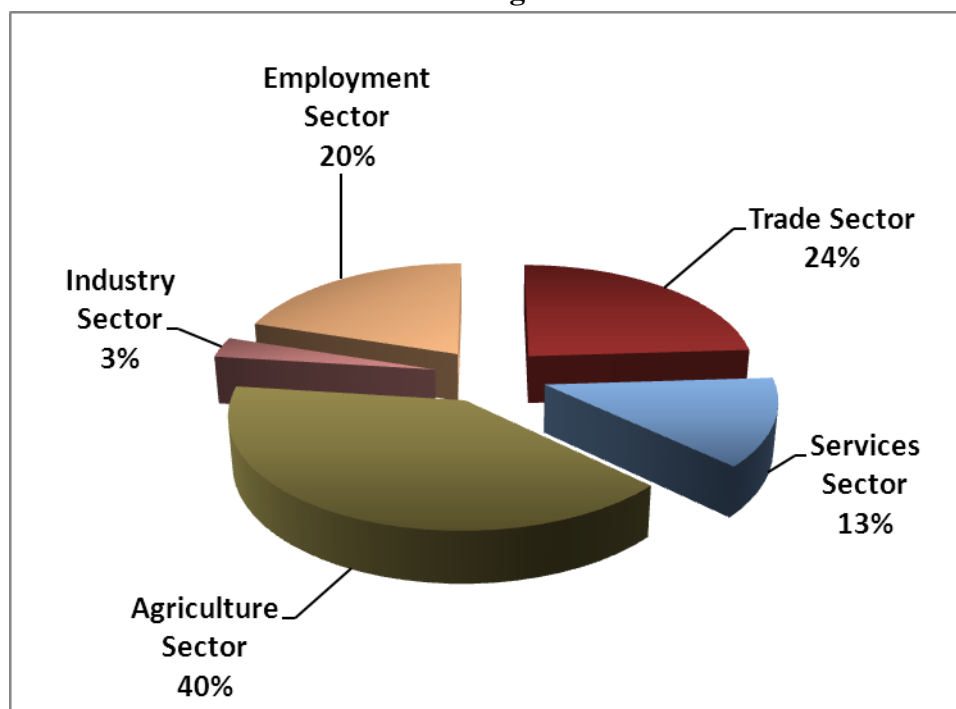
The health sector in Turmus'ayya town faces a few obstacles, primarily the need for more medical specialties at Ash Sheikha Fatima Hospital (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Economic Activities

The economy in Turmus'ayya is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector which absorbs 40% of the town's workforce (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2011 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Turmus'ayya are as follows:

- Agriculture Sector (40%)
- Trade Sector (24%)
- Government or Other Employees Sector (20%)
- Services Sector (13%)
- Industry (3%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in ‘Turmus’ayya

Source: Turmus'ayya Municipal Council, 2011

Turmus'ayya town has 15 grocery stores, 3 vegetable and fruit shops, 1 bakery, 3 butcheries, 5 different services stores and 8 different professional workshops, in addition to 2 stone cutters, 2 olive oil-presses, and 1 agricultural tools store (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

The unemployment rate in Turmus'ayya reached about 9% in 2011 and it was found that the most vulnerable economic groups in the town as a result of Israeli policies and procedures are:

- Workers in the agricultural sector.
- Workers in the services sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in industry.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 26.9% of the Turmus'ayya population was economically active, of whom 91.5% were employed, and 73.1% were not economically active, 49.8% of whom were students, and 29% of whom were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Turmus'ayya population (10 years of age 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	563	26	9	598	446	2	68	56	12	584	-	1,182
F	47	8	14	69	455	524	112	19	117	1,227	1	1,297
T	610	34	23	667	901	526	180	75	129	1,811	1	2,479

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

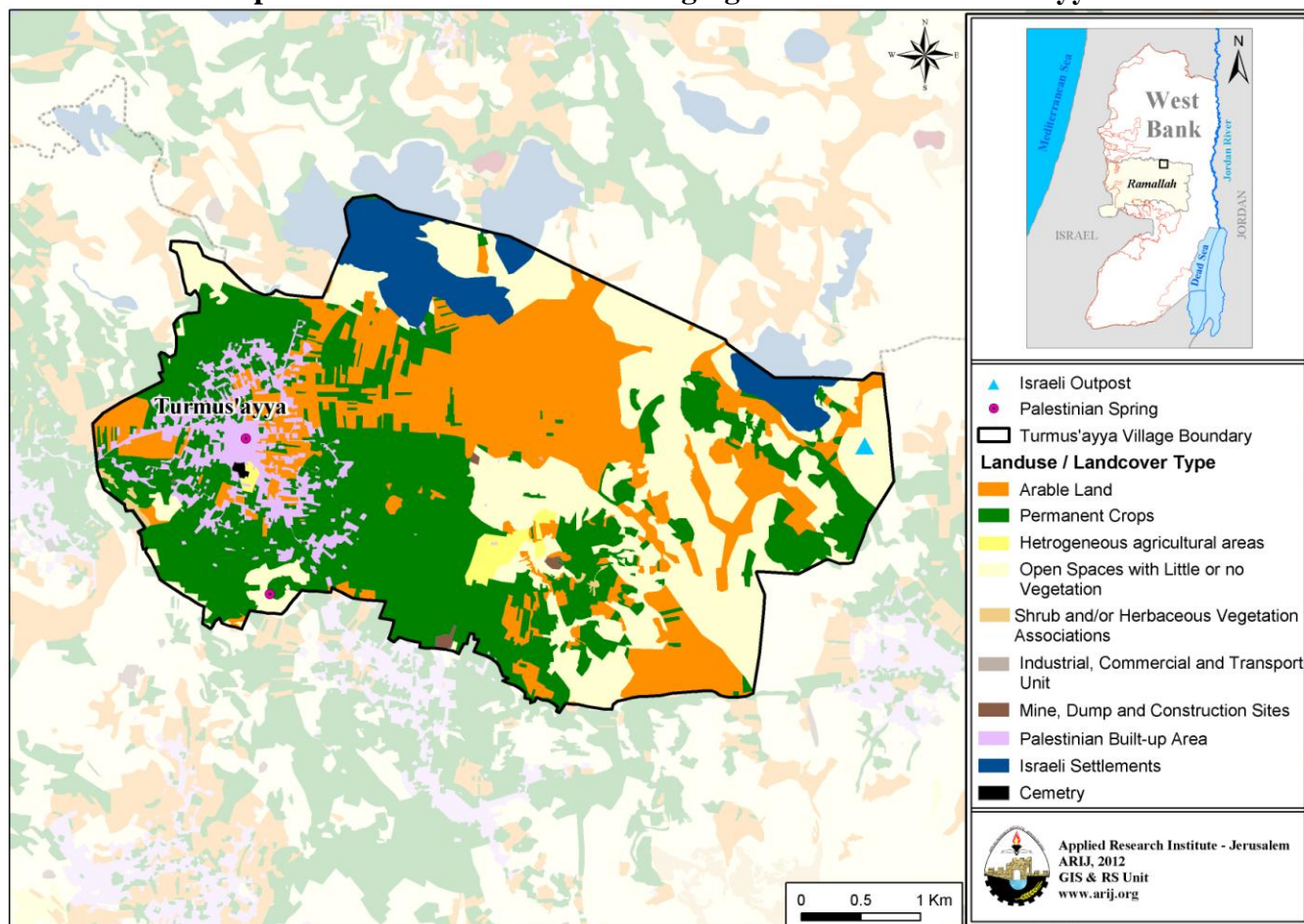
Turmus'ayya lies on a total area of about 18,139 dunums of which 11,313 dunums are arable land and 1,000 dunums are residential land (See Table 4 and Map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Turmus'ayya town in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (11,313)				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					
18,139	1,000	6,477	0	40	4,796	0	0	4,701	46	1,079

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Turmus'ayya Town



Source: ARIJ GIS, 2012

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Turmus'ayya. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are squash and snakecucumber.

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Turmus'ayya 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.
170	17	0	0	35	0	20	0	10	0	235	17

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. Turmus'ayya town is known for the cultivation of olive trees; there are 3,015 dunums of land planted with olive crops in the town.

Table 6: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Turmus'ayya 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.
3,015	0	0	0	55	0	29	0	140	0	171	0	3,410	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009

In terms of field crops and forage in Turmus'ayya, cereals (particularly wheat and barley) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 2,900 dunums, in addition to the cultivation of dry legumes including chickpeas and beans (See Table 7).

Table 7: Total area of field crops in Turmus'ayya 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
2,900	0	48	0	195	0	5	0	160	0	0	0	4	0	3,312	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 team shows that 1% of the residents in Turmus'ayya rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and others (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011) (See Table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in Turmus'ayya town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	153	160	0	0	0	0	40,400	0	112

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Ramallah, 2009.

There are approximately 20 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011):

Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Turmus'ayya Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	8
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	5
For animals only	7
Unsuitable	-

However, the residents face some obstacles and problems concerning the agricultural sector, primarily (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011):

- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of laborers.

- The lack of access to agricultural lands.
- The problems caused by the Israeli occupation.

Institutions and Services

Turmus'ayya town has few governmental institutions, including a police station, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011):

- **Turmus'ayya Municipality:** Founded in 1997 with the goal of taking care of issues in the town and providing services to its population.
- **Turmus'ayya Charitable Society:** Founded in 1960 by Turmus'ayya women in order to serve the town's women.
- **Turmus'ayya Sports Club:** Provides cultural, social, and sports activities to young people in the town.
- **The Equestrian Club.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Turmus'ayya has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town, and almost all of the housing units in the town (100%) are connected to the network. However, the town faces some problems concerning the electricity sector, primarily (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011):

- The weak electrical current in some residential neighborhoods.
- The need to rebuild some parts of the high pressure network.
- The need for new transformers in the town.

Turmus'ayya town is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Transportation Services:

Public taxis are the main means of transportation in Turmus'ayya, and there are about 8 taxis in the town. There are 8 km of main roads and 19 km of sub-roads in Turmus'ayya (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Table 10: Roads in Turmus'ayya village

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	3	2
2. Paved but in poor condition	5	7
3. Unpaved	-	10

Water Resources:

The water company in Jerusalem provides the town with water through a water network that constructed in 2011. This network supplies water to almost all housing units (100%) in the town. The quantity of water supplied to the town in 2010 was approximately 123,288 m³ (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011), and thus the amount of water consumed per person is estimated to be 96 liters/capita/day. However, no resident of Turmus'ayya consumes this amount of water due to water loss from the transfer of water and its distribution through the network from the main company provider to housing units. Such losses reach 26.5 %, and therefore the average water consumption per capita is 70.7 liters/capita/day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). This average is less than the recommended amount of 100 liter/capita/day proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The town also has a water spring (Turmus'ayya spring) which has an average rate of pumping of 5 cubic meters per day (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

To determine water costs, the water authority has adopted an upward rate where the price of water increases with increasing consumption. Table 11 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 11: 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:

Turmus'ayya town lacks a public sewerage network with most of the town residents using cesspits and endocrines as their main means of wastewater disposal (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 199 cubic meters or 72,493 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that per capita wastewater generation is approximately 49.5 liters per

day (ARIJ WERU, 2012). 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.

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council – Group VII for Commercial Solid Waste is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

Most of the population in Turmus'ayya benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to containers distributed throughout neighborhoods. The Joint Council collects the solid waste from the containers twice a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's dumping site, 2km from Turmus'ayya, where it is burnt and buried (Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Turmus'ayya is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Turmus'ayya residents is nearly 3.7 tons, or 1,346 tons per year (ARIJ WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Turmus'ayya 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.
- The quantities of water supplied to the town do not satisfy the residents' needs of water.
- 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 Turmus'ayya residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits and endocrines for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to 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 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 in Turmus'ayya 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 Turmus'ayya

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 28th September 1995 between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Turmus'ayya was divided into areas "B" and "C". Approximately 11,742 dunams (64.7% of the town's total area) were classified as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority 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. It is worth mentioning that all of the town's population resides in area B. The rest of the town's area, constituting 6,397 dunams (35.3% 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. Most of the lands lying within the area C are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements (table 12).

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Turmus'ayya – Ramallah Governorate

Area	Area in dunams	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	11,742	64.7
Area C	6,397	35.3
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	18,139	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

Turmus'ayya Town and the Israeli Occupation Practices

Turmus'ayya town has been subjected to its share of Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli interests, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, outposts and military checkpoints

on the town territories as well as the construction of the Israeli bypass roads to connect the Israeli settlements. Following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of Turmus'ayya town territories:

Table 13: Israeli Settlements constructed over Turmus'ayya town lands

Settlement Name	Year of construction	Area confiscated	Population of settlers
Shilo	1978	752	2005
Mizpe Rahel	1992	372	530
Total		1079	2,535

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2011

During the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian territory, the Israeli government has confiscated 1,079 dunams (6% of the total area of the town) from Turmus'ayya to establish the two Israeli settlements Shilo to the north and Mizpe Rahel to the east. Both settlements are currently inhabited by more than 2,500 Israeli settlers (Table 13).

Attacks carried out by Israeli settlers living in the illegal settlements around Turmus'ayya have had a serious and significant impact on the town people and their property. These attacks allow settlers to control more Palestinian land adjacent to the settlements by preventing landowners from accessing it. Settlers near Turmus'ayya have also enclosed land using barbed wire and planting trees to increase their control. During previous years, settlers living in Adei Ad settlement outpost confiscated 30 dunams of land owned by the Sadiq family in the Wadi al Jozz area in Turmus'ayya. Another 100 dunams of land owned in the Ash Shu'ab area adjacent to Shvut Rahel, were confiscated, in addition to 40 more dunams in the 'Ein Mukhaimer area owned by the same family. All of this land was confiscated by settlers of Shvut Rahel settlement.

Settlers have also burnt and uprooted trees planted and owned by Palestinians and attacked landowners to intimidate and deter them from returning to their lands nearby the aforementioned settlements.

In the morning of October the 21st of 2011, a group of settlers from Adei Ad settlement outpost broke into land of the farmer Mahmoud Mohammad al Arja, in Ad Dahrat area, and injected fruit trees planted in the land with toxic chemicals which caused the complete elimination of 55 olive trees aged 30 years, and killing any future chance for their re-growth. It is noteworthy that this incident is not the first of its kind: last year 70 olive trees were killed in the same area using the same type of chemicals. The affected trees are spread over an area of 15 dunams owned by Mahmoud Mohammad al Arja and Sa'id Talib al Kook from Turmus'ayya along with Mohammad Sa'id Abu 'Alya from the neighboring village of Al Mughayyir.

On the morning of the of June 1st, 2012, a group of Israeli settlers broke into the land of farmer Muhammad Sadiq in the Bir al Hor area north of Turmus'ayya (only 3 km north of town), to uproot 60 stone-fruit saplings (peach, plum, and apple). They then threw the plants (aged less than 3 years) on the road adjacent to the agricultural land located within area C.

Also, on the morning of February 15th, 2012, a group of settlers from the Adei Ad settlement raided Ras at Taweel area located in basin no. 8 and land number 63 of Turmus'ayya town Northern lands, sweeping an estimated land area of 12 dunams owned by the Rabee' family, causing the cutting and destruction of 345 olive saplings. The Rabee' family consists of 16 sub-families (74 individuals). In addition to cutting trees aged between 4 and 13 years, settlers stole these trees and moved them into Adei Ad settlement built on the lands of Al Mughayyir village and Turmus'ayya. Additionally, settlers used two bulldozers to wholly vandalize the land so that Palestinian farmers would no longer be able to farm.

The Israeli Government has confiscated yet more land in Turmus'ayya for the construction of the Israeli bypass road no. 60, to connect Israeli settlements. The real threat of bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) along these roads, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

Also, land from Turmus'ayya has been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to build the southeast Mizpe Rahel Israeli outpost east of the town. During the last two decades, Israel has 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 land stolen by the settlers and are a branch of a mother settlement that is near. One might add 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 managed to find a security and logistical cover to justify the act and its existence and continuity. In 2001, the Prime Minister at that time, Ariel Sharon, unleashed an expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in their number within Palestinian areas. Also, the 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.

Issued Military Orders in Turmus'ayya Town

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders to confiscate lands in Turmus'ayya. Following is one of these orders:

- Israeli Military Order No. (09/06/T): Issued on the 17th of January 2006. It confiscates a total land area of approximately 2 dunams of the lands of Turmus'ayya town for military purposes and to fortified the nearby Israeli bypass road.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Turmus'ayya Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Turmus'ayya during the past five years, as shown in Table 14.

Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Turmus'ayya (2011)

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing classrooms in Turmus'ayya Girls School	Educational	2008	Town's Expatriates
Constructing classrooms in Turmus'ayya Boys School	Educational	2008	Town's Expatriates
Constructing Turmus'ayya Municipality headquarters	Public Services	2009	Town's Expatriates
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2010	Municipal Fund
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2011	Municipal Fund
Constructing a kindergarten	Educational	2010	Town Residents
Maintaining Ash Shaikha Fatima Hospital	Public Services	2011	Town Residents
Paving the road linking Turmus'ayya with Al Mughayyir	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Establishing a water network	Infrastructure	2011	Water Authority
Source: Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011			

Proposed Projects

Turmus'ayya 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 viewpoint of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a sewage network (30 km).
2. Constructing a water reservoir (500 cubic meters capacity).
3. Rehabilitating internal and main roads (about 19 km).
4. Constructing domestic and agricultural cisterns (70 cisterns).
5. Providing containers for waste collection.
6. Reclaiming agricultural lands.
7. Constructing an elementary school.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Turmus'ayya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 15 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the Municipality Council's perspective.

Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Turmus'ayya

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			19 km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas		*		3 km
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*		500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network		*		30 km
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network		*		15 km
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection		*		250 containers
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	1 health center
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			elementary level
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			all levels
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools	*			
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands	*			5000 dunums
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns	*			70 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses		*		30 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds		*		
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*		

* 5km are main roads, 7km are internal roads and 7km are agricultural roads.

Source: Turmus'ayya Municipality, 2011

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