

# Bruqin Town Profile



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## *Acknowledgments*

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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 Salfit Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Salfit 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 Salfit 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 Salfit 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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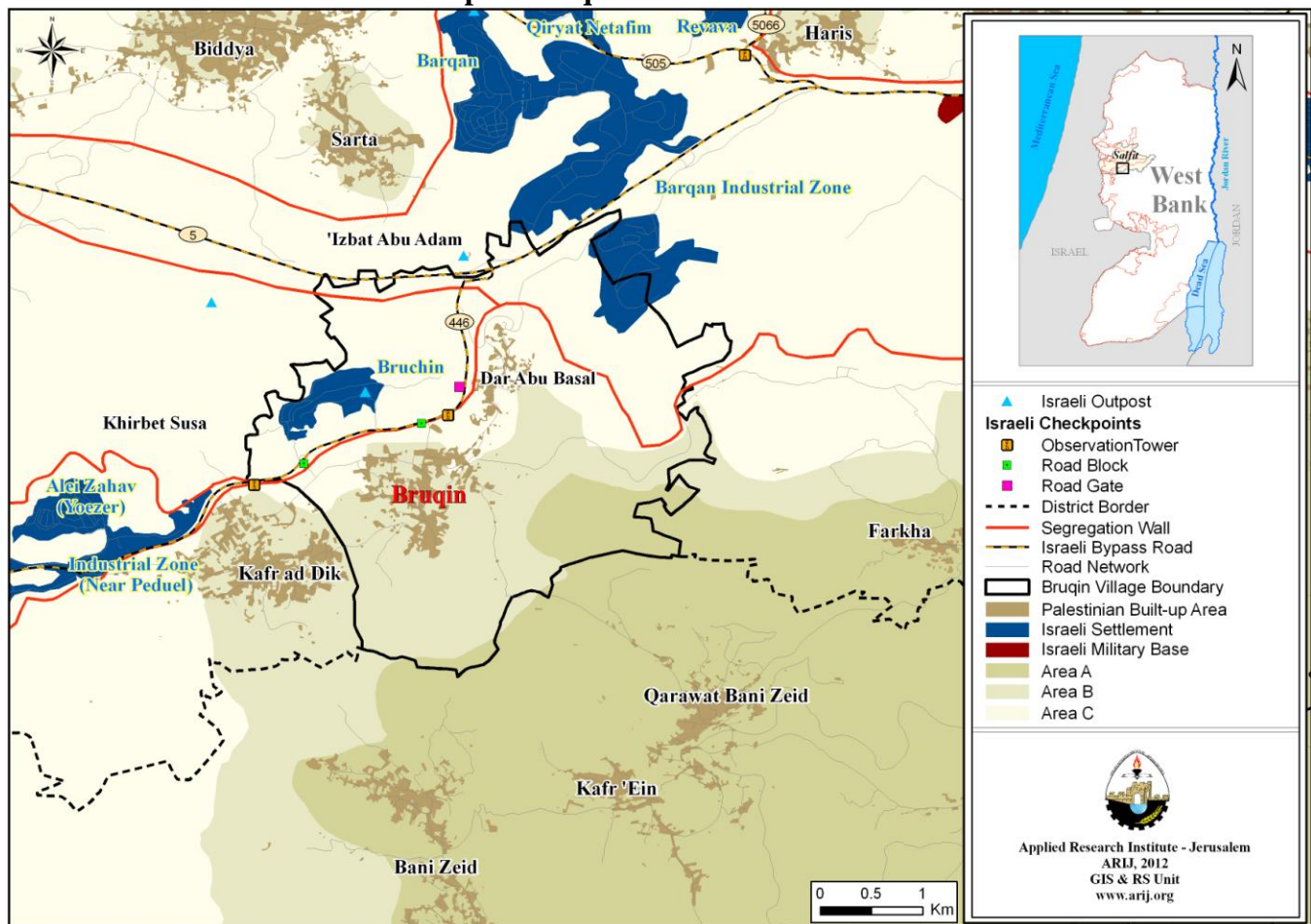
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# Bruqin Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Bruqin is a Palestinian town in Salfit Governorate located 7.9 km west of Salfit City. Bruqin is bordered by Salfit city and Farkha village to the east, Qarawat Bani Zaid, Kafr 'Ein and Bani Zaid villages in Ramallah Governorate to the south, Kafr ad Dik village to the west, and Haris and Sarta villages to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Bruqin location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Bruqin is located at an altitude of 372 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 601.5 mm. The average annual temperature is 18 C° whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 2000, Bruqin has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are 8 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the 'Joint Services Council for Development and Planning,' south of Salfit. The Council also owns a double-use vehicle and water and electricity maintenance devices, but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Bruqin, including (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

- Establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Road construction, restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Provision of offices for Governmental services.
- Permanently combating the presence of rodents and mosquitoes.

## History

Bruqin town was a resting place for traders and their camels who used to pass by in caravans. The name Bruqin consists of two parts, the first (Bur), meaning wheat, and the other (Qin), a word spoken to force camels to sit down. Thus by time, this place became known as “Bruqin”.

The town was established in the Roman era which is emphasized by the Romanian and Islamic ancient ruins in the town, and its residents are descendants from the Arabian Peninsula (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

**Photo of Bruqin**

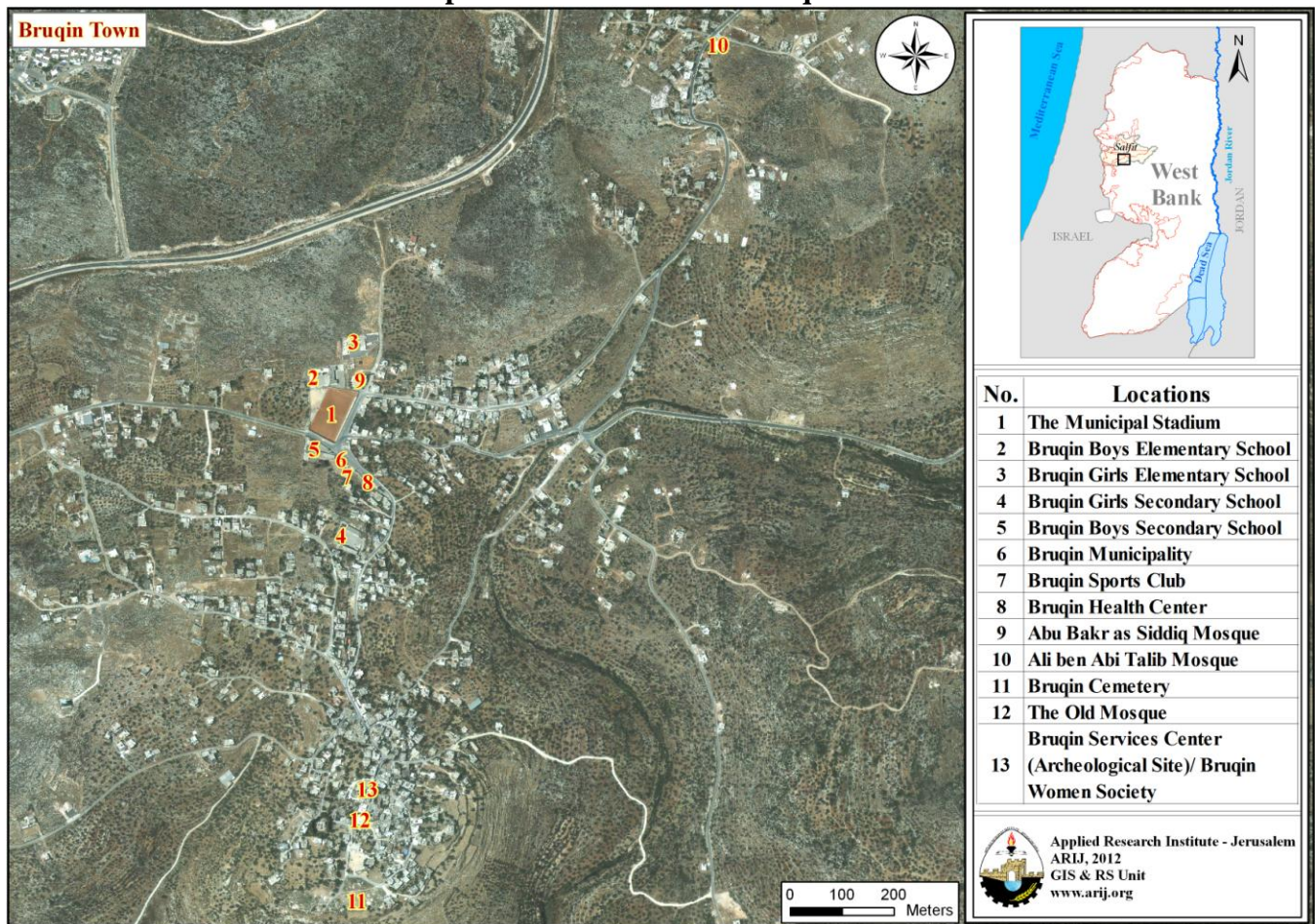




## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are three mosques in the town (Abu Bakr as Siddiq, Ali Ben Abi Talib and Bruqin Old Mosque). The town has several sites of archaeological interest including: Khirbet Qarqash, Khirbet al Fakhakheer, Khirbet Dar Hamad and Ash Sheikh Mir'iz Shrine, in addition to the old town buildings. One should note here that none of these sites are qualified for tourism (Bruqin Municipality, 2012) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Bruqin Town**



Population Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Bruqin in 2007 was 3,194, of whom 1,643 were male and 1,551 female. There were 564 households recorded as living in 627 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 Bruqin is as follows: 41.5% were less than 15 years of age, 54.4% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4.1% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 105.9:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51.4% and 48.6% of the population, respectively.

## Families

Bruqin residents are from several families, including: Samarah, Barakat, Abd Allah, Abdul Rahman, Sabrah, Amer, Salameh, Ash Sheikh Omar, Bakr, Al Bajah, Al Khateeb and Sbeitani families (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that approximately 27 families have left the town since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Bruqin population was approximately 5.6%, of whom 82.9% were females. Of the literate population, 13% could only read and write, with no formal education, 21% had elementary education, 26.7% had preparatory education, 19% had secondary education, and 14.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Bruqin by sex and educational attainment (2007).

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

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	22	151	228	334	228	68	120	4	11	6	1	<b>1,173</b>
F	107	147	253	279	209	38	87	0	1	0	1	<b>1,122</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2,295</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are four public schools in the town, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (see Table 2).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Bruqin Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Bruqin Girls' Elementary School	Government	Female
Bruqin Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Bruqin Co-educated Secondary School	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012



In the town there are 1,032 students, 63 teachers, and 38 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 27 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

There is also one kindergarten in Bruqin town run by a private organization (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (See table 3 below).

**Table 3: Kindergartens in Bruqin town by name and supervising authority**

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Bruqin Kindergarten	3	4	Private

**Source:** Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

The educational sector in Bruqin town faces a number of obstacles, mainly (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of educational and financial capacities in some schools.
- The lack of classrooms The lengthy distance between many houses and the schools.
- The schools poor infrastructure. Some need expansion, rehabilitation, renovation or even destruction and rebuilding of some parts of the building, as they are considered a real threat to students' lives.
- The Occupation forces' threats to demolish Bruqin Girls' Elementary School due to its location in area C.

## Health Status

Bruqin has a governmental health center, three general physicians clinics (one governmental and two private), one governmental mother and child care center, two private dental clinics and a private pharmacy. The town also has two ambulances; one owned by the Red Crescent Society and the other is privately owned. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Yasir Arafat Governmental Hospital in Salfit city (14 km away) or to Salfit Health Directorate (12 km away) (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

The health sector in the town faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of a medical laboratory.
- The lack of a resident physician in the health center.
- The lack of many types of medicines in the town.
- The lack of ambulance.

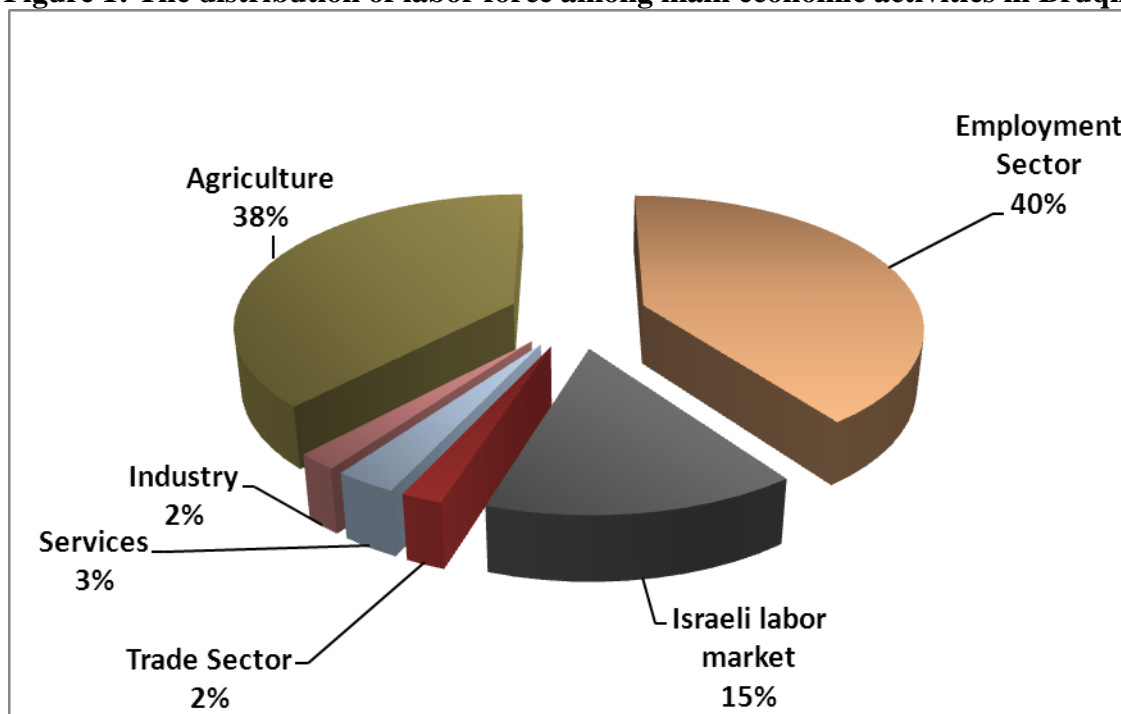
## Economic Activities

The economy in Bruqin is dependent mainly on the employees (private and governmental) sector which absorbs 40% of the town's workforce (Bruqin Municipality, 2012) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Bruqin are as follows:

- Government or Other Employees Sector (40%)
- Agriculture Sector (38%)
- Israeli Labor Market (15%)
- Services Sector (3%)
- Trade Sector (2%)
- Industry (2%)

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



Source: Bruqin Municipality, 2012

Bruqin has 25 groceries, 4 fruits and vegetables stores, 1 bakery, 10 service stores, 5 different professional workshops, 1 stone cutter, a quarry and a crusher, an olive oil-press and 3 stores for clothes and used furniture (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

During 2012, the unemployment rate in Bruqin reached 23%. The groups most economically affected by the Israeli restrictions have been (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

- Former workers in Israeli.
- Agriculture workers
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Industrial workers.
- Workers in the services sector.

## Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.5% of Bruqin labor force was economically active, of whom 81.6% were employed, 68.4% were not economically active, 57.3% were students, and 29.9% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

**Table 4: Bruqin population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	493	54	57	604	447	2	87	18	14	568	1	1,173
F	98	4	18	120	452	467	81	0	1	1,001	1	1,122
T	591	58	75	724	899	469	168	18	15	1,569	2	2,295

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

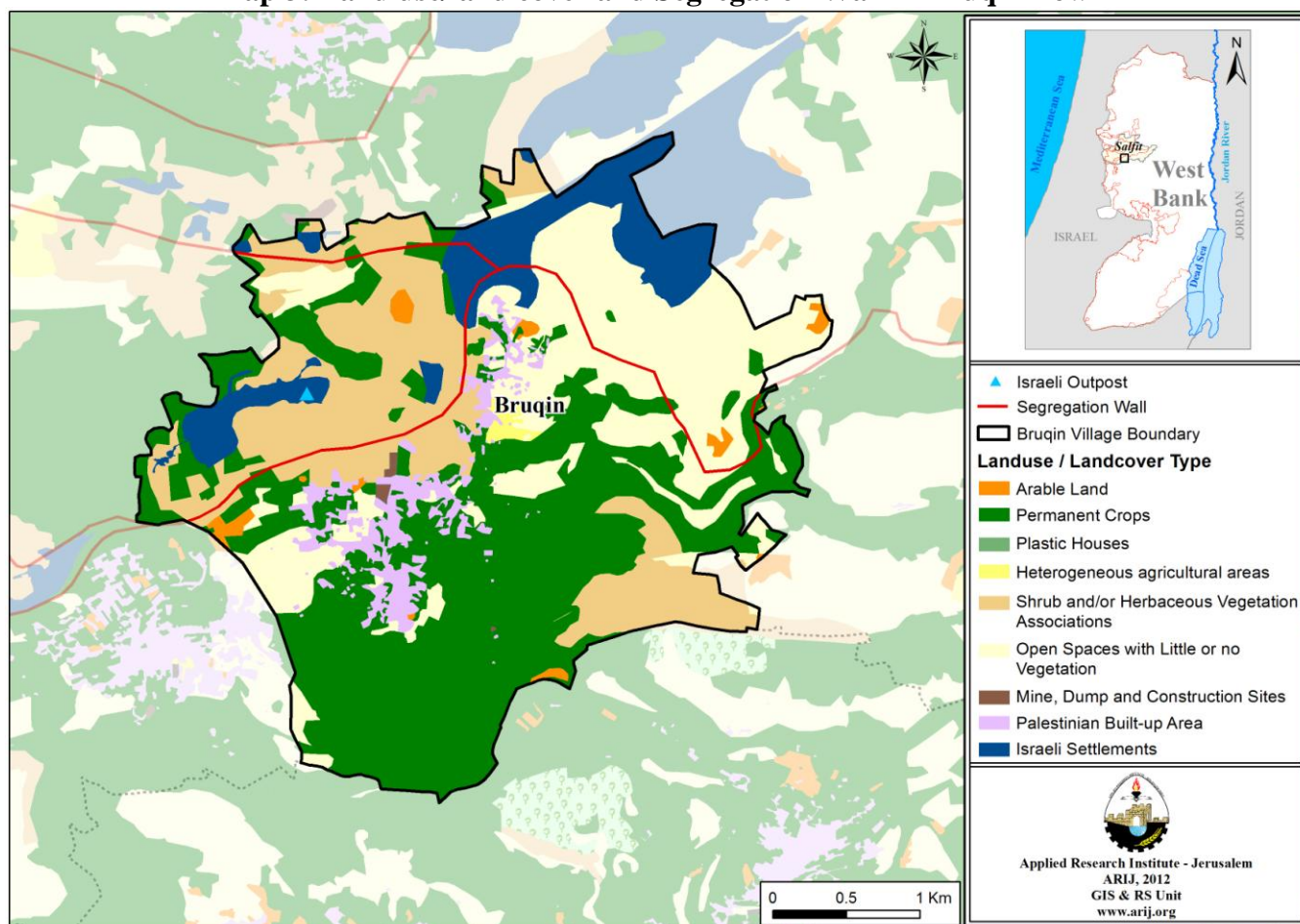
Bruqin has a total area of around 12,285 dunums of which 7,708 are 'arable' land and 565 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Bruqin town (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (7,708)				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					
12,285	565	5,003	0	2,565	140	0	0	2,849	21	1,142

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Bruqin Town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Bruqin. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are jew’s mallow, cabbages and cauliflowers.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Bruqin (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
8	13	0	11	0	5	0	2	0	0	8	31

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Bruqin is famous for olive cultivation and there are around 4,805 dunums of town lands planted with olive trees.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Bruqin (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
4,805	0	0	0	71	0	8	0	0	0	70	0	4,954	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010



In terms of field crops and forage in Bruqin, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of about 70 dunums (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Bruqin (area in dunums)**

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
70	0	14	0	21	0	1	0	18	0	0	0	13	0	137	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

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 difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 10.5% of the residents in Bruqin rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

**Table 9: Livestock in Bruqin**

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
5	265	0	22,000	65

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There are approximately 8 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

**Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Bruqin Town and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	4
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	3
For animals only	0
Unsuitable for any use	1

Source: Bruqin Municipality, 2012

The agricultural sector in the town faces numerous problems, including (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

- Israeli occupation forces hindering access to their lands, mainly lands in the north of the town.
- The spread of wild pigs around the town causing the destruction of large areas of crops
- The high cost of feed which hinders the development of the livestock sector.
- The confiscation of agricultural lands.

- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of agricultural roads.
- The lack of agricultural equipment (i.e. tractors).

## Institutions and Services

Bruqin town has a post office and a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Bruqin Municipality, 2012):

- **Bruqin Municipal Council:** Founded in 2000 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of town issues and providing various services to its population (notably, infrastructure services).
- **Bruqin Sports Club:** Founded in 1996 and later registered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Club is interested in sports, cultural and social activities for young persons in the town.
- **Bruqin Women Society:** Founded in 2009 by the Ministry of Interior, it is a charitable society that is interested in women's affairs and issues.
- **Bruqin Post office:** Founded in 2007 by the Palestinian Ministry of Telecommunications in order to provide residents with postal services.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Bruqin has been connected to a public electricity network since 1997. It is served by the Israeli 'Qatariya Electricity Company', which is the main source of electricity in the town, and approximately 99% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily the electrical network's need for expansion as it does not access some places suitable for construction (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

Bruqin is also connected to a telecommunication network. Approximately 60% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

### Transportation Services:

There are 8 taxis and 2 public buses in Bruqin. However, residents suffer from the lack of a main transportation line between the town and Ramallah city (Bruqin Municipality, 2012). There are 6 km of main roads and 13 km of secondary roads in Bruqin (Bruqin Municipality, 2012) (See Table 11).

**Table 11: Roads in Bruqin town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	4	10
<b>2. Paved but in poor condition</b>	2	-
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	-	3

Source: Bruqin Municipality, 2012

### **Water Resources:**

Bruqin is provided with water by the 'West Bank Water Department' through the public water network established in 2009. Approximately 85% of the housing units are connected to this network (Bruqin Municipality, 2012)

The quantity of water supplied to Bruqin town in 2010 was approximately 70,920 cubic meters/ year, making the estimated rate of water supply per capita approximately 55 liters/day (Bruqin Municipality, 2012). However, no Bruqin citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at approximately 22% (PWA, 2010). 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 Bruqin is 43 liters per day (Bruqin Municipality, 2012). The average water consumption of Bruqin residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. It is further noted that each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 5 NIS (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

The town has 4 springs which are not used by the residents due to their contamination from wastewater flowing from the nearby Israeli settlements and Burqan Israeli Industrial zone. Also, located in the town is a public water reservoir with a capacity of 500 cubic meters, in addition to 200 household rain-water harvesting cisterns, all used by the town residents (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

### **Sanitation:**

Bruqin lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal (Bruqin Municipality, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated amount of wastewater generated per day is 121 cubic meters, or 44,254 cubic meters, annually. At the individual level in the town, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 35 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment and public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

### **Solid Waste Management:**

The 'Joint Services Council of West Salfit' 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 amounting to 10 NIS/ month is charged to the population served by domestic solid

waste collection and transportation services. All of the monthly fees are collected from the citizens (Bruqin Municipality, 2012)

Most of the population in Bruqin benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 80 containers of 1 m<sup>3</sup> capacity. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to the nearest dumping site, 3 km from the town, where it is subsequently burnt (Bruqin Municipality, 2012)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Bruqin is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Bruqin residents is nearly 3.7 tons, or 1,345 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

## Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the governorate, Bruqin 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 town for numerous reasons:
  1. Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to supply everyone’s needs simultaneously. Also, the West Bank Water Department purchase water from Israeli Companies in order to meet the citizens’ water needs.
  2. High rate of water losses, because the water network’s aged condition in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

### Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that Bruqin residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits 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, to avoid the use of sewage tankers and thus allowing wastewater to enter into the ground. . Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment as well as residents' health.



**Solid Waste Management:**

- Zahrat al Finjan landfill, in Jenin Governorate (approximately 32 km in distance from the center of Salfit Governorate), is considered the central sanitary landfill to serve Salfit Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils and in Salfit Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout the Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. As a result, wastes are being disposed randomly in these landfills causing an abomination to health, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects, and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which is emitted when burned. All of these problems have harmful effects on human health as well as negative environmental impact.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Bruqin 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 a landfill. This is due to the fact that 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 groundwater and soil pollution through the leachate produced from the solid waste, which produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

**Impact of the Israeli Occupation****Geopolitical status in Bruqin**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995, Bruqin was divided into areas “A”, “B” and “C”. Approximately 1,034 dunums (8.4% of the town’s total area) were assigned as area A where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all responsibilities for internal security and public order, while 4,398 dunums (35.8% 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. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 6,853 dunums (55.8% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (table 12). 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, Palestinian urban areas, herbaceous vegetation and Israeli settlements.

**Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Bruqin – Salfit Governorate**

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	1,034	8.4
Area B	4,398	35.8
Area C	6,853	55.8
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,285</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013*

## The Israeli Occupation Practices in Bruqin Town

Bruqin town has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli objectives, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the town territories, in addition to the segregation plan represented by the Segregation Wall. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations to have negatively affected Bruqin town territories:

Throughout the years of occupation, Israel has confiscated 1016 dunums of Bruqin town lands (8.3% of the total town area) for the establishment of two Israeli settlements; “Bruchin” and “Barqan Industrial Zone”. Both settlements are located on the town’s northern lands (See Table 13).

**Table 13: Israeli settlements established on lands of Bruqin town**

Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Lands confiscated from Bruqin town	Population
Bruchin	1999	332	485
Barqan Industrial Zone	1981	684	Industrial Settlement
<b>Total</b>		<b>1016</b>	<b>485</b>
<b>Source:</b> The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ, 2013			

Following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, Israeli occupation authorities established four Israeli military checkpoints on Bruqin town lands. Two of these checkpoints are concrete cubes that were established near to two sub earth mound roads connecting the town with bypass road no 446 to the north. The third checkpoint is a military observation tower established north of the town on bypass road 446, while the fourth checkpoint is represented by a road gate on one of the earth mounds north of the town, near Bruchin settlement. These military checkpoints aim to restrict the town residents’ freedom of movement in addition to the occupation’s allegations of protecting settlers passing by the town.

Moreover, the Israeli Government confiscated thousands of agricultural and non-agricultural dunums of land to open several bypass roads that stretch from the north to south of the West Bank. This is in order to link Israeli settlements together, thereby dismembering Palestinian lands and enhancing security control over it. Israel has additionally confiscated more land from Bruqin, for the construction of Israeli bypass road nos. 5 and 446 which extend for 5km on the town’s land. The real threat of the bypass roads lies in the buffer zone formed by the 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.

In addition, lands of Bruqin town have been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to establish “Bruchin” Israeli outpost which is connected to “Bruchin” Israeli settlement, in an attempt to expand the settlement and control more Palestinian land. Moreover, during the past two decades Israel constructed 232 outposts within the West Bank which are considered the nucleus for the development of new settlements. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans on the lands stolen by the settlers and are a contiguity of a mother settlement that is near. It is noted that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a “Sharonian” call for Jewish settlers to take control over 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 logistic cover to justify the act and its continuity. After 2001, the Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in the number of outposts within Palestinian areas. In addition, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) helped Israeli settlers to move and settle in those outposts, in addition to protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

Moreover, Bruqin town’s mosques and schools have been subjected to Israeli military orders. On the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Israeli occupation forces handed Bruqin Municipal Council military notifications to halt the construction of Bruqin Girls’ Elementary School and Ali ben Abi Talib Mosque in the town under the pretext of illegal construction and their location within the region classified as "C" according to the Oslo Agreement. This happened despite the fact that the areas upon which these schools lie has been brought up by the Civil Administration of the Israeli occupation to be within the new structural plan of the town. According to the Municipal Council, the mosque was built in 2009 at a total cost of \$500,000, while the school was built in 2010 on a total area of land of 1,478 square meters, just a few meters only from Bruqin Municipal Council. The school hosts 230 female students for the current academic year, and was constructed at a total cost of \$400,000 granted from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the CHF international Foundation.

It is worth noting that Bruqin town has further received dozens of notifications of demolition and suspension of construction due to the fact that citizens in the town started to build in areas classified as "C" as a result of the continuous population growth and the limited availability of land suitable for construction in area "B", as well as the presence of approx. third of the urban area in area "C". Despite the continuing formal attempts of citizens to expand the structural plan of the town to accommodate urban growth, Israeli occupation authorities continue to refuse these schemes and insist on restricting the Palestinian population and their right to live in dignity. Additionally, in return, they confiscate their land and construct Israeli settlements on them while using Palestinian names to denote them such as the settlement of "Bruchin " on territory of the Palestinian town of Bruqin.

### **Israeli Proposal on the Structural Plans for the Fourteen Palestinians Localities in Area "C"**

In 2008, the Planning Department of the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) announced the issuance of structural schemes for fourteen Palestinians localities (including Bruqin town) located in area C; according to the Oslo agreement of 1995. It is worth noting that these structural plans did not meet the minimum needs of these Palestinian villages, towns and communities of future expansion and development. However, these plans would not have become a reality without the pressures exerted by

the international Quartet envoy “Tony Blair” in this regard. The deficiencies and imbalances of the proposed schemes structural were:

- I. In term of the Israeli planners, the fourteen proposed structural schemes are only a reflection of the Israeli planning department (of the ICA) desire, which in turn are trying to make their plans in line with military law No. 418. Moreover, local councils of those 14 localities were excluded from the process of planning and preparation of these schemes.
- II. Concerning the planned areas, the charts had considered the borders of villages and communities to be limited to only Palestinian urban areas, without considering areas for future urban expansion for these localities.
- III. The proposed structural plans have raised many doubts and questions, for example, what is the fate of Palestinian homes and facilities which become outside the borders of the new structural plans? Will they be considered illegal and therefore be demolished? What is the status of open areas that were added to the proposed schemes? Can Palestinian local councils control them administratively and thus issue building permits in those areas? and will the civil administration of the Israeli occupation remain the executive and administrative body in those areas? If that happens, the new structural plans will be of no value and the situation will remain the same as it was in the past, even more, things will get worse and complicated.
- IV. The Israeli proposed structural plans had missed the classification which was approved by Israel under the Oslo agreement in 1995, which included the zoning of "A", "B" and "C" areas, as some proposed structural plans have included areas classified within the Oslo Agreement into areas "A" and "B", which are already managed by the Palestinian state (see Table 14).

**Table 14: Area of the Proposed Structural Scheme in Bruqin Town (dunum)**

Name of Proposed Plan	Area of Proposed Plan	Area of Palestinian Urban Areas	Area of Proposed Urban Areas Within the Structural Plan	Urban Areas Outside the Structural Plan
<b>Bruqin</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>85</b>

### Israeli attacks on land and property of Bruqin town

Bruqin town was imposed to many attacks, whether by the Israeli occupation forces or Israeli settlers, who in turn targeted citizens and their property, their homes and even their holy sites. On the morning of December 9 2011, settlers sneaked into the town and attempted to break into the only mosque in the town; “Ali ben Abi Talib Mosque”, and burn it, but failed due to the arbitrator closure, nevertheless, they burned tires on its entrance and wrote hostile slogans against Palestinians. Furthermore, during their withdrawal, they managed to burn a car and a bulldozer belonging to citizens of the town. It should be noted here that the mosque was notified twice in the past by the Israeli occupation authorities.

Moreover, Israeli settlers attacked and burned trees, and assaulted agricultural land in Bruqin town. On the morning of October 13 2011, a group of settlers from "Bruchin" Israeli settlement attacked lands near the settlement owned by citizens from Bruqin town and burned 340 olive trees; partially and wholly. In addition to all of the above mentioned, this Palestinian town was exposed to various types of environmental pollution caused by nearby Israeli settlements that were built on its occupied territory, mainly the industrial settlements such as "West Ariel Industrial Park" and "Barqan industrial Zone" These settlements pump wastewater into Palestinians land causing diseases to humans and animals, as



well as pollution of land, air and spread of epidemics, diseases and bad odors. Additionally, this has greatly affected the crops and livestock in the town and its surroundings, and even the beautiful environment has been distorted, the rural air has no longer been a fresh air due to these settlements actions, which are not caring for any harm imposed on neighboring Palestinians.

### The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Bruqin Town

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan had a negative and destructive impact on Bruqin residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website on April 30 2007, shows that the wall planned to be constructed on Bruqin town's land to the west, east and north, will extend for 8 km on its land and upon its completion will confiscate 2,457 dunums (20%) of the town's total area and will isolate more lands for Israeli settlement activities. The majority of lands planned to be isolated by the Wall includes agricultural areas, open spaces, Israeli settlements constructed on the town's land, and others (See Table 13).

**Table 13: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Bruqin Town – Salfit Governorate**

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Open Spaces	1,340
2	Israeli Settlements	684
3	Agricultural Areas	177
4	Shrubs and Herbaceous Vegetation	254
5	Construction Sites	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,457</b>
<b>Source:</b> The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

Upon the completion of the Segregation Wall plan, published by the Israeli Ministry of Defense in 2007, the planned Racial Segregation Wall will surround the town from three sides; eastern, western and northern, while the southern side will stay open for communication with villages north of Ramallah, during which the Wall will isolate Bruqin town from villages and towns north and west of Salfit. This will lead to dismembering Palestinian land, restricting the movement of the Palestinian population and confiscating and isolating more land for Israeli settlement purposes. Moreover, upon the completion of the Wall around Bruqin town, it will prevent Palestinian farmers from accessing their lands isolated behind the Wall, as it will not be accessed without special permits issued by the ICA and through a special gate that will be established on the Wall route in the area.

One should also note that Salfit Governorate villages are known for their fertile soil, their beautiful nature and the abundance of water and large trees, especially olive trees. This makes the region an important target for Israeli settlement activities, in addition to the being the second Governorate after Jerusalem on the list of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction.

## Military Orders Issued in Bruqin Town

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders and notifications to confiscate lands or halt construction in Bruqin town:

- Israeli Military Order No. (01/07/T): Issued on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007, and confiscates a total area of 404.6 dunums of the lands of Bruqin and Kafr ad Dik villages to construct the Israeli Segregation Wall.
- Israeli Military Order No. (163/05/T): Issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2005, and confiscates a total area of 23.5 dunums of Bruqin lands for military purposes, in order to establish a military observation point.
- A series of Israeli military orders, including orders numbers: (142675), (143072), (143073), (143074), (143075), (143076), (143077), (143078), (146666), (147339), (147340), (147341), (147342), (306341) and (306344). All of these orders were issued between 2008 and 2011 to suspend work and construction of a number of buildings- most of which are homes to citizens in Bruqin town. This was carried out under the pretext of not obtaining a building permit from the Israeli authorities in addition to its presence in area “C”.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Bruqin Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Bruqin during the past five years (See Table 14).

**Table 14: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Bruqin during the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing Bruqin Sports Club	Public Services	2009	KFW
Establishing Bruqin Health Center	Public Services	2009	Islamic Bank
Establishing Bruqin Municipal Football Stadium	Public Services	2010	Ministry of Local Government
Constructing a Girls' Elementary School	Educational	2010	CHF
Implementation of outdoor works for the Girls' Elementary School	Educational	2010	Municipalities Fund
Establishing a transmission water line	Infrastructure	2011	Palestinian Red Cross
Constructing a water reservoir	Infrastructure	2011	Palestinian Red Cross

Source: Bruqin Municipality, 2012

## Proposed Projects

Bruqin 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 perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Ceiling the waste water channel of Salfit city (7 km) which is leaking on the town's lands, and providing it with underground culverts.
2. Building a co-educated elementary school in "Al Baq'an" area to protect it from confiscation.
3. Constructing agricultural roads (6 km) mainly in lands targeted by the Israeli occupation and settlers.
4. Paving internal roads (approx. 3 km).
5. Providing lighting in the town cemetery, maintaining it and fencing it in.
6. Providing the town with an ambulance for emergency cases.
7. Constructing three changing rooms and a health unit for the Sports Club playground.
8. Establishing a medical laboratory in the town.
9. Constructing six additional classrooms for the elementary school.
10. Operating the health center and providing it with equipment, devices and specialized staff.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

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

**Table 15: Development Priorities and Needs in Bruqin**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and paving roads	*			11.5 km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			4 km
4	Constructing new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells and/ or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500 m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			10 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			3 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			25 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres		*		additional floor
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			7 devices
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			expanding Bruqin Girls Elementary Schools
2	Rehabilitating old schools	*			Bruqin Girls Secondary Schools
3	Purchasing new equipment for schools	*			all schools
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitating agricultural lands	*			300 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			30 cisterns
3	Constructing livestock barracks	*			7 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			70 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			50 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			5 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

<sup>^</sup> 4 km main roads, 2.5 km secondary roads and 5 km are agricultural roads

Source: Bruqin Municipality, 2012



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