

Salfit City Profile (including Khirbet Qeis Locality)



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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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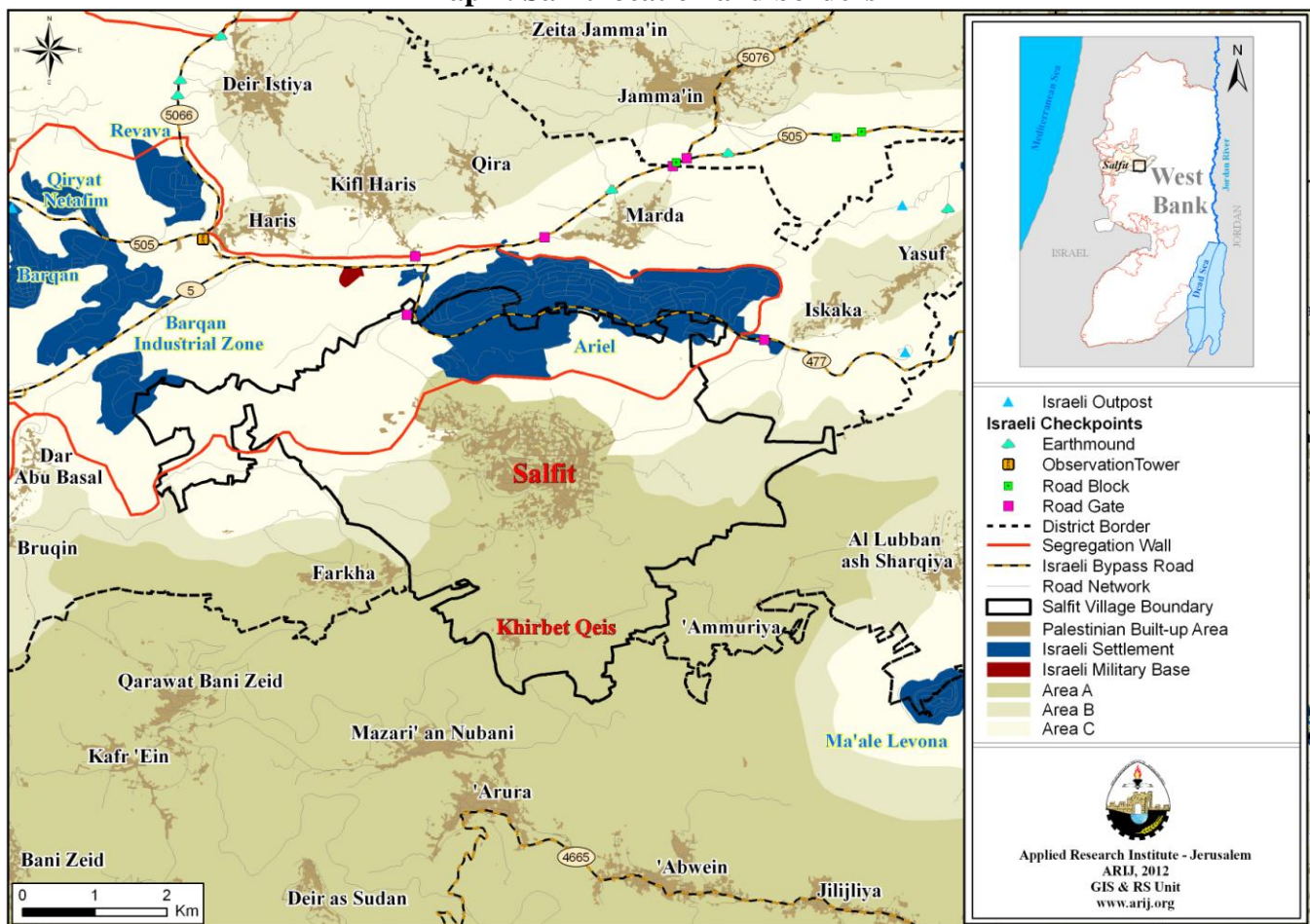
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Salfit City Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Salfit city, which includes Khirbet Qeis (Qeis ruins) within its borders, is the only city in Salfit Governorate. It is bordered by Al Lubban ash Sharqiya (in Ramallah Governorate) and Iskaka to its east, Bani Zeid ash Sharqiya and 'Ammuriyya (in Ramallah Governorate) to the south, Farkha and Bruqin villages to its west, and Haris, Kifl Haris and Marda villages to its north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Salfit location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Salfit city is located at an altitude of 522 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 649.5mm. The average annual temperature is 17.4 C° whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Khirbet Qeis locality is located at an altitude of 415 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 672 mm. The average annual temperature is 17 C^o and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 1955, Salfit has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 16 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are 60 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the 'Joint Services Council of South Salfit.' The Council owns 2 vehicles for the collection of solid waste, 4 pickup cars and a hammer vehicle (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

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

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, road construction and restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the city.
- Provision of offices for governmental services.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Provision of sanitary slaughterhouses and organizing the slaughter of animals.
- Provision of a sewerage network.
- Organization and supervision of the cultural and entertainment services.

History

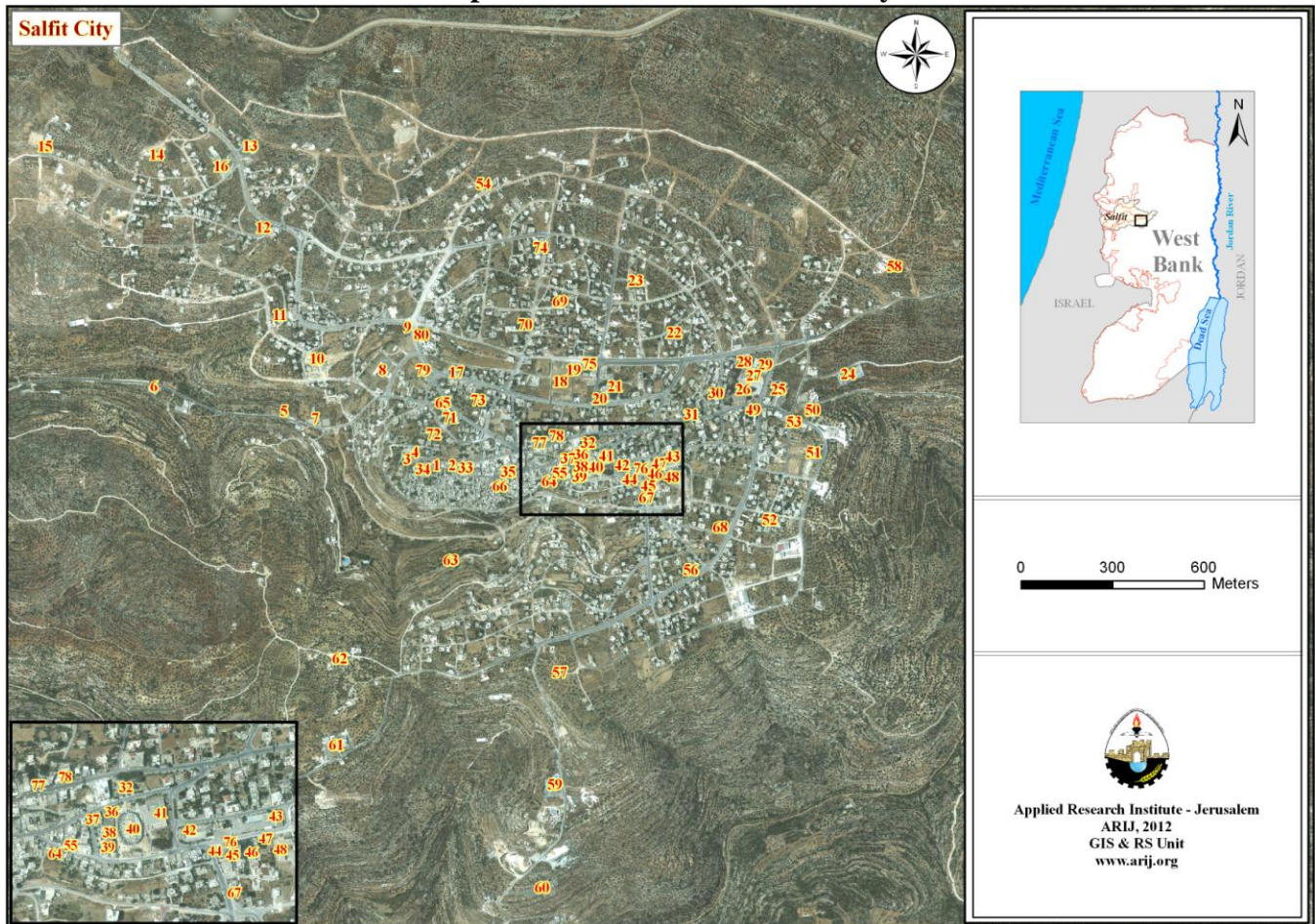
Salfit city is known for its cultivation of grape and fig vines and its ancient wine presses which are used in the present day. The word "Salfit" consists of two syllables; "Sal" meaning baskets and "Fit" meaning grapes.

The city was established in the Canaanite era (15th century AD), with its residents descending from the Bani Nimra family, originating from East Jordan. The city is also home to members of the Al Hawatra family descending from the prophet Al 'Abbas. They left Al Hijaz in Saudi Arabia, travelled through to East Jordan, then moved to the neighboring village of Farkha before residing in Salfit city, which includes Khirbet Qeis locality (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

Photo of Salfit**Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are seven mosques in the city; Ar Rahman, Abu ‘Attab, Ash Shuhada’, As Sahaba, Al ‘Abrar, Abdul Qader as Sa’id and Salfit Grand Mosques. The city has several sites of archaeological interest including a number of ‘Khirabs’ (or ruined/destroyed places): Ash Shajara, Beit al Habas, t Jarad, Jalal ad Din and Khirbet al Kabbarah in addition to Al Qabaliya Spring. One should note here that none of these sites are qualified for tourism, as authorized by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Salfit Municipality, 2012) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Salfit city



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Population¹

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Salfit in 2007 was 8,905, of whom 4,463 were male and 4,442 female. There were additionally 1,885 households recorded as living in 2,165 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender²

The ‘General Census of Population and Housing’ carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Salfit is as follows: 37.2% were less than 15 years of age, 58.3% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 4.2% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the city is 100.5:100, meaning that males and females constituted 50.1% and 49.9% of the population, respectively.

Families

¹ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

² These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

Salfit residents are from several families, including; Dahdool, ‘Aram, Shtayyeh, Maraytah, Madi, Yunis, Hassan, ‘Odah, Fatuni, Bani Nimra, ‘Azreel, Salim, Al ‘Ayidoon, Yasin, Zbeidiyeh, Shahin and Ismail (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

Education³

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Salfit population is approximately 5.7%, of whom 79.1% are females. Of the literate population, 10.6% could only read and write, with no formal education, 22.4% had elementary education, 24.7% had preparatory education, 19.6% had secondary education, and 17% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the city of Salfit by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Salfit population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment, 2007⁴

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	79	346	811	869	628	159	333	8	57	15	1	3,306
F	299	357	676	772	673	124	412	2	16	3	2	3,336
T	378	703	1487	1641	1301	283	745	10	73	18	3	6,642

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are nine public schools in the city, run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and one private school (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Salfit by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)⁵

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Salfit Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Salfit Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Salfit Boys' Elementary Higher School	Government	Male
Salfit Industrial Secondary School	Government	Male
Salfit Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Salfit Girls' Elementary School	Government	Female
Salfit Girls' Elementary Higher School	Government	Female
Salfit Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Khirbet Qeis Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Al Amal (Hope) School	Private	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

³ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

⁴ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

⁵ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

In the city there are 2,610 students, 168 teachers, and 92 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 28 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

There are two kindergartens in Salfit city, both of which are run by a private organization (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (See table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Salfit city by name and supervising authority⁶

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Fajr Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Al 'Abood Kindergarten	1	1	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

The educational sector in Salfit city faces a number of obstacles, including (Salfit Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of an agricultural school.
- The lack of a specialized vocational college (handcrafts).
- The lack of computer devices and IT equipment in schools.
- The lack of libraries and rooms dedicated for computers and scientific labs.
- The lack of classrooms in some schools.

Health Status

Salfit has a governmental health center (Salfit Health Directorate), Yasir Arafat Governmental Hospital, 3 radiology centers (1 governmental, 1 private and 1 run by a charitable society), a governmental mother and child care center, 5 medical laboratories (2governmental, 2private and 1 run by a charitable society), 8 general physicians clinics (1governmental, 6 private and 1 run by a charitable society), 7 private dental clinics, a private orthopedic clinic, 3 private gynecology clinics, 2 private ophthalmologist clinics, a physiotherapy center run by a charitable society and 6 pharmacies (2governmental and 4 private). In addition, there are 2 ambulances in the city (1governmental and 1 owned by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society). In the absence of any required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to the National Hospital or Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus city; each of which is 25 km away (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

The health sector in the city faces some obstacles and problems, principally (Salfit Municipality, 2012):

- Yasir Arafat Hospital's small buildings in need of expansion.
- Yasir Arafat Hospital's aged department, particularly the ER, radiology and medical laboratory sections, which need development.
- The lack of specialized clinics in Salfit Health Directorate, including the need for an internist, radiologist and an otolaryngology clinic.
- The overcrowded health center which requires another branch.

⁶ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

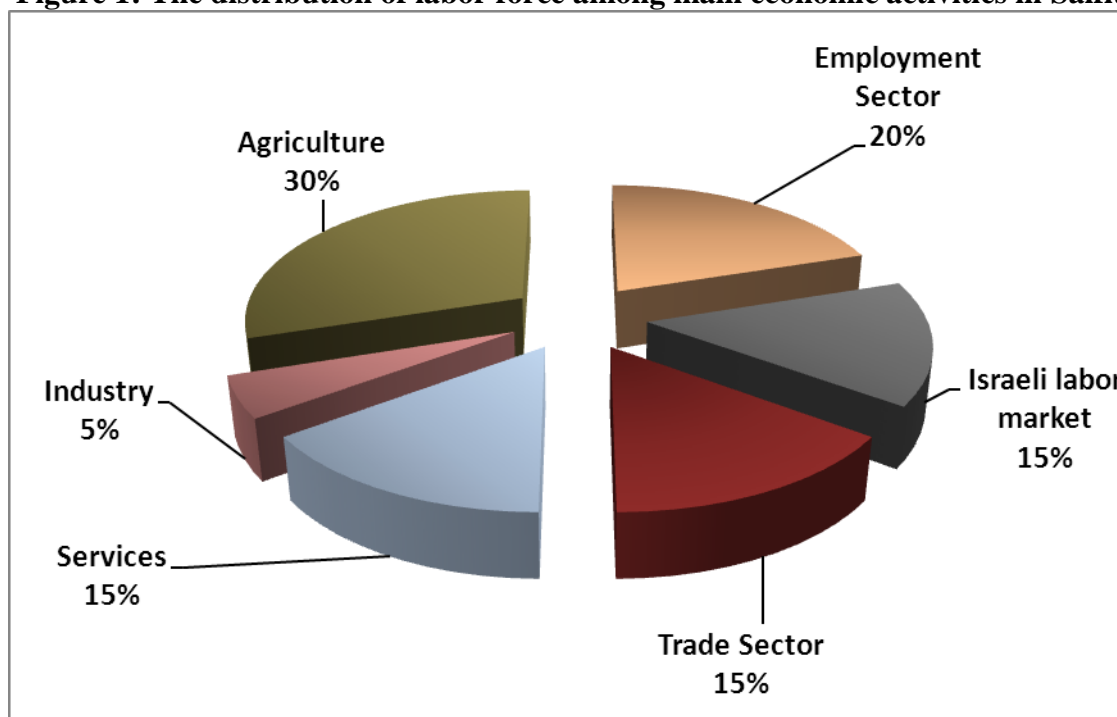
Economic Activities

The economy in Salfit is mainly dependent on the agricultural sector which absorbs the largest number of city workers in any one sector (approximately 30% of the city's workforce) (Salfit Municipality, 2012) (See Figure 1).

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

- Agriculture Sector (30%)
- Government or private employees sector (20%)
- Trade Sector (15%)
- Israeli Labor Market (15%)
- Services Sector (15%)
- Industry (5%)

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



Source: Salfit Municipality, 2012

Salfit has 49 groceries, 6 fruits and vegetables stores, 5 bakeries, 16 butcheries, 36 service stores, 32 different professional workshops such as carpentry and blacksmith, 6 stone cutters, 2 olive oil-presses, 3 stores for agricultural tools, 4 florists, 5 sweets stores, 17 gifts, stationary, and housewares stores, 6 coffee shops and 11 stores for electric appliances and construction materials (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

During 2012, the unemployment rate in Salfit reached 24% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Salfit Municipality, 2012):

- Agricultural workers.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Industrial workers.

Labor Force⁷

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 38.5% of Salfit labor force was economically active, of whom 86.4% were employed, 61.4% were not economically active, 54.9% were students, and 31% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Salfit population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status⁸

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	1718	127	103	1,948	1070	0	186	35	63	1,354	4	3,306
F	490	42	74	606	1168	1265	228	22	41	2,724	6	3,336
T	2,208	169	177	2,554	2,238	1265	414	57	104	4,078	10	6,642

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

Salfit has a total area of approximately 26,123 dunums of which 16,202 are 'arable' land and 1,594 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Salfit city (area in dunum)

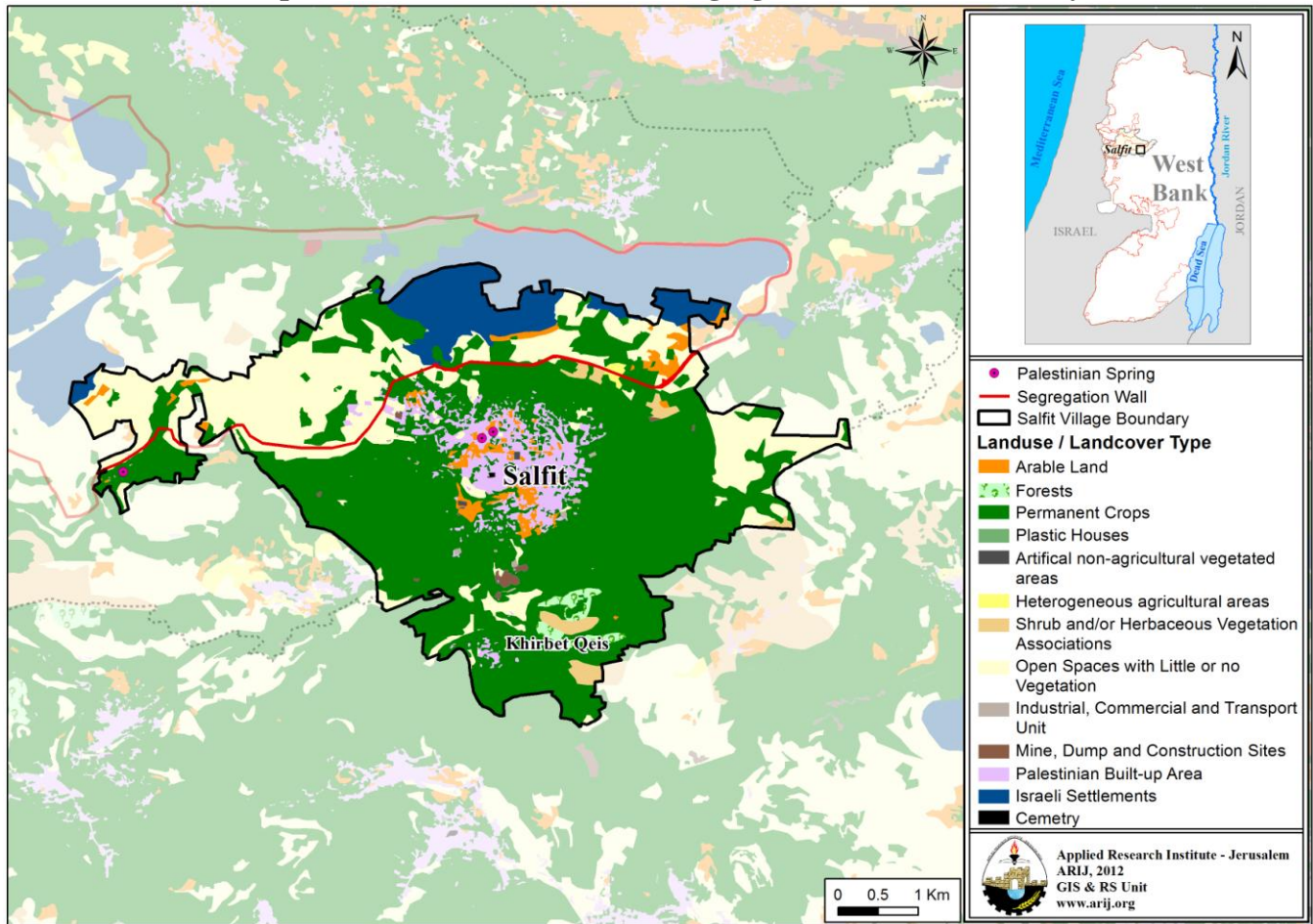
Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (16,202)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
26,123	1,594	15,173	212	154	663	0	268	6,006	133	1,920

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

⁷ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

⁸ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Salfit City



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 6 demonstrates the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in the city. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are tomatoes, green beans and cauliflowers.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Salfit (area in dunums)⁹

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
39	128	0	77	0	35	0	25	0	0	39	265

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Salfit is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 15,020 dunums of city lands planted with olive trees.

⁹ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Salfit (area in dunums)¹⁰

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.
15,020	0	3	16	749	0	60	0	4	0	841	0	16,677	16

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Salfit, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 190 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Salfit (area in dunums)¹¹

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.
190	0	48	0	98	0	6	0	62	0	0	0	41	0	445	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that just 2% of the residents in Salfit rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Salfit¹²

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
91	3,521	-	20,000	430

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There are approximately 50 kilometers of agricultural roads in the city, divided as follows (Salfit Municipality, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Salfit city and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	20
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	-
For animals only	30
Unsuitable	-

Source: Salfit Municipality, 2012

The agricultural sector in the city faces a number of problems, including (Salfit Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of water sources in addition to the high costs of water used for agricultural production.
- The existence of the Segregation Wall and neighboring settlements in addition to continuous psychological and physical obstacles imposed by occupation forces.
- The occupation forces preventing farmers from accessing and utilizing their lands.
- The lack of capital for agricultural investment.

¹⁰ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality¹¹ These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality¹² These data include both of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis locality

- The rising prices of production inputs.
- The fluctuation of agricultural products' prices and the lack of economic feasibility in the agriculture sector.
- Climatic fluctuations in the Governorate effecting agricultural production; especially drought.

Institutions and Services

Salfit city has several governmental institutions: a post office, post division, fire and police stations, offices for the Ministries of Interior, Agriculture, Labor, Social Affairs, a chamber of commerce and a National Security Center. It also has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Salfit Municipality, 2012):

- **Salfit Municipal Council:** Founded in 1955 and later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of the city's issues and providing various services to its population, such as infrastructure services.
- **General Union of Disabled Palestinians:** Founded in 1991 by the 'General Federation of Persons with Disabilities' in Palestine, aiming to apply human rights laws to people with disabilities raising community awareness to support such persons, in addition to organizing a physiotherapy clinic and health education courses.
- **International Relief (online schools):** Founded in 2006 by International Relief in Palestine (Ramallah Branch), with the aim of providing trainings on management, strategic planning and the use of computers, in addition to providing interest-free loans to be used in the implementation of small projects.
- **Agricultural Relief:** Founded in 2004 by the Agricultural Relief in Ramallah and licensed by the Ministry of Interior. It is interested in the agricultural sector and has carried out many agricultural activities such as the construction of agricultural roads and distribution of seedlings and greenhouses, in addition to encouraging farmers to apply a system of organic cultivation.
- **Palestinian Medical Relief:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Interior, in order to help people through a mobile medical clinic across the Governorate, in addition to organizing health clubs addressing multiple social issues and organizing summer camps that includes training on first aid, health education and other.
- **The Dawn Social Charitable Society:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Interior, in order to prepare a group of young people and train them on leadership, management and strategic planning, in addition to supporting education courses and distributing seedlings, food baskets and others.
- **Palestinian Red Crescent Society:** Founded in 1995 by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (Ramallah Branch), and licensed by the Ministry of Interior, in order to establish a medical clinic for several localities in Salfit Governorate, in addition to establishing a first aid and emergency center.
- **Salfit Women Charitable Society:** Founded in 1965 and later licensed by the Ministry of Interior, aiming at assisting educational courses, health education seminars and a periodic medical clinic. It has also established a kindergarten, educational nursery and a wedding hall.

- **The Palestinian Wounded Society:** Founded in 1999 by the Ministry of Interior, and deals with wounded Palestinians through helping them to access health insurance and rehabilitation. It also assists in getting wounded persons into University education as well as supporting schooling costs and subsidizing school bags and equipment. It also runs a regular check- up clinic to check on the status of wounded Palestinians.
- **Loyalty Elderly Care Center:** Founded in 2008 by the Ministry of Interior, and is interested in elderly care through providing them with weekly health examinations and organizing free medical days, in addition to organizing trips to Jerusalem, Hebron and Mecca for them, and others.
- **Salfit Information and Communication Technology Center:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, aiming to provide training on health education, management, strategic planning and report writing, in addition to others.
- **Salfit Children Club:** Founded in 2003 by the Ministry of Youth & Sports, it is interested in children through organizing summer camps and various youth art and sports teams.
- **Cooperative Society for Olive Pressing:** Founded in 1980 by a group of farmers in Salfit city, and later licensed by the Palestinian Ministry of Labor. The Society is concerned with olive pressing, and manufacturing and marketing its products at good prices.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Salfit has been connected to a public electricity network since 1958. It is served by the Israeli ‘Qatariya Electricity Company,’ which represents the main source of electricity in the city. Approximately 99% of the housing units in the city are connected to the network. The city residents however face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the aged and worn out electrical network in some residential areas, the absence of a public network in few areas, the shortage of transfer stations, equipment and spare parts (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

Salfit is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 85% of the housing units within the city boundaries are connected to phone lines (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

Transportation Services:

In Salfit, there are 150 taxis and 10 public buses in addition to 300 private cars. However, residents suffer from the existence of earth mounds or military checkpoints on roads in addition to the existence of the Segregation Wall (Salfit Municipality, 2012). There are 75 km of main roads and 11 km of secondary roads in the city (Salfit Municipality, 2012) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Salfit City

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	30	4
2. Paved but in poor condition	25	5
3. Unpaved	20	2

Source: Salfit Municipality, 2012

Water Resources:

Salfit is provided with water by the ‘West Bank Water Department’ through the public water network established in 1958. All of the housing units are connected to this network (Salfit Municipality, 2012)

The quantity of water supplied to Salfit city in 2010 was approximately 512,161 cubic meters/year which makes the estimated rate of water supply per capita around 147 liters/day (Salfit Municipality, 2012). However, no Salfit citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 22% (PWA, 2010). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, taking into account water losses, the rate of water consumption per capita in Salfit is 115 liters per day (Salfit Municipality, 2012). The average water consumption of Salfit residents is good 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 4.10 NIS (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

The city has two springs with an annual pumping rate of approx. 71,000 cubic meters. However, the water from these springs are only used for agricultural rather than domestic purposes. Also, a public water reservoir with a capacity of 900 cubic meters is located in the city which is usually used for drinking, in addition to 20 household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

Sanitation:

Salfit has been connected to a public sewerage network since 2,000. Approximately 60% of Salfit housing units use the sewage network as a means for wastewater disposal, while the rest of housing units use unhygienic and environmentally unsound cesspits (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 875 cubic meters, or 320,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 92 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both the environment and public health (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

Salfit Municipality in cooperation with the ‘Joint Services Council’ is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the city. As the process of solid waste

management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 14 NIS/ month per household is charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. It is noted that all of the fees are collected from citizens (Salfit Municipality, 2012)

The majority of Salfit's population benefits from solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 300 containers (of 1.1 m³ capacity) located around the Municipality. The Municipality collects the solid waste once daily and transports it using a waste vehicle to the city's dumping site, 2 km from the city, where it is subsequently burnt. This represents one of the most hazardous and unsanitary methods of waste disposal and should be eradicated in favor of more environmentally friendly methods (Salfit Municipality, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Salfit is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated quantity of solid waste produced per day from the Salfit residents is nearly 10 tons, or 3,657 tons annually (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Salfit 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 numerous neighborhoods of the city for several 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 amount of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. In addition, the West Bank Water Department purchase water from Israeli Companies in order to meet the citizens needs of water.
 2. High rate of water losses, due to the water network's aged condition in need of rehabilitation.

Wastewater Management

- The untreated wastewater collected by the sewage network in Salfit city is disposed of in Wadi al Matwi area, due to the lack of wastewater treatment units (see Photo 2).

Photo 2: Flow of Wastewater in Al Matwi Valley

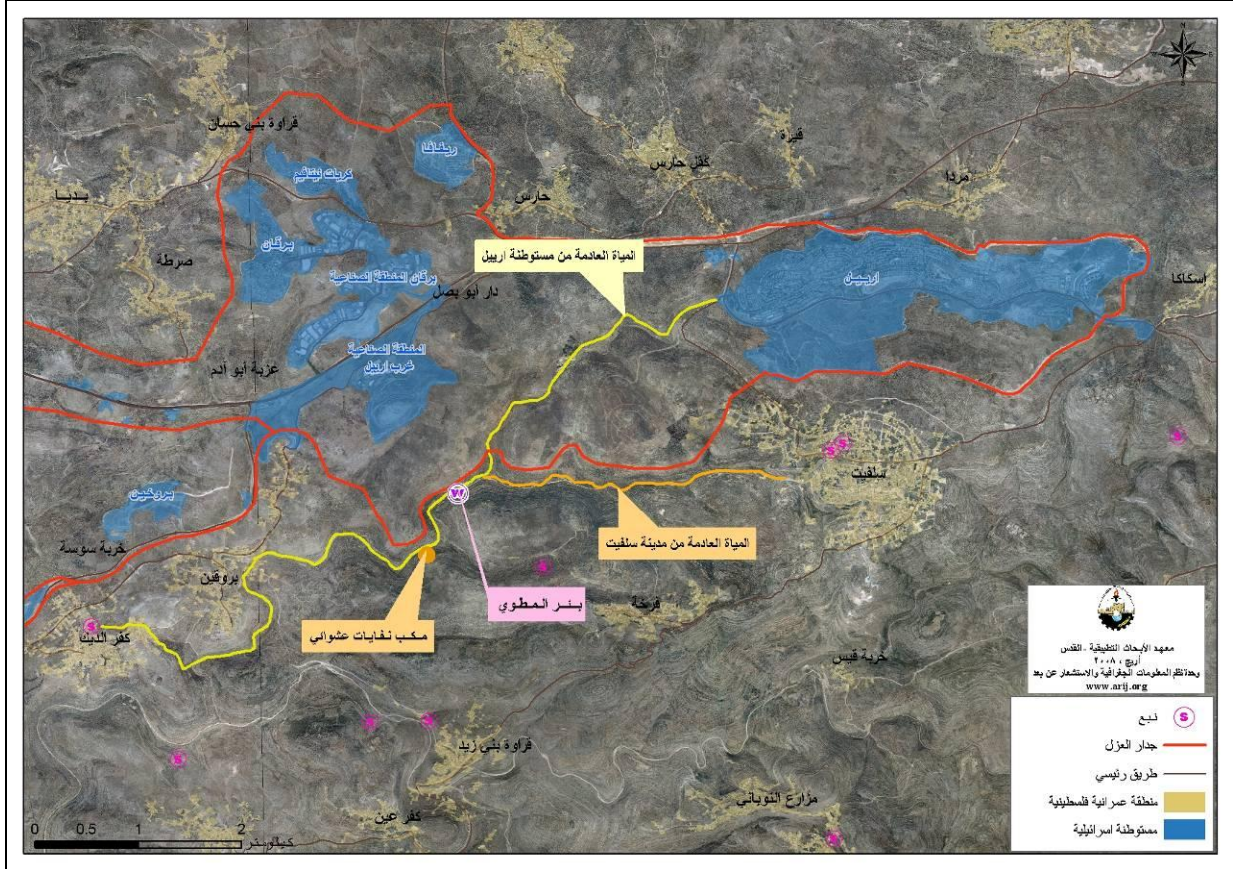
Additionally, the absence of a public sewage network in some areas of the city means that Salfit residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the city. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater, in addition to water collected in household rainwater harvesting cisterns, as this water mixes with the waste water thus contaminating it and make it unsuitable for drinking. In addition, most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

In 1999, there was a project funded by the German Cooperation (KFW) to establish a wastewater treatment unit in Salfit city in the area of Wadi al Matwi. However, this project failed because of the obstacles set by Israelis regarding the unit's location, as they did not issue the necessary license to establish it in 'Area C' of Al Matwi valley. Additionally, the Israeli side objected to the project because it would only handle wastewater from Salfit city while Israel is planning to establish a joint unit for the treatment of wastewater flowing from Ariel settlement, which is built on Salfit city lands, and which disposes of waste water resulting from its population by dumping it untreated onto the agricultural lands of Salfit city, where the wastewater flowing from Ariel settlement and Salfit meet in Wadi al Matwi. The wastewater then flows towards Bruqin and Kafr ad Dik villages' lands, heading towards the Green line, constituting approximately a 12 km line of wastewater (see Map 4).

However, Palestinians rejected Israel's proposed project to establish a joint unit for Palestinian households and nearby Israeli settlements for wastewater treatment as it represents a clear recognition of the existence of illegal Israeli settlements, and would not benefit Palestinians in terms of adequate wastewater disposal. Nevertheless, Salfit Municipality bought land in Area B to establish a new unit only for the benefit of Palestinians. However, when the total cost of wastewater treatment for Salfit city to be transferred to the farmers was calculated, it was found that each cubic meter of treated water will cost a farmer 5 NIS, whilst he currently buys fresh water at 2.5 NIS/ m³. In addition, the unit in that area

will not completely solve the problem because 80% of the wastewater flows from Ariel settlement, and only 20% of the wastewater flows from Salfit city. Therefore, the project for the new unit as suggested by the Municipal council was deemed as unfeasible and was rejected.

Map 4: Wastewater Flowing from Salfit City in Al Matwi Valley towards Bruqin and Kafr ad Dik Villages



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Salfit city is experiencing a very serious environmental problem represented by the wastewater stream flowing from Ariel settlement, which is established on Salfit lands.. This stream is considered a serious problem which is causing significant environmental damage as it passes through the agricultural lands and olive fields belonging to Salfit residents (see Photo 3). The stream deteriorates nature and biodiversity in that region, and also distorts the areas landscape in addition to producing health risks posed by the presence of settling insects in the wastewater, bad odors and the spread of epidemics and diseases.

Photo 3: The Flowing of Wastewater in Agricultural Lands and Olive Fields

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

The most serious problem imposed by flowing wastewater is the environmental threat it causes to Salfit's 'Matwi well.' The wastewater stream is only 4 meters in distance from the well site, thus causing a major environmental and health threat through the contamination of fresh water from well, which covers approximately 30% of Salfit city's drinking water needs. This is particularly concerning considering that the well pumps approximately 350 m³ of water per day to the city. Al Matwi well is fed from three main sources of water (sub springs), all of which pours into the well. The biological tests collected and analyzed by the Department of Health & Environment in Salfit Municipality (December 2007) has proved the presence of the pathogens 'fecal colon bacterium'¹³ in the main sources and springs that feed Al Matwi well.

The environmental implications of disposing the wastewater into the environment through Al Matwi valley does not stop at Salfit city borders, but affects the entire Governorate of Salfit. The negative effects caused by the flow of wastewater through Al Matwi valley is represented in the emission of unpleasant odors and the spread of harmful insects, as well as the expected effects on the soil and its ecosystem through the accumulation of solids and salts in the soil. Wastewater affects the fertility of soil through breaching its components and therefore affects the agriculture sector. Moreover, olive trees constitute 90% of the affected crops in the region, with almond and citrus constituting 10% of these crops. Additionally, Al Matwi Valley is located over a permeable area that feeds the Western Aquifer Basin; the flow of wastewater over this area leads to pollution and degradation of groundwater quality in this basin.

Solid Waste Management:

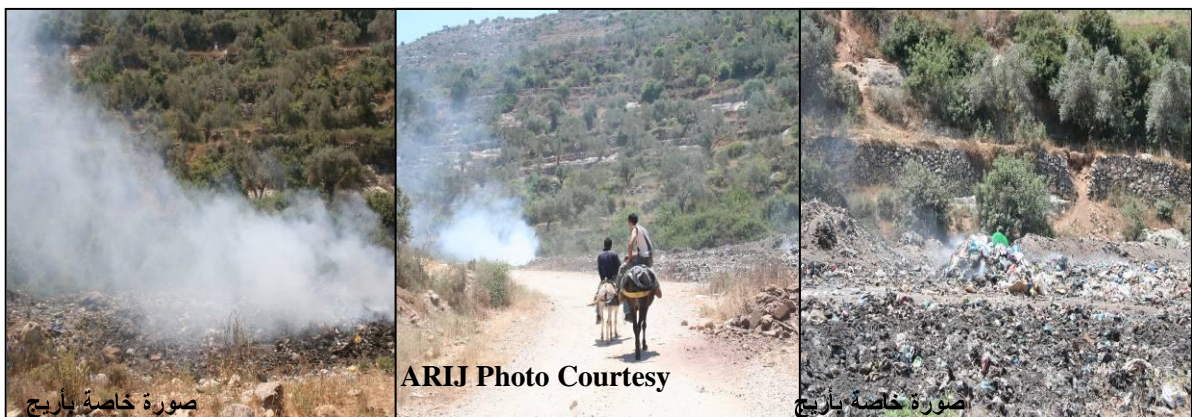
- Zahrat al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate (approximately 32 km in distance from the center of Salfit Governorate), is considered the central sanitary landfill which is supposed to serve Salfit Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Salfit Governorate do not

¹³ A major cause of different diseases such as amoeba, diarrhea,..etc.

transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout Salfit Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. A large random landfill is located in Al Matwi Valley area in Salfit city which was established during the second intifada and the Israeli closures, where Bruqin, Kafr ad Dik and the neighboring villages started disposing their solid waste here see Photo 4). 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 bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which emits when burned. All of these have harmful effects on human as well as environmental health.

- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Salfit and 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. The main reason cited with the rejection of permission is that the appropriate land for such a landfill is within 'Area C' (Oslo Accords II) and under Israeli civil and administration 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.

Photo 4: The Random Solid Waste Landfill in Al Matwi Valley Area



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in Salfit

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Salfit city (which includes Khirbet Qeis locality within its southern borders) was divided into areas "A", "B" and "C". Approximately 11,941 dunums (45.7% of the city's total area) were assigned as area "A" where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) holds all

responsibilities for internal security and public order. It is worth noting that most of Salfit city and Khirbet Qeis localities populations resides in area A. However, 3,337 dunums (12.8% of the city's total area) were classified as area "B", where the PNA has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the city's area, constituting 10,845 dunums (41.5% of the total area), was classified as area "C", where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (see Table 12). In Area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the Area C includes agricultural areas, open spaces, Israeli settlements and lands isolated behind the Segregation Wall.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Salfit – Salfit Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total city area
Area A	11,941	45.7
Area B	3,337	12.8
Area C	10,845	41.5
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	26,123	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Practices in Salfit City

Salfit city has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the city's territories. This is 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 the city.

Throughout years of occupation, Israel has confiscated 1,781 dunums of Salfit city lands (6.8% of the city's total area) for the establishment of two Israeli settlements. The first is "Ariel" settlement north of the city, which is considered the second largest settlement in the West Bank in terms of area, and is separated from Salfit by the Segregation Wall. The second is "Barqan Industrial Zone" west of the city or which there are plans to isolate it behind the Wall (See Table 13).

Table 13: Israeli settlements established on lands of Salfit city

Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Lands confiscated from Salfit city	Population
Ariel	1978	1,711	17,559
Barqan Industrial Zone	1981	70	-
Total		1,781	17,559

Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ, 2013

Following the outbreak of the second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000 Israeli occupation authorities established a military checkpoint on the northern entrance of the city, which is represented as an iron gate established near the western entrance of Ariel settlement. Closing the northern entrance of Salfit city has had a negative impact on Palestinians lives during the last decade, as it restricts their freedom of movement and connection with villages north of Salfit Governorate and the rest of the West Bank. This has caused numerous material losses for Palestinians and increased economic burden, as they

are forced to use longer distances in order to reach villages in the north. The closure of this checkpoint, was carried out under the pretext of protecting settlers in Ariel settlement as well as other nearby settlements. This checkpoint represents a part of the Segregation Plan adopted by the occupation forces through the establishment of settlements, annexing them through the Segregation Wall and changing Palestinians' movement, through the establishment of military checkpoints on roads. The checkpoint north of Salfit was closed to Palestinians for more than 10 years and was recently partially opened (during 2011) for public vehicles only (taxis and buses), while private cars are still forbidden to cross it.

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Salfit City

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Salfit residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website (April 30 2007), shows that the existing wall in addition to the planned wall on Salfit city's land to the north and west, extends for 8 km and confiscates 7,916 dunums, (equivalent to 30.3% of the city's total area). The majority of isolated lands planned by the Wall includes agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements established on city lands (See Table 14).

Table 14: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Salfit City – Salfit Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Open Spaces	3,991
2	Agricultural Areas	2,037
3	Israeli Settlements	1,781
4	Wall Zone	73
5	Palestinian Built-up Area	34
Total		7,916
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

The Segregation Wall plan shows the Wall will isolate Salfit city from its neighboring villages to the north and west. Presently there is an existing Wall north of the city and a planned wall to be constructed on the city's western lands. The existing Wall separates the city from its agricultural lands to the north and from Salfit Governorate northern villages, such as Kifl Haris, Haris and Deir Istiya. In addition, upon the completion of the planned wall west of the city, it will isolate the city from many of its agricultural lands and will cut its connection with villages to its west, such as Az Zawiya, Rafat and Deir Ballut, thus imposing a difficult reality on residents of Salfit city and its surrounding villages. This will make Salfit Governorate, in general, an afflicted area because of the Segregation Wall, which will increase the suffering of its residents.

Currently, the Palestinian farmers in Salfit city are denied access to their lands by the Israel occupation authorities as it is isolated behind the Wall. They cannot access their lands without a special permit that can only be issued from the Israeli Liaison Office to pass through special gates built within the Wall. It should be noted that access to isolated agricultural lands is limited only to those farmers that can prove their land ownership to the Israeli Civil Administration. Permits¹⁴ are additionally issued to lands' owners, usually the older residents whom have their names included in the property ownership instruments. In addition, the Israeli Civil Administration issue these permits from a season to another,

¹⁴ Obtaining a permit is not an easy process, and it is usually denied for the owners of the isolated lands.

which makes it difficult for farmers to cultivate their lands themselves, especially that those permits do not allow the labor force or the equipment necessary to plough and cultivate the land.

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 being the second Governorate after Jerusalem in terms of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction (ARIJ-UMD, 2012).

Military Orders Issued in Salfit City

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders and notifications to confiscate lands in Salfit city:

1. Israeli Military Order No. (45/04/T): Issued on 9th May 2004, to confiscate a total area of 267.4 dunums of land in Salfit city and neighboring Iskaka village in order to construct the Israeli Segregation Wall.
2. Israeli Military Order No. (576): Issued on 14th September 2006 by the custodian for “state land” at the Israeli Civil Administration, ordering the evacuation of lands in Salfit city within 45 days under the pretext that the lands are classified by the Israeli Authorities as “State Land”. The order targeted 15 dunums of lands in Salfit city.

Other Israeli Violations Against Salfit City Lands

On April 16, 2012, Salfit city was exposed to new Israeli violations. The Israeli occupation forces, accompanied by an Israeli army bulldozer, invaded “Ath Thaher” area adjacent to Ariel settlement; of which a large part is established on Salfit city lands. Here they destroyed 20 dunums planted with olives and almonds in addition to destroying 180 meters of retaining walls surrounding the land that had been razed. It is worth noting that the lands targeted by Israeli bulldozers have been rehabilitated by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief through a fund from the Dutch Representative within a project to improve the standard of living of poor families in the occupied territories. The dredging of lands came under the pretext that the rehabilitation process took place without a permit issued from the Israeli Civil Administration due to the presence of the targeted area in Area "C" which is subjected to full Israeli control. The razed lands belongs to each of the citizens; Samir Abdul Latif al Masri, Ahmad Dheeb ‘Alqam and his sons; Fat-hi, Shafiq, Mohammad and Iyad.

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

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

Table 15: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Salfit during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing and finishing an additional floor above Salfit Municipality headquarters	Public Services	2010	CHF
Constructing and finishing the gym	Public Services	2010	Ministry of Local Government
Constructing Khirbet Qeis Village Council premises	Public Services	2010	Ministry of Finance
Establishing a sewerage network	Infrastructure	2011	KFW
Constructing a ground water reservoir	Water	2011	KFW
Establishing main water lines	Infrastructure	2012	KFW
Establishing a high water reservoir north-east of Salfit	Water	2012	KFW
Constructing Masqat Boys' Secondary School	Educational	2012	State of Oman

Source: Salfit Municipality, 2012

Proposed Projects

Salfit Municipal Council, in cooperation with the city's civil society organizations and city residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed through several workshops conducted by Salfit Municipality and its civil society organizations through which a strategic city plan of the city was adopted in 2012. The projects are as follows, arranged by sector, from the viewpoints of the workshops' participants:

- **Planning and Organization Sector**
 - Modernizing and expanding the organizational chart of the city.
 - The need for physical planning.
- **Local Economic and Agricultural Sector**
 - Rehabilitating the city's industrial zone.
 - Constructing a trading and services complex.
 - Establishing a small hotel.
 - Establishing a recreational park.
 - Establishing an application college.
 - Constructing and rehabilitating agricultural roads.
 - Land reclamation.
 - Establishing a center for olive oil packaging.
 - Establishing a farm and a dairy products factory.
- **Infrastructure Sector (Water, Electricity, Roads and Sanitation)**
 - Expanding and rehabilitating the electricity network.
 - Expanding and rehabilitating the water network.
 - Rehabilitating the water springs.
 - Expanding the sewerage network.
 - Establishing a wastewater treatment unit.
 - Managing the water pressure from the network, thus reducing the percentage of water loss.
 - Establishing the main trade street.
 - Rehabilitating the main entrance of the trade street.
 - Rehabilitating the city's main northern entrance.

- Developing a parking complex in the city.
- Constructing and rehabilitating secondary and linking roads.
- **Social Services Sector (Education, Health, and Women and Children Empowerment)**
 - Developing and expanding Yasser Arafat Hospital.
 - Establishing a vocational training center.
 - Developing the industrial school.
 - Developing and rehabilitating all of the existing schools.
 - Constructing building for Al Quds Open University.
 - Rehabilitating and expanding the ‘Directorate of Education’ building.
 - Providing a training and empowerment program for city women.
 - Supplying a special project for children and women (popular neighborhoods project).
 - Rehabilitating the headquarters of the women and elderly 's societies.
 - Adjusting the environment and public places for the use of people with special needs.
- **Security and Disaster Management Sector**
 - Constructing and furnishing a headquarters for the Red Crescent Center.
 - Establishing a civil defense headquarters.
- **Culture and Sports Sector**
 - Establishing a multi-purpose cultural youth center.
 - Restoring the Old City buildings.
 - Establishing a football stadium.
- **Environment and Public Health Sector**
 - Providing environmental awareness courses for the city residents.
- **Institutional Construction Sector**
 - Developing the financial and administrative system.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Salbit suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the city, according to the Municipal Council’s perspective.

Table 16: Development Priorities and Needs in Salfit

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and paving roads	*			59.9 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		2 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas		*		2 km
4	Constructing new water networks		*		5 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells and/ or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs		*		500 m ³
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			15 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			10 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			500 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			2
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			additional floor for the hospital
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			expanding Salfit Health Directorate building
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			secondary school for girls
2	Rehabilitating old schools	*			the boys elementary school and the girls elementary school
3	Purchasing new equipment for schools	*			scientific and computer labs
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitating agricultural lands	*			2000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			200 cisterns
3	Constructing livestock barracks	*			20 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		900 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds			*	
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies		*		

[^] 19.9 km main roads, 10 km secondary roads and 30 km are agricultural roads

Source: Salfit Municipality, 2012

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