

# Khirbet Al Shweika Profile



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## ***Background***

This booklet is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in Hebron Governorate. These booklets come as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Hebron 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 Azahar Needs Assessment'; a project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the Azahar Program.

The 'Village Profiles and Azahar 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 Hebron Governorate with particular focus on the Azahar program objectives and activities concerning water, environment, and agriculture.

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 Hebron 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://proxy.arij.org/vprofile/>

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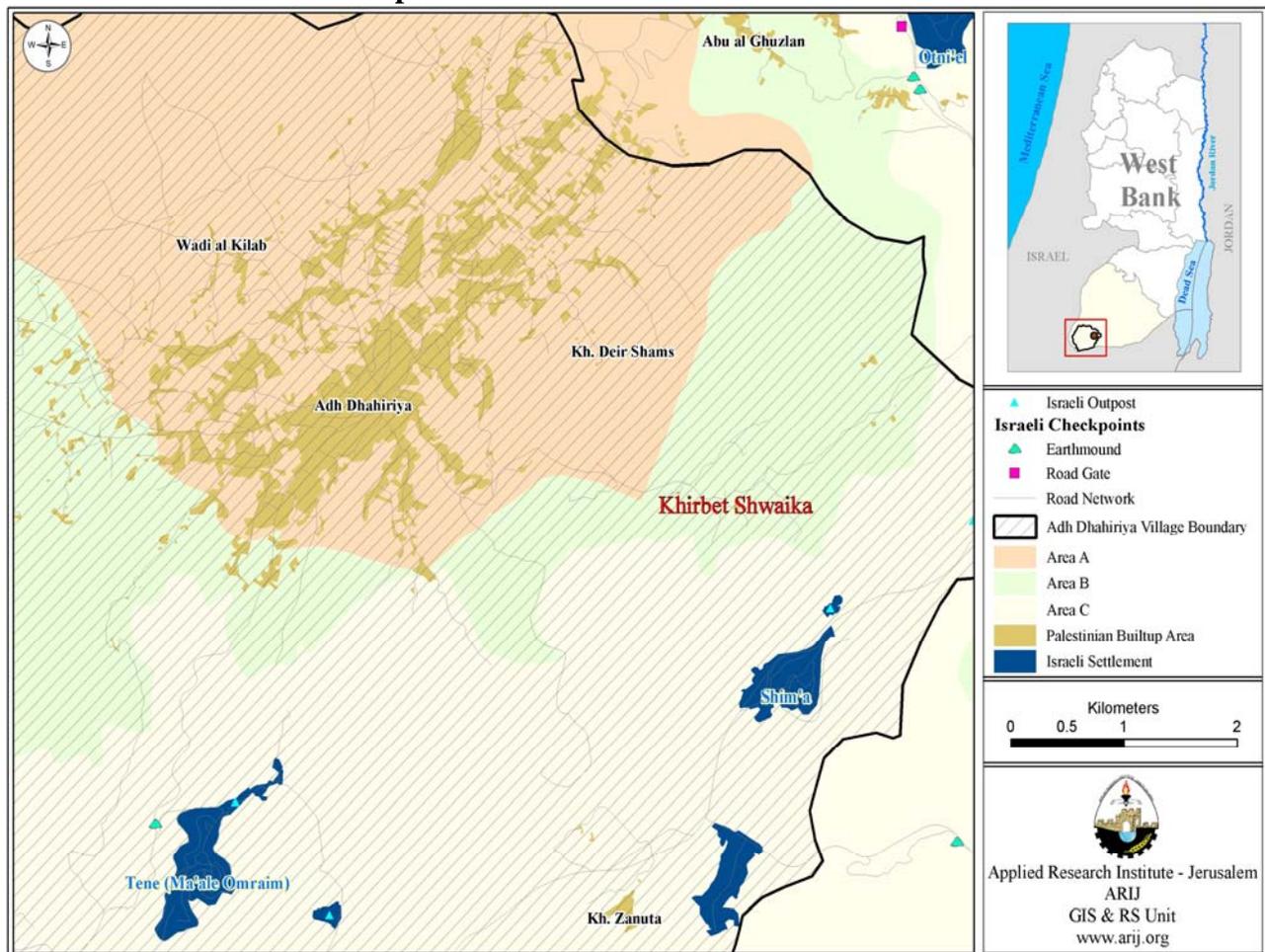
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## *Khirbet Al Shweika Profile*

### Location and Physical Characteristics

Khirbet Al Shweika is a Bedouin village in the Adh Dhahiriya area, located approximately 17 km southwest of Hebron city in the southern West Bank. It is bordered by As Samu' village to the east, Abu al 'Asja village to the north, Adh Dhahiriya city to the west and Zanuta village to the south. It locates on 675 meter above the sea level (Adabag, 1991) (Sharab, 1987). (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Al Shweika location and borders**



Khirbet Al Shwaika is considered a rural area as it meets the criteria relevant to rural areas; it is a Bedouin locality without local authority.

## History

Khirbet Al Shwaika is an old village, with one historical narrative dating the village back to the period of Omar Ibn Al Khatab who built mosque in it. Inhabitants of Al Shweika came to this area around 1950.

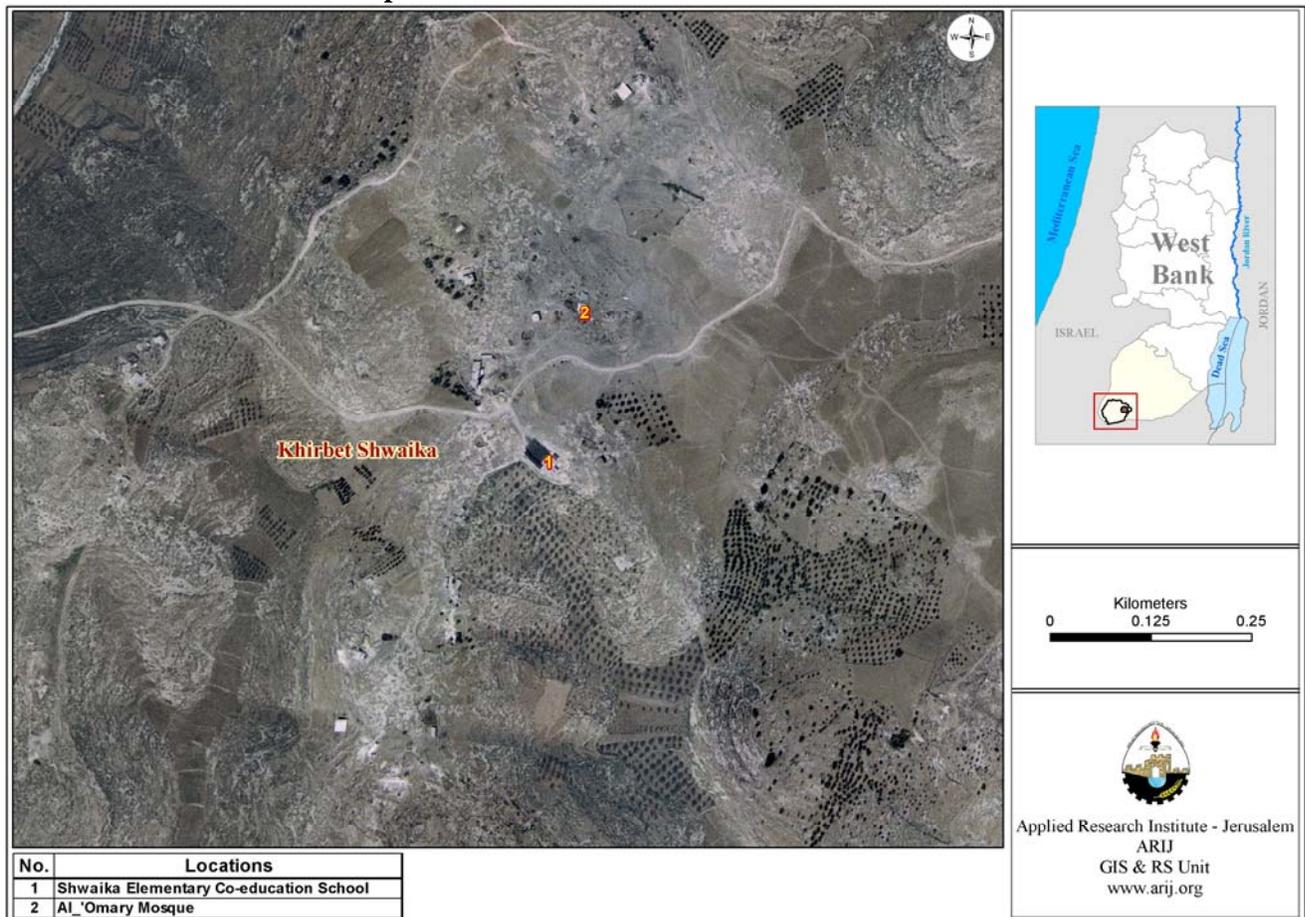
### Photos of Al Shweika



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

One mosque serves the village, “Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque”. There are some destroyed places of archaeological and historical sites in the village (Adabag, 1991) (Sharab, 1987). (*See Map 2*)

Map 2: Main locations in Khirbet Al Shwaika



## Demography and Population

The total population of Khirbet Al Shwaika, in 2007, is estimated to have been 120. This is an estimate number based on the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census of 1997.

## Families

There are three main families in Al Shweika: Samamreh, Battat and At Tel.

## Education

According to the field survey data, Al Shweika Elementary Co-education School is the only school in the village under the supervision by UNRWA. The students in secondary school are forced to travel seven km to Adh Dhahiriya to complete their secondary education.

The educational sector in the Khirbet suffers from the lack of a secondary school and a kindergarten.

### **Health Status**

Al Shweika lacks to any health services and there are no health centers, physician clinics or pharmacies. In the event of emergencies, residents of Al Shweika travel to Adh Dhahiriya (7 km from the village) hospitals and health centers. The officials cite that the main obstacle facing the health sector in the Khirbet is the lack of any health services in the village.

### **Economic Activities**

According to Hebron localities surveys conducted by ARIJ in 2007, Al Shweika residents are primarily dependent upon the agriculture sector for their livelihoods, especially livestock, which all households are rearing and keeping. Khirbet Al Shweika does not have any shops or groceries.

The Khirbet residents often suffer from Jewish settlers who forbid Al Shweika residents from grazing sheep in their pastures.

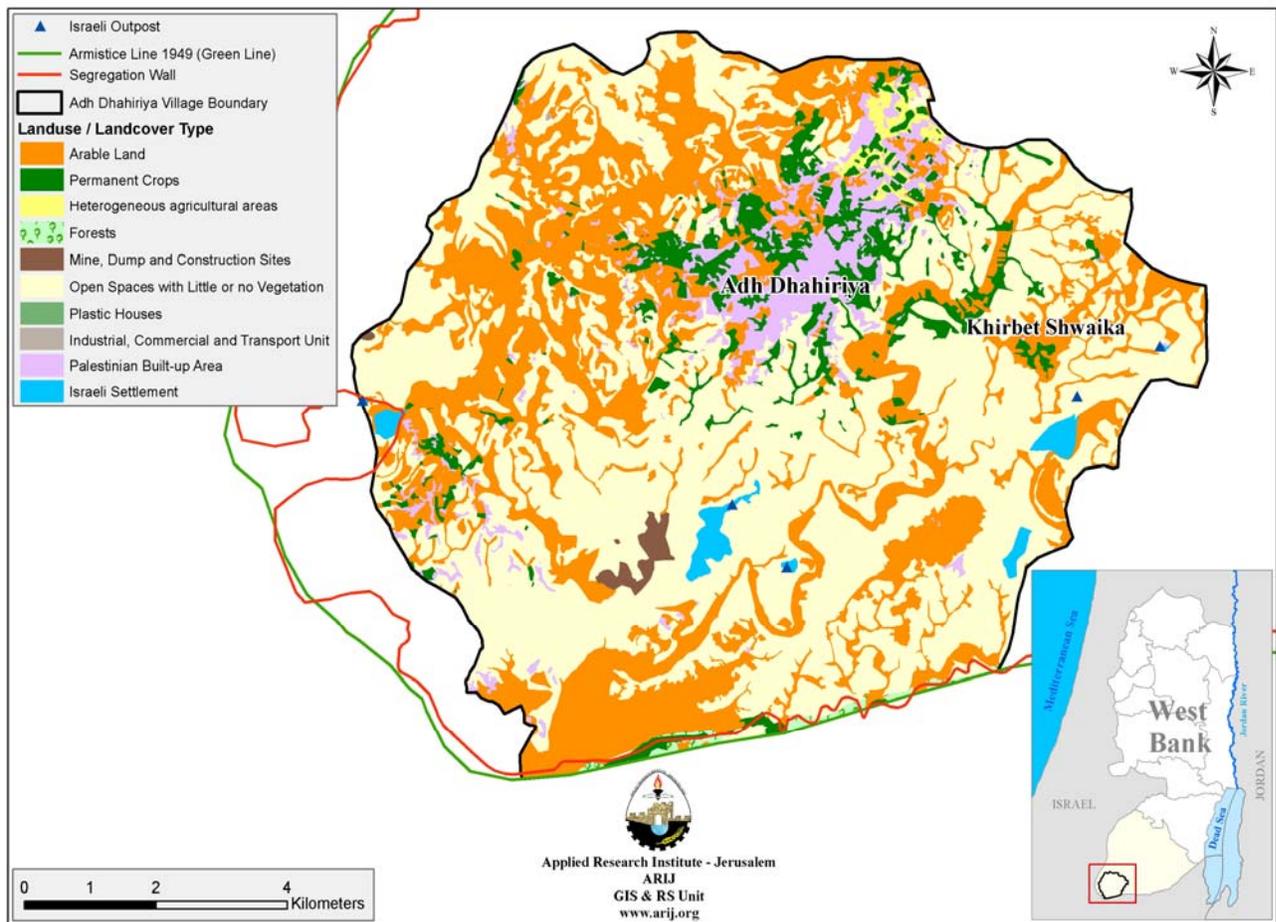
Data indicates that the most affected of social groups in the Khirbet is a result of Israeli restrictions during the Second Intifada was housewives and children.

### **Agricultural Sector**

The total area of Khirbet Al Shwaika is estimated to be 2,000 dunums, of which 500 dunums are Palestinian built-up area, 1,000 dunums are agricultural lands, 200 dunums are forests and open spaces and 300 dunums had been confiscated by the Israeli Forces.

Khirbet Al Shweika lies on a total area of 2,000 dunums, half of which are agriculture lands, though some of these lands are unutilized due to the lack of capital, economic infeasibility and the confiscation of lands by Israeli forces. Khirbet Al Shweika land is mainly cultivated field crops, which are used for animals.

Data collected from Al Shweika village indicates that residents depend on livestock rearing and dairy production. The data indicates that all of the households are rearing and keeping domestic animals. In total there are about 7 cows, 1,700 sheep and 200 goats. (*See Map 3*)

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Khirbet Al Shweika**

There are about 20 km of agricultural roads in Al Shweika that are suitable only for animals, but are insufficient to meet farmers' needs.

The agricultural sector in Khirbet Al Shweika suffers from many problems including the lack of pasturelands and the fact that the locality is remote and where services are not received.

## Institutions and Services

Khirbet Al Shwaika is a Bedouin locality and lacks institutes and services.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

**Telecommunication Services:** Al Shweika is not connected to a telecommunication network.

**Water Services:** Al Shweika has been connected to the water network since 1979, which is supplied from nearby As Samu' village; nearly 25% of the households are connected to the network. Alternative resources of water in the village are water tankers.

**Electricity Services:** Al Shweika village is not connected to electricity network, and though a few people have electric generators, this remains the main problem of electricity services in the village.

**Sewage Disposal Facilities:** As the village is not connected to the sewage disposal network, wastewater is disposed of in cesspits.

**Solid Waste Collection Services:** There is no solid waste management in Al Shweika. Residents dispose of solid waste at random burning sites.

**Transportation Facilities:** The village has no transportation network and residents walk or use animals to reach other localities. The primary obstacles to transportation in the village are the lack of maintenance of main roads and the lack of vehicles and automotive services. In terms of road quality, 6 km of main roads are unpaved.

### **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

Al Shweika is surrounded by one Israeli settlement, the Sham'a settlement (مستوطنة شمعة), to the south, which occupies 250 dunums of Al Shweika lands.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Al Shweika village officials, the village suffers from a shortage of many infrastructural and service needs. Table 1 below shows the development priorities and needs in the village.

<b>Table 1: Development priorities and needs for of Al Shweika village</b>						
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*				17km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks				*	
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks				*	
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs				*	
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				10 km
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network	*				
<b>Health Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centre	*				
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres				*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipments and Tools				*	
<b>Educational Needs</b>						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Secondary
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools				*	
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools	*				
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				1000 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				20 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock	*				20 barracks
4	Veterinary Services	*				
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals	*				
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses				*	
7	Field Crops Seeds	*				
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*				

^ 6 km main roads, 1 k m internal roads, and 10 km agricultural roads

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