

Surif Town 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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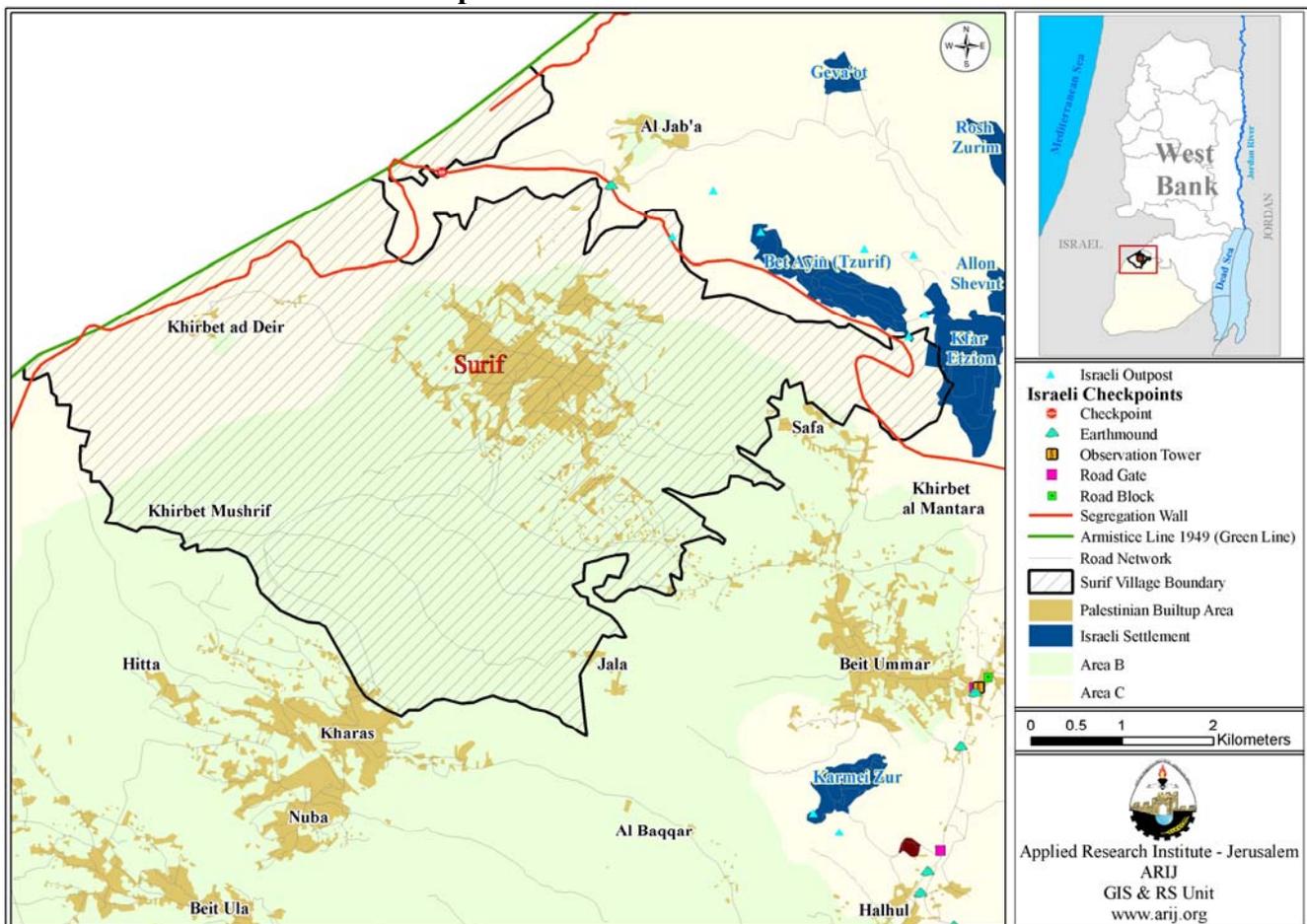
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Surif Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Surif is a town in Hebron Governorate located 18 km north of Hebron city in the southern part of the West Bank. Located between Hebron and Bethlehem Governorates, the town is bordered by Beit Ummar and Safa to the east, Al Jab'a to the north (Bethlehem Governorate), the 1949 Armistice Line (the Green Line) to the west, and Kharas to the south (See map 1).

Map 1: Surif location and borders



Surif extends over a mountainous area west of the Halhul Mountains, at an elevation of 537 m above sea level. Mean annual rainfall in Surif town is 660.2 mm; the average annual temperature is 15.7° C, and the average annual humidity is 60.7 % (ARIJ GIS).

From 1965 to mid 1997, Surif town was governed by a Village Council, which was handed over to a municipal council appointed by the Palestinian Authority in 1997.

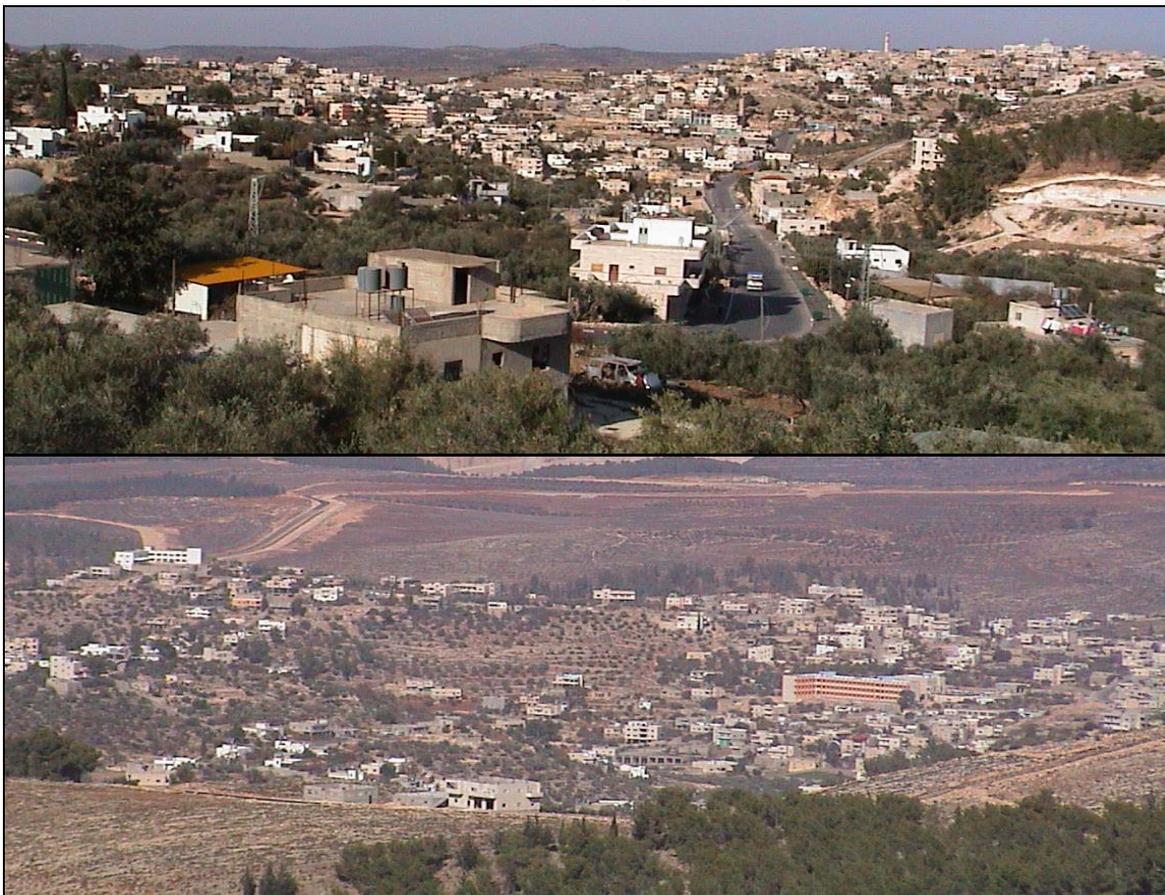
In 2005, a new council was elected comprised of 13 members and 21 full-time employees. The municipal council operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development, organizing and issuing building licenses;
2. Infrastructural maintenance of water, electricity, solid waste collection, open and paved roads and the distribution of social services.

History

The name Surif comes from the Syriac word “Srifā” meaning 'to cast money'. (Dabbagh, 1991)

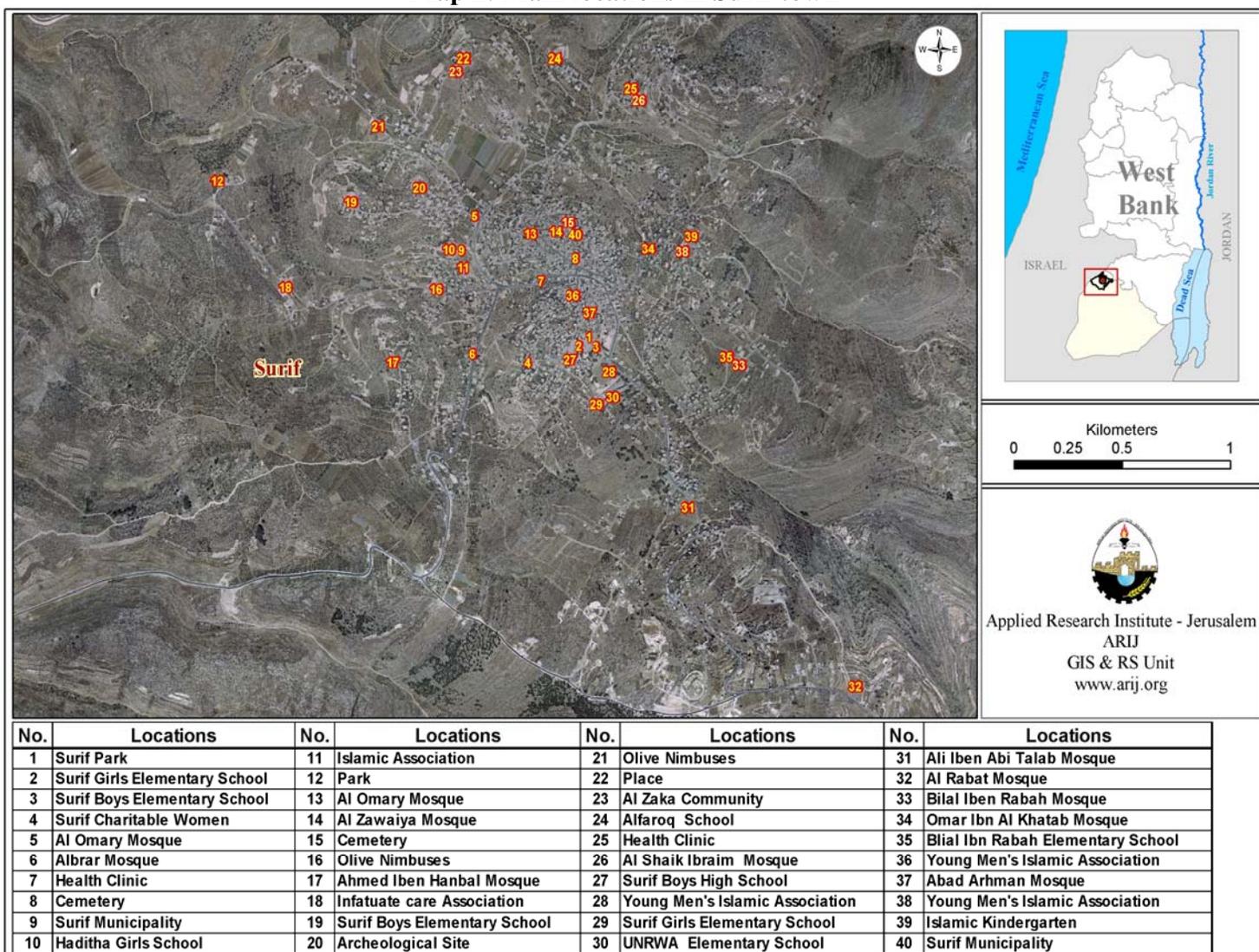
Photos of Surif



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are 16 mosques in Surif, 13 of them are completed and three are under construction. There are three archaeological sites in the town: the Place and Mosque of “Abu Ubeida Amer Ibn Al Jarah” located in Khirbet Hajren, and Jouret Al Samqa and Taqet Al Rahma sites. (See map 2)

Map 2: Main locations in Surif town



Population

According to the 2007 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Census, the total population of Surif in 2007 was approximately 13,365 residents, of whom 6,748 were males and 6,617 were females. Furthermore, there were 2,151 households living in 2,351 housing units. The population of Surif town constitutes approximately 2.42% of the total population of Hebron Governorate, earning it a rural area designation.

Age Group and Gender

The 2007 Census showed the distribution of the Surif population by age group and sex, the largest group between 15-64 year of age constituting 55.1% of the total population, followed by the 0-14 age group which constituted 41.2%, and the age group 65 and above, which constituted

3.1% of the total population. The sex ratio in the town was 102 males for every 100 females, with males making up 50.5% of the population and females 49.5%.

Families

The population of Surif is comprised of the following families among others: Al Tawayha, Ghnemat, Barad'ya, Hmedat, Abu Fara, Hdosh and Abu Saleh, Al Heh, and 'Abed.

Education

According to the 2007 Population Census, approximately 5.6% of Surif's residents were illiterate; of those, 66.5% were women. Of the literate population, 10.4% of the residents could read and write, 22.9% had completed elementary education, 31.3% had completed preparatory education, 16.7% completed their secondary education and 9% had an associate diploma or bachelor degrees. There are also 52 individuals, who attained a postgraduate degree. Table 1 shows the education status in Surif by sex and education attainment in 2007.

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	175	526	1,149	1,484	800	218	386	11	28	8	4,785
F	344	454	1,001	1,456	768	162	403	2	3	-	4,596
T	519	980	2,150	2,940	1,568	380	789	13	31	8	9,381

Source: PCBS, 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, Final Results

The field survey data specifies that there are three levels of education in Surif town: pre-school (kindergartens), elementary and secondary education, and that there are nine schools, of which five are for males, three schools are for females and one for both sexes. The government supervises six of the schools, two are run by UNRWA, and one is a private school. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority is shown in table 2.

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1.	Surif Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Male	Governmental
2.	Surif Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
3.	Shohada' Surif Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
4.	Belal Ben Rabah Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
5.	Amor Ben Ala's Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Male	Governmental
6.	Surif Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Female	Governmental
7.	Surif Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Female	UNRWA
8.	Surif Second Girls Elementary School *	Elementary	Female	UNRWA
9.	Al Sanapel Private School	Elementary	Co-education	Private

*The school is under construction

Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) data shows that in the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were 113 classes, 4,260 students and 146 teachers in Surif town (See table 3).

		Government	Private	UNRWA	Total
Male	No. of Schools	5	-	-	5
	No. of class	57	-	-	57
	No. of Teachers	75	-	-	75
	No. of Students	2,088	-	-	2,088
Female	No. of Schools	1	-	2	3
	No. of class	13	-	41	54
	No. of Teachers	20	-	48	68
	No. of Students	526	-	1,607	2,133
Co-education	No. of Schools	-	1	-	1
	No. of class	-	2	-	2
	No. of Teachers	-	3	-	3
	No. of Students	-	39	-	39

Source: Ministry of Higher Education –Hebron Directorate -2006/2007

In the 2006/2007 scholastic year there were three kindergartens in Surif providing pre-school education services to 271 children. Table 4 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Number of Classes	Number of Children	Number of Teachers	Supervising Authority
1.	Islamic Youth Society Kindergarten	4	119	5	Charitable Society
2.	Surif Children Islamic Kindergarten	3	72	4	Private
3.	Surif Society Kindergarten	3	80	3	Charitable Society

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

Municipality officials cite a shortage of classrooms, and the generally poor conditions of school buildings as the main problems with education in Surif.

Health Status

The data collected from the town shows that the main health centres for the town are private sector initiatives, with seven private clinics, two private medical labs and one private health centre, “Samir Medical Centre”. Data indicates that the governmental sector runs a Health Centre, Maternity and Child Centre and a medical lab. In addition, there is a charitable health centre clinic and physiotherapy centre run by a charitable society. There are also five pharmacies in the town. Table 5 shows the number of health institutions in Surif town.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO
Physician Clinic	-	7	1	-
Dental Clinic	-	3	-	-
Health Clinic	1	1	1	-
X- Ray Centre	-	-	-	-
Medical Lab	1	2	-	-
Maternity & Pediatric Center	1	-	-	-
Pharmacy	-	5	-	-
Other (Physiotherapy)	-	-	1	-
Total	3	18	3	0

Source: ARIJ database, 2006

Residents of the town are forced to travel to Hebron city (18 km from the town) or Bethlehem city (23 km from the town) to receive treatment in emergency situations or shortage in health services.

Surif health services suffer from many problems, which include:

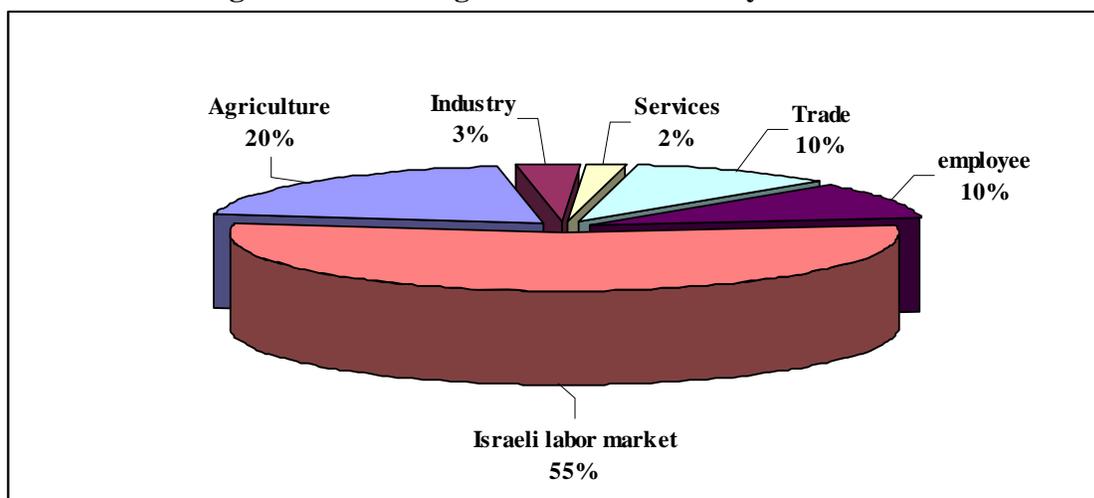
1. Difficulty in reaching nearby hospitals in emergency cases;
2. Lack of an advanced emergency centre;
3. Lack of necessary medical equipment;
4. No ambulance in the town; and
5. Negative affects of the Israeli closure system.

Economic Activities

According to municipality data, most of Surif residents are dependent on the Israeli labor market, with nearly 43% of the population working inside Israel. In addition to working in the Israeli labor market, the economic base of Surif is dependent on agricultural activities as 40.7% of Surif lands are agricultural lands.

The data listed below, collected from the municipality in 2007, demonstrates the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy:

- Israeli Labor Market 55%
- The Agriculture Sector 20%
- The Trade and Commercial Sector 10%
- Employee in Governmental or Private institutions 10%
- The Industrial Sector 3%
- The Service Sector 2%

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in Surif town

A nearby industrial zone with numerous industrial establishments including three stone cutters, five bakeries, three sewing industries (tailors), two olive presses, nine blacksmiths workshops, four carpentry workshops, four butcheries, ten clothing stores, 53 shops and groceries, and ten other services stores provide key services for Surif's residents. The main industrial establishments in the town are Al Zaytona Consumer Institution and Surif Consumer Cooperative Society.

Based on ARIJ survey, unemployment in Surif town in 2007 was 40%. The survey also indicated that the social groups most affected in the town by the Israeli restrictions during the second Intifada were:

- 1) Previous workers in the Israeli labor and markets,
- 2) Families with six individuals and more,
- 3) Housekeepers and children,
- 4) Small- scale farmers, and
- 5) Small- scale traders.

Labour Force

The 2007 Population Census showed that about 72% of the population of Surif were within the working age group defined as 10 years and above. Of the 9,381 people of working age, 2,957 (31.5%) were economically active (in the labor force) and 6,419 people (68.5%) were not economically active (outside the labour force). Of the economically active population, 85.2% were males and 14.8% were females. Labor force statistics show that 74.3% were employed, 9.9% were unemployed and 15.7% were unemployed and had never worked. The largest groups of non-economically active people were students and housekeepers, constituting 59.3% and 30.1% of the non-economically active population respectively. Table 6 details labour force statistics in Surif town from 2007.

Table 6: Surif population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never worked)	Total	Students	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking for work	Other	Total	
M	1,847	274	399	2,520	1,863	2	301	21	74	2,261	4,785
F	351	20	66	437	1,945	1,929	224	6	54	4,158	4,596
T	2,198	294	465	2,957	3,808	1,931	525	27	128	6,419	9,381

Source: PCBS, March 2009. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, results

Agricultural Sector

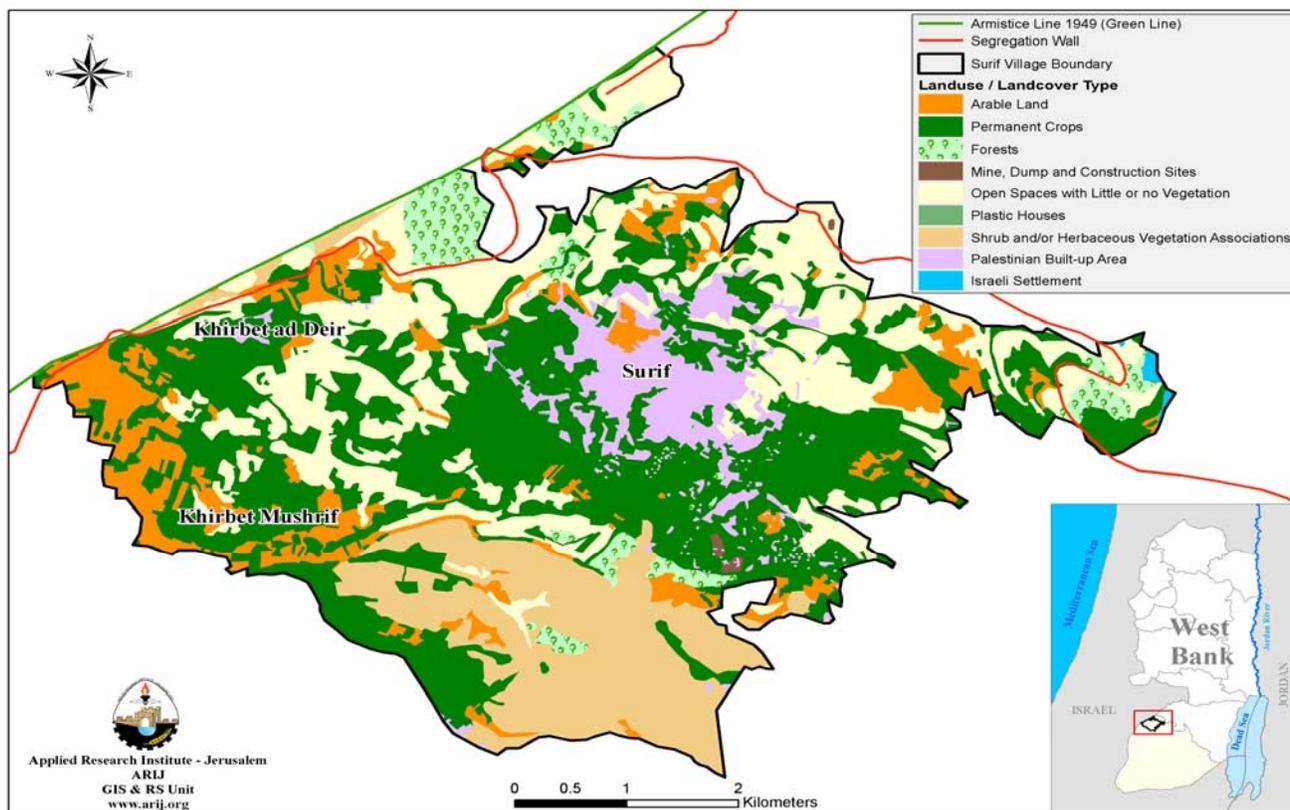
The total area of Surif town is 31,600 dunums, with 13,500 dunums of arable land, of which 8,457 dunums are cultivated. The forest area in the town equals about 400 dunums, while the open spaces and rangeland area is about 9,700 dunums (See table 7).

Table 7: Land Use in Surif Town (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Uncultivated Area	Cultivated Area			
31,600	5,043	8,457	8,000	400	9,700

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land Use/ land Cover and Segregation Wall route in Surif town



In Surif, there are four dunums of greenhouses planted with tomatoes and summer cucumber; there are no tunnels in Surif town.

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of Surif. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated covering an area of about 151 dunums, while irrigated root vegetables are cultivated over a total area of 41 dunums. The most common fruity vegetables cultivated within this area are tomatoes, snake cucumber and squash, while the most common root vegetables cultivated are radishes and turnips.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		bulbs		Other vegetables		Total	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
151	27	3	26	10	20	0	41	15	25	179	139

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

In the town of Surif, there is a total area of 6,035 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are mostly plum trees, fig trees and grape vines.

Olives Trees		Stone-Fruits Trees		Pome Fruits Trees		Nuts Trees		Other fruit Trees		Total area	
RF	Irr	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.	RF	Irr.
6,035	0	65	0	7	0	30	0	287	0	6424	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the town of Surif. Cereals, in particular, wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 1,120 dunums. In addition, the residents of Surif town cultivate chick-peas and lentils.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Forage Crops		Stimulating Crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
1,120	0	45	0	125	0	70	0	25	0	1,385	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

The survey data indicates that Surif residents are rearing livestock and about 10% of the residents breed domestic animals. There are 51 cows, 1,000 goats, 2,400 sheep, and 30 donkeys in addition to 21 poultry farms with an estimated total of 264,000 birds. There are also 112 beehives in Surif town as shown in table 11.

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Donkeys	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
51	2,400	1,000	30	250,000	14,000	112

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

The public water network is the main source of water for irrigation in the town. There are about 61 km of agricultural roads in Surif, largely considered insufficient but suitable for driving agricultural machines and vehicles. There are two agricultural societies active in the town: Livestock Society and Wadi Al Sour Society.

Israeli forces have destroyed 556 olive trees, 123 grape vines, 37 almond trees and 112 other trees that belong to Surif residents since the beginning of the Second Intifada.

Municipal officials cite that the agricultural sector suffers from an insufficient supply of water, lack of sufficient agricultural equipment, lack of capital, a weak domestic market, as well as the infeasibility of cultivating certain areas due to the Israeli occupation.

Institutions and Services

There are no national institutions or ministerial offices in Surif except for a post office. Listed below are the local institutions in Surif:

1. Surif Municipality: Established in 1997, it provides public services to the residents.
2. Rural Youth Charitable Society: Established 1964.
3. Youth Islamic Society: Established in 1999, it provides educational and training services for youth.
4. Orphan Care Society: Established in 1984, it provides care, education and cultural services for orphans.
5. Surif Women Society: Established 1976.
6. Surif Youth Sports Club: Established in 1998, it provides and develops physical and cultural services for youth.
7. Surif Women Club: It provides educational and care services to the women in the town.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Surif town is connected to the telephone network and approximately 50% of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water Services:** Surif has been connected with the water network since 1973 and nearly 95% of the housing units are connected to the network. The main source of water in the town is the Israeli Water Company (MEKOROT), though alternative sources of water in the town exist, including cisterns, water tanks and springs. The town has seven springs, though only Al Mezra'a, "Ein Kalafa, and Wad Helwas springs are currently in use. These springs are used solely as watering holes for livestock. In addition, the town has a water reservoir of 140 cubic meters. The water services in Surif are suffering from many problems such as:

1. Lack of water accessibility in the higher regions of the towns;
2. Insufficient capacity of water reservoir in the town.

- **Electricity Services:** Surif connected to the electricity network in 1993 and approximately 93% of the housing units in the town are currently connected to the network. Surif municipality manages the distribution of electricity, which is supplied by the Israeli National Electricity Company (Qutria). Some areas in the town suffer from a weak electrical current.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Surif is not connected with a sewage network, necessitating the disposal of wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater. In addition, municipal officials state that the residents in the north of Surif town suffer from the waste water from the Israeli settlement of Kfar Etzion.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** The Surif Municipality, in cooperation with the Joint Services Council for Planning and Development, North West Hebron, manages solid waste in the town, utilizing the municipality's own garbage car to collect solid waste from the residential area in the town. Solid waste is collected daily from the residential area and transported 16 km to a dumping site operated by the Joint Services Council. Burning is the main method used to dispose of solid waste.
- **Transportation Services:** Transportation in the town consists of six buses and 22 taxis. There are 86.3 km of roads in Surif town, 39 km are paved and in good condition, of which 3.5 m are main roads, 12.5 km are internal roads and 23 km are agricultural roads. Out of the 5.9 km paved roads and in bad condition, 3.7 km are main roads and 2.2 km are internal roads. In addition, there are 41.4 km unpaved roads, in which 3.4 km are internal roads and 38 km are agricultural.

Table 12: The condition of roads and their length in Surif town			
Road Condition	Length of Roads (km)		
	Main Roads	Internal Roads	Agricultural Roads
Paved (in good condition)	3.5	12.5	23
Paved (in bad condition)	3.7	2.2	-
Unpaved	-	3.4	38
Total	7.2	18.1	61

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

The total area of land confiscated from Surif town by the Israeli forces since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000 is approximately 1,213 dunums. Surif town is surrounded to the south by the Israeli settlement of Kfar Etzoin. In addition to settlements, the town is subjected to one permanent checkpoint, three flying checkpoints, two roadblocks, and three iron gates. These checkpoints place restrictions on residents' movement, for example, making it difficult to access health services in other localities, hindering physicians in reaching clinics and health centres, interfering with teachers and students in accessing schools and universities, as well as limiting farmers' access to their lands.

Construction of the segregation wall to the north, northeast and west of the town began in September 2004. Approximately 1,300 dunums of Surif lands will be isolated behind the wall on completion of its proposed path. A 1 km wire segment of the wall has been constructed on 200

dunums of confiscated town lands and a further four kilometers of the wall are currently being planned. As a direct result of the wall, the Israeli forces have destroyed approximately 556 olive trees, as well as 123 grape vines, 37 almond trees and 112 other.

Implemented Development Plans and Projects

As Surif is suffering from a shortage of decent infrastructural and developmental services, the town municipality established a plan for development projects in the region. Since 2004, the municipality has implemented four projects funded by external donors, including:

No.	Project name	Type	Funded by	Date
1	Paved internal roads	Infrastructure	European Union & Surif Municipality	2005
2	Established retaining Wall	Infrastructure	The German Government & KFW	2005
3	Rehabilitated the water network	Infrastructure	European Union	2005
4	Surif Garden Children	Infrastructure	Italian Government & Surif Municipality	2005

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to Surif municipality studies, the town has been suffering from a shortage of many infrastructural services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the town.

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Moderately Needed	Not Needed	Notes
Infrastructural Needs						
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads		*			35 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks		*			
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			32 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs		*			2,000 m ³
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas		*			16 km
6	Construction of Sewage Disposal Network		*			
Health Needs						
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			*		
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools	*				Elementary for Boys School
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools			*		Elementary Schools
3	Purchasing of New Equipments for Schools		*			
Agriculture Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands			*		8,000 dunums
2	Building Cisterns			*		
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*		
4	Veterinary Services			*		
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*		
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*		
7	Field Crops Seeds			*		
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies			*		

^ 8 km main roads, 12 km internal roads, and 15 km agricultural roads

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