

As Samu' Town Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation



Azahar program

2009

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project through the Azahar Program.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

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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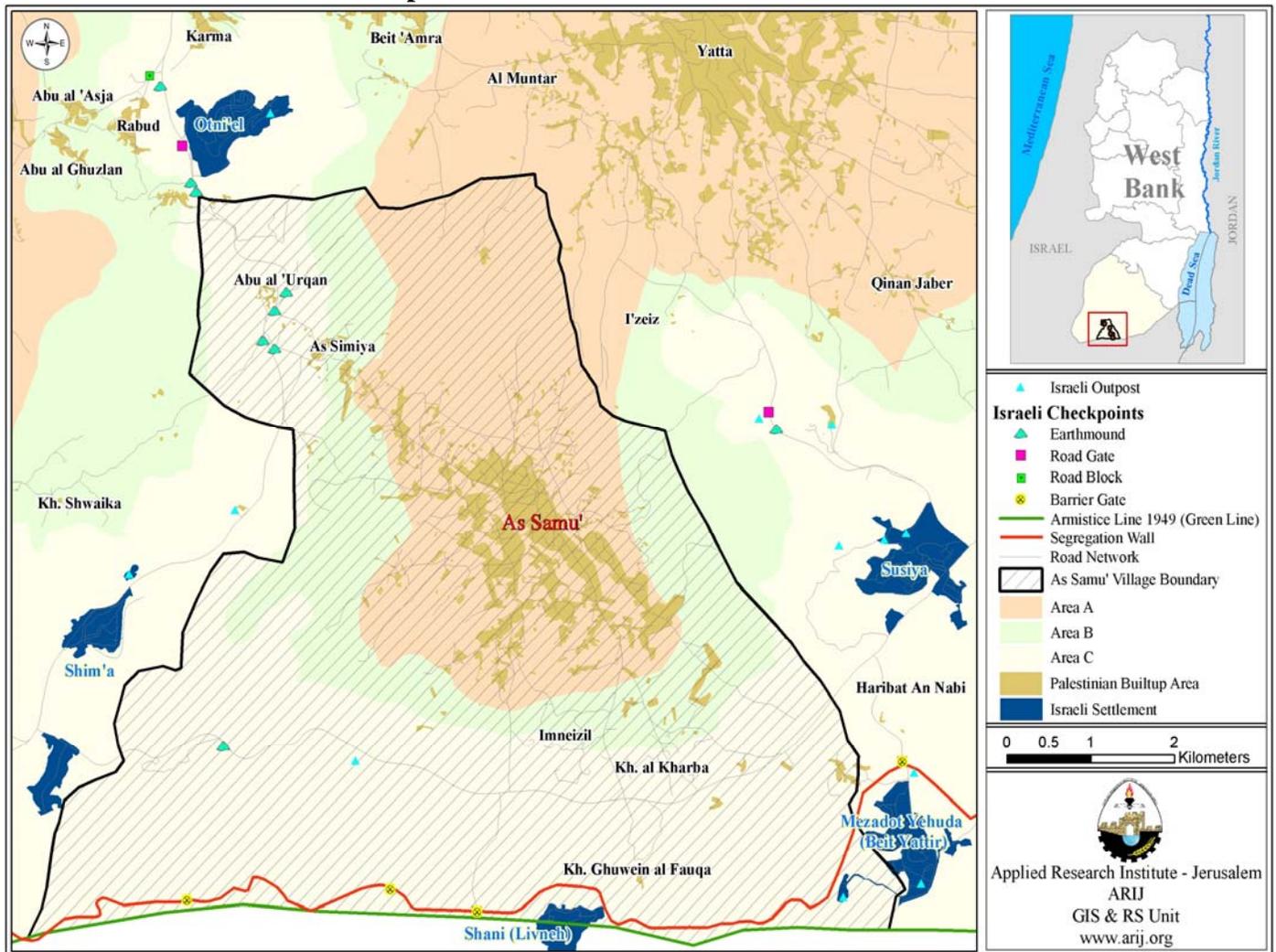
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As Samu' Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

As Samu' is a town located 22 km south of Hebron City in Hebron Governorate along the Green Line. It is bordered by Yatta Town to the east, Yatta Town and Ar Rihya to the north, Adh Dhahiriya to the west and the Green Line to the south.

Map 1: As Samu' town location and borders



As Samu' town sits at an elevation of 705 m above sea level. The mean annual rainfall in the town is 306 mm, the average annual temperature is 18 °C, and the average annual humidity is 61% (ARIJ GIS).

A village Council of aldermen ran the affairs of As Samu' town from 1965 to 1997. In 1997, the Ministry of Local Government of the Palestinian National Authority established As Samu' Municipality, which is now directed by many younger people.. The ministry has appointed 13 members including a mayor of the municipality, in addition to 43 employees to direct the municipality affairs.

As Samu' Municipality has six departments to facilitate services for the residents:

1.	Administration
2.	Accounting
3.	Health
4.	Engineering
5.	Water
6.	Electricity

History

As Samu' is an ancient town that dates back to the Canaanite period. As Samu' derives its name from the word "Estamou" (استموع), which means obedience, and current residents trace their lineages from Arab tribes of the Arabian Peninsula.

As Simiya, Rafat, Wad al Amayer and Umm Ghanem are four small communities that are included in the As Samu' municipality.

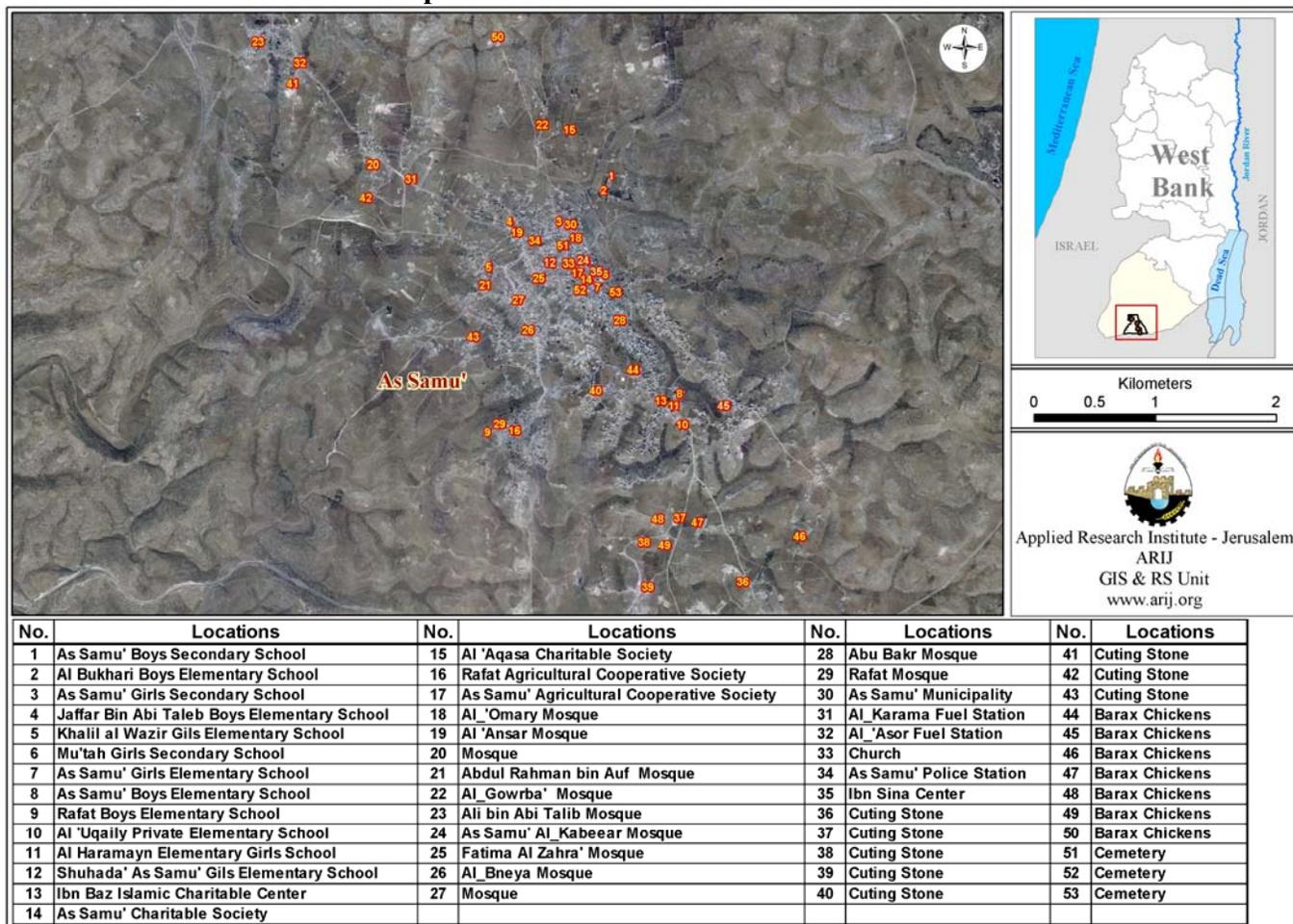
Photos of As Samu'



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are 21 mosques in As Samu' providing religious services to residents. As Samu' also is of historical and archaeological importance, with an ancient Romanian church and the ruins of a historical prison, both of which are used for recreational and tourist purposes.

Map 2: Main locations in As Samu' town



Demography and Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in 2007, the total population of As Samu' town was 19,649, of which 9,963 were males and 9,686 were females. There were 2,950 households living in 3,220 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The 2007 Census data shows the population of As Samu' town by age groups and sex. Data shows that 45.7% of the population is less than 15 years of age, 50.7% are in the age group 15-64 years and 2.7% are 65 years and above. In 2007, the sex ratio in the town was in 103 males for every 100 females; males constituted 50.7% of the population whereas females constituted 49.3%.

Families

The residents of As Samu' are comprised of eight main families, listed below by name and percentage of the total population:

Al Hawadah , Al Mahareeq , Abu Awwad, Ad Daghameen , Ar Rawashdah Al Badareen , Al Salameen , Az Za'areer .

Education

According to the 2007 Census, 10.3% of the residents were illiterate. Women comprised a larger percentage of the illiterate population, 74%, than men. Of the literate population, 16.5% of residents could read and write, 27.5% completed elementary education, 23.8% completed preparatory education, 13.5% completed their secondary education, 2.4% received associated diplomas, and 6% received academic degrees in specialized fields. Table 1 shows the education status in As Samu' by sex and education attainment in 2007.

S e x	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Master	PhD	Not stated	Total
M	356	1,096	1,927	1,611	943	180	494	4	9	6	6,657
F	996	1,066	1,676	1,506	827	138	240	2	-	6	6,459
T	1,352	2,162	3,603	3,117	1,770	318	734	6	9	12	13,116

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

The field survey conducted in 2007 showed that there are 15 governmental and private schools in As Samu' town providing elementary and secondary education. Of the 15 schools, six are for males, five are for females and four schools are co-educational. The number of schools by name, stage, sex and supervising authority shows in Table 2.

No.	School Name	Stage	Sex	Supervising Authority
1	As Samu' Boys Secondary School	Secondary	Males	Governmental
2	As Samu' Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Males	Governmental
3	Al Bukhari Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Males	Governmental
4	Jaffar Bin Abi Taleb Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Males	Governmental
5	Rafat Boys Elementary School	Elementary	Males	Governmental
6	Jaffar Boys Elementary School (B)	Elementary	Males	Governmental
7	As Samu' Girls Secondary School	Secondary	Females	Governmental
8	As Samu' Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Females	Governmental
9	Mu'tah Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Females	Governmental
10	Khalil al Wazir Gils Elementary School	Elementary	Females	Governmental
11	Al Haramayn Elementary Girls School	Elementary	Females	Governmental
12	Rafat Girls Elementary School	Elementary	Co-Education	Governmental
13	Shuhada' As Samu' Gils Elementary School	Elementary	Co-Education	Governmental
14	As Simiya Coeducational Elementary School	Elementary	Co-Education	Governmental
15	Al 'Uqaily Private Elementary School	Elementary	Co-Education	Private

2006/2007 scholastic year data from the Ministry of Higher Education recorded 182 classes, 249 teachers and 6,397 Students in As Samu' (See table 3).

Gender	Schools	Class	Teachers	Students
Male	6	81	116	3,229
Female	5	77	133	3,168
Coeducational	4	24	-	-
Total	15	182	249	6,397

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

In 2007, five kindergartens in As Samu' town provided pre-school coeducation services to 498 children. Table 4 shows the number of kindergartens by name, number of children and supervising authority.

No.	Kindergarten Name	Classes	Children	Supervising Authority
1	Al 'Uqaily Private Kindergarten	5	97	Private
2	As Samu' Charitable Society Developmental Kindergarten	4	141	Charitable
3	Nour al Iman Kindergarten	5	150	Charitable
4	As Simiya (Sanabel al Iman) Kindergarten	2	40	Private
5	Rafat Society Kindergarten	3	70	Charitable

Though there has been much progress within education in As Samu' town, the town continues to face obstacles in the development of the sector. For example, due to the increase in student enrolment, there is a shortage of classrooms and schools in the town. In addition, some town schools are leased and not owned by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Health Status

The health sector in As Samu' is well developed compared to the surrounding towns. There are many private, governmental and charitable health facilities in the town as shown in Table 5.

Institution	Governmental	Private	Charitable	NGO	Total
Physician Clinic	1	5	1	-	7
Dental Clinic	-	4	-	-	4
Medical Center	-	1	1	-	2
X- Ray Center	-	1	-	-	1
Medical Lab	-	2	1	-	3
Maternity & Pediatric Center	2	-	-	-	2
Physiotherapy Clinic	-	1	-	-	1
Total	3	14	3	-	20

There are also six pharmacies for dispensing medicine and one ambulance to transport the sick and injured. In case of emergencies or for medical care that is unavailable within the town boundaries, residents travel to Hebron City (22 km) or to Yatta (8 km) to receive health services and treatment.

In spite of the functional health facilities in the town, the health sector still lacks specialized clinics and does not provide sufficient medical care.

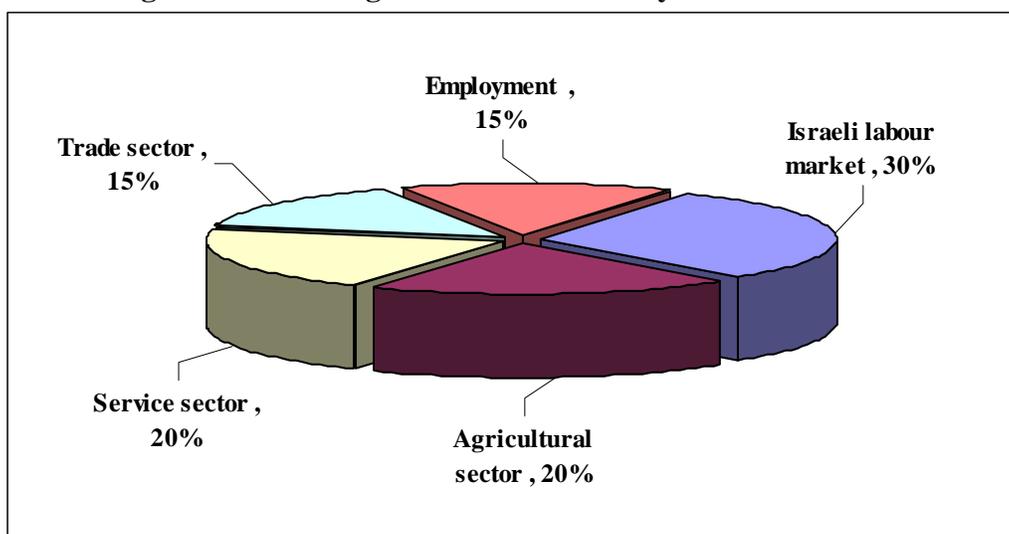
Economic Activities

Considering As Samu's location bordering the Green Line and the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank, a significant percentage, 30%, of residents were dependent on the Israeli labor market for their livelihoods. The town economic base also depends on economic activities such as agriculture, industry, trade and public and private sector employment.

The 2007 ARIJ survey showed the distribution of the population working across various sectors to the As Samu' economy:

- The Israeli labor market 30%
- The agriculture sector 20%
- The service sector 20%
- The trade sector 15%
- The employee sector 15%

Figure 1: Percentage of economic activity in As Samu' town



The most important industrial institutions in the town include a meat factory, stone cutting factories and brick manufacturing workshops; in addition, there are approximately 120 groceries, seven clothing shops, two butchers, nine blacksmithry workshops, seven carpentry workshops, 10 service shops and another 20 commercial institutes.

Based on the survey conducted in 2007 by ARIJ in Hebron Governorate localities, the unemployment rate has increased to 60% since the beginning of the Second Intifada. The social groups most affected in the town by Israeli procedures were: 1) Previous workers in the Israeli labour market, 2) Families maintaining six individuals and more, 3) Small traders and 4) Small farmers.

Labor Force

The 2007 Census labor force statistics in As Samu' town showed that approximately 66.7% of the total population of the town were within the working age group of 10 years and older. The percentage of women in the age of 10 years and above was 49.2% (6,459 women in total). Of the working age population, 29% were economically active and 71% were non-economically active. Of the economically active, 91.2% were males and 8.8% were females. The largest groups of the non-economically active population were students and housekeeping, constituting 53.8% and 35.3% of the non-economically active population, respectively. Table 6 shows labor force statistics in As Samu' town in 2007.

Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active							Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (Never Worked)	Total	Students	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	Not stated	
M	2,810	277	360	3,447	2,554	18	458	51	107	3,188	22	6,657
F	257	10	66	333	2,452	3,265	335	11	59	6,122	4	6,459
T	3,067	287	426	3,780	5,006	3,283	793	62	166	9,310	26	13,116

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

Agricultural Sector

While the agricultural sector is generally considered very important as the main productive sector of rural Palestine, the agricultural sector in As Samu' plays a very limited role in the town economy. Lack of water resources, lack of capital and lack of good economical feasibility study are some of the problems standing in the way of agricultural development in the town.

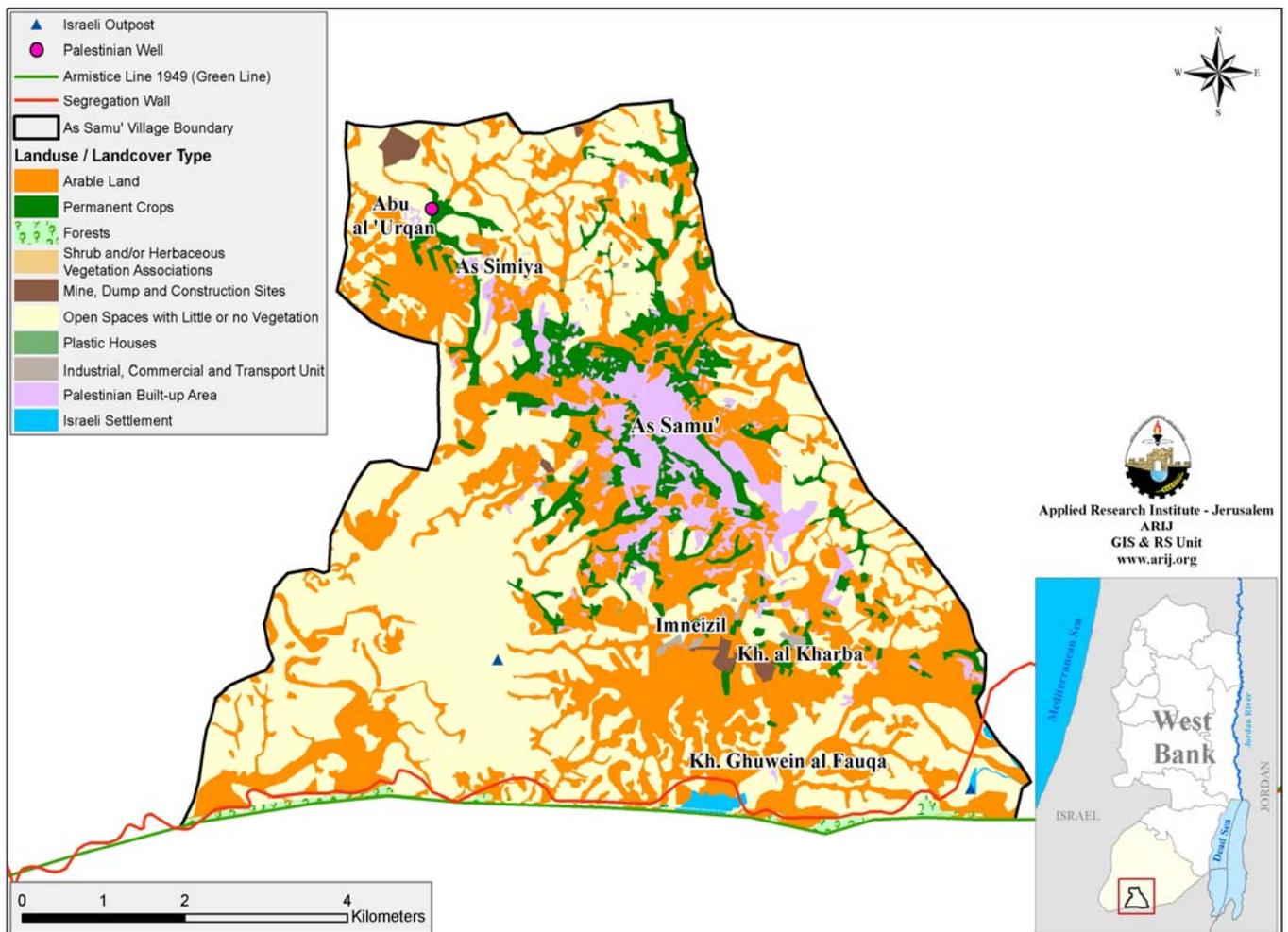
As Samu' has approximately 31,000 dunums of agricultural lands of which 17,312 dunums are cultivated; 10,000 dunums of land that are also suitable for reclamation.

Table 7: Land Use in As Samu' town (dunum)

Total Area	Arable Land		Built up Area	Forests Area	Open Spaces and Rangelands
	Uncultivated Area	Cultivated Area			
62,000	13,688	17,312	2,000	200	28,800

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agricultural (MoA), 2006

Map 3: Land use/ Land cover and Segregation wall route in As Samu'



There are 25 dunums of greenhouses (30 greenhouses) in As Samu' town used for growing cucumbers (16 dunums) and tomatoes (8 dunums).

Table 8 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the town of As Samu'. The rain-fed fruity vegetables are the most cultivated covering an area of about 301 dunums. The most common vegetables cultivated within this area are squash, snake cucumber (Faqous) and tomatoes.

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetable		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.	Rf	Irr.
284	25	0	20	2	0	0	0	15	10	301	55

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

In the town of As Samu', there is a total area of 2,367 dunums planted with olive trees. Other trees planted in the area are mostly stone fruits and nuts trees.

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruit		Total	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
2,367	0	0	0	77	0	0	0	240	0	345	0	3,029	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

Table 10 shows the total field crops cultivated in the town of As Samu'. Cereals, in particular, wheat and barley, are the most cultivated crops covering an area of about 10,075 dunums.

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Seeds		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total area	
Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr	Rf	Irr
10,075	0	5	0	2537	0	0	0	0	0	1,800	0	100	0	1	0	14,518	0

Rf: Rain-fed, Irr: Irrigated

ARIJ field survey data also indicates that the residents of As Samu' town are dependent upon rearing and keeping livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and broilers in addition to bee hives.

<i>Cows*</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Camels</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Mules</i>	<i>Broilers</i>	<i>Layers</i>	<i>Bee Hives</i>
171	16,500	2,500	0	9	350	10	500,000	3,000	67

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Most agricultural activities in As Samu' are rainwater dependant, though farmers use the water network and town storage cisterns for further irrigation.

There are approximately 15 km of agricultural roads in As Samu' town, which are insufficient and suitable only for tractors and other agricultural machinery.

Farmers of the As Samu' town actively participate in agricultural societies and unions. There are three agricultural societies in the town: As Simiya Agricultural Cooperative Society, As Samu' Agricultural Cooperative Society, and the Animal Husbandry Society.

Since the beginning of the Second Intifada, around 3,000 dunums of the town land have been confiscated by the Israeli forces, in addition to the destruction and uprooting of 500 olive trees and 950 almond trees.

Institutions and Services

As Samu' is a rural town and residents receive most services from Hebron City, the main city in the Governorate. However, the town has four main institutions: a small post office, labor office, police station and an office branch of the Ministry of Agriculture. As Samu' town also has five organizations:

1. As Samu' Municipality.
2. As Samu' Charitable Society.
3. Workers of Southern West Bank Union.
4. Ibn Sina Center.
5. Islamic Ibn Baz Center.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

- **Telecommunication Services:** Approximately 80% of the housing units in As Samu' are connected to the telecommunication network.
- **Water Services:** As Samu' has been connected to the water network since 1973. Currently, the Palestinian Water Authority is the main provider of water in the town and almost 70% of the housing units are connected. Cisterns, As Simiya Well, local water tankers of 4 cubic meter capacity, and the municipality water tanker of 15 cubic meter capacity are alternative water resources to the water network. The town also owns a water reservoir of 200 cubic meter capacity. The main problem that faces water services in the town is the continuous water shortage from its sources and insufficient rainfall.
- **Electricity Services:** As Samu' town has been connected to the electricity network since 1993, and approximately 85% of the housing units are currently connected. The municipality of As Samu' manages the distribution of electricity, which is supplied by the Israeli Electric Company (Al Qutriya). The electricity services are insufficient due to the old network and inadequate maintenance.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Trucks owned by the Municipality of As Samu' collect solid wastes from the town on a daily basis, transporting them to the Ad Deirat dumping site (15 km from the town), owned by the Joint Services Council_Yatta, where they are burned or

buried. It should be noted that solid wastes dumped by factories close to Adh Dhahiriya borders emit unpleasant odours.

- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** There is no sewage disposable network in the town; the bulk of domestic and wastewater is discharged and disposed in cesspits.
- **Transportation Services:** There are 50 public transportation vehicles used to transport passengers between As Samu' and nearby towns, as well as a taxi office that serves residents, though lacks the necessary number of taxis. Nearly 68 km of roads serve the town of As Samu': 10 km of main roads and another 10 km of internal roads are well paved, 5 km of main roads and 3 km of link roads are paved but in poor condition, and 40 km of unpaved roads are used as agricultural and link roads.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

As Samu' town is surrounded by the Shem'a settlement, located on 100 dunums of land to the west, and Shani and Lasefer settlements, on 50 and 850 dunums, respectively, to the south. In addition, a bypass road crosses the town from the west and south, which seizes 1,110 dunums of land. There is one permanent checkpoint in addition to around five flying checkpoints on the main roads leading to As Samu'.

The town has been suffering since 2003 from the 10 km of the segregation wall, composed of a series of wires in this section, that encircle the town from the east, west and south. Wall construction confiscated around 1,000 dunums of the town lands, in addition to isolating another 1,000 dunums behind the wall. Around 1,000 trees have been uprooted due to the construction of the wall.

Development Plans and Projects

Since 2004, the As Samu' Municipality has implemented five projects, funded by many donors, which include:

No	Project name	Type	Funded by
1	Building As Simiya Co-educational School - 2006	Educational	French Development Agency
2	Paving link roads in 2005	Infrastructure	PICDAR/ Islamic Development Bank
3	Rehabilitation and construction a water network- 2006	Infrastructure	Palestinian Water Authority
4	Finalization of Rafat School construction - 2006	Educational	The Dutch Project
5	Reconstruction of As Samu' Kids Center -2006	Infrastructural	Swedish SIDA

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

According to As Samu' Municipality, the town is in need of infrastructural and social development projects. Table 13 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	*				40 km ^
2	Construction of New Water Networks	*				18 km
3	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks		*			10 km
4	Construction of Water Reservoirs	*				2000 m ³ water capacity
5	Extending the Water Network to cover New Built up Areas	*				15 km
6	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network	*				
Health Needs						
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres		*			
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres		*			
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools		*			
Educational Needs						
1	Building of New Schools			*		Elementary school
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools		*			
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools		*			
Agricultural Needs						
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural lands	*				10,000 dunums
2	Building Cisterns	*				500 cisterns
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock		*			200 barracks
4	Veterinary Services		*			
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals		*			
6	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses		*			30 greenhouses
7	Field Crops Seeds		*			
8	Plants and Agricultural Supplies		*			

^ 5 km main roads, 15 km link roads and 20 km agriculture roads

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