

Beit Safafa & Sharafat Town Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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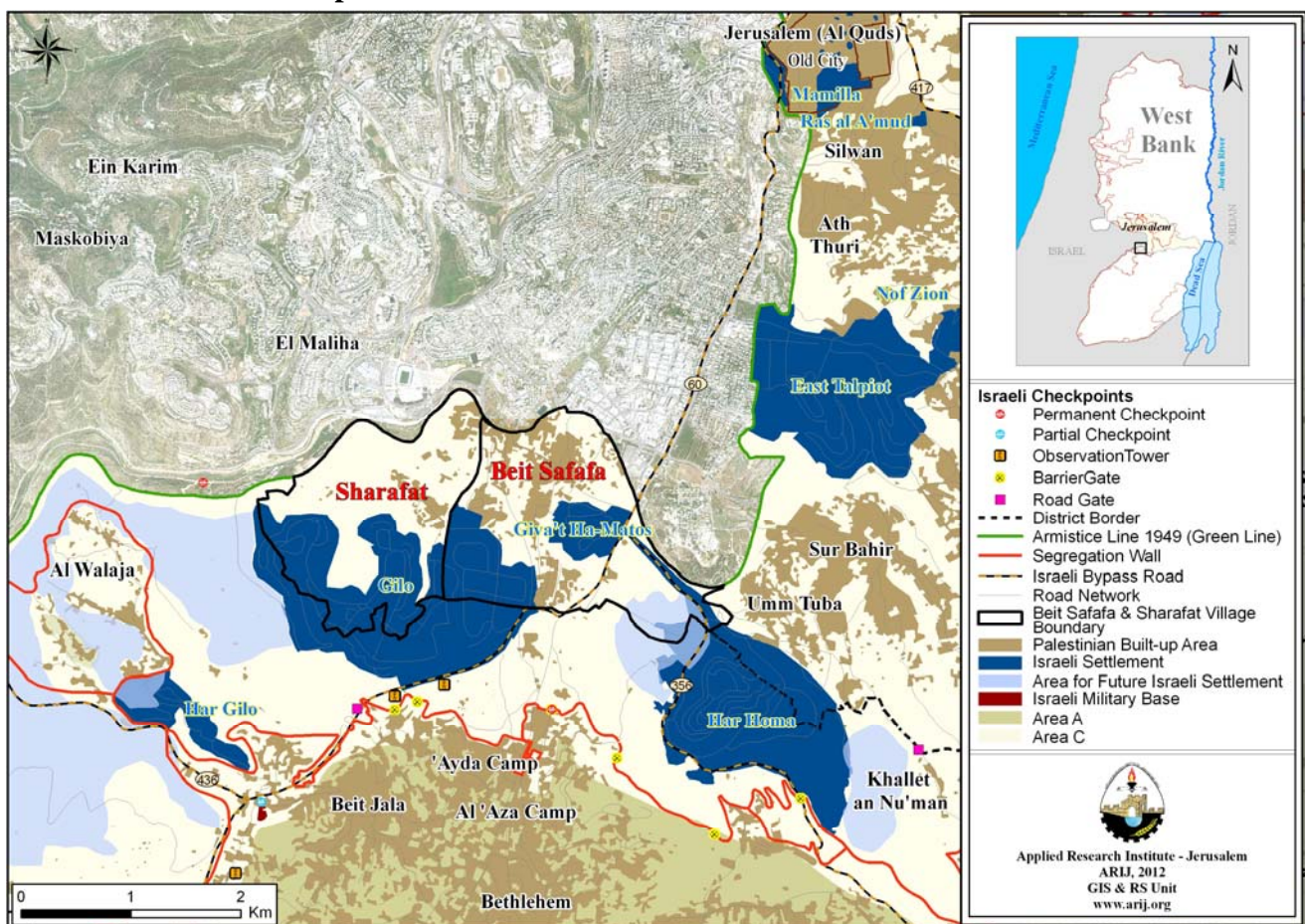
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Beit Safafa & Sharafat Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Beit Safafa & Sharafat is a Palestinian town in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 4.55km from Beit Safafa and 5.59km from Sharafat; southwest of Jerusalem City. It is bordered by Umm Tuba & Sur Bahir to the east, Western Jerusalem to the north, Al Walaja (in Bethlehem Governorate) to the west, and Bethlehem and Beit Jala territories to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).

Map 1: Beit Safafa & Sharafat location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Beit Safafa is located at an altitude of 732m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 488.3mm. The average annual temperature is 16.4 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60.4% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

While Sharafat is located at an altitude of 752m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 528mm. The average annual temperature is 16.3 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 61% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Concerning services provided to the town residents; all services are being provided by the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors' Committee, 2012).

History

There are three stories behind the name of Beit Safafa & Sharafat town. The first claims that when the Jews heard that Alexander the Great was coming with his army from the Gaza Strip, they ran to welcome him outside Jerusalem city, dressed in white and asking for peace; he accepted and excused them from paying tribute. In 333 BC, clarity and purity ('safa') existed between them, and the town was therefore named 'Beit as Safa', or 'house of purity'. The second story states that a Roman emperor had a lonely daughter called Safa' and as a young girl she became ill. Doctors were not able to cure her and his relative advised him to take her to a place with fresh and pure air, so he chose Beit Safafa. Finally, the third story claims that Beit Safafa was converted from the word 'Safifa' which in Syriac means 'house of the thirsty'; this story is probably true since the town has no springs or water (Othman, 2006).

The town was established in 450 AD, and its original residents were from Jabaliya (Gaza Strip) and east Jordan (Othman, 2006) (See photo below for Beit Safafa & Sharafat town).

Photo 1: Beit Safafa & Sharafat town



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are 4 mosques in the town, Al Batma, Ash Sharqi, Ash Sheikh Mahmud and Al Jadeed Mosques. There are a few sites of archaeological interest, including (Othman, 2006)):

- The Roman tower: a labyrinthine building of two storeys with a tomb carved into the rock, containing various tunnels and chambers.
- Ad Dirdas (the press): a rocky basin containing a large stone used to press olive manually.
- The Hall: a fertile plain planted with old olive trees, it also has a cave carved into the rock and the remains of old cemeteries.
- The Winery: where wine was produced.
- The Christian Garden.
- Ath Thuhra: old caves.

Population

Unfortunately, no census has been conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2007 to ascertain the population and housing in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town, however, according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, the town population had reached 9,015 in 2010 (The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 2010).

100 dunums of land have been confiscated for the construction of a road in the region. 70% of Beit Safafa & Sharafat town populations hold Jerusalem IDs, and 30% carry Israeli passports (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Families

Beit Safafa & Sharafat residents are from several families, mainly (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012):

- Dar 'Elayyan: 4 families- Hamid, Awad, Al Hajj and Ahmad Ali.
- Dar Salman: 4 families- Abd Rabbu, Jum'a, Ismail and Al Hajj.
- Dar Hussein: 5 families- Al 'Athamnah, Subhi, Abu Dillu, Muslih and Lafi.

Education

There is one governmental school in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education and one school run by UNRWA, but there are no local kindergartens run by the Ministry of Education (Directorate of Education – Jerusalem, 2011). There are 2 schools run by Jerusalem Municipality (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012) (see Table 1).

Table 1: Schools in Beit Safafa & Sharafat by name, stage, sex and supervising authority, 2011/2012

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Sharafat Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Banat Beit Safafa Elementary School	UNRWA	Mixed
Beit Safafa Co-educated Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Mixed
Beit Safafa ash Shamila Co-educated School	Jerusalem Municipality	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education – Jerusalem, 2011 & Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012.

There are 2,462 students and 91 classes and the average number of students per class is approximately 27 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

There is one private school in the town for students with special needs, the As Salam School, which is run by Jerusalem Municipality (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

The educational sector in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town faces some obstacles, primarily (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012):

1. The lack of classrooms in schools.
2. The lack of schools in the town.
3. The lack of gender separation in town schools.

Health Status

There are some health centers available in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town: 3 health centers run by Israeli National Insurance (patients' fund), a radiology center and a medical laboratory also run by Israeli National Insurance, 3 private pharmacies and 5 private clinics. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, residents of Beit Safafa & Sharafat go to larger hospitals, including Hadasa-Ein Karem and Al Muttala' hospitals (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

The health sector in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town faces some obstacles, primarily (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012):

1. The absence of an ambulance.
2. The absence of a motherhood and child care center.

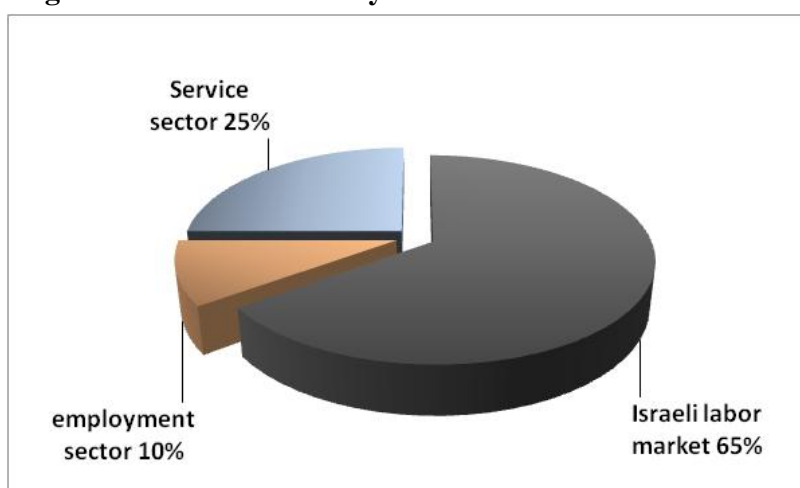
Economic Activities

The economy in Beit Safafa & Sharafat is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 65% of the workforce (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012) (See Figure1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2012 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beit Safafa & Sharafat is as follows:

- Israeli labor market (65%)
- Services sector (25%)
- Government or private employees sector (10%)

Figure 1: Economic activity in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town



Source: Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012

In terms of commercial and industrial productions in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town, there are 20 grocery stores, 3 butcheries, 3 vegetable and fruit stores, 10 different service stores and 3 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry etc.) (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors' Committee, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Beit Safafa & Sharafat reached around 10% in 2012, and it was found that the social group most affected in the town as a result of Israeli restrictions and procedures is workers in the agriculture sector (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Agricultural Sector

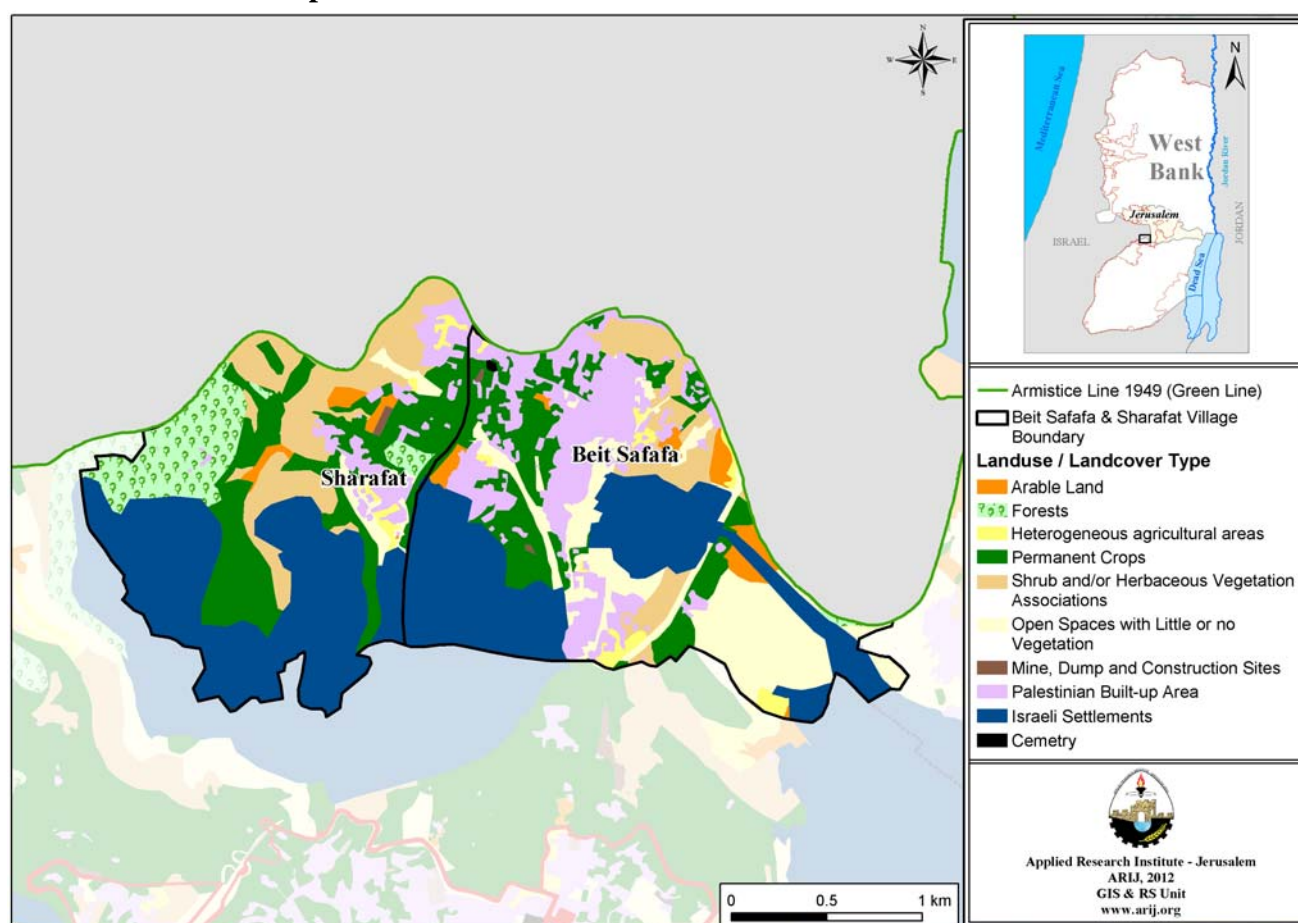
Beit Safafa & Sharafat has a total area of around 5,820 dunums of which 1,995 are 'arable' land and 810 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 2 and Map 2).

Table 2: Land use and land cover in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town in 2010 (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (1,995)				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					
5,820	810	1,164	0	696	135	0	340	683	12	1,980

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 2: Land use/land cover in Beit Safafa & Sharafat town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 3 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The town is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 290 dunums in the town cultivated with olive trees.

Table 3: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Beit Safafa & Sharafat Town (dunum)

Fruit trees	Rainfed (dunum)	Irrigated (dunum)
Olives	290	0
Citrus	0	0
Stone-fruits	17	0
Pome fruits	0	0
Nuts	29	0
Other fruits	8	0
Total Area	344	0

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas instead of seasonal ones. The survey did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

As for field crops and forage in Beit Safafa & Sharafat, cereals, in particular barley, are the only crops cultivated covering an area of about 10 dunums (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010).

ARIJ's field survey also shows that residents of Beit Safafa & Sharafat rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and bees (Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010) (See table 4).

Table 4: Livestock in Beit Safafa & Sharafat Town

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are no agricultural roads in the town (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Institutions and Services

Beit Safafa & Sharafat town has no governmental institutions; however, there are a few local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012):

- **The Arab Club:** Founded in 1969 with an interest in sporting activities such as football.
- **Beit Safafa Women Society:** Founded in 1967.
- **An Nama' Society:** Founded in 2008.
- **The Arab Club:** Founded in 1969.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Beit Safafa & Sharafat has been connected to a public electricity network since 1967. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the town are connected to this network; however, the town residents suffer from power cut-offs (particularly in winter) and weak electrical current (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Beit Safafa & Sharafat is connected to a telecommunication network through Jerusalem Municipality and approximately 100% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Transportation Services

3 public taxis and 1 bus (Al Muwahhad Company) covering the Beit Safafa & Sharafat-Jerusalem line are the main means of transportation in the town (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012). There is 1km of designated 'main' roads and 5km of 'secondary' roads (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012) (See Table 5).

Table 5: Roads in Beit Safafa & Sharafat Town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
Paved & in good condition	1	-
Paved but in poor condition	-	5
Unpaved	-	-

Source: Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012

Water Resources

Beit Safafa & Sharafat is provided with water by Jihon, an Israeli company, through the public water network established in 1967 and approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Information about the quantity of water supplied monthly to Beit Safafa & Sharafat could not be provided to us by Jihon. Each cubic meter of water from the network costs from 7 to 15 NIS (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Sanitation

Beit Safafa & Sharafat has a public sewerage network, established in 1967; about 100% of the town's housing units use the sewage network as a major means for wastewater disposal (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

Jerusalem Municipality is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the town. No specific fees are charged to the population served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services; citizens pay the Arnona tax to Jerusalem Municipality which ranges from 3,000 to 10,000 NIS/ year depending on the size of household. This tax covers all services provided by Jerusalem Municipality to the town residents, including solid waste services (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Most of the population in Beit Safafa & Sharafat benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 80 containers, each with a capacity of 1 cubic meter, distributed throughout the town. Jerusalem Municipality collects the solid waste on a tri-weekly basis and then transports it using a waste vehicle to El 'Eizariya dumping site, where it is usually buried and sometimes burnt (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit Safafa & Sharafat is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Beit Safafa & Sharafat residents is nearly 9.5 tons, or 3,455 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

The town residents suffer from the poor collection and disposal services of solid waste; it is common for waste to accumulate in the streets for several days (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee has not implemented any development projects in Beit Safafa & Sharafat (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Proposed Projects

Beit Safafa & Sharafat Development Committee, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the town and the town residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a public library.
2. Establishing a motherhood and childhood day care center.
3. Constructing and paving sub roads (5km).
4. Constructing a new school.
5. Rehabilitating playgrounds in schools.

Town Development Priorities and Needs

Beit Safafa & Sharafat suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 6 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the Development Committee's feedback (Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012).

Table 6: Development priorities and needs in Beit Safafa & Sharafat

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and Pavement of Roads	*			5km*
2	Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks			*	
3	Extending the Water Network to Cover New Built up Areas			*	
4	Construction of New Water Networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs			*	
6	Construction of Water Reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network			*	
8	Construction of a New Electricity Network			*	
9	Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection			*	
10	Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste			*	
11	Providing a Sanitary Landfill			*	
Health Needs					
1	Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres	*			motherhood & childhood day care center
2	Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres			*	
3	Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools			*	
Educational Needs					
1	Building of New Schools	*			constructing classrooms
2	Rehabilitation of Old Schools	*			rehabilitating playgrounds
3	Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools			*	
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands			*	
2	Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns			*	
3	Construction of Barracks for Livestock			*	
4	Veterinary Services			*	
5	Seeds and Hay for Animals			*	
6	Construction of New Greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of Greenhouses			*	
8	Field Crops Seeds			*	
9	Plants and Agricultural Supplies	*			

*5km are sub roads.

Source: Beit Safafa & Sharafat Mayors Committee, 2012

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