

# Yasid Village Profile



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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 Nablus Governorate. These booklets came about as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in the Nablus Governorate, and aim to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present developmental plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" 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 programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current insecure political, economic and social conditions in the Nablus 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 Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with a focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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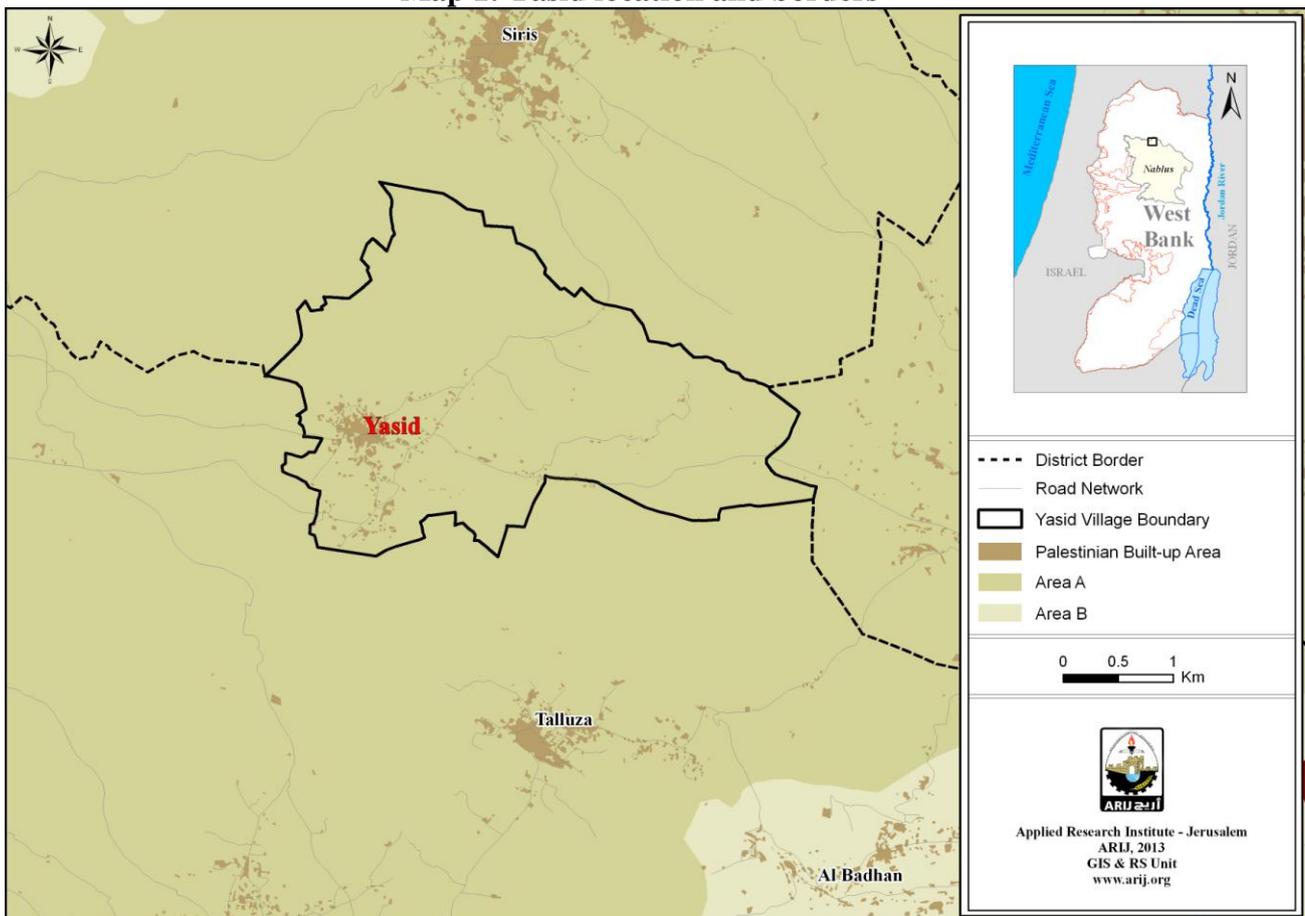
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# Yasid Village Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Yasid is a Palestinian village in the Nablus Governorate, located 8.58km north of Nablus City. It is bordered by Wadi al Far'a (Tubas Governorate) to the east, the village of Siris (Jenin Governorate) to the north, Beit Imrin and Jaba' to the west, and Talluza and 'Asira ash Shamaliya villages to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Yasid location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Yasid is located at an altitude of 680m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 520.48mm. The average annual temperature is 16°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 60.4% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Yasid village consists of approximately 9,371 dunums. The borders of this locality were set according to the new local councils' borders which were defined by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government. The new borders of the Palestinian localities were set by the Palestinian National Authority, represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, in the year 2011. These governmental institutions reset the borders of the localities for the purpose of the Palestinian elections that took place in 2011. Accordingly, ARIJ adopted these new borders in this

report since it found that the newly adopted borders, to a certain extent, better suit the demographic, environmental and agricultural variables and facts on the ground. Also, ARIJ used these defined borders only for the sake of this research and study. It is worth noting that these borders do not represent the areas and borders of the private properties at the locality level and are not included in the PNA files of the private land holdings.

Since 1995, Yasid has been governed by a Village Council which is currently made up of 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 2 employees working for the council, which owns its permanent headquarters. The Council does not own a vehicle for solid waste collection (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Yasid, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water network
  - Street cleaning, road rehabilitation, construction and paving, and public services
  - Protection of governmental properties
  - Protection of historical and archeological sites
  - Implementation of projects and studies for the village
- (Yasid Village Council, 2013)

## History

The village of Yasid was named for its altitude and its abundance of trees. The word Yasid means an 'eagle's nest'. The village was established during the Roman era and its land is filled with ancient Roman olive trees. The original residents of Yasid came from the Arabian Peninsula (Yasid Village Council, 2013) (See Photo 1)

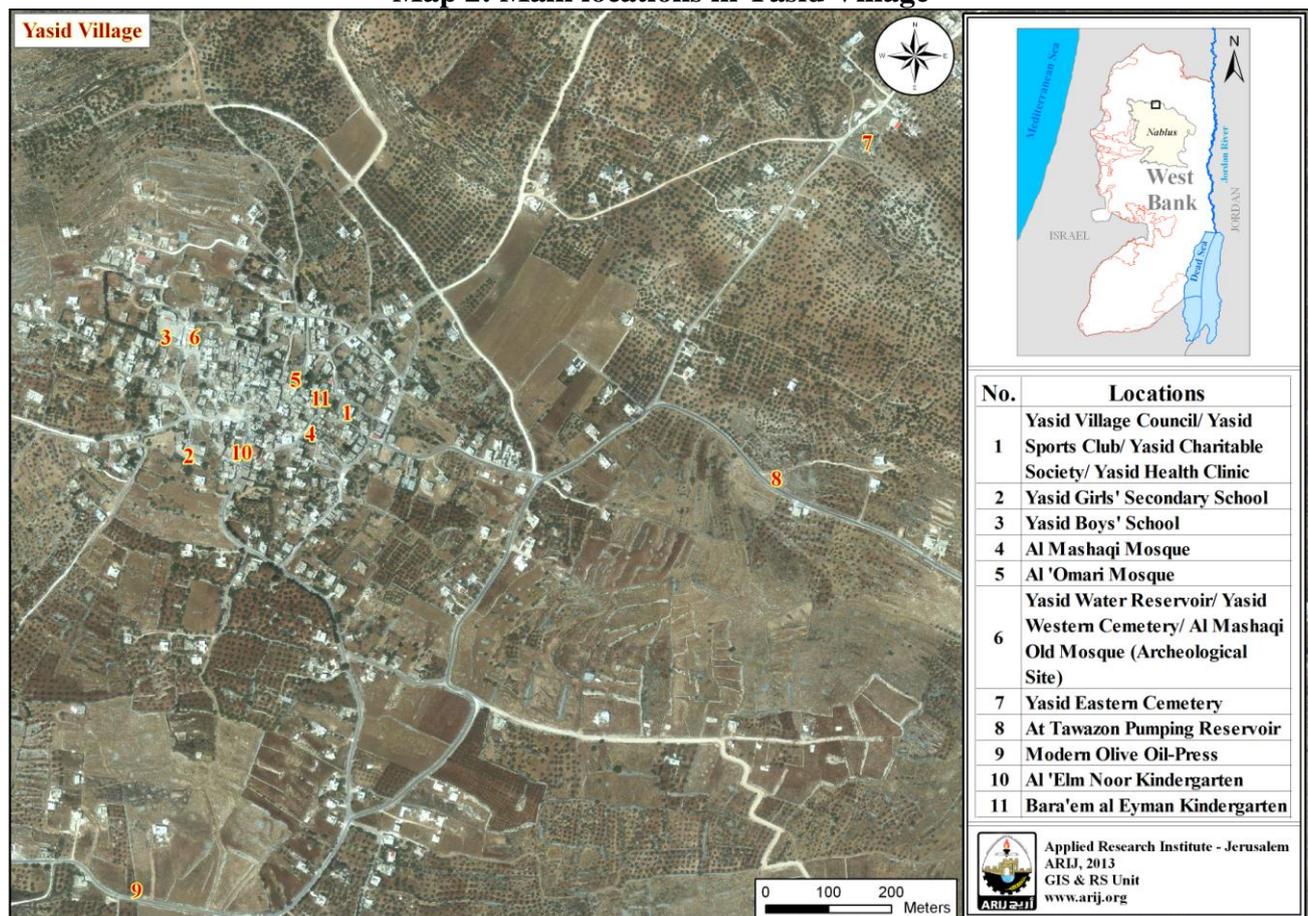
**Photo of Yasid**



## Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are two mosques in the village: Al-Omari and Al- Mashaqi New Mosque. The village has several sites of archaeological interest including: Al Mashaqi Old Mosque, Daher Al Omar Castle, and Al Lole Hoda site. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to qualify as tourist locations, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Yasid Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Yasid Village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Yasid in 2007 was 2,052, of whom 1,045 were male and 1,007 female. There were 349 households registered as living in 430 housing units.

## Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Yasid as follows: 34.9% were less than 15 years of age, 59.6% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 5% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males

to females in the village was 100:103.8, meaning that males and females constituted 50.9% and 49.1% of the population, respectively.

## Families

Yasid residents are from two main families: Mashaqi and Daher families (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among the Yasid population is approximately 7.3%, of which 78.4% are females. Of the literate population, 10.8% could only read and write, with no formal education, 21.6% had elementary education, 29.1% had preparatory education, 18.7% had secondary education, and 12.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Yasid by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Yasid population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	25	76	161	246	174	39	69	2	8	1	-	<b>801</b>
F	91	95	181	214	122	18	57	0	1	0	1	<b>780</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,581</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (see Table 2).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Yasid Boys Secondary School	Government	Male
Yasid Girls Secondary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the village there are 529 students, 39 teachers, and 24 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 14, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 22 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There is also one kindergarten in Yasid village (Al 'Aelm Noor kindergarten) which is run by a private organization. The kindergarten consists of 2 classrooms that are supervised by 3 teachers (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

Due to the lack of variety when it comes to education, such as a lack of classes in the scientific track, some students attend 'Asira ash Shamaliya Secondary schools, 11km away from the village (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Yasid village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The overcrowding of students in the village, and the need for the construction of new schools

- The need for renewing the old schools in the village
- No transportation of students who live far away from the village center (Yasid Village Council, 2013)

## Health Status

Yasid has some health facilities, including a governmental health clinic (Yasid Health Clinic), a maternity and children center, and a private pharmacy. In the absence of necessary health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to the 'Asira ash Shamaliya Health Clinic, which is 11km away, or to the private or National Hospital in Nablus city, which is 17km away (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, including the lack of medical machines and laboratories in the clinics, and the lack of an ambulance service (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

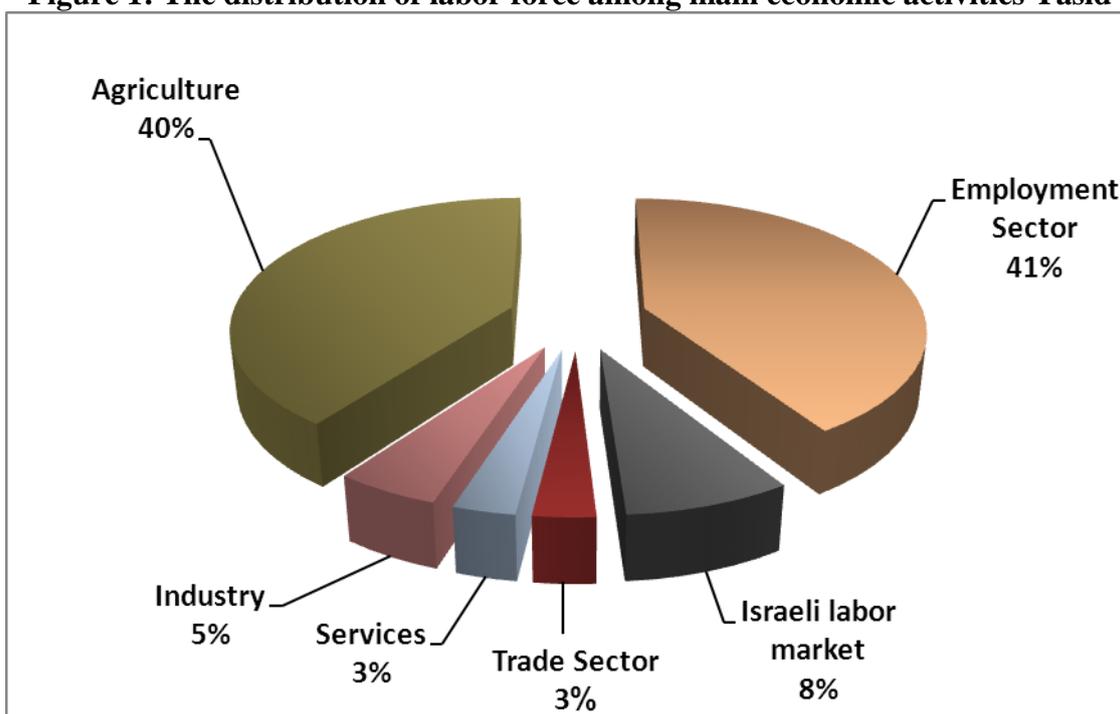
## Economic Activities

The economy in Yasid has many sectors. The primary sector is the Government or other public employees sector, which absorbs 41% of the village's workforce (Yasid Village Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 looking at the distribution of labor according to economic activity in Yasid are as follows:

- Government or other public employees sector (41%)
- Agricultural sector (40%)
- Israeli labor market (8%)
- Industry (5%)
- Trade sector (3%)
- Services sector (3%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities Yasid**



Source: Yasid Village Council, 2013

In terms of facilities of economic activity and trade in the village of Yasid, there are 40 supermarkets, 2 butcher shops, 3 fruit and vegetable shops, 3 service providers, 2 different professional workshops, 1 quarry and 1 olive oil production center (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Yasid reached 25% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions were:

- workers in the agricultural sector, specifically the workers in olive oil production (Yasid Village Council, 2013)

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 30.9% of Yasid’s labor force was economically active, of whom 84% were employed. 68.9% were not economically active, of whom 53.3% were students, and 32.9% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

**Table 3: Yasid population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Un-employed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	366	48	17	431	283	0	68	14	3	368	2	801
F	45	4	9	58	297	358	62	0	4	721	1	780
T	411	52	26	489	580	358	130	14	7	1,089	3	1,581

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

### Agricultural Sector

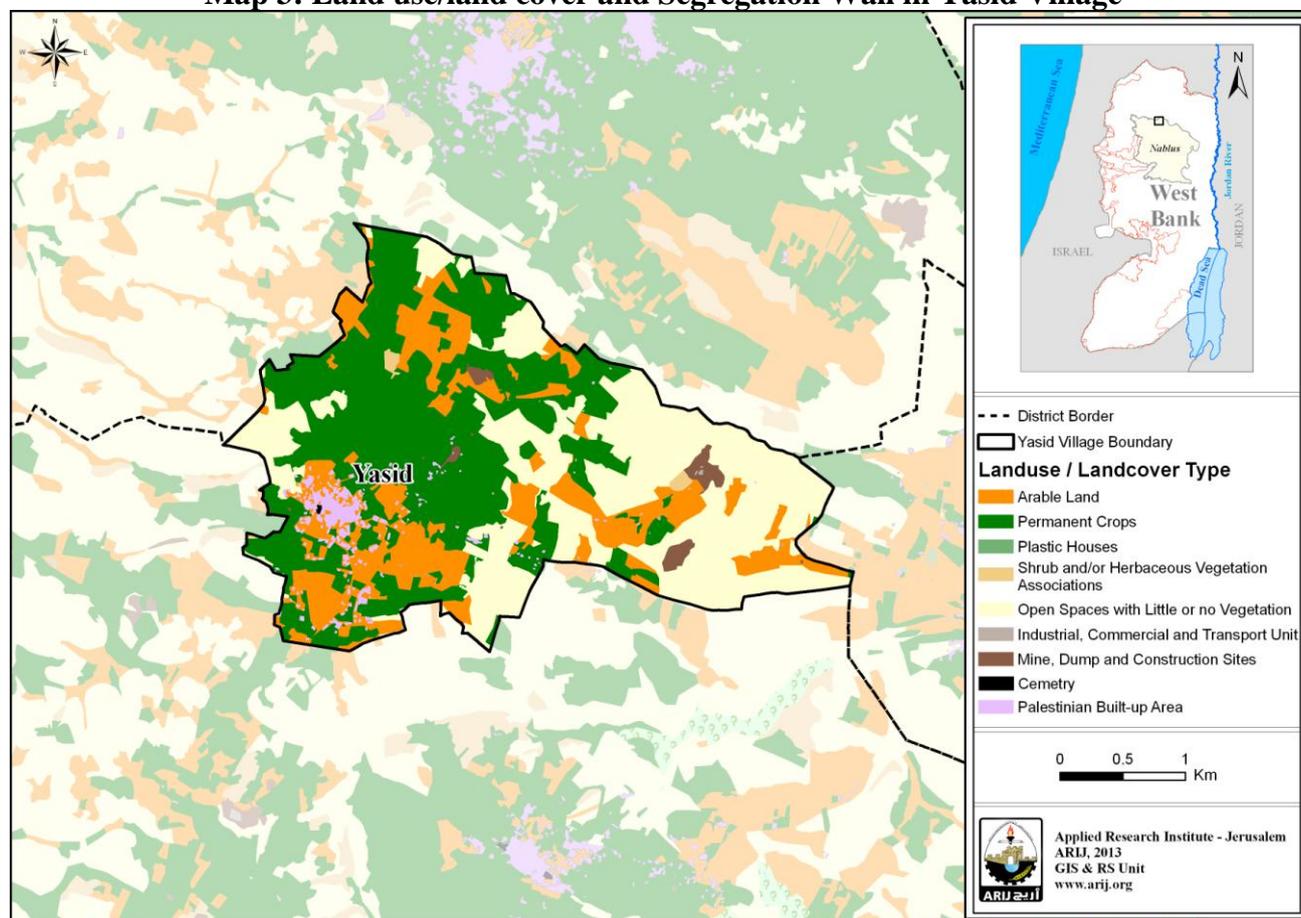
Yasid has a total area of approximately 9,371 dunums of which 5,809 is ‘arable’ land and 217 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 4 and Map 3).

**Table 4: Land use and land cover in Yasid village (area in dunum)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (5,809)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone	Tombs
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands						
9,371	217	3,839	1	40	1,929	0	0	3,208	135	0	2

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Yasid Village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Yasid. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are okra and green beans.

**Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Yasid (area in dunums)**

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Yasid is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 6,450 dunums of olive trees in the village.

**Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Yasid (area in dunums)**

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.
6,450	0	0	0	38	0	9	0	280	0	53	0	6,830	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the field and forage crops in the village of Yasid. There are approximately 350 dunums of grain fields, primarily wheat.

**Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in Yasid (area in dunums)**

Grain		Bulbs, Tubers, and Roots		Dry Legumes		Oily Crops		Forage Crops		Telltale Crops		Other Crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
350	0	5	0	28	0	2	0	83	0	0	0	8	0	476	0

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

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 1% of the residents in Yasid rear and keep domestic animals such as cows, sheep and others (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Yasid**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broiler Chickens	Layer Chickens	Bee Hives
22	1,050	220	0	0	0	0	24,000	0	40

\*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 26 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, categorized as follows: (See Table 9)

**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Yasid Village and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	6
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	10
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	-

Source: Yasid Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces several problems, including:

- The lack of agricultural roads and wells
- The lack of financial resources for farmers
- The high prices of the agricultural production inputs
- The lack of agricultural machines and equipment

(Yasid Village Council, 2013)

## Institutions and Services

The village of Yasid has no national governmental branches. However, there are local organizations and institutions that provide different services as well as cultural, athletic, and other social associations (Yasid Village Council, 2013):

- **Yasid Village Council:** Founded in 1995, and registered later by the Ministry of Local Government, its aim is taking care of different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructural services.
- **Yasid Sport Club:** Founded in 2004 by the Youth and Sport Ministry, the Club's aim is to invest in young people through training and providing them with different services as well as developing their skills.
- **Yasid Women Charitable Society:** Founded in 2000, and registered later by the Ministry of Interior, the Society's aim is to support women through conducting different courses in the fields of diseases, health education, food processing, embroidery, and others.
- **Olive Oil Production Society:** Founded in 1982, and registered later by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labor, this Society leads the farmers in the olive sector to be trained in the production of high-quality olive oil and aid in affordable prices.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Yasid has been connected to a public electricity network since 1985. It is served by the North Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, and approximately 90% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the sudden disconnection of power supply in some cases (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

Yasid is also connected to a telecommunications network and approximately 50% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Yasid Village Council, 2013).

### Transportation Services

There are 7 taxis in Yasid that the people use for transportation. There are 15km of main roads and 13km of secondary roads in Yasid (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Yasid Village**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	8	0
2. Paved & in poor condition	0	5
3. Unpaved	7	8

Source: Yasid Village Council, 2013

## Water

There is not a main water connection or source in the village of Yasid, which forces the residents to buy tanks of water for 18 NIS per cubic meter. There are about 300 household wells that collect rainwater as well. Additionally, there are two water wells pumping at a rate of about 60 cubic meters per hour for each well. The private well water is used for agriculture. There are two water tanks in the village that collect water with a capacity of 100 and 300 cubic meters, respectively (Yasid village council, 2013).

## Sanitation

Yasid does not have a general network system for sanitation. This leads the residents to use septic tanks to dispose of wastewater. There is no estimation of the daily consumption of water per capita in the village because it is not served by the public water supply service and wastewater is collected by the absorbance of discharged or by tanks, thus we cannot estimate the amount of wastewater generated per day by the village. The wastewater is either dumped directly into an open area or in the neighboring valley without any regard for the environment. There is also no wastewater treatment at the main source or at the disposal sites, which poses a threat to the environment and the public health (Yasid village council, 2013).

## Solid Waste Management in Yasid

The Joint Service Council for Solid Waste is responsible for managing solid waste collection and disposal of the waste generated by citizens and establishments in the Yasid village. Due to the fact that solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee of 13 NIS per house per month is charged to the population for the service of domestic solid waste collection and transportation. The rate of fees collected is 100% (Yasid village council, 2013).

Most of the population in Yasid benefit from the solid waste services, where waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and placed in containers located at various points in the village. The Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it through the use of a waste collection vehicle to the Zahret Al Finjan landfill (Jenin Governorate) 17km from the village center. Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally sound way (Yasid village council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Yasid is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Yasid residents is nearly 1.6 tons, or 591 tons per year (ARIJ - WERD, 2013).

## Environmental Conditions

The village of Yasid and other towns in the Nablus Governorate suffer a wide range of environmental problems which should be addressed. For instance:

### Water Sector

Yasid lacks a water supply service due to not having a public water network. Therefore the people in Yasid buy water at high prices.

### Wastewater Management

Yasid village lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks as a main means for wastewater disposal, and/or to 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 village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because 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.

(Yasid village council, 2013).

Yasid village suffers from a lack of containers for waste collection. Citizens leave garbage in front of homes until the waste is collected, usually three times a week. Accumulation of garbage in the streets and in front of homes results in insect infestation and attracts stray animals. As the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate, there are few problems related to waste disposal. This landfill is the main environmentally-friendly landfill serving the village, in addition to most of the localities in the Nablus Governorate.

## Geopolitical Status in Yasid village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995, all the village lands of Yasid are classified as area A consisting 9371 dunums, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil and administrative issues.

**Table 11: \_The geopolitical divisions of Yasid according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	9371	0
Area B	0	0
Area C	0	0
Nature reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9371</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

## The Israeli Occupation practices in Yasid village

Despite that there are no current settlements and camps established on Yasid village lands. However, this Palestinian village still suffer from the Israeli occupation practices ,since the settlements, camps and Israeli military checkpoints are not far from the village. Therefore, the residents of the village were subjected to several arrests procedures. They were also affected during the second intifada from the establishment of military checkpoints that have worked to cut the geographical connections between the Palestinian areas, especially Al Badhan temporary Checkpoint, which was established on the road that connects the villages to the north of Nablus with the city , and Al-Hamra permanent checkpoint which is established on the road that is linking Nablus with its surrounding villages and also links the northern provinces with the Jordan Valley area, so these checkpoints were an important sites for torturing the Palestinians.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

Yasid Village Council has implemented several development projects in Yasid during the past five years (See Table 12).

**Table 12: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Yasid during the Last Five Years**

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2008	The Ministry of Finance
Construction and paving Al Far'a road	Infrastructure	2008	CHF
Agricultural land reclamation	Agricultural	2010	LRC
Installing a water pumping unit and a transmission line	Infrastructure	2010	The Poland Fund
Construction of agricultural roads of 6km long	Agricultural	2011	CHF
Establishing a water network and main water tank (in process)	Infrastructure	2013	ANERA & USAID

Source: Yasid Village Council, 2013

## Proposed Projects

Yasid Village Council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. The need for road-paving connection between Yasid and Siris, Yasid and Jaba', and lastly Yasid and Taluza
2. Establishing a public park
3. Establishing small developing projects
4. The need for retaining walls and paving of internal roads 10km long
5. The need to construct (10km long) and maintain (10km long) agricultural roads
6. The need to maintain a village council and charitable society buildings and restore the athletic club
7. Providing the village with 10 containers for solid waste collection
8. Providing new projects for marketing olive oil
9. Establishing a new water network 3km long in the village, and providing 200 links to household water
10. Providing new agricultural machines such as: Baggar bulldozer and tractor
11. Providing headquarters for the village institutions
12. The need to provide a vehicle for the disposal of wastewater in the village
13. Restoration and rehabilitation of old buildings
14. Establish a new school in the village
15. The need to establish a sewerage network 10km long

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Yasid suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council's perspective:

**Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Yasid**

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and paving of roads	*			36 km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			6 km
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	*			10 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			40 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			Male School
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			150 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns			*	
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			100 Bracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			200 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	*			
<b>Other Needs</b>					
1	Establish poultry barracks				
2	Providing the village council with wastewater vehicle				

<sup>^</sup> 7 km main roads, 13 km secondary roads and 16 km agricultural roads.

Source: Yasid Village Council, 2013

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