

# Beita Town Profile(including Za'tara Locality)



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## *Acknowledgments*

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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 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 development plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment"; a 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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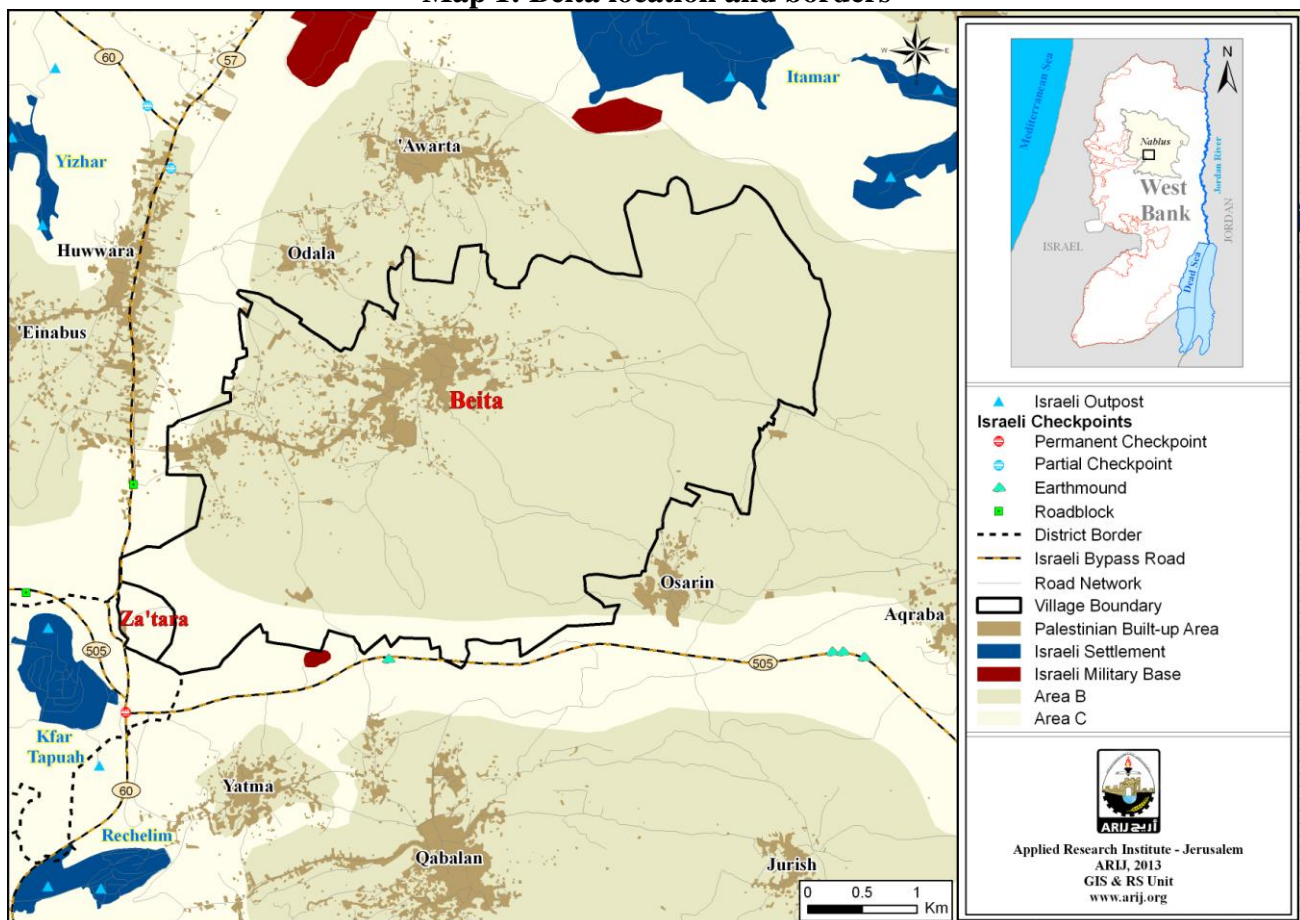
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# Beita Town Profile (including Za'tara Locality)<sup>1</sup>

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Beita (including Za'tara locality) is a Palestinian town in the Nablus Governorate located 9-11 km south of Nablus City. It is bordered by Osarin and Aqraba to the east, 'Awarta and Odala to the north, Huwwara and Yasuf to the west, and Yatma and Qabalan to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Beita location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Beita is located at an altitude of 572m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 515-564mm. The average annual temperature is 18°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

Until 2012, a project committee was responsible for Za'tara locality. However, this locality was incorporated within the boundaries of the larger population center, "Beita". This was done through a

<sup>1</sup> The information in this profile include Beita town and Za'tara locality data; based on the local government's decision to merge Beita town and Za'tara locality in 2012.

resolution adopted by the Palestinian Cabinet and the Ministry of Local Government in 2012, and according to this resolution Za'atara and Beita came under the administrative authority of one municipal council which is called "Beita" Municipal Council.

The total area of Beita consists of approximately 17,495 dunums. The border of this locality is 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 1997, Beita has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administered by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 30 employees working for the council, which owns its permanent headquarters. Beita is included within the Joint Services Council South of Nablus (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

The Municipal Council owns one vehicle for the collection of solid waste in addition to a pick-up truck, a Bagger bulldozer, and water and electricity maintenance equipment. It is responsible for providing a number of services to the residents of Beita, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks
- Waste collection, street cleaning and social services
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving
- Organization of the processing and issuance of construction licenses
- Provision of offices for governmental institutions
- Protection of historical and archeological sites
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town
- Provision of the public markets
- Provision of educational kindergartens

(Beita Municipal Council, 2013)

## **History**

The town of Beita was named after the Arabic word for "home", as it was a place of safety for travelers who travel from the North, South, and East of Palestine. The travelers would stay overnight and the residents would use this as an opportunity to participate in the community, by expressing their appreciation for the travelers and enjoying their arrival to the village (Beita Municipal Council, 2013). The establishment of the assembly dates back to the Canaanite era (Beita Municipal Council, 2013) (see photo 1).



**Photo of Beita**

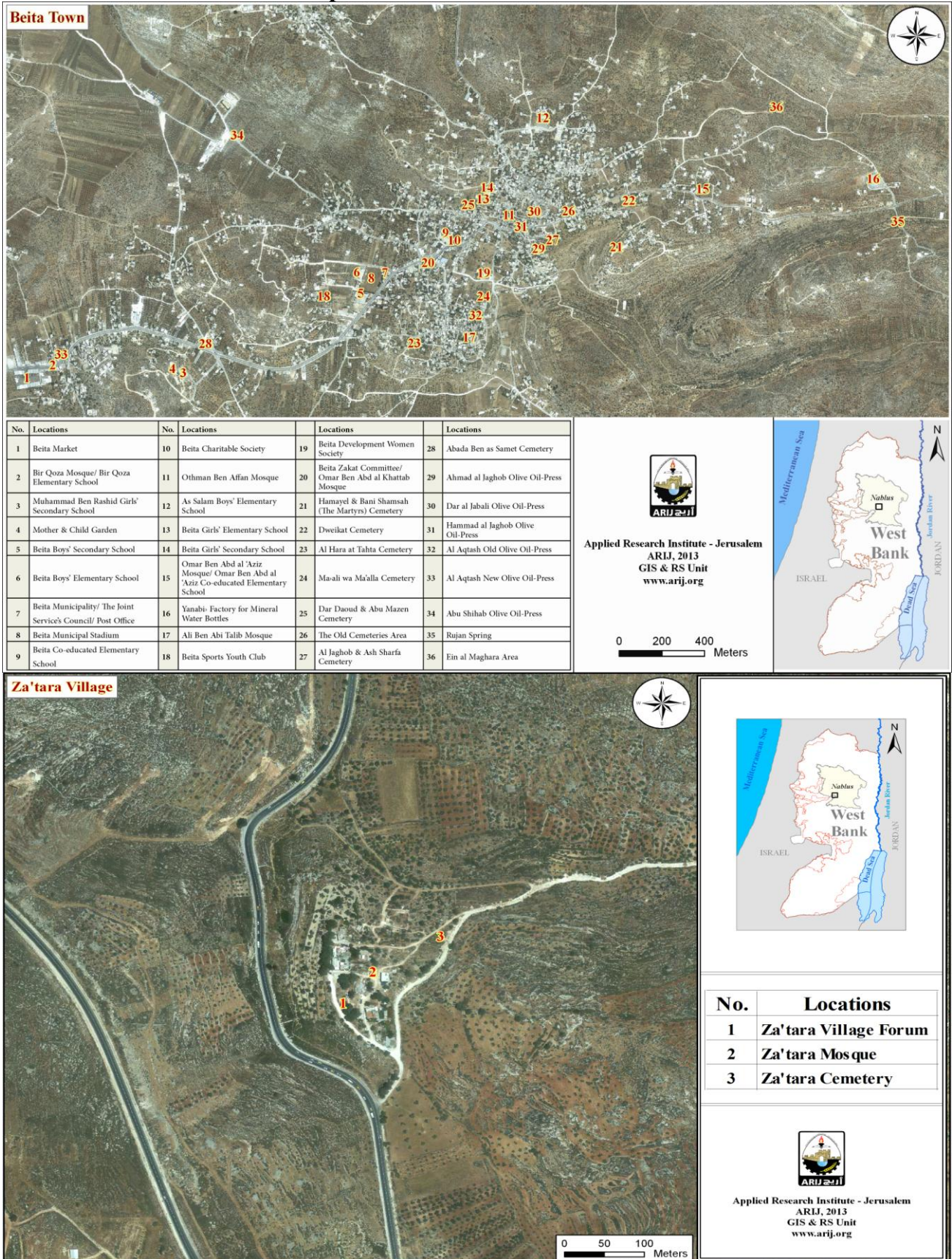
## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are six mosques in the village: Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Mosque, Umar ibn Al-Khattab Mosque, Uthman ibn Affan Mosque, Ali ibn Abi Talib Mosque, Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz Mosque, and Ubada ibn as Samit Mosque.

There are also a number of archeological sites in the town, including two Khirbet Roman ruin houses, a castle dating back to the Bronze Age called 'Arma surrounded by 400-500 square meters of halls carved from rock. There are two historic prisons, most notably Khirbet Rogan, and the place of imprisonment of Shayeb in Khirbet 'Olim. To the south of town there is an archaeological area called Al Bal'a which is a cave and in the walls are some statues, which date back to the Roman Empire. In addition there is the Abu Zakari shrine, which dates back to the Crusades (Beita Municipal Council, 2013). (See Map 2).



Map 2: Main locations in Beita town



Za'tara Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beita in 2007 was 8,985, of whom 4,665 were male and 4,320 female. There were 1,576 households registered as living in 1,739 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 Beita as follows: 44.6% were less than 15 years of age, 52.3% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town was 102:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.9% and 48.1% of the population, respectively.

### Families

Beita residents are from several families, including:

- Doyakat Tribe: Consisting of Jabali family, Abo ‘Amer family, Salman family, Abo Sheikh family, Abo Khalil family, Jaber family, Sa’ada family, ‘Esawi family, Abo Hamad family, and Qotne family
- Hamayel Tribe: Consisting of Seeam family, Hamdan family, and Bani Maflah family
- Bani Shamsa Tribe: Consisting of Khader family, Daoad family, Balut family, ‘Adeley family, Jaghob, Abo Mazen family, Khalil family, and Theyab family
- Khabayasa Tribe: Consisting of Farhat family, Aqtash family, and As’ad family
- Badeer Tribe: Consisting of Issa family, Khadeer family, and ‘Araj family
- Sharfa Family
- Ma’ali Family
- Ma’la Family

### Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff shows that around 100 people have left the village since the Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000.

### Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census in 2007, the illiteracy rate amongst the Beita population is approximately 6%; of whom 79.7% are females. Of the literate population, 14.3% could only read and write, with no formal education, 25.3% had elementary education, 29% had preparatory education, 16.4% had secondary education, and 8.9% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Beita by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Beita 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	76	459	825	951	557	86	244	2	31	6	0	3,237
F	299	434	747	855	463	41	140	0	2	0	7	2,988
<b>T</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>1,572</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>1,020</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6,225</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are eight public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and one private school (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012)(See Table 2).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beita Boys' Secondary School	Government	Males
Beita Boys' Elementary School	Government	Males
Beita Girls' Secondary School	Government	Females
Beita Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
Beita Girls' Elementary School	Government	Females
Bear Quza Co-educated Elementary School	Government	Mixed
As Salam Boys' Elementary School	Government	Males
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Girls' Secondary School	Government	Females
Ajyal-Al Mustaqbal School	Private	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the town there are 3,074 students, 168 teachers, and 106 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 18, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are seven kindergartens in Beita, all of which are run by private organization (See Table 3 below).

**Table 3: Kindergartens in Beita town by name and supervising authority**

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Al Huriya Kindergarten	5	7	Private
Al Manar Kindergarten	3	5	Private
Bara'em Al Mostaqbal Kindergarten	5	6	Private
Toyor Al Janah Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Children's Life Kindergarten	2	3	Private
Beita Charity Association Kindergarten	2	3	Private
Ajyal Kindergarten	3	4	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

The educational sector in Beita town faces a number of obstacles, including:

- The lack of adequate classrooms in the schools.
- The need for rehabilitation and continuous maintenance for schools
- The need for providing the schools with computer and scientific labs
- The need for internet service in schools

(Beita Municipal Council, 2013)

## Health Status

Beita has several health facilities available, including a governmental clinic, a governmental mother and child care center, and Al Hikmah health center which contains an X- ray center and medical tests laboratory. In addition, there is a Zakat Committee clinic which includes a general physician clinic and an X- ray center. The village also has a private physician's clinic, a private dental clinic and 3 private pharmacies (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

For health services not available in the town, patients use The National Hospital in Nablus City (14 km a way), or the Aqraba health clinic (4km away) (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

The health sector in the town faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of an ambulance
- The diabetes clinic is very far from the village
- The need for maternal and children health care
- The need for specialized clinics such as: an eye clinic, bone clinics, and an ear, nose and throat clinic

(Beita Municipal Council, 2013):

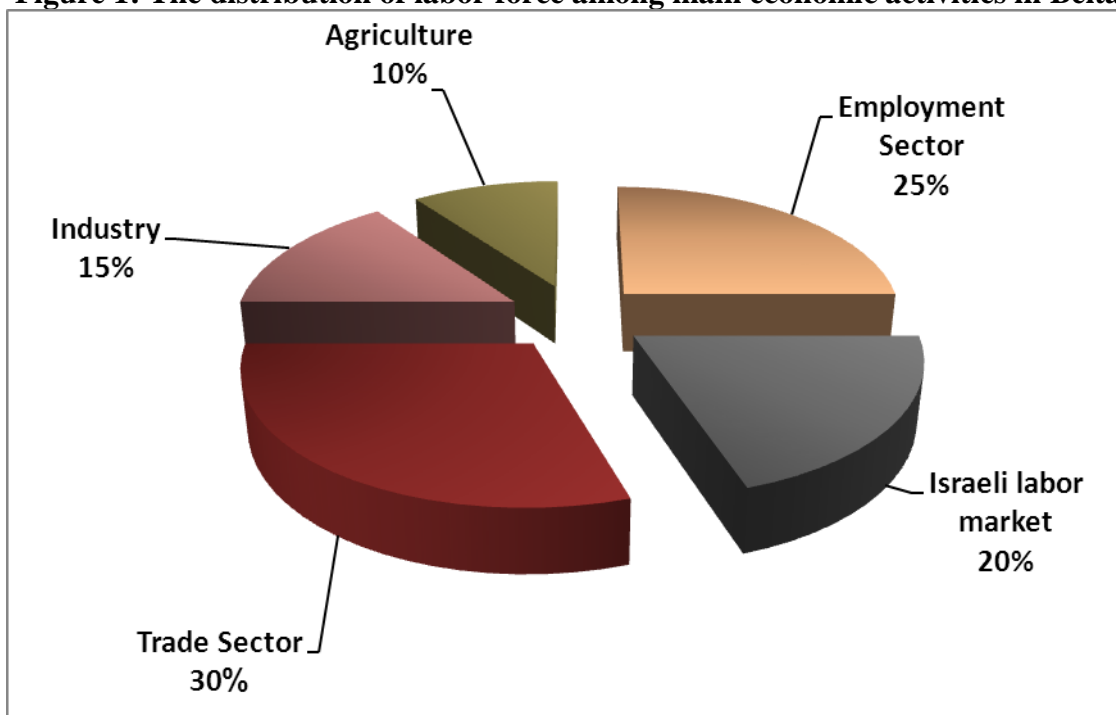
## Economic Activities

The economy in Beita is dependent mainly on the trade sector, which absorbs 30% of the town's workforce (Beita Municipal Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2013 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Beita are as follows:

- Trade sector (30%)
- Government or other public employees sector (25%)
- Israeli labor market (20%)
- Industry (15%)
- Agriculture sector (10%)

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



Source: Beita Municipal Council, 2013

Beita has 200 markets, 1 bakery, 1 butcher, 4 fruit and vegetable stores, 19 service providers, 18 different professional workshops, 1 quarry, 4 stone cutters, 5 oil presses, 3 stores for agricultural tools and 2 agricultural nurseries (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Beita reached 17% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions were:

- Industrial workers
- Workers in the agriculture sector
- Workers in the Israeli labor market
- Workers in the trade sector (Beita Municipal Council, 2013)

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2007, 30.7% of Beita’s labor force was economically active, of whom 81.7% were employed. Of the 69.2% who were not economically active, 55.2% were students and 34.7% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

**Table 4: Beita population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	Housekeeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
<b>M</b>	1,445	241	92	1,778	1,209	7	170	13	57	1,456	3	3,237
<b>F</b>	118	9	6	133	1,170	1,489	160	7	24	2,850	5	2,988
<b>T</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>4,306</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6,225</b>



M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.  
 Source: PCBS, 2009.

### Agricultural Sector

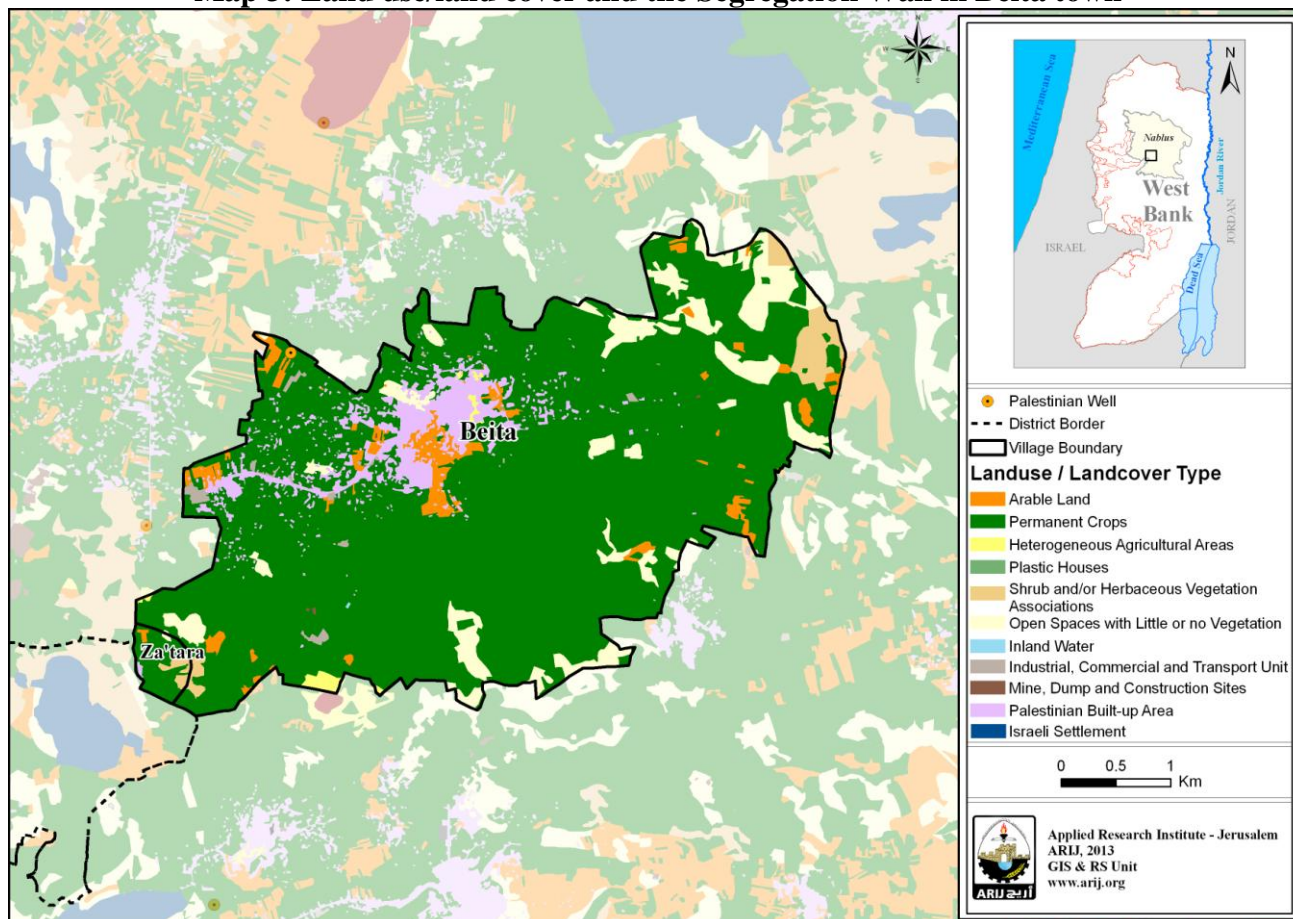
Beita has a total area of approximately 17,495 dunums of which 15,014 dunums are arable land and 1,032 dunums are registered as residential (See Table 5 and Map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Beita town (area in dunums)**

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (15,014)				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					
17,495	1,032	14,087	5	333	589	2	0	1,352	94	1

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and the Segregation Wall in Beita town**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

As for the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Beita, fruity vegetables such as tomatoes and green beans, are the most widely cultivated, with nearly 6 dunums planted which are rain-fed, along with 5 dunums cultivated in greenhouses (Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beita is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 9,889 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the town.

**Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Beita (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.
9,889	0	0	0	6	0	10	0	122	0	130	0	10,157	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Beita, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 110 dunums (See Table 7).

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

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
110	0	3	0	40	0	10	0	50	0	0	0	6	0	219	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in size of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) 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 and 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. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 100% of the residents in Beita rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Beita**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broiler Chickens	Layer Chickens	Bee Hives
62	720	80	0	0	0	0	90,000	12,000	270

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 35km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

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

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	10
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	20
For animals only	5
Unsuitable	0

Source: Beita Municipal Council, 2013

According to the Beita Municipal Council, the agricultural sector in the town has a number of problems, including

- The lack of water resources
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects
- The confiscation of land by Israeli settlers

## Institutions and Services

Beita town has several governmental institutions, including an office for the Ministry of Labor, an office for the Ministry of Education and a Fire Brigade Center. There are also a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include:

- **Beita Village Council:** Founded in 1997, and later registered by the Ministry of local Government it is tasked with bringing attention to issues of the town, providing all services to the population, and providing infrastructure services.
- **Beita Sports Club:** Established in 1973, and later registered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. the Beita Sports Club was created in order to interest young people, train them, provide services to them, and to improve their athletic skills by providing different social and cultural activities.
- **Beita Zakat Committee:** Founded in 1989, the Committee provides many services for the population, notably to orphans, helping the poor and needy students, schools and universities, in addition to providing medical services, overseeing a clinic which includes the integrated clinics jurisdiction and laboratory, radiology department, Gynecology clinic and General Medicine. It also works to take care of the role of the Holy Quran for both sexes, and is seeking to build mosques and medical centers.
- **Beita Charity Association:** Founded in 1973, the Association offers services to citizens, including a kindergarten and a center for teaching sewing, embroidery, and other skills.
- **Beita Women's Development Association:** Established in 1998, it is specializing in the development of women by activating their role in social and economic activity. The Association holds various courses in sewing, embroidery, beekeeping, and gardening. It also holds seminars and lectures on social, health, and culture in various fields.
- **Palestinian Women's Union Committee:** Established in 2004, it is a feminist organization.
- **Nablus Farmers Association:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of Interior.
- **Zaytuna Palestinian Civil Society:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, its focus is addressing the issues of farmers.

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Beita has been connected to a public electricity network since 1986. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, through the North Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 98% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the weak electric current, the old electricity network, in addition to the existence of some regions that need to be provided with electricity service (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

Beita is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 30% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

### Transportation Services

There are 11 taxis, 12 buses and 2 illegal cars in Beita. The town suffers from the earth mounds roadblocks and military checkpoints (Beita Municipal Council, 2013). There are 2km of main roads and 88km of secondary roads in Beita (Beita Municipal Council, 2013) (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Beita town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	2	28
<b>2. Paved &amp; in poor condition</b>	-	5
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	-	55

Source: Beita Municipal Council, 2013

### Water Resources

Beita is provided with water by Mekorot through the public water network established in 1996. The percentage of housing units connected to the public water is approximately 95% (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Beita town in 2012 was approximately 420,000 cubic meters/year (Beita Municipal Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 114 liters/day. However, no Beita citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 27% (Beita Municipal Council, 2013). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Beita is 83 liters per day (Beita Municipal Council, 2013). This is a low rate compared to the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

The town also has a number of water springs, such as: Olem, Rojan, Bear Quza, Sara, and Al Ghouta, in addition to two water tanks with a capacity of 500 cubic meters. Also, 15% of houses in the town have a domestic water well to collect rain water (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).



## Sanitation

Beita lacks a public sewerage network. Most of the population uses cesspits and septic tanks as the main means for wastewater disposal (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day is 672 cubic meters, or 245,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 67 liters per day. The wastewater collected in cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly into open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to the environment in addition to public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

## Solid Waste Management

Beita Municipal Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 7 NIS/month per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. Approximately 98% of fees due are collected (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Beita benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 130 containers (of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity), located at various points in the town. Beita Municipal Council collects the solid waste once a day and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site, which is special for the town, 6km from the town. Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally-sound way (Beita Municipal Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beita is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day by Beita residents is nearly 10.6 tons, or 3,862 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

## Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Beita experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

### Water Crisis

- Interruption of water provision for long periods in the summer
- The public water network is old and in need of maintenance, as the rate of loss in the network is about 27%

## Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewerage network in the town means that Beita residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, 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 diseases in the town. 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.

## Solid Waste Management

Beita town faces few problems regarding the management of solid waste. It is transported to Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environment-friendly landfill serving the town in addition to most of the localities in the Nablus Governorate.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical status in Beita town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beita was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 15,514 dunums (89% of the village's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the village's area, constituting 1,981 dunums (11% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority of Beita's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land, but Za'tara center belongs to Beita town within Area C. (See Table 11).

**Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Beita town according to Oslo Agreement 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total town area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	15,514	89
Area C	1,981	11
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,496</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

### **Israeli occupation practices in Beita town**

Despite the fact that there are no current settlements and camps established on Beita town lands, the town still suffers from Israeli occupation practices; settlements, camps and Israeli military checkpoints still exist not far from the town. To the south-western side of the town is the settlement bloc of “Kfar Tapuah”. It is 400 meters away from Za'tara village, which belongs to Beita town. “Kfar Tapuah” settlement bloc encompasses “Kfar Tapuah” settlement, “Tapuah” Israeli military base, and “Tapuah” military checkpoint, known to Palestinians as “Za'tara” checkpoint. It is an important site which links the northern and southern governorates. The outpost has been in place since the Second Intifada, and has continued to be a central point for Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians, such as killings, arrests, torture, denial of access and traffic.

Beita town has been negatively affected by “Tapuah” military base which is located beside Za'tara checkpoint, established on territory belonging to the neighboring village of Yasuf. Through such infrastructure situated deep inside Palestinian territory, the Israeli authorities aim to increase Israeli military presence in order to reinforce the control of the Palestinian population.

Israeli forces have also set up checkpoints and pedestrian guards on road No. 60 located to the west of the village, which is under full Israeli control.

### **Israeli military checkpoints in Beita village**

During the Second Intifada, Israeli occupation forces established several military checkpoints and cement block barriers at the entrance of Beita town, especially on the western side near “Huwwara” main road No. 60. Beita town as well as Nablus City and its surrounding villages have been negatively impacted by “Huwwara” and “Za'tara” main checkpoints. They are considered important checkpoints in the West Bank, which separate the northern governorates from the central and southern governorates. “Huwwara” checkpoint was partially removed in 2009. Although Israeli forces have reduced their presence in this area and their control over the movement of Palestinian civilians, “Za'atara” checkpoint is still in place; Palestinians are still subjected to stop and search procedures.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of residents. Checkpoints continue to hinder freedom of movement and sever the links between Nablus city and the surrounding villages, as well as the connection between the villages and their agricultural lands. This has resulted in heavy economic losses for residents of the village as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed.

### **Israeli bypass roads on Beita town**

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli

security control. Israel has confiscated land to the west and south side of Beita in order to construct two main Israeli bypass roads; road No. 505 and “Huwwara” main road No. 60, which are under Israeli control. According Beita Village Council, Israeli forces issued a military order in 2013 to confiscate land from Beita on the southern side adjacent to bypass road No.505 for military and security purposes.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the amount of the confiscated lands which will be taken for the purpose of what is known as the (buffer zone). The buffer zone is imposed by the Israeli army and usually occupies 75 meters on both sides of the road.

### **Bulldozing of the road between Beita and Huwwara**

On 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011, Israeli forces bulldozed through Al Siyat road which connects Beita and Huwwara town. Constructed in 2010, this road was paved as part of a common services project between the two towns with a cost of \$200,000 funded by the municipal budget. According to the Land Research Center, Israeli bulldozers uprooted the asphalt along the road (approximately 1,600 meters). It is worth mentioning that this street was established at the start of 2010 . And in the morning of the opening of this road, the Israeli occupation forces closed the road with stone and sand barriers at the junction (crossroads) with Huwwara main road No. 60. For more details and pictures please visit [http://www.poica.org/editor/case\\_studies/view.php?recordID=4047](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=4047)

## **Development Plans and Projects**

### **Implemented Projects**

Beita Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Beita during 2009-2012 (See Table 12).

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

<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Donor</b>
Rehabilitation and paving of two main lanes, where each lane is 7 km and the island of intermediate length of 2km	Infrastructure	Palestinian National Authority
Demolition and rebuilding of the walls to expand the streets in Al Gars, Bear Quza , the main street, the West Hara Street, and 50th Street	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Rehabilitation of unpaved roads, and cultivation inside and outside the structural plan using the guidelines of the Ministry of Public Works	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Planting trees in the sidewalks and building islands in the main street, as well as others	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Rehabilitation and paving of the Aldokeyat yard and street of Al Qoda'	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Maintenance of internal roads and the expansion of stone walls in different places	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Project to build a retaining wall on Karam Nemer street (rock quarries)	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Installation of new road for the municipality - Trish	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Installation of traffic signals and warning lines on the main streets	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council



Rehabilitation and street paving between Beita ‘Awarta through the Joint Services Council. Length of 2 km	Infrastructure	Palestinian National Authority
Installation and rehabilitation of the street in Beita, Za'tara, and ‘Ein mghara	Infrastructure	Agricultural Relief
Rehabilitation and paving of internal roads (Streets Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Girls’ Secondary School and Beita Boys Elementary School)	Infrastructure	Palestinian National Authority
Building retaining walls (rock quarries) along the street linking Beita and Osarin	Infrastructure	Joint Services for Planning and Development- Aqraba
Rehabilitation and paving of internal roads (Western street and Trish street)	Infrastructure	Municipalities and Development Funding
Setup engineering schemes for the entrance of the town and the intersection (from Jerusalem - Nablus to central marketing street)	Infrastructure	Palestinian National Authority through the Ministry of Finance
Project to extend main and secondary water lines	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Installation to strengthen the infusion water pump to the main reservoir and building manholes near the rotor and the central market , which includes a pump room and complex valves	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Rainwater drainage project between the two schools and the main street	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
The expansion of the electricity network in all parts of town, inside and outside the Structural plan with a cable 3ABC with a distance of 29480 meters and 466 cylindrical columns	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Installation of towers and ladders of medium pressure and the installation of a ground cable of medium pressure and creation of a transfer station with a capacity of 630KVA, installation of a cable of ABC 95 mm by 3 km and of low pressure 50 mm by 2 km in the main street	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Installation of lighting in 350 various places in the town, and the installation of 10 panels to power street lighting, street lighting from a timer to a photocell through the sun	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Installation of prepaid electricity system	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Lighting project and running squares and lanes, fountains and waterfalls, cafeteria and bathrooms in the garden of “The Mother and Child”	Infrastructure	Beita Municipal Council
Project to install an electrical anchor point	Infrastructure	Ministry of Finance
Project to establish a line of pneumatic pressure towers and ladders with an average distance of 1300 meters and a plant's ability to convert KVA400	Infrastructure	Palestinian Energy Authority
A project to build and equip the Beita Boys Elementary School	Education and Culture	Japanese Government
Finishing a project of Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz Elementary Co-educational School	Education	Donation from Abdullah Abdel Jaber Hamayel (Abu Tayel)
Maintenance and equipment purchasing for all schools, building retaining wall and comprehensive maintenance for a number of classrooms in the co- educated elementary school, the installation of umbrellas for the girls secondary school and Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Girls Secondary School , supplying a basketball court for the Al Salam school and building a canteen for the School in Beir Quza	Education	Beita Municipal Council
Project to build a health unit for the Beita girls elementary school	Education	International Christian Assembly

Installation of a mural Jerusalem 40 km, on the wall of the municipality	Service	Beita Municipal Council
The signing of the project document, with the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Local Government Engineer Mazen Ghoneim which includes a commitment to the basic principles to ensure gender equality in the work of the Council	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Implementing a large number of programs that are targeting those with special needs from own town	Service	Beita Municipal Council in partnership with community-based rehabilitation program
Maintenance and supplying containers distributed throughout the town	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Project to get rid of mosquitoes and stray dogs	Service	Beita Municipal Council
The construction of central relay stations for waste	Service	Beita Municipal Council
developing the organizational structure of the municipality according to the normative structures provided by the ministry	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Development project for municipal equipment	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Project to rearrange offices on the ground floor and the establishment , equipping and furnishing the office agency's Municipality	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Project for implementing an accounting program	Service	Development Fund and municipal lending
Project to open an office of the Ministry of Agriculture in the municipal building to provide services to farmers in the town	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Project to buy a car	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Updated records of fixed assets of the municipality	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Debt rescheduling and debt reduction	Service	Beita Municipal Council
President and members of local councils and municipal signed a code of honor	Service	Ministry of Local Government and the Palestinian Federation of Local Authorities
Preparation, follow-up and constant updating of the municipal website <a href="http://www.beita.ps">www.beita.ps</a>	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Implementation of a large number of workshops and meetings and events in southern and central Nablus	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Organizing and sponsoring a number of events for volunteer work	Service	Beita Municipal Council
Prepare a Strategic Development and Investment plan for the town for the years 2011-2014	Service	Development Fund and municipal lending
Strategic Plan to combine Beita (Beita, Odala, Osarin, Za'tara) for the years 2012-2015	Service	The Belgian government represented by the Belgian Development Fund- manages the development and lending to municipalities

Source: Beita Municipal Council, 2013

## Proposed Projects

Beita Municipal Council, in cooperation with the town's civil society organizations and the town 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 town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

- 1 - The need to establish a sewerage network
- 2 - The need to develop and rehabilitate a sports stadium in the eastern and southern region
- 3 - The need to develop and rehabilitate the tourist area in Al 'Ain area
- 4 - The need for the restoration to the public internal water network
- 5 - The need to pave internal roads along the 7 km
- 6 - The need to support the work of olive products and packaging and manufacturing units
- 7 - The need to establish a cultural center and a public library
- 8 - The need to construct agricultural roads 2 km long in Za'tara locality
- 9 - The need to build two reservoirs of water; one in Za'tara locality and the other in the east of Beita
- 10 - The need to build an elementary co-educated school in Za'tara locality

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Beita suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs of the town, according to the Town Council's perspective:

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

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			42 km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			30 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			10 km
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			1 spring
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500 cubic meter
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			75 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			100 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill			*	
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres			*	
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building new schools		*		1
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			scientific lab and library
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			1500 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			50 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			30 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			357 ton yearly
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			60 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds			*	
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

<sup>^</sup> 2 km main roads, 10 km secondary roads and 30 km agricultural roads.

Source: Beita Municipal Council, 2013

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