

Huwwara Town Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2014

Acknowledgments

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

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 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 Nablus Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in improving 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 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 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 the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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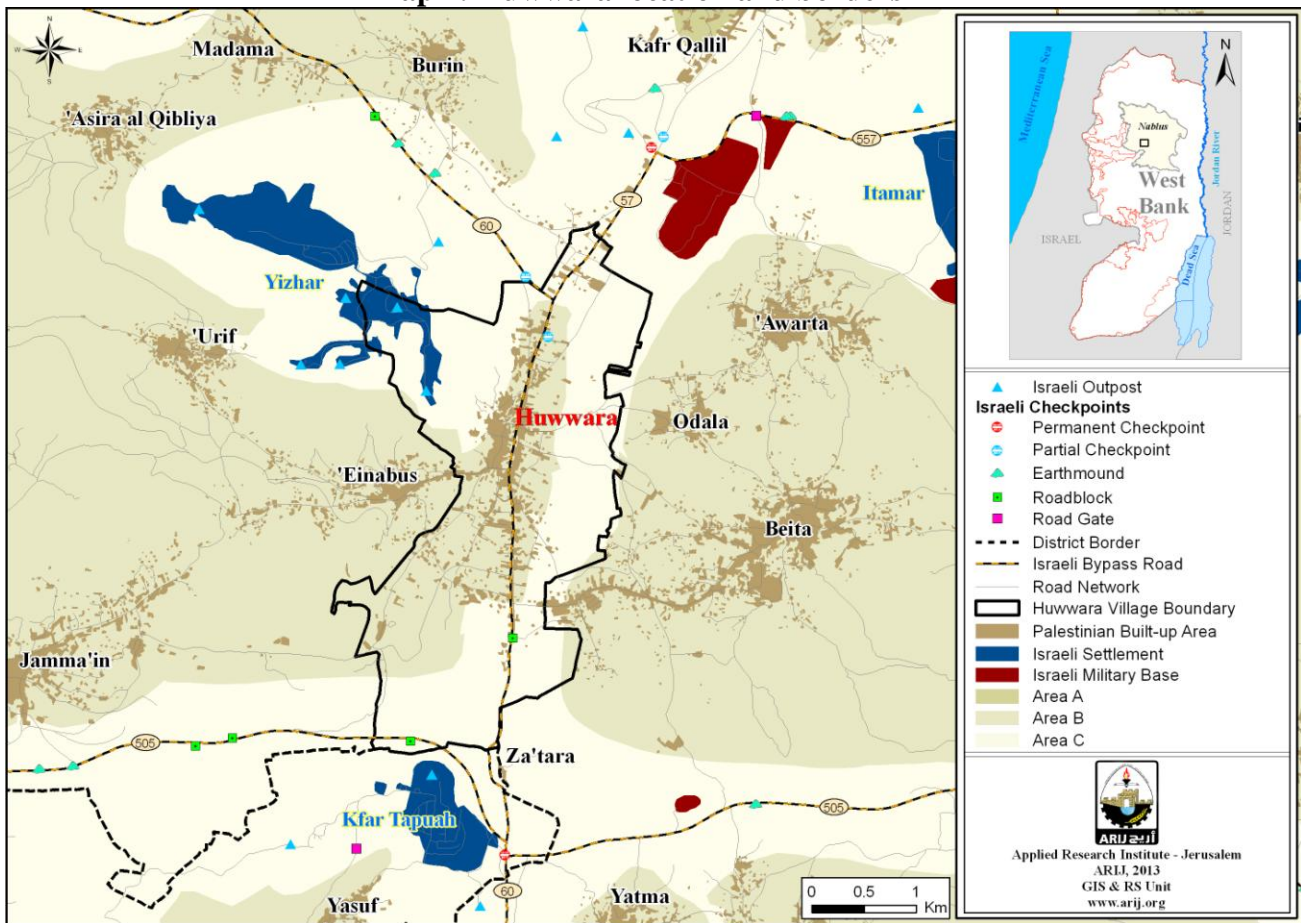
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Huwwara Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Huwwara is a Palestinian town in Nablus Governorate, located 7.28km south of Nablus City. It is bordered by 'Awarta, Odala and Beita to the east, Za'tara and Yasuf to the south, Jamma'in and 'Einabus to the west, and 'Asira al Qibliya and Burin to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Huwwara location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Huwwara is located at an altitude of 503m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 578.04mm. The average annual temperature is 17°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Huwwara town consists of approximately 8,398 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which was stipulated by the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, prepared by the Palestinian National Authority and represented by the Ministry of Local Government, the Central Elections Commission, the Ministry of Planning and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011. These governmental institutions redeveloped and altered the borders of the local bodies for the purpose of the elections. ARIJ adopted these new borders in this project for the purposes of research and study. The adopted borders, to a certain extent, suited the

demographic variables and the environmental and agricultural facts on the ground. These borders do not represent the space and the borders of private property in the district and are not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1998, Huwwara has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 16 employees working in the council, which has a permanent headquarters that is included within the Joint Services Council South of Nablus (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

The Municipal Council owns a vehicle for the collection of solid waste in addition to a small hammer. It is responsible for providing a number of services to the residents of Huwwara, including (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water network.
- Waste collection, street cleaning and public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Provision of offices for governmental institutions.
- Organization of the construction and issuance of licenses processes.

History

Huwwara town was named for the nature of the white soil “Al Hur” (poplar). It is a Syriac-origin word. The town was established in 1900 A.D., with its residents descending from the Al Hijaz countries, Sham (the Levant) and Mikhmas village (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

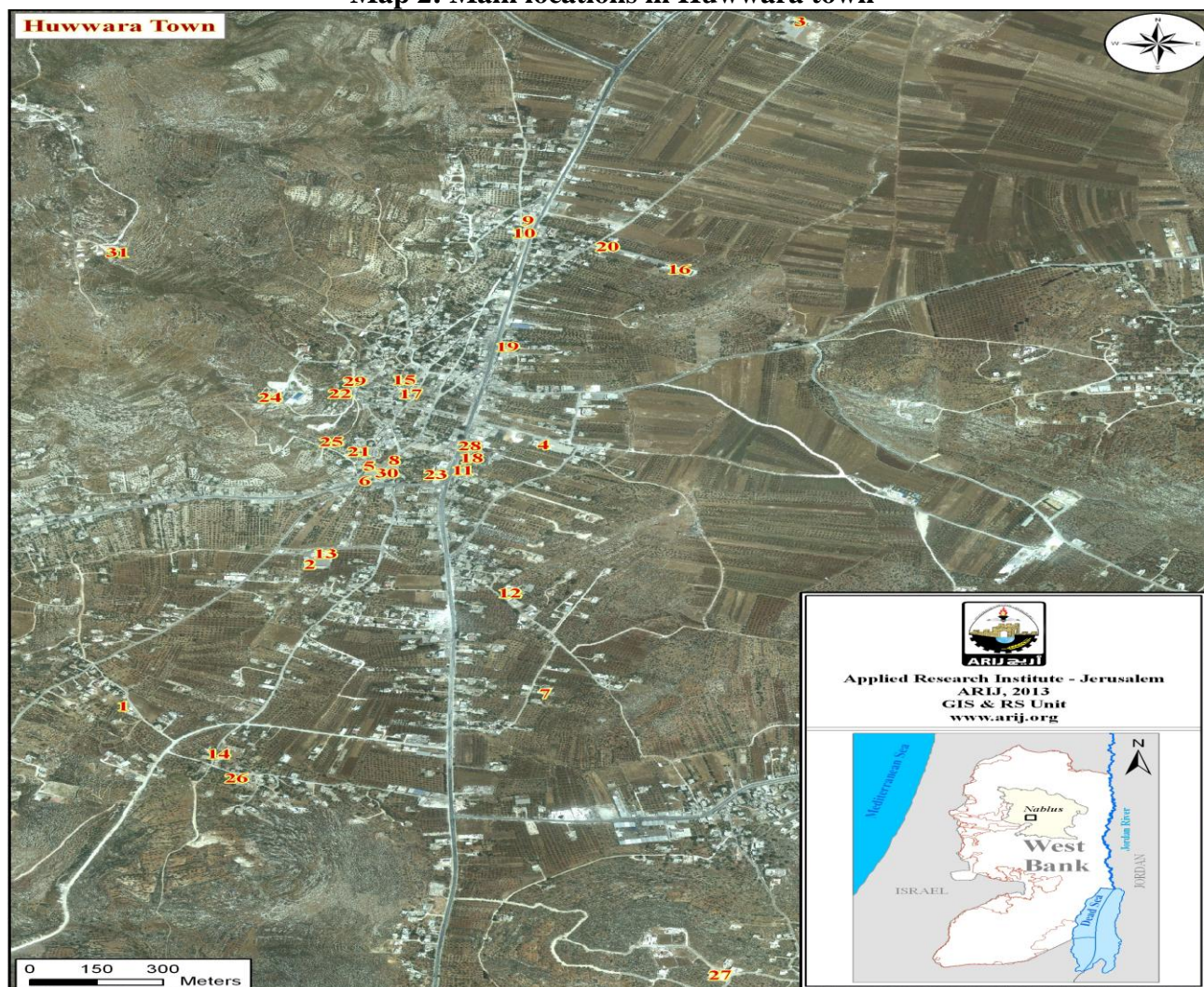
Photo of Huwwara



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are six mosques in the town (Umar ibn Al- Khattab, Bai’et ar Radwan, Ali ibn Abi Talib, As Saliheen, Bilal ibn Rabah and Huwwara Main Mosques). The town has no sites of archaeological interest discovered to date (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013). (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Huwwara town



No.	Locations	No.	Locations
1	Huwwara Municipality	17	Huwwara Governmental Health Clinic
2	Omar Ben al Khattab Boys' Elementary School	18	Directorate of Education (South of Nablus Office)
3	Huwwara Boys' Secondary School	19	Nablus Southern Sharia Court
4	Dr. 'Eqab Mufdi Girls' School	20	Directorate of Social Affairs (South of Nablus Office)
5	Huwwara Girls' Elementary School	21	Al Quran Memorizing House/ Al 'Ateeq Cultural Forum/ The Women Society for Social Work/ Huwwara Municipality's Library
6	Directorate of Interior (South of Nablus Office)	22	Huwwara Sports Club
7	Al Eyman School/ The Martyr Yasir Arafat Kindergarten	23	The Stone & Marble Industry Union/ An Noor Cooperative Society for Rural Development
8	Huwwara Charitable Society's Kindergarten	24	Huwwara Municipality Park
9	An Najah School & Kindergarten	25	Huwwara Main Cemetery
10	Ali Ben Abi Talib Mosque	26	Kuza Area Cemetery
11	Huwwara Main Mosque	27	The Joint Services Council of South Nablus Complex
12	As Saliheen Mosque	28	The Joint Services Council of South Nablus Headquarters
13	Omar Ben al Khattab Mosque	29	Huwwara Water Spring
14	Bilal Ben Rabah Mosque	30	The Ministry of Education Training Center
15	Bay'at ar Radwan Mosque	31	Salman al Farisi Shrine
16	Ibn Sina College/ Huwwara Emergency Center		

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Huwwara in 2007 was 5,486, of whom 2,741 were male and 2,745 female. There were additionally 971 households registered as living in 1,130 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 Huwwara is as follows: 41.4% were less than 15 years of age, 54.8% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.6% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 99.9:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50% and 50% of the population, respectively.

Families

Huwwara residents are from several families, including ‘Odah, Khammus and Damidi (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, the illiteracy rate amongst Huwwara population is approximately 5.8%, of whom 85.1% are females. Of the literate population, 11.1% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27.4% had elementary education, 29.7% had preparatory education, 16.5% had secondary education, and 9.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Huwwara by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Huwwara 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	34	235	575	618	273	73	129	2	15	3	4	1,961
F	195	204	508	553	378	49	92	1	5		2	1,987
T	229	439	1083	1171	651	122	221	3	20	3	6	3,948

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are four public and two private schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, in addition to Ibsina Nursing and Midwifery College (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012). (See Table 2).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Umar ibn Al- Khattab Boys' Elementary School	Government	Males
Huwwara Girls' Elementary School	Government	Females
Huwwara Boys' Secondary School	Government	Males
'Uqab Mufdi Girls' Secondary School	Government	Females
An Najah Co-educated Elementary School	Private	Mixed
Al Eyman Private School	Private	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the town there are 1,921 students, 110 teachers, and 66 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

There are three kindergartens in Huwwara town, all of which are run by private organizations (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012). (See Table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Huwwara town by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
The Martyr Yasir Arafat Kindergarten	3	4	Private
Huwwara Charitable Society Kindergarten	6	7	Private
An Najah Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012			

Due to the lack of variety when it comes to education, for example more practical learning options for the industrial sector; students head to the industrial school in ‘Askar Camp, 7 km from the town (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Huwwara town faces a number of obstacles, including (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013):

- Overcrowded classrooms.
- The need for new schools.
- Lack of computer labs at some of the schools.
- The need for health units at some schools.
- Israeli harassment imposed on Huwwara Boys’ Secondary School, particularly the existence of partial or permanent checkpoints.

Health Status

Huwwara has several health facilities available, including Huwwara Emergency Center, 8 general physician clinics (one governmental, 5 private and 2 run by charitable societies), one governmental and another private medical labs. It also has a governmental mother and child care center, a private physiotherapy center and 3 private pharmacies, in addition to an ambulance (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

The health sector in the town faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013):

- The lack of a resident physician working on daily basis.
- The lack of medicines at the governmental health clinic.
- The lack of equipment at the governmental medical lab.

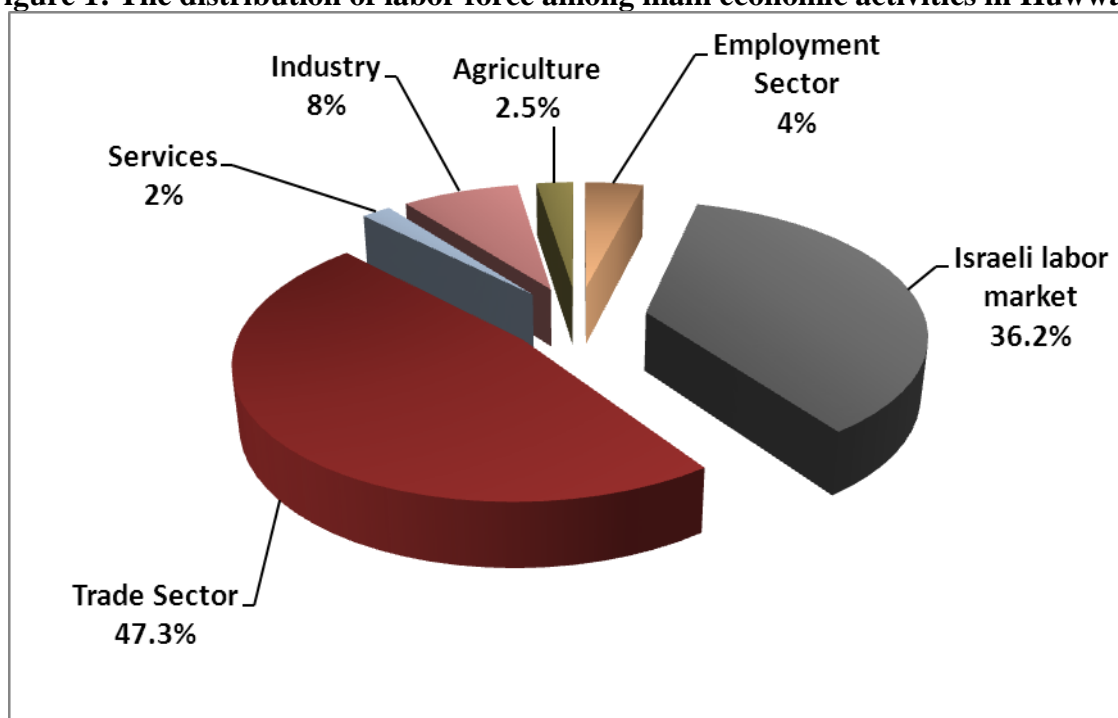
Economic Activities

The economy in Huwwara is dependent mainly on the trade sector, which absorbs 47.3% of the town's workforce (Huwwara 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 Huwwara are as follows:

- Trade sector (47.3%)
- Israeli labor market (36.2%)
- Industry (8%)
- Government or other employees sector (4%)
- Agriculture sector (2.5%)
- Services sector (2%)

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



Source: Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013

Huwwara has 29 groceries, 5 fruit and vegetable stores, 4 bakeries, 5 butcheries, 70 service stores, 10 different professional workshops, 1 stone cutter, 2 stores for agricultural tools and 2 agricultural nurseries (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Huwwara reached 17% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions are (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013):

- Workers in the trade sector.
- Industrial workers.
- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the services sector.
- Workers in the employees sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 30.4% of Huwwara's labor force was economically active, of whom 85% were employed, 69.2% were not economically active, 52.7% were students, and 36.1% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Huwwara 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	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	931	83	68	1082	710	6	113	15	22	866	13	1,961
F	91	7	21	119	729	981	135	1	19	1,865	3	1,987
T	1022	90	89	1201	1439	987	248	16	41	2,731	16	3,948

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

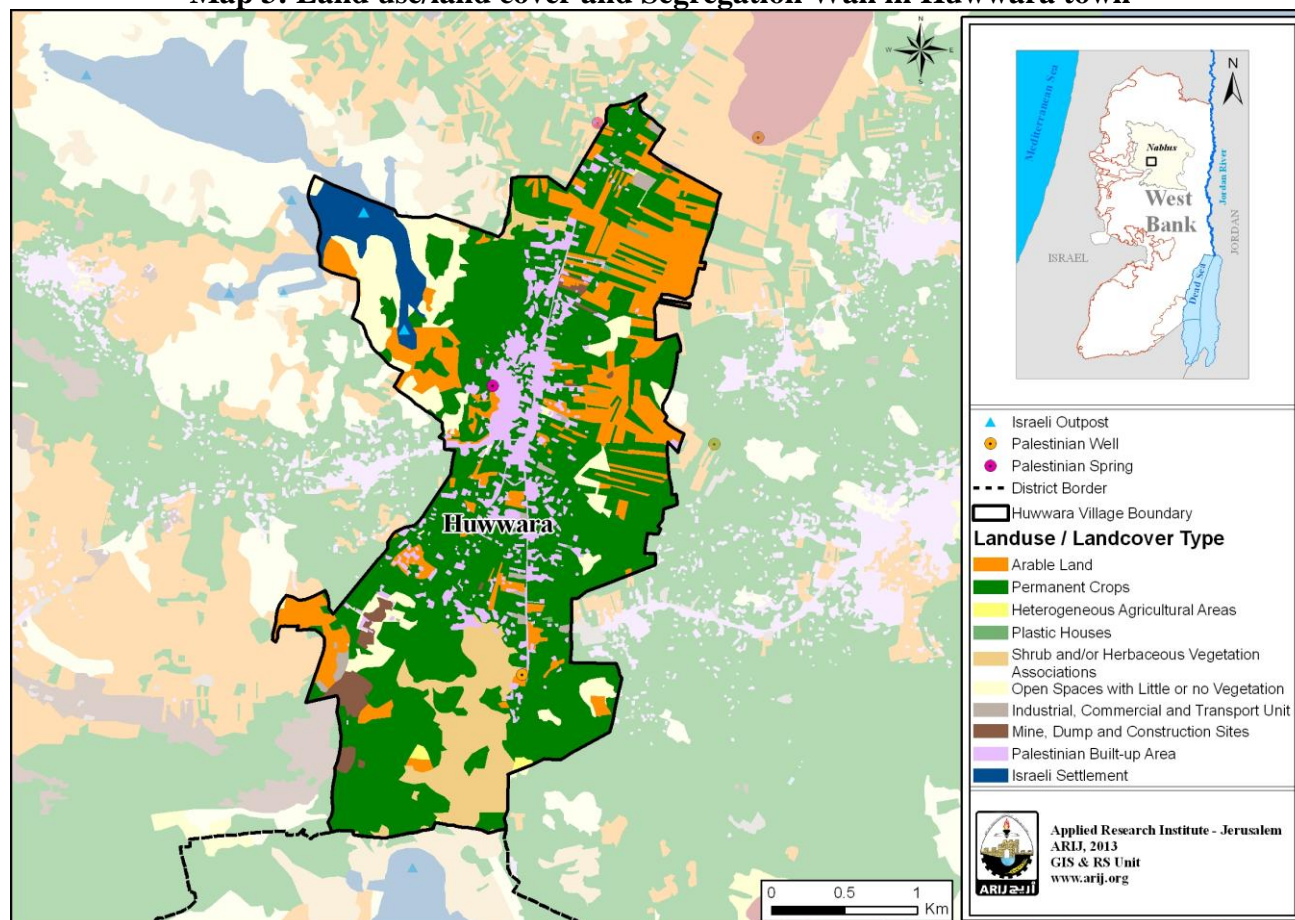
Huwwara has a total area of approximately 8,398 dunums of which 6,530 dunums are arable land and 735 dunums are registered as residential (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Huwwara town (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (6,530)				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					
8,398	735	4,515	10	605	1,400	0	0	649	202	282

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Huwwara town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Huwwara. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are okra and green beans. There is also 2 dunums of greenhouses located in the town (Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Huwwara (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	5	0	0	0	0	0	7	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Huwwara is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2,105 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the town.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Huwwara (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.
2,105	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	66	0	32	0	2,210	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Huwwara, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 560 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in Huwwara (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.
560	0	2	0	35	0	1	0	190	0	0	0	17	0	805	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The field survey conducted by ARIJ team shows that 10% of the residents in Huwwara rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Huwwara

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
43	390	264	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	10

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 2 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town which are unsuitable for use of animals, vehicles or any agricultural equipment (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

The agricultural sector in the town has a number of problems, including (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013):

- Most of the agricultural lands are located in Area C outside the Green Line.
- The confiscation of land by Israeli settlers.
- The lack of access to the agricultural lands.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment.
- The lack of water resources.

Institutions and Services

Huwwara town has several governmental institutions, including a post office, an office for the Ministry of Social Affairs, an office for the Ministry of Interior, an office for the Ministry of Education, and an office for the Ministry of Awqaf. There are also a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013):

- **Huwwara Municipal Council:** Founded in 1998 and was later registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the town, and providing various services to its population, such as water and waste services, and the organization of construction, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **Huwwara Sports Club:** Founded by Huwwara Village Council, with an aim to organize various sports activities of basketball tournaments, table tennis and others.
- **Women Committee for Social Work:** Founded by the Ministry of Women Affairs. The Committee conducts several training courses on the empowerment of women, including embroidery, food processing and others.

- **Huwwara Charitable Society:** Founded in 1966. The Society includes **Huwwara Charitable Society Kindergarten.**
- **Al 'Ateeq Cultural Forum:** Established by the Ministry of Culture, the Forum holds drama activities including plays, poetry duels, and literary seminars.
- **Zakat Committee Huwwara.**
- **An Noor Association.**
- **Municipal Library Huwwara.**

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Huwwara has been connected to a public electricity network since 1980. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, through the North Electricity Company, and is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 70% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the aged electrical network which is in need for renovation and the lack of street lighting (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

Huwwara is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 70% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

Transportation Services:

There are 2 taxi offices in Huwwara. Residents use wagons or walk on foot when there is a lack of vehicles. The town suffers from poor road infrastructure as well as the earth mounds roadblocks and military checkpoints (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013). There are 12km of main roads and 11.5km of secondary roads in Huwwara (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013) (See Table 10).

Table 10: Roads in Huwwara town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved & in good condition	2	1.5
2. Paved & in poor condition	10	8
3. Unpaved	-	2

Source: Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013

Water Resources:

Huwwara is provided with water by Mekorot through the public water network established in 1987. The percentage of housing units connected to the public water is approximately 80% (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Huwwara town in 2012 was recorded at approximately 840,000 cubic meters/year (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 372 liters/day. However, no Huwwara citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 30% (Huwwara 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 Huwwara is 261 liters per day (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013). The town also has a water spring, but it cannot be used as a result of water contamination. The town also has 3 citizens' wells; two are under Israeli control and the third is under the ownership of Nablus Municipality. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 6 NIS (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013). The town also has 100 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 1,289 cubic meters, or 470,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 208 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to 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:

Huwwara Village 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 160 NIS/year per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Huwwara benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 200 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the town. Huwwara Village Council collects the solid waste once a day and transports it using a waste vehicle to Sirefi relay station, 10km from the town, where the solid waste is sorted (Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Huwwara is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Huwwara residents is nearly 6.5 tons, or 2,370 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

- Interruption of water 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 30%.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that Huwwara 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 epidemics and 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

Huwwara town does not suffer from any problems regarding the management of solid waste. Huwwara Village Council is responsible for the process of collecting waste resulting from the town and transporting it to the Sirefi relay station for sorting. It is then 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 Huwwara town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Huwwara town was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 3,208 dunums (38% of the town'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 5,190 dunums (62% 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 Huwwara's population resides in Area B whilst most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land, open space or used for Israeli settlements (See Table 11).

Table 11: The Geopolitical Divisions of Huwwara town according to the Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	3,208	38
Area C	5,190	62
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	8,398	100

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

Israeli occupation practices in Huwwara town

Hundreds of dunums of land belonging to Huwwara town have been confiscated by Israel, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military bases and the construction of Israeli settlement roads. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations of land of Huwwara:

Israel has confiscated 282 dunums from Huwwara town to establish “Yitzhar” settlement, located on the western side of the town. Founded in 1983, the settlement covers an area of 1,354 dunums and contains approximately 1,106 Israeli settlers. The whole settlement area is established on land belonging to Huwwara, Burin, and 'Asira al Qibliya.

"Kfar Tapuah" settlement bloc is located to the west of Huwwara, which encompasses the settlement of "Kfar Tapuah", an Israeli military base, and "Tapuah" military checkpoint. "Tapuah" military checkpoint is known to Palestinians as "Za'tara" checkpoint; it is an important site which links the northern and southern governorates. This 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 resulting traffic.

The occupation forces frequently set up flying checkpoints and pedestrian patrols on “Huwwara” main road No. 60, which is under Israeli control, resulting in violations, clashes and arrests of Huwwara residents.

Israeli checkpoints in Huwwara town

During the Second Intifada, Israeli forces established checkpoints upon Huwwara land. The main checkpoints in Nablus are: Huwwara checkpoint to the north, Za'tara checkpoint to the south, and Yitzhar checkpoint to the north-west. These checkpoints are established on Huwwara main road No. 60; this road is under full Israeli control. These checkpoints separate the northern governorates from the central region and the southern governorates, as they lie on crossroads.

These checkpoints were partly removed after 2009, when Israeli forces reduced their presence in this area. Palestinians now have more freedom of movement than when the checkpoint was in place, under the current calm conditions during the recent years.

Yitzhar checkpoint was primarily evacuated. Yitzhar checkpoint was located at the Huwwara - Qalqiliya crossroad on bypass road No. 60 which links Nablus and Qalqiliya. Za'tara checkpoint, near Huwwara, is considered the southern gate of Nablus. It still separates the West Bank to this day. In recent years, Israeli forces have reduced their stop and search procedures at this checkpoint.

Over the last decade, military checkpoints in the area have continued to have a negative impact on the daily lives of Palestinian 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 in Huwwara town

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural land 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 Huwwara town territory in order to construct two Israeli bypass roads. One of them is bypass road No. 57, located to the south; the second is the bypass road No. 60, located to the north, which links Nablus and Qalqiliya. Huwwara main road is now considered part of bypass road No. 60 which passes through the center of the town, and is under full Israeli control.

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.

Israeli outposts in Huwwara town

Land belonging to Huwwara was taken by Israeli settlers for the establishment of two military outposts on the south-eastern hills of Yitzhar settlement. These outposts are named South Yitzhar and Lyahavat Yizhar. Both outposts overlook Huwwara town, and aim to extend the territory controlled along the south-eastern side of the settlement, and in turn, control more Palestinian land. These outposts are between 0.5km and 1.5km away from Yitzhar settlement and form a barrier which surrounds the Palestinian areas and its population. These outposts have been the source of several attacks on Palestinian residents and their land.

During the past two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Banks. The outposts are foundations for new settlements, and tend to be extended branches of a mother settlement a few miles away. The process usually begins with the establishment of mobile caravans on the land that has been taken by the settlers. Establishing settlement outposts was encouraged by Ariel Sharon; the aim was for Jewish settlers to occupy Palestinians hill tops and create facts on the ground, so that Palestinians could not claim the land if there was ever to be a future solution between the two sides. Consecutive Israeli governments have provided security and logistical support for these outposts. Since 2001 when Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister, there has been a significant increase in the number of outposts across the West Bank. The Israeli army has also supported illegal Israeli settlers in their relocation to the settlements, in addition to providing security and infrastructure support. This is to ensure the permanence of the settlements.

Bulldozing of the road between Beita and Huwwara

On 20th December 2011, Israeli forces bulldozed through the 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). On 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

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

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

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

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing retaining walls	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Local Government
Constructing culverts	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Local Government
Constructing a road	Infrastructure	2012	Municipal Fund
Constructing Huwwara Municipal Complex	Public Services	2009-2010	Islamic Bank
Constructing the Schools Street	Infrastructure	2011	Arab Fund

Source: Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013

Proposed Projects

Huwwara 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. Expanding and rehabilitating the main street.
2. Providing the town with an artesian water well.
3. Establishing a sewage network or wastewater treatment unit.
4. Establishing a closed gym in addition to playgrounds downtown.
5. Supporting women through small animal or agricultural projects.
6. Establishing private parking lots for the neighboring villages.
7. Supporting and activating Huwwara municipal library.
8. Providing the town with street lighting through solar energy.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

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

Table 13: Development Priorities and Needs in Huwwara

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			20 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			32 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			32 km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			32 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			1 underground well
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			32 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network	*			32 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			50 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste		*		1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			1 landfill
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools	*			elementary & secondary levels
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			elementary & secondary levels
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			scientific labs
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			160 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			1 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		3 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		600 ton yearly
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 10 km main roads, 8 km secondary roads and 2 km agricultural roads.

Source: Huwwara Municipal Council, 2013

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