



This guide was prepared within the project ***“Towards Social Inclusion in Community Development by Providing Platforms for Planning and Advocacy”*** which is implemented in partnership between the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), The Union of the Charitable Societies - Jerusalem (UCS), Hasso-Plattner-Institut für Digital Engineering GmbH (Hasso-Plattner-Institut für Digital Engineering), Digital Engineering Faculty of the University Potsdam and CESVI Fondazione Onlus, funded by the European Union.

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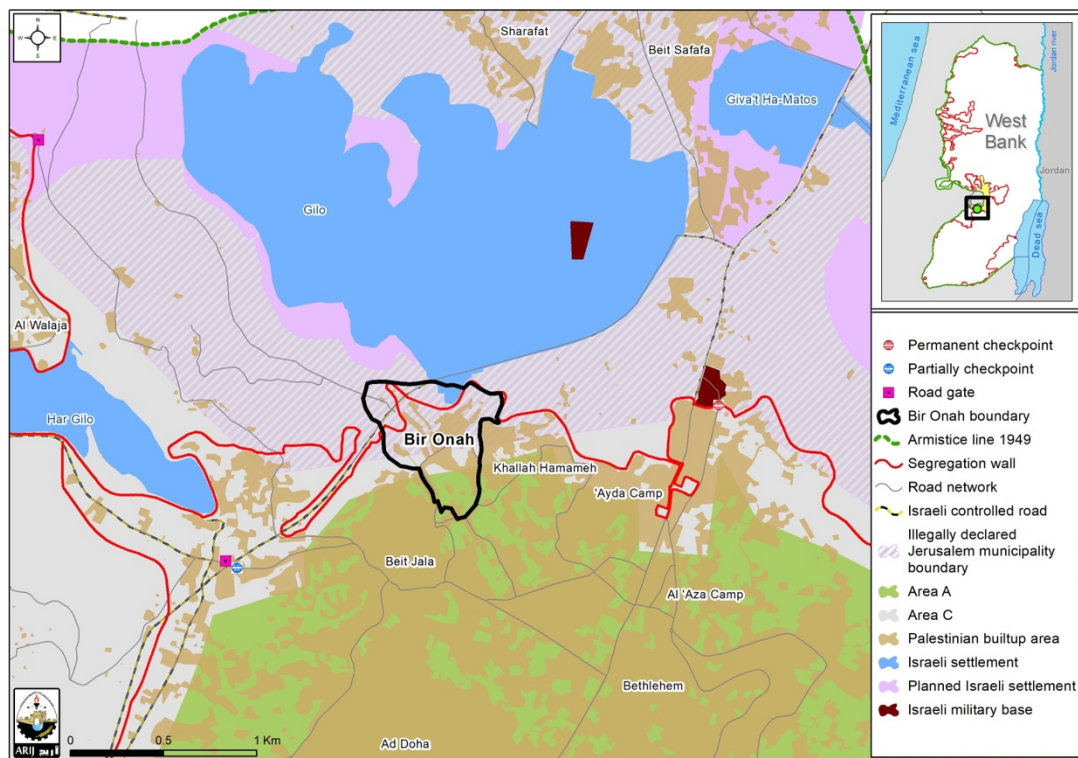
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Beir Owna Profile

Geographical location and physical characteristics

Beir Owna is one of the areas in Bethlehem Governorate, located west of Beit Jala as it lies about 2 km from the city of Bethlehem (the horizontal distance between the centre of the city and the centre of Bethlehem). In general terms, Beir Owna is bounded from the east by the city of Beit Jala, from the north by the city of Jerusalem and the settlement of Gilo and from the west and south by the city of Beit Jala (see map 1).

Map 1: Beir Owna location and borders



Source: ARIJ Geographic Information Systems Unit, 2020

Beir Owna is located at an altitude of 779 meters above sea level with an average annual precipitation of 563 mm. The average temperature is 16 degrees Celsius, while the average humidity is approximately 60.5% (GIS Unit - ARIJ, 2019).

Brief history

The name Beit Jala is originally an Aramaic name which means a grass carpet. The city was established in 1912, and its residents are descended from the neighboring Arab countries including Iraq. Beit Jala city includes two other localities: Khallet Hamameh and Beir Owna.

Picture from Beir Owna



Population

The population and housing census, carried out by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2017, indicated that the population of Beir Owna reached 1,401.

Standard of living

The household survey was used as a tool to collect necessary data to evaluate the socio-economic conditions at a neighborhood level, and to gather the necessary data to conduct a comprehensive assessment of East Jerusalem residents' needs, their preferences and perceptions concerning the availability and quality of education, health, transportation, infrastructure, housing and environmental services.

The Geographic Sample Distribution of Household was designed using a stratified sampling approach. Unfortunately, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) does not publish estimates of the number of residents in Palestinian neighborhoods within East Jerusalem. On the other hand, the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research publishes population numbers, demographic and socio-economic indicators in its annual statistical book. However, the boundaries of the statistical enumeration areas differ from the borders used by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and this project. In order to solve the problem, samples were taken where partners compared the number of buildings from the GIS database with the population numbers mentioned in the Statistical Work Manual. As it became clear that the number of buildings, according to statistics from the Central Bureau of Statistics is approximately 80% of the population. The distribution of the number of buildings and the number of sample for each cluster in the following table:

Cluster	Number of buildings	Sample number
Al Sawahira al Gharbiya	1,699	231
Al Thuri	2,099	325
Beir Owna	126	86
Beit Safafa	2,025	238
Beit Hanina	3,534	248
Isawiya and Sheikh Jarrah	2,605	242
Jabel Mukaber	3,259	247
Bayt al-Maqdis	10,623	371
Kafr 'Aqab	2,710	243
Old City	4,101	250
Sharafat	410	162
Shu'afat	1,895	234
Silwan	2,288	239
Sur Baher	2,771	243
Umm Tuba	874	204

As for the survey, it was completed by designing a questionnaire called “The Socio-Economic Survey for Families in East Jerusalem Districts 2019”. The Union of the Charitable Societies - Jerusalem (UCS), in cooperation with the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ), conducted this survey, and the survey was divided into the following sections:

- Data on family members.
- Domicile and living conditions (water, sanitation/sewerage, waste, communications, internet and mail).
- Movement and mobility.
- Education.
- The standard of living.
- Violence and personal security.

The standard of living in Beir Owna

The number of Beir Owna families that were sampled was 86, and when asked about their families living conditions, 95% reported they are living in middle to upper levels. As for the monthly income, 76.7% of the families that were surveyed earned 5,000 shekels and above monthly, while 23.3% of the families earned less than 5,000 shekels a month. As for the primary source of income, 88% were salaries earned while 15% were from self-employment.

Education sector

Regarding primary and secondary educational institutions in Beir Owna in the academic year 2015/2016, there are no public or private schools in town. However, students receive their education in the schools of Beit Jala city near their place of residence.

Health Sector

Medical services in Beir Owna are considered rather well-developed due to its proximity to the city of Beit Jala, where citizens go to receive treatment and care. The Ministry of Health and non-governmental and private institutions, which work in the health sector, supervise this sector and provide their services through hospitals, clinics, and primary health care centers. There is one governmental hospital in Beir Owna; Al Hussein (Beit Jala Governmental hospital), which contains 113 beds, in addition to the specialized surgical hospital of the Rehabilitation Arab Society which contains 77 beds, and Dibs Maternity hospital for childbirth, which contains 10 beds.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health also provides the city and surrounding towns and villages' citizens with primary health care services, such as medical examination and treatment, through Bethlehem Health Directorate and the Motherhood and Childhood center in the city. In addition, there are many charitable societies, medical institutions, and private health clinics, which, upon their efforts, were able to perform multiple tasks in the areas of health care and social development.

Agriculture sector

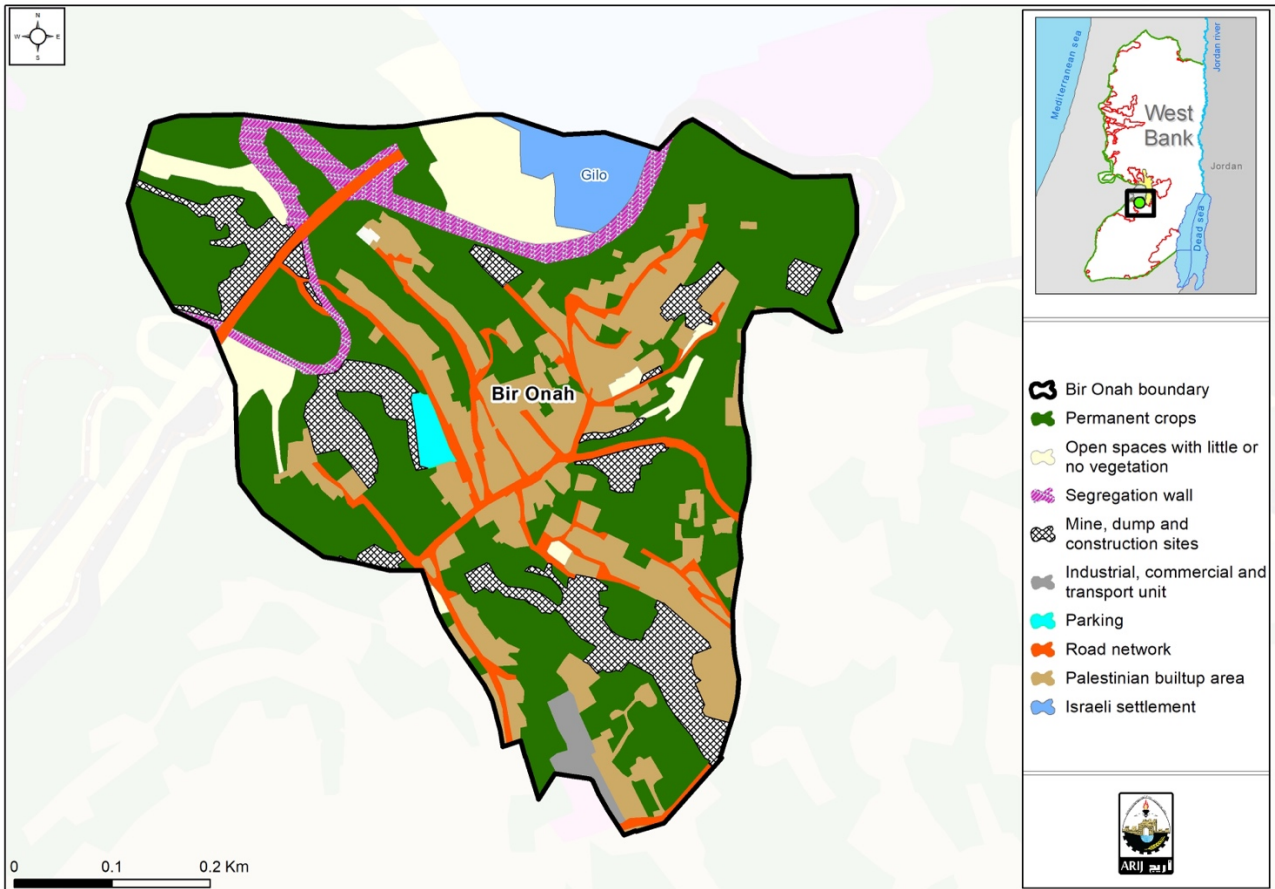
The area of Beir Owna is approximately 326 dunums, of which 178 dunums are arable lands and 63 dunums are residential lands (see table 1 and map 2).

Table 1: Land use in Beir Owna (area in dunums)

Total area	Residential land area	Agricultural area (178)					Industrial and commercial area	Area of settlements, military bases and wall zone
		Seasonal Crops	Permanent Crops	Green houses	Forests	Open Spaces and Rangelands		
326	63	0	156	0	0	22	60	25

Source: Geographical Information Systems Unit - ARII, 2019

Map 2: Land use and the route of the Apartheid Wall in Beir Owna



Source: Geographical Information Systems Unit - ARIJ, 2020

Infrastructure and natural resources

1. Water and Waste water

Beit Jala Municipality is the body partially responsible for the distribution of drinking water and fully responsible for the sewerage system in the community of Bir Una.

1.1 Water

The municipality of Beit Jala provides ten households only with drinking water and the rest of the households are provided with water through the Israeli Company Gihon, which is in charge of the drinking water distribution in all Jerusalem. According to Beit Jala Municipality, there are no ponds in Bir Una and only one water-pumping station/well that provide the 10 household in charge by Beit Jala Municipality. Currently, 100 % of the households in the community are officially connected to the water network, or through Gihon or through the well¹.

The average water consumption per capita per month in Bir Una is approximately 70 m³.

¹ Beit Jala Municipality, 2020.

Regarding the fees of the drinking water service provided by Beit Jala Municipality, 50 NIS are charged per month to each household. There are no costs for the water network connection for the ten households under the responsibility of Beit Jala.

As regards the fees for the municipal water service provided by Gihon, the company considers as a standard value the consumption of 3.5 m³ of water per person per month, considering a minimum of 2 people per housing unit. In applying this principle, it sets the lowest rate for drinking water and sewerage network connection service at 7.385 NIS/m³. For any amount exceeding 3.5 m³/per person per month, the rate is up to 13.461 NIS/m³. With regard to different consumption (trade, industry, craft, business, institutions, hospitals and other services), Gihon set a rate range which may differ according to water quantity consumed (water and sewer), from 10.998 to 13.461 NIS/m³. If drinking water and sewerage connection services are provided separately by Gihon, the basic rate for each of them varies between 1.170 and 9.368 NIS/m³ for the first and between 2.832 and 3.184 NIS/m³ for the second, according to the cadastral category of the property and the water consumption. The cost of connecting to the network is particularly expensive and partly depends on the dwelling meters squares. The average size of the dwellings in the target communities ranges from 90 to 120 m² and the connection unit cost per m³ corresponds to 165 NIS. To this cost must also be added the cost of supplying and installing the water meter which corresponds to 3700 NIS per dwelling (East Jerusalem Community Centres, 2020).

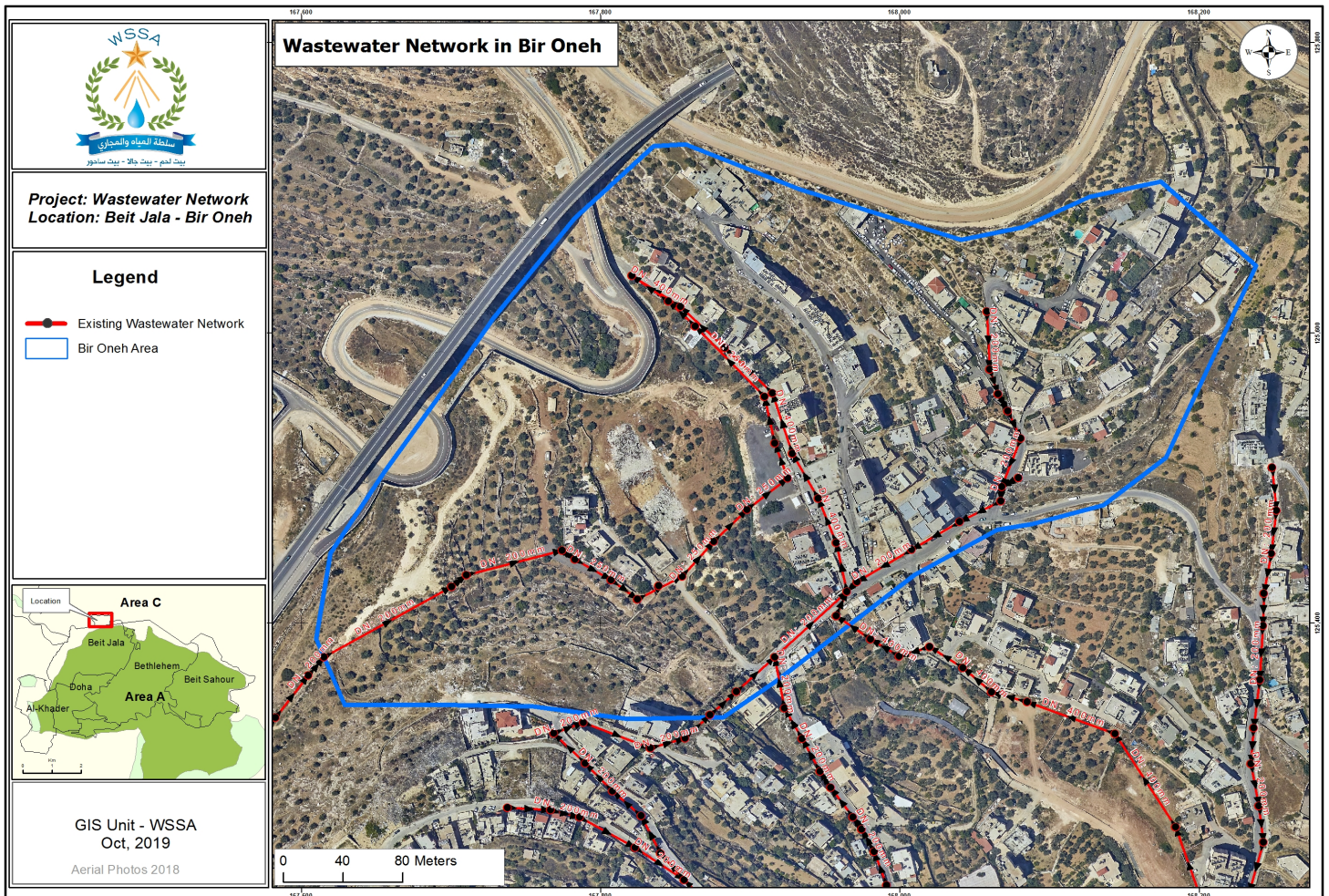
The cost for the service provided by Gihon to the households seems to be higher than the cost for the service provided by the municipality of Beit Jala. As for the latter, the cost is fixed regardless of the number of the household components, while Gihon establishes costs that depend on the family size and the m³ unit cost increases sharply if a standard consumption is exceeded monthly. An additional notable difference is that the cost for network connection turns out to be quite high if the water service is provided by Gihon. On the contrary, the service is free for a restricted area under the jurisdiction of Beit Jala Municipality.

1.2 Waste water

Beit Jala Municipality is the only body responsible for the sewerage system in the community of Bir Una. At present in Bir Una, 100 % of the housing units is connected to public sewage networks¹. Accordingly, no cesspit tanks or sludge disposal service is necessary in this community. Both sewerage service provision and network connection are free of charge.

¹ Beit Jala Municipality, 2020.

Map 1. Waste water network (Cesvi 2020)



Regarding waste water generation, approximately 87500 m³ of waste water are generated per month. Bir Una waste water confers in the Waste Water Treatment Plan (WWTP) of Homat Shmuel, in the south of the city of Jerusalem, capable of treating approximately an amount of 5,600 m³ of waste water per day (**Map 2**).

Map 2. WWTP location



2. Solid Waste

The Solid waste¹ value chain in Bir Una is fully managed by Beit Jala Municipality. Concerning the solid waste collection service coverage, solid waste bins and containers are distributed in various areas in a not equitable manner (**Map 3**). The distance between one and the other appear different depending on the zone and the service appears rather poor for the lack of containers and bins for long stretches along the northern boundaries. 15 waste bins have been identified in the area (**Table 1**). In the target area, no waste separation points were detected. It is worth noting here that most of the waste bins are outside the boundaries of the study area, but they have been taken into consideration because the municipality of Beit Jala is fully responsible for the solid waste management ion the area.

¹ Waste that is not lost through illegal burning, burying or dumping in unofficial areas but delivered to an official treatment/disposal facility or to a recycling factory.

Map 3. Solid waste collection points location (Cesvi 2019)

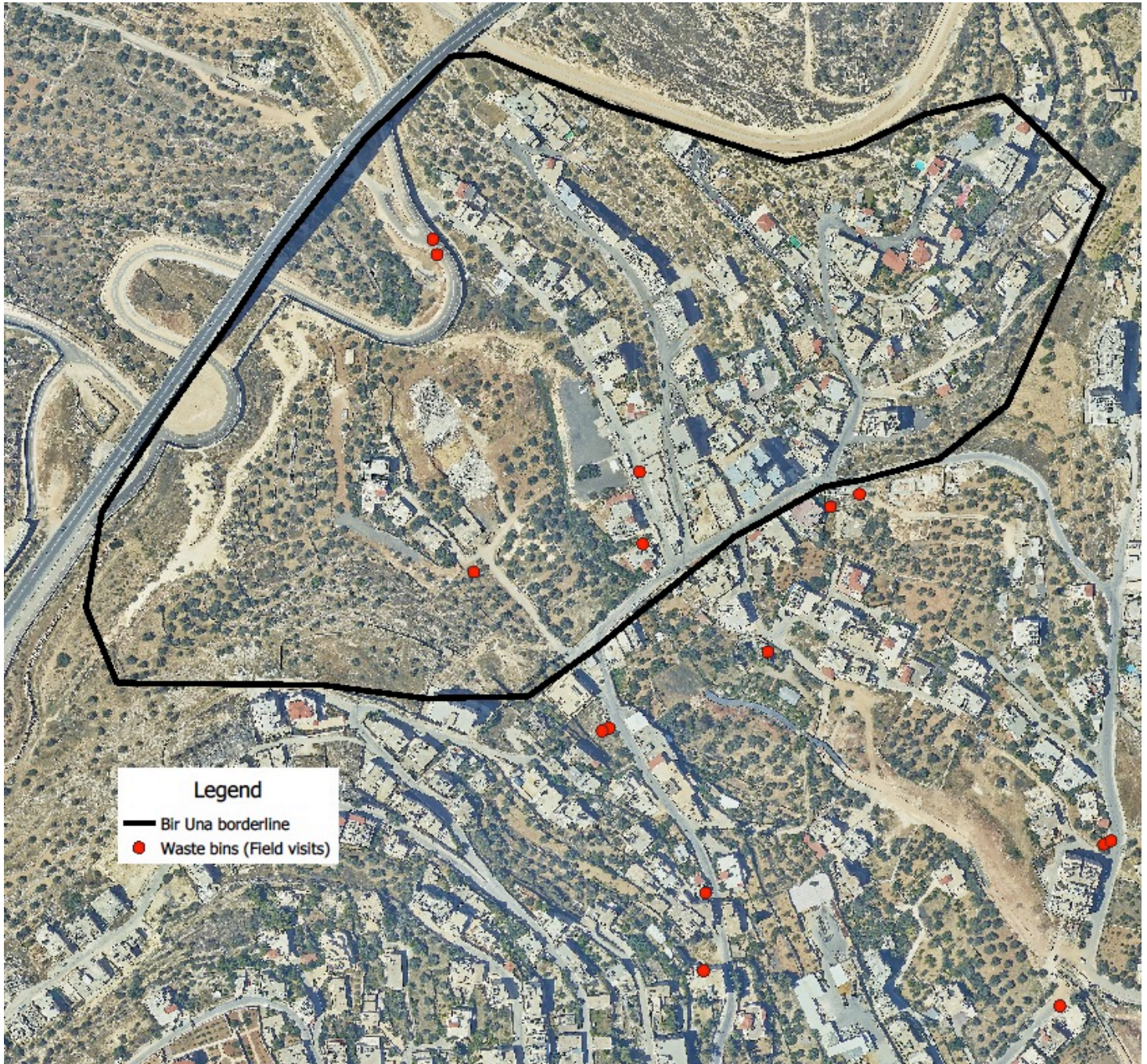


Table 1. Solid waste bins and containers

Bin/container type	N. bins/containers	N.bins/containers for which collection frequency is detected	Waste density per bin/container (Kg)	Waste density per total bins/containers for which collection frequency is detected (ton)
All types	15	15		3.265
1.1 m3 closed bin	11	11	275	3.025
0.24 m3 closed bin	4	4	60	0.24

Picture 1. Collection point (1.1 m3 bins)

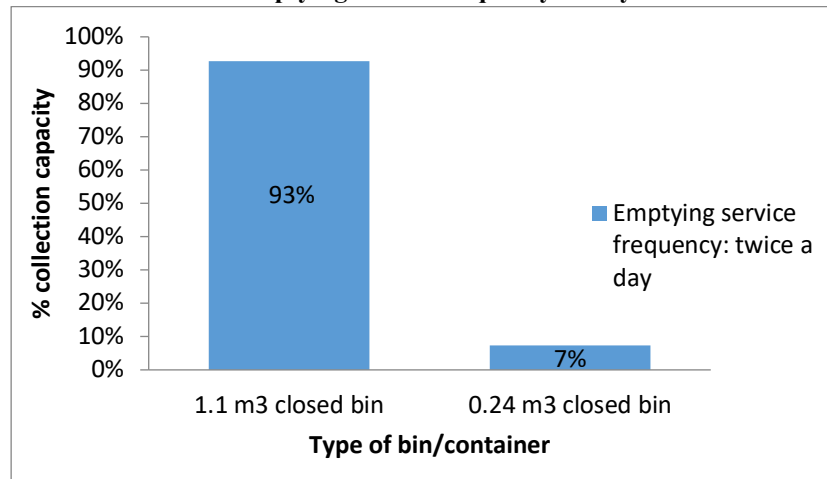


Picture 2. Collection point (0.24 m3 closed bins)



For all bins and containers, it was possible to gather the daily emptying service frequency, that it is carried out always twice a day (Figure 1).

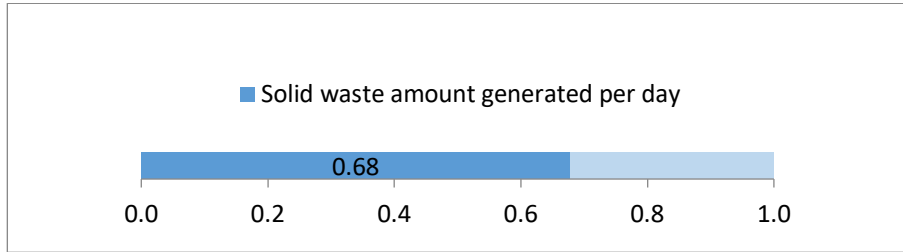
Figure 1. Bins/containers emptying service frequency and system collection capacity



Comparing the total number of bins and containers collection capacity (3.265 tons) with the amount of waste generated per day (2.214 tons)¹, we can consider the system efficient. On a scale of 0 to 1, where 1 represents the total collection capacity of bins and containers located in the community, we can determine the saturation level of the system based on the amount of waste daily generated by the community population on this scale. The system in the target community presents a medium saturation level corresponding to 0.68 (Figure 2.). It can therefore be deduced that the system is capable of collecting the quantity of waste generated. Consequently, an emptying service frequency of twice a day would be sufficient.

¹ Beit Jala Municipality, 2020.

Figure 2. Saturation level of the solid waste system



As regards the street sweeping service in the target area, it appears efficient, according to field visits conducted in 2019 in the community of Bir Una. Apart few collection points, a good level of cleanliness was detected (**Picture 3.**). No additional data on this regard was available.

Picture 3. Critical waste collection points (Cesvi 2019)



Solid waste management service fee is 325 NIS per housing unit. The total number of housing units in the community is 280.

The waste is collected directly from the bins through one compactor, available for all the community, and disposed directly to Al-Minya landfill, on the south of Bethlehem. In the community there are no transfer stations and one of the main problems related to landfill is its reduced capacity. Beit Jala Municipality collects the scrap waste in a special truck and dumps it in al-Ubeidiya scrap yard.

Concerning the average age of the waste bins, it can be estimated between 3 and 5 years. In the last 3 years the municipality substituted 22 bins in Bir Una¹

3. Survey

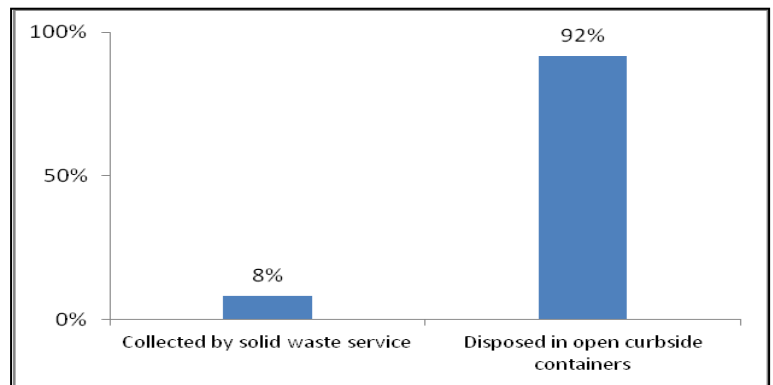
In 2019 some interviews were conducted by The Union of Charitable Societies-Jerusalem (UCS). Out of a population between 1250 and 1450 inhabitants, a sample of 60 people was interviewed, in order to obtain a clearer view of the services delivered at household level for which people behaviour and perception were investigated:

1. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Solid waste disposal method

(Q: How do you usually dispose of solid waste?)

92 % of the respondents stated to dispose the solid waste in open curbside containers and just a restricted number declared to use the solid waste service. All the respondents declare to use the current solid waste system for the disposal of the domestic waste.

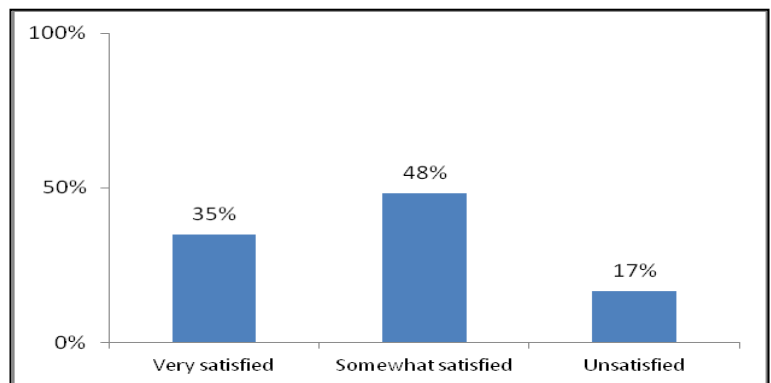


2. STREET SWEEPING

Satisfaction with curbside and streets sweeping

(Q: Are you satisfied with the Municipality efforts to keep the curbside and the neighborhood street clean?)

Most of the respondents declared to be somewhat or very satisfied with the curbside and street sweeping service (83%). As shown in the pictures collected during the field visits, it can be assumed that the street sweeping service is quite efficient in the community. Despite that, it can be assumed that the service is not fully efficient.

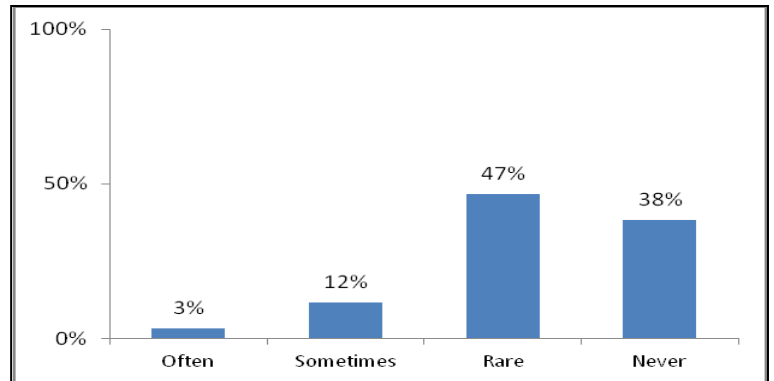


¹ Beit Jala Municipality, 2020.

Street uncleanness

(Q: Do you suffer from unclean street?)

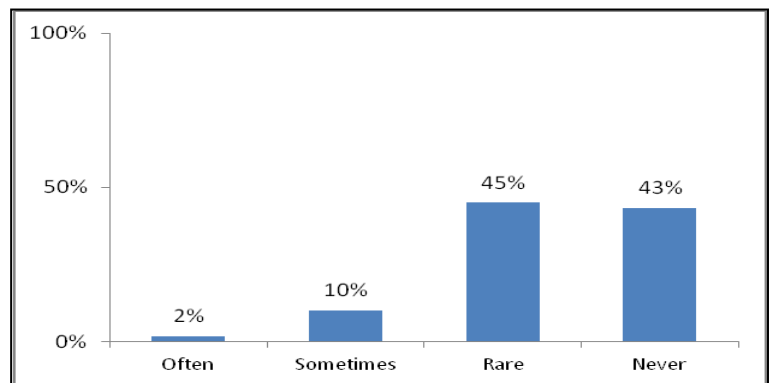
The data confirms the above assumption that street sweeping service seems to be quite efficient in both communities. Almost most of the respondents of the community stated that they never or rarely suffer from unclean streets (85%). This information confirmed the previous assumption regarding the number of total efficiency of the service.



Outbreak of rodent population

(Q: Did you notice an outbreak of rodent population?)

The chart shows that the community is rarely or never affected by outbreak of rodent population (88%). A very small percentage declares to suffer from this phenomenon.

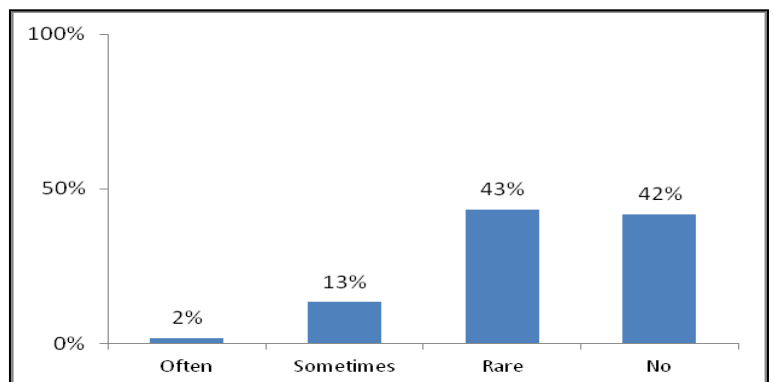


3. AIR POLLUTION

Bad odours emitted from solid waste near the house

(Q: Do you suffer from bad odors emitted from solid waste near your house?)

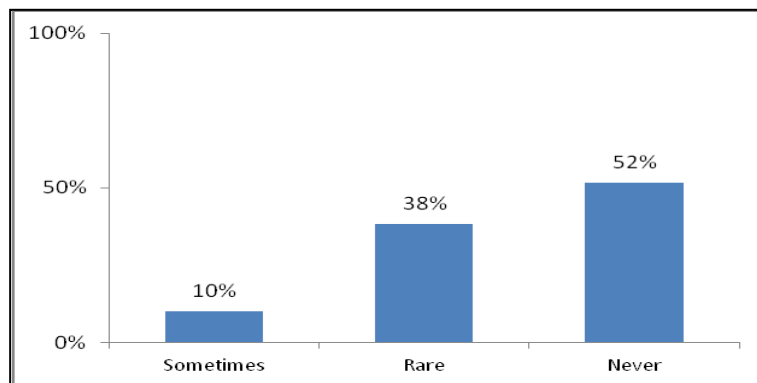
Regarding the emission of bad odours from solid waste, this phenomenon seems to be mostly absent or rare. However, this phenomenon seems to affect 15% of the respondents.



Solid waste burning emissions/gases

(Q: Do you suffer from solid waste burning emissions/gases?)

Also this figure can be considered as indicative of not fully efficient solid waste system, but it could also be indicative of a bad behaviour of the inhabitants of the communities, who used burning as a solid waste disposal method. As for the latter, it can be considered as an important factor if the solid waste management system shows a good level of efficiency. Although the presence of this phenomenon, most of the respondents stated not to suffer from solid waste burning emissions/gases.

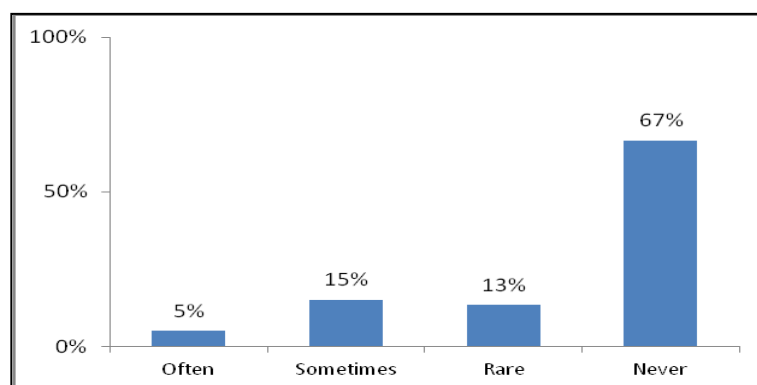


4. WASTE WATER

Wastewater overflowing

(Q: Do you suffer from overflowing wastewater?)

The data gathered in this case highlights that the phenomenon of the wastewater overflowing never occurs for 67% of the respondents. In spite of that, most respondents who consider it to be present, declare it to occur sporadically.



Electricity and Telecommunications

The town of Beir Owna has a public electricity network, and the Jerusalem District Electricity Company is considered to be the main source of electricity in the town. The percentage of housing units connected to the electricity network reaches 98.9%, and 0.2% are dependent on private generators, while the source of electricity is unknown for the remaining units (1.1%) (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), 2007).

The town also has a telephone network, which operates through an automated switchboard within the city, and nearly 99% of the housing units are connected to this telephone network.

Transportation

The length of the road network in Beir Owna is about 3.7 km of paved roads. (ARIJ database, 2019).

The Impact of the Israeli occupation on Bier ‘Owna

Over the years of the occupation, Israel initiated a campaign to manipulate the demographic and territorial status of the city of Jerusalem, mainly the eastern part¹, which was unilaterally and illegally annexed to Israel in 1967. Bir ‘Owna neighborhood, one of five main neighborhoods in the city of Beit Jala, and a geographical area that remained under the illegally and unilaterally annexed area of Beit Jala city, has been exposed to the consecutive Israeli land confiscations for the various colonial purposes; beginning from the unilateral move taken by Israel back in 1967 to redraw the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem where 225 dunums, 69% of its total area (326 dunums), were lost from the neighborhood’s land area; followed by the land and housing restrictions which were imposed on the neighborhood’s inhabitants by the Municipality of Jerusalem over the years of the Israeli occupation to cease the neighborhood’s urban development; the construction and expansion of settlements, and lately but not last, the construction of the Israeli Segregation wall on the neighborhood’s land, and the separation of the neighborhood’s territorial contiguity with the city of Jerusalem.

It is worth noting that this part of Beit Jala city (and the rest of the area annexed to Israel in 1967 for the expansion of Jerusalem municipality boundary), was not subjected to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on the 28th September 1995 which categorized the West Bank into areas "A"², "B"³ and "C"⁴, instead, this part remained as it was before this agreement, under the control of Jerusalem Israeli Municipality while the remaining part of the neighborhood (and the city of Beit Jala) fell under the OSLO II land classification of 1995.

¹ The Eastern Part of the city or the J1 area, the part inside the borders and under the control of the illegally and unilaterally expanded Jerusalem Municipality and includes the old city of Jerusalem (Beit Al-Maqdis), Beit Hanina, Beit Safafa, Sharafat, Al Isawiya, Jabal Al Mukkabir, As Sawahra Al Gharbiya, Shu’fat and Shu’fat Camp, Silwan and Athuri neighborhood, Sur Baher and Um Tuba, Kafr Aqab and the northern part of Bethlehem Governorate which includes the lands that were annexed from Bethlehem, Beit Jala (including Bir ‘Owna neighborhood) and Beit Sahour lands for the expansion of Jerusalem municipal boundaries.

²Area A: over which the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has full (security and administrative) control.

³Area B: where the Palestinian National Authority has a complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security.

⁴Area 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 a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area “C” are agricultural land and open areas, fertile and rich in natural water sources, which constitute a major source of income for Palestinian families.

Building Restrictions

The successive Israeli governments have deliberately failed to regulate Palestinian land and neighborhoods in the part that was illegally expanded and annexed to Jerusalem (the East Jerusalem part)¹; and imposed endless complex laws and restrictions on construction permits which prevented Palestinian construction entirely in some areas and incurred high costs for those Palestinians applying for construction licenses in others while at the same, allowed for settlement construction and expansion. This forced Palestinians to build without permits to house the growing population, and therefore, their homes became subjected to the threat of demolition; *Below is a breakdown of the demolition incidents that took place in Bier 'Owna neighborhood during the last few years under the claim of building without license:-*

- *16 August 2016:* the Israeli Occupation Authorities and bulldozers stormed Bir 'Owah area, where the construction of the Segregation wall started few months ago, and demolished two homes belonging to local resident Mohammad Zreina, and his family, adding that each of the demolished buildings was 200 square/meters. The Israeli bulldozers also demolished a large room, belonging to the same Palestinian. The two homes, and the room provided shelter to twenty persons, and belonged to him and his five brothers; the family constructed the two homes 25 years ago. The Israeli bulldozers also bulldozed the lands where the homes stood, and uprooted several trees owned by the family.
- *29 January 2018:* three Israeli bulldozers accompanied by Border Police personnel arrived at the Beit Jala neighborhood of Bir 'Owna, which had been annexed to East Jerusalem and destroyed two buildings under construction containing a total of nine housing units under the pretext of being constructed without a permit from the Israeli side. The buildings and their lands, are owned by Walid Zreina and Issa Awad.
- *13 February 2019:* Israeli bulldozers accompanied by Border Police personnel invaded Beit Jala city, and surrounded Bir 'Owna neighborhood, adjacent to the Israeli Segregation Wall, before storming the home of Mohammad Mousa Zreina, assaulted him and his family, before forcing them out of their home, and demolished the property under the claim that the house was not licensed.

¹ The Jerusalem Governorate is divided into two main regions: (J1 area) which is located inside the borders and under the control of the illegally and unilaterally expanded Jerusalem Municipality. The J1 area includes many Palestinian Jerusalemite communities such as the old city of Jerusalem (Beit Al-Maqdis), Beit Hanina, Beit Safafa, Sharafat, Al Isawiya, Jabal Al Mukkabir, As Sawahra Al Gharbiya, Shu'fat and Shu'fat Camp, Silwan and Athuri neighborhood, Sur Baher and Um Tuba, Kafr Aqab and the northern part of Bethlehem Governorate which includes Bir 'Owna neighborhood.

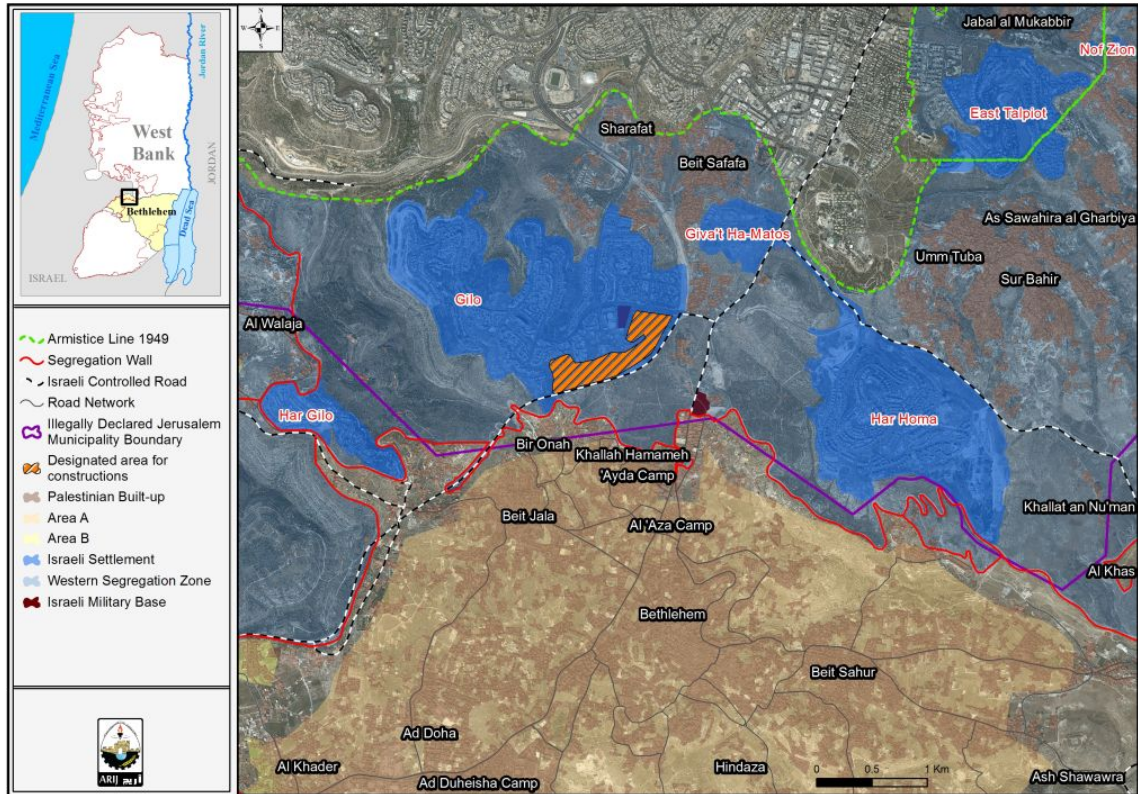
- *2 April 2019: the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem accompanied by Israeli bulldozers and border Police demolished a Palestinian home, owned by a lawyer in Bir ‘Owna area, in Beit Jala city, west of Bethlehem, in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli border Police closed the entire area, and prevented the Palestinians from entering or leaving it, before demolishing the property. The demolished property is owned by a lawyer, identified as Basima Issa, and was a three-story building; under the claim that the home was built without a permit.*
- *9 April 2019: the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem delivered a demolition order, to the home of Ayman Rizq Zreineh, in Bir ‘Owna neighborhood of the city of Beit Jala, in the southern West Bank. The Israeli authorities ordered the two-story home of Ayman and his 3 sons Rizq, Muhammad, and Saleh Zreineh, be destroyed. The Jerusalem Municipality ordered Ayman to demolish the home himself, but he refused to sign the self-demolition order. As a result, the family was forced to pay 230,000 Israeli shekels (\$63,575) as bail, and, if Israel demolishes the home, Israel will force the family to pay for the demolition as well as additional fines. The reason for the demolition order was not stated.*
- *11 June 2019: the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem and bulldozers demolished a residential structure and four barns in Bier ‘Owna neighborhood in the city of Beit Jala. A large Israeli military force escorted a bulldozer to the neighborhood, cordoned the area off before they proceeded to demolish four barns and a residential room purportedly for being built without a license. The owner of the structures was identified as Mohammad Zreineh. The Israeli army randomly opened fire at residents who attempted to counter the demolition, injuring Zreineh’s son with a rubber-coat bullet in the foot and beating other family members.*
- *6 August 2019: The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem demolished 4 tin-shacks in Bir Owna neighborhood in the city of Beit Jala belonging to resident ,uhammad Musa Zreneh. The demolition process also included a base of un under-construction house belonging to citizen Daoud Ghneim.*
- *16 January 2020: The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem escorted by Israeli border Police raided Bier ‘Owna neighborhood in the city of Beit Jala, west of Bethlehem, and demolished a residential tent and a number of sheds for raising sheep belonging to Muhammad Zareina, claiming that they were built without a permit.*
- *28 April 2020: The Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem notified the demolition of a Tin-shack in Beit Jala, belonging to Muhammad Musa Zreneh, in Bier ‘Owna neighborhood, under the pretext of not being licensed. Zreneh was given 96 hours to file legal objections against the demolition notice.*

Israeli Settlements construction on Lands of Beit Jala

In 1971, Israel has commenced the construction of Gilo settlement to the north of Beit Jala city (north of Bier 'Owna neighborhood) on the part that was illegally and unilaterally annexed by Israel to redraw the Jerusalem Municipality Boundary. Over the years, the settlement has expanded to become one of the largest settlements in the occupied West Bank with an area of 3077 dunums and more than 32,000 Israeli settlements. Bier Owna village lost 10 dunums of its lands for the construction of Gilo settlement.

Israel has also unleashed several expansion plans in the settlement of Gilo over the past few years that will significantly increase the size of the settlement consequently increase its population in the future. The following is a detail of the plans as published by the Israeli sources.

- Israeli Town Planning Scheme No. 13261 – Gilo's southern side: The plan was approved on the 12 of August 2013 and states the construction of 891 settlement units on 269 dunums of lands of Bethlehem, on Gilo's southern side.
- Israeli Town planning scheme No. 13157 - Gilo's southwestern side: The plan was approved on the 12th of October 2012 and states the construction of 734 settlement units on 229 dunums of lands of Bethlehem, on Gilo's south western side.
- Israeli Town planning scheme No. 125195 - Gilo's southeastern side: On the 8th of August 2016, the Israeli developer Nehemiah Davidi and architect David Guggenheim advanced a new plan to build about 2992 new housing units on 268 dunums of Palestinian land in the settlement of Gilo, in the direction of the Tunnel Road and Beit Jala, between Jerusalem and Bethlehem Governorates. The area tragted in the plan has become off access to Palestinians due to the construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall and will border Bier 'Owna neighborhood if implemented on the ground.



The Construction of the Israeli Segregation Wall

On June 2002, the Israeli Government launched its policy of unilateral segregation within the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) by establishing a Segregation Zone along the western terrains of the occupied West Bank. The Western Segregation Zone is the area west of the Segregation Wall that reaches to the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line) and covers substantial and significant land areas, rich with natural resources (water aquifers) as it runs along the western part of the West Bank from north to south, seizing the most fertile agricultural lands, isolating Palestinian communities in enclaves, undermining the territorial contiguity between the Palestinian villages and cities, controlling the natural resources, and encapsulating and protecting most of the illegal Israeli settlements.

Based on the characteristic nature of the area through which the Segregation Wall runs, the type of structure is determined based on whether the area is agricultural land or a densely populated village or town. The Segregation Wall as a fence cuts through vast agriculture lands. The Segregation Fence is more devastating to the land than the 8 meters wall as it requires an area of 40-100 meters in width to complete. Moreover, it is a double-layered fence, reinforced with barbed wires, trenches, military roads and footprint-detection tracks, and includes a 4-5 meter high electrified metal fence, equipped with security surveillance cameras. In the other case, in areas with sizeable population and/or in close proximity to the Green Line, the Segregation Wall consists of 8-12 meter high concrete partitions, with military watchtowers appendages lined-up 250 meters apart.

Israel's plan for Bir Onah neighborhood

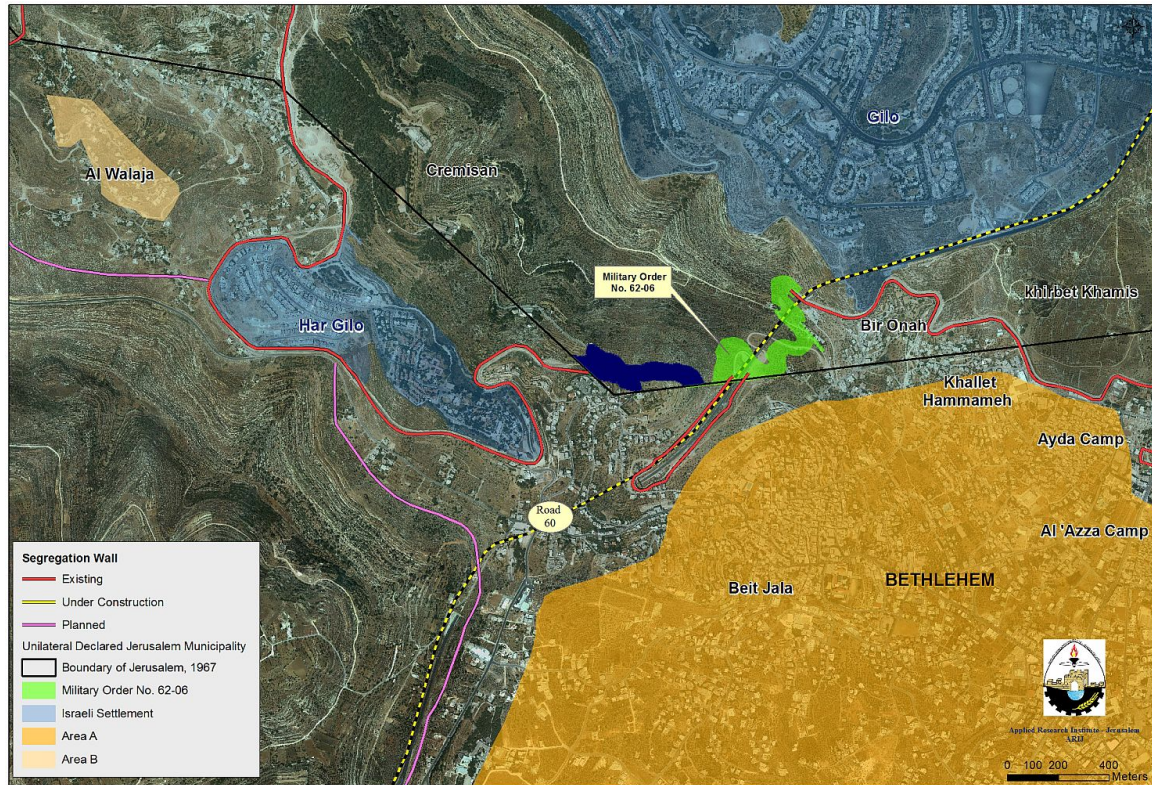
Israel was able to re-draw the boundaries of Jerusalem Municipality, for the second time, through the construction of the Segregation Wall, which is being built in the occupied West Bank. The path of the Segregation Wall around Jerusalem shows the Israeli intentions and plans to control vast areas of uninhabited Palestinian land and to include Israeli settlements within its new boundaries through the infamous Israeli scheme of 'Greater Jerusalem,' which seeks to annex the three major Israeli settlement blocs that surround the city of Jerusalem while excluding 12 densely populated Palestinian communities nearby (pop +150,000) from the city's municipal boundaries, to become on the eastern side of the wall, outside the new borders Israel is unilaterally drawing around the city of Jerusalem.

The latest Israeli revised route of the Segregation Wall route published on the so-called "Israeli Ministry of Defense" website in April 2007 showed that the wall will extend a length of 0.9 km on lands of Bir 'Owna neighborhood and will pass less than 100 meters from the Palestinians houses in the neighborhood. Additionally, the wall will isolate vast areas of agricultural lands, to become on the Israeli side of the wall.

The construction of the wall on lands of Bir 'Owna neighborhood, where the majority of Palestinians hold Jerusalem ID cards, sets the neighborhood outside the boundaries of Jerusalem municipality to become on the eastern side of the wall, under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority despite its location inside the Jerusalem municipal area; thus stripping Palestinian Jerusalemites off their right to acquire city services in return for what they pay of Arnona and other taxes, because they no longer are living within the city boundaries. This clearly shows that the Israeli Government is changing demographic balance in favor of Judaizing the city of Jerusalem by emptying the city from the high dense Palestinian communities to ensure the "Israelization of the city".

The wall has also added Bir Onah neighborhood to the list of Palestinian communities in occupied East Jerusalem that were excluded from Jerusalem city's municipal boundaries due to the construction of the wall, including Ar Ram, Al Bareed outskirt, Az Zayyem, Hizma, Anata, Shu'fat Camp, As Sawahrah Ash Sharqiya, Ash Sheikh Saed, Al Ezariyah, Qalandyia camp, Kafr Aqab, MIkhamas and Abu Dis. Map (2)

Map 2: The Segregation Wall plan on lands of Bier 'Owna



Israel manipulates with the demographic balance

The Jerusalem Municipality is manipulating with the demographic balance in the city of Jerusalem in favor of Judaizing it, by emptying it from the highly dense Palestinian communities that has become on the eastern side of the wall. This was revealed back in October 2017, when the Israeli daily newspaper, Haaretz, published an article on the 29th of October 2017, revealing the Israeli Affairs Minister's proposal, Zeev Elkin (that time), for the municipal division of Jerusalem, which would see several Palestinian neighborhoods on the eastern side of the wall (due to wall construction) be separated from the Jerusalem municipality boundary and placed under the jurisdiction of one or more new council administrations (could be the Israeli Civil Administration). The proposal hasn't been approved yet, (requires the approval of Prime Minister and the completion of various legislative amendments, whose first reading was already passed by the Knesset in July 2017), however, this proposal, if approved, will establish an extraordinary Israeli local council whose inhabitants are not Israeli settlers, but rather Palestinians with the status of permanent residents only (Palestinians holding Jerusalem ID cards), (Haaretz. 2017). Haaretz also noted that following the construction of the wall in and around Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Municipality, police and other Israeli agencies stopped providing services to Palestinian communities that has been sit outside the wall area (excluded from the city's municipal boundary due to the construction of the wall). This proposal, if approved, will also be applied to Bir 'Owna neighborhood since it has been set outside the city's Municipal boundary due to the construction of the wall.

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