



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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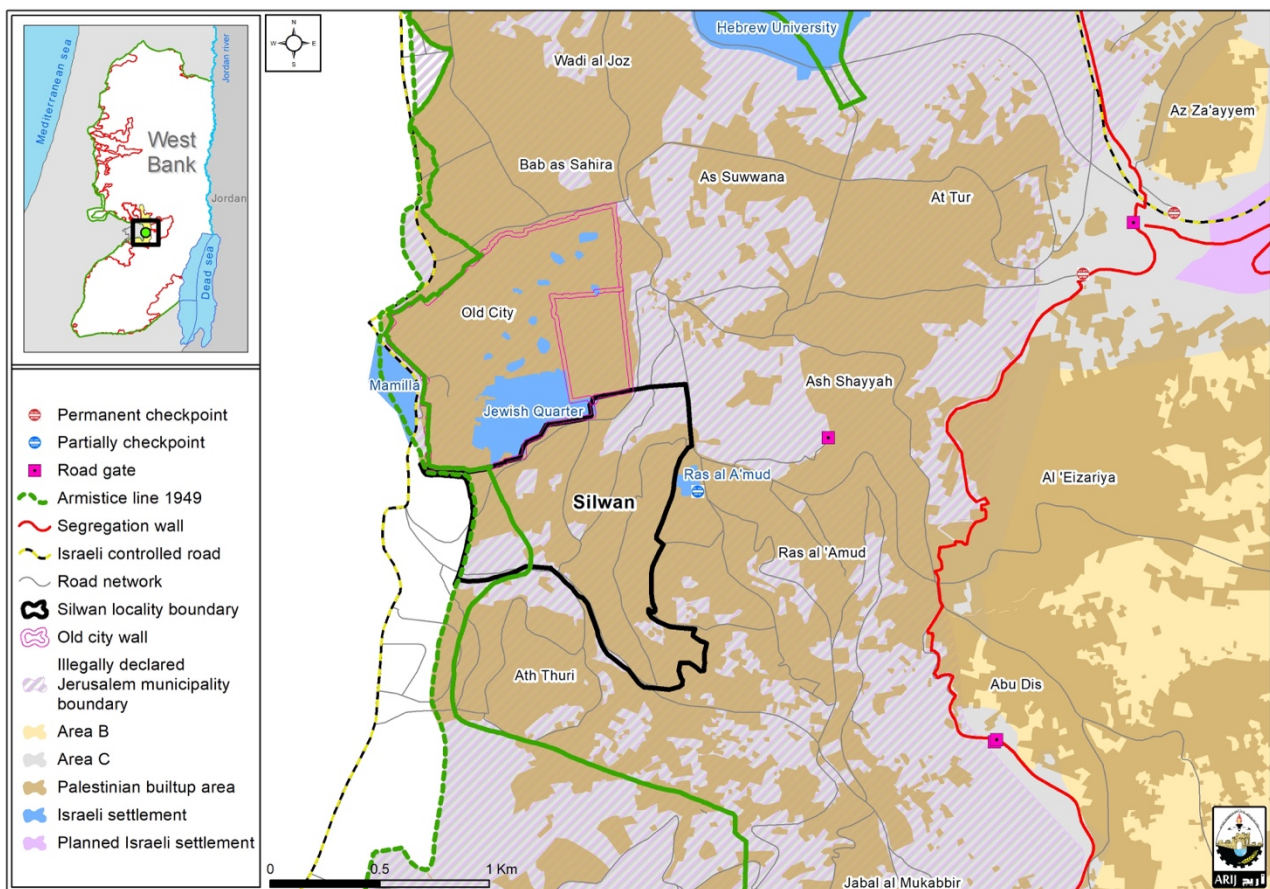
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# Silwan Town Profile

## Geographical location and physical characteristics

The town of Silwan is one of the towns in Jerusalem Governorate, located south of Jerusalem as it lies about 0.9 km from the city of Jerusalem (the horizontal distance between the centre of the town and the centre of Jerusalem). In general terms, Silwan is bounded from the east by the city of Jerusalem, from the north by the city of Jerusalem, from the west by West Jerusalem and from the south by Al Thuri (Geographic Information System Unit - ARIJ, 2020) (see map 1).

**Map 1: Silwan location and borders**



**Source:** ARIJ Geographic Information Systems Unit, 2020

The town of Silwan is located at an altitude of 648 meters above sea level with an average annual precipitation of 404.8 mm. The average temperature is 17 degrees Celsius, while the average humidity is approximately 60% (GIS Unit - ARIJ, 2020).

In 2008, Hai Wadi Hilweh Committee was established, and the current committee consists of 6 members with a permanent headquarters. A further committee is Hai al Bustan Committee and owns a headquarters in Al Bustan neighborhood, which is a sit-in tent. There are also a number of local committees in Wadi al-Rababa and Al Thuri; these committees are responsible for protecting residents from Israeli settlers and fulfilling their needs.

The committee's responsibilities include:

- Protecting residents from settlers.
- Providing information to visitors about Silwan.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the town.
- Providing workshops for youth development.

## **Brief history**

Silwan is a word derived from the Aramaic word "Sillon", meaning thistles and blackberries. The town contains remains of the old city of Jerusalem, and its wall dates from the bronze period. In the 7th century AD, hermits and monks used the village silos for their residence and temples for their prayers, and near them are springs of water called Silwan springs (Ruwaq, 2012). The town of Silwan was established over 5500 years ago, and its residents are descended from Crete and the Arabian Peninsula. The current population are from Jerusalem city and neighboring villages, and some families are originally from Hebron city (Wadi Hilweh Information Center, 2012) (see photo 1).

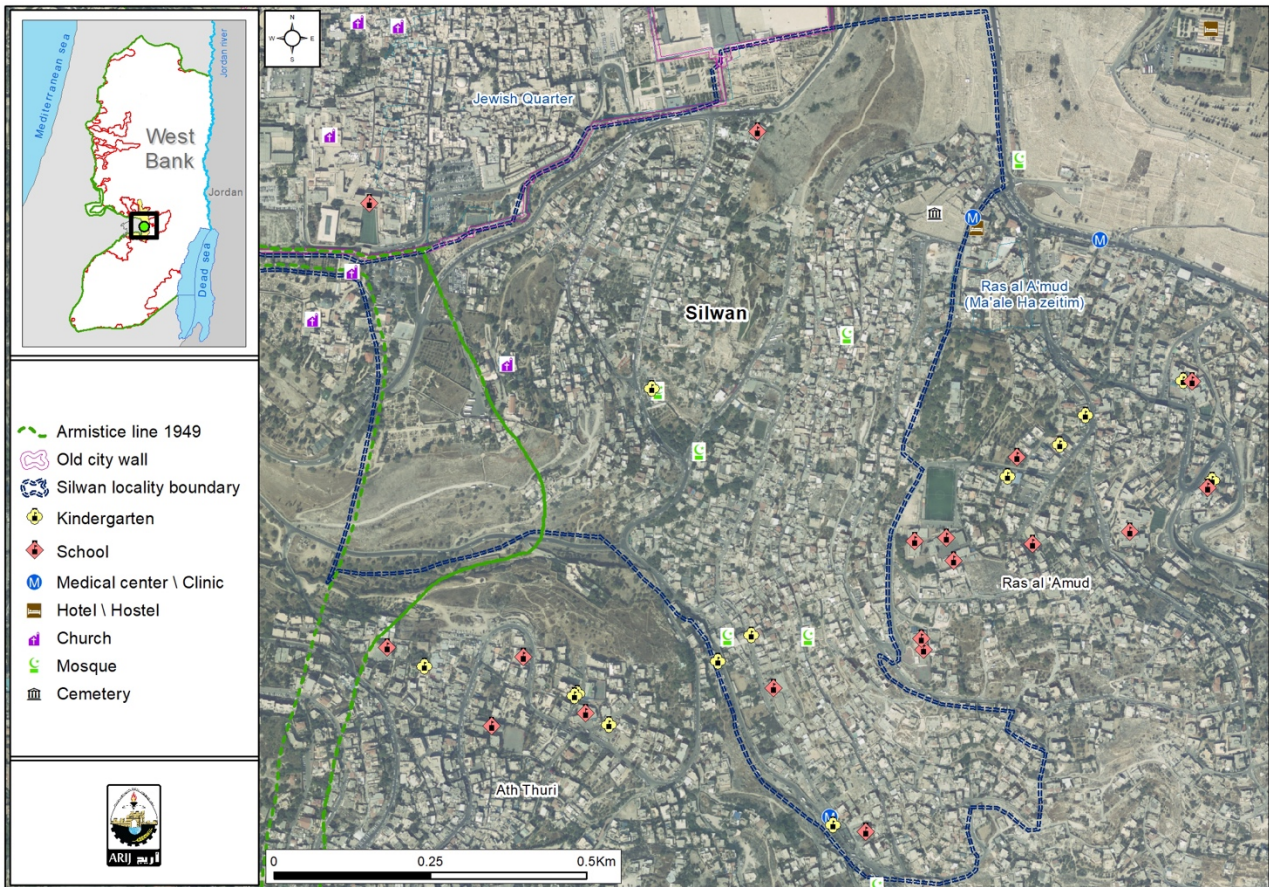
**Photo 1: View from the town of Silwan**



## **Religious and archaeological Sites**

There are 3 mosques in the town of Silwan, including 'Ein Silwan, Bir Ayyub and 'Ein al Louza mosques. There are also some Christian religious sites, including Siyah al Dik, Al Mishnaqa and Sayiduna Ibrahim convents and the Greek Church. In terms of sites with archaeological significance, there are the remains of Daood archeological city, Hilweh spring and Silwan spring, in addition to some archaeological sites in Al Jura area (see map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Silwan**



**Source:** ARIJ Geographic Information Systems Unit, 2020

## **Population**

Unfortunately, the population and housing census were not conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2017 for Silwan community. However, it was found that the population of Silwan reached 41,160 in 2018 according to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies, 2020).

## **Families**

The residents of Silwan town consist of several families, including the Siyam, Qarra'in, 'Abbasi, Abu Thiyab, Al Ghuzlan, Ghaith, Al Saraheen, 'Eweidat, Al Mahariq and Al Mahrabashiyah families (Wadi Hilweh Information Center, 2012).

## **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 samples 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 Silwan

The number of Silwan families that were sampled was 239, and when asked about their families living conditions, 90.5% reported they are living in middle to upper levels. As for the monthly income, 64.7% of the families that were surveyed earned 5,000 shekels and above monthly, while 34.3% of the families earned less than 5,000 shekels a month. As for the primary source of income, 69% were salaries earned while 14% were from self-employment.

## Education sector

Regarding primary and secondary educational institutions in Silwan in the academic year 2015/2016, there are two schools supervised by Jerusalem municipality and there is no kindergarten supervised by the Ministry of Education (ARIJ database, 2016) (see table 1).

**Table 1: Distribution of schools in Silwan by type of school and supervising authority for academic year 2015/2016**

School Name	Supervising Authority	School Type
Silwan Girls' Preparatory School	Jerusalem Municipality	Female
Silwan Boys' Primary School	Jerusalem Municipality	Male

Source: ARIJ database 2016.

The number of classrooms in the town of Silwan that are supervised by Jerusalem municipality is only 39 classes, while the number of students is 1,061 students both male and female (ARIJ database, 2016).

If the required levels of education are not available in the town, students go to Al Rashidiya Boys School in the city of Jerusalem in Bab al-Sahira neighborhood, the Orphans Islamic Boys High School in the old city, Al Fatat al Laji'a High School in East Jerusalem in Bab al-Sahira neighborhood, and Al Ma'muniya Girls School in East Jerusalem in Wad al Jozz neighborhood. Each of these schools is approximately 4-6 km away from the town. To complete their vocational and technical studies, students can also go to Sakhneen 'Atarot College and the Lutheran School in Beit Hanina, both of which are 10 km away from the town.

There are some problems and obstacles facing the educational sector, the most important are:

- The lack of nurseries and kindergartens.
- The overcrowded classrooms due to large numbers of students.
- The lack of means of transportation.
- The weak academic level of students due to lack of interest from the Israeli Ministry of Education.

## Health Sector

Silwan has some health care facilities and include 10 health care centers, all of which are affiliated with Israeli insurance companies such as Maccabi, Clalit, and Meuhedet. These centers include general physicians and specialized physicians in most fields, a motherhood and childcare center, a medical laboratory, a radiology center, 3 private dental clinics and 5 pharmacies. If the required health services are not available in the town, patients go to the main hospitals in east and west Jerusalem, including Hadassah al 'Isawiya - Ein Karem, Augusta Victoria (Al Mutla'), Al Dajani, Red Crescent, Al Makassed, Saint Joseph hospitals. These hospitals are between 8 and 22 km away from the town (The Union of the Charitable Societies - Jerusalem (UCS) and ARIJ database, 2019).

There are some problems and obstacles facing the health sector in Silwan town, the most important are:

- The lack of private health centers.
- The lack of an emergency clinics.
- The lack of an ambulance.
- The lack of a psychological rehabilitation clinic.

## Agriculture sector

The area of Silwan is approximately 838 dunums, of which 86 dunums are arable lands and 361 dunums are residential lands (see table 2 and map 3).

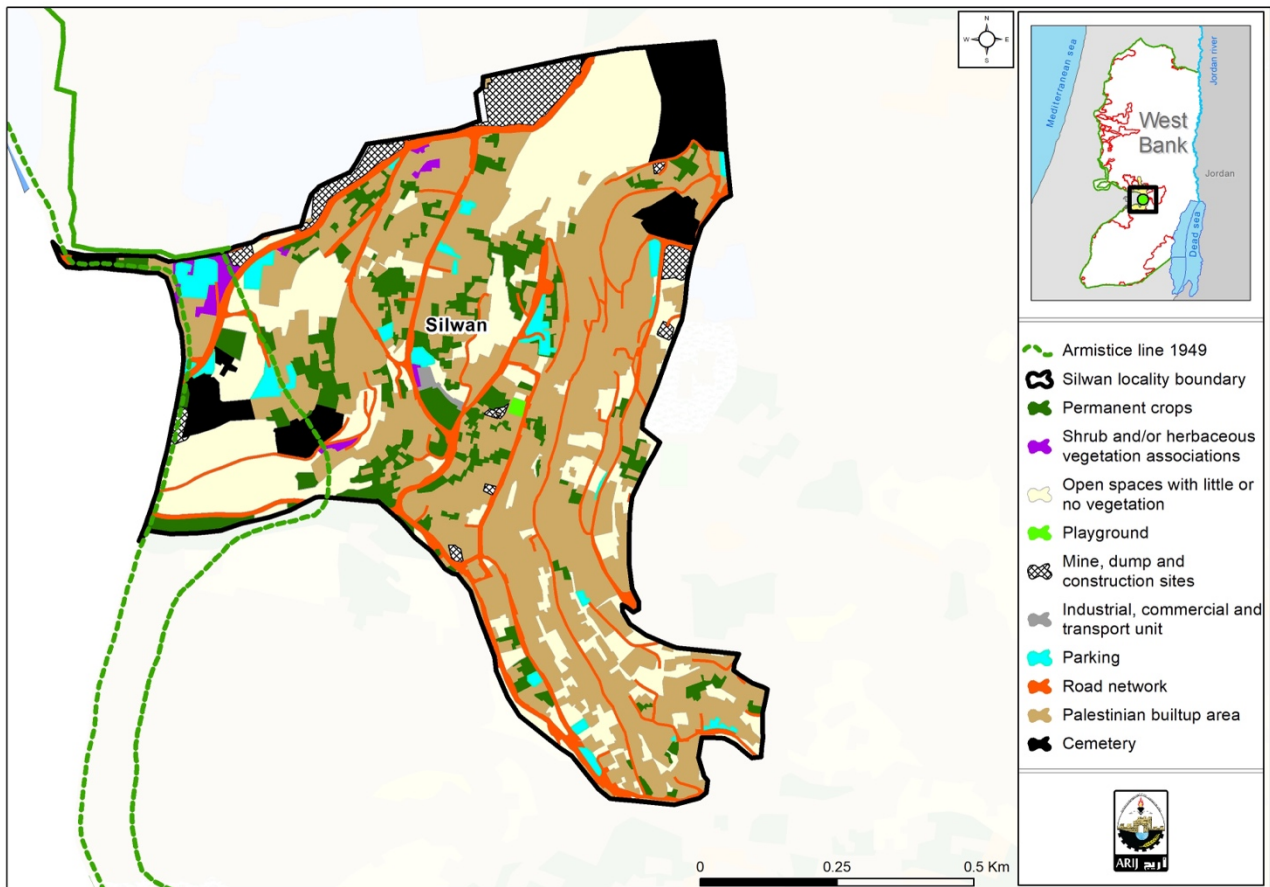
**Table 2: Land use in the town of Silwan for the year 2019 (area in dunums)**

Total area	Residential land area	Agricultural area (86)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Industrial and commercial area	Area of settlements, military bases and wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green - houses	Range -land	Arable lands					
838	361	79	0	7	0	0	197	192	2	

Source: Geographical Information Systems Unit - ARIJ, 2019



**Map 3: Land use and the route of the Apartheid Wall in Silwan**



Source: Geographical Information Systems Unit - ARIJ, 2019

## Institutions and Services Sector

There are no public institutions in Silwan; however, there are several local institutions and associations that provide services to the various groups of the society and in several cultural, sports and other fields. These institutions include:

- **Wadi Hilweh Information Center:** The center provides information on the locality and services to citizens, such as legal advice to protect Jerusalem identity papers. It also provides documents and news on events and developments, mainly those concerning settler attacks within the towns.
- **Mada Creative Center:** Subordinated by Wadi Hilweh Information Center, the center provides many small projects and activities within the locality, in addition to cultural, sport, and social activities.
- **Al Bustan Center:** Al Bustan center offers cultural, sports and social activities. It also offers various services to women.
- **Silwan Society:** The society provides legal aid and advice on how to retain and protect Jerusalem ID cards and status.

- **Silwan/'Ein al Louza Women's Club:** The club provides social and cultural activities and establishes projects for women.
- **Ansar Wadi Qadoom:** A local committee that protects Wadi Qadoom.
- **Silwan Club:** A sports center founded by the support and contributions from town residents. The club provides cultural, sports, and artistic activities.
- **Silwan Islamic Club:** A sports center.

## **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

### **1. Water and Waste water**

The Gihon Company Ltd is the company that deals with the distribution of drinking water and the sewerage system in all Jerusalem-defined municipal boundaries and it is responsible also for the communities of Silwan and Ath Thuri. Gihon manages networks maintenance and extension, water pipes setting up.

Despite all communities within the Jerusalem-defined municipal boundaries are entitled to access full and equal services provided by the Municipality, in East Jerusalem the difficulty in obtaining housing permits, at times, had resulted in the illegal construction of buildings for which services such as access to public networks of drinking water and sewerage has not always been possible. The problems with the water and wastewater infrastructure create an unhealthy environment and expose the residents to infections and illness.

Gihon Company has made significant efforts over recent years to develop water and sewage network in several East Jerusalem communities.

Due to the lack of accessible information, it was not possible to fully collect data on water and waste water system in Silwan and Ath Thuri. However, the status of water and waste water service will be described on the basis of the most accurate and up-to-date information available.

#### **1.1 Water**

In Israel water sources are managed by the Israeli Mekorot Company. Mekorot has recently completed the largest water tunnel in Israel – almost 14 kilometres – from Sorek to Jerusalem that brings desalinated drinking water to the Municipality<sup>1</sup>. As it has been already mentioned above, Gihon Company is in charge of the drinking water distribution in all the city and accordingly it is also responsible for providing these services to both Silwan and Ath Thuri communities.

Till 2015 in East Jerusalem, only 64% of the households were officially connected to the water network<sup>2</sup>.

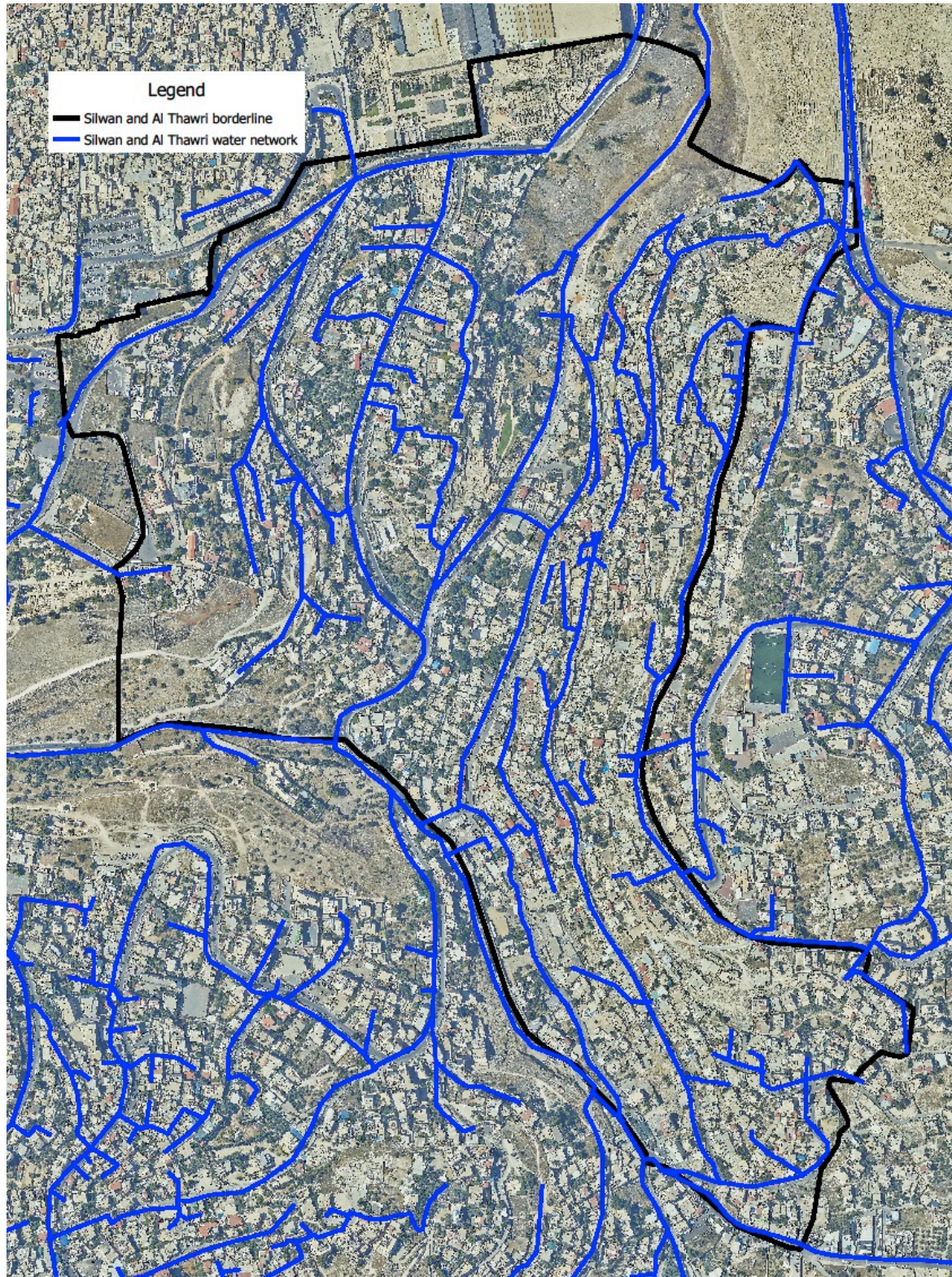
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<sup>1</sup> The Jerusalem Post, , <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/using-israeli-technology-to-live-in-a-water-stressed-world-627227> , May 2020

<sup>2</sup> Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), <https://www.english.acri.org.il/east-jerusalem-2019>, May 2015

As shown in Map 1 below, in 2013 the water distribution network in Silwan and Ath Thuri was quite extended compared to other communities in East Jerusalem. Currently, 95% of the HHs is officially connected to the water network (Silwan and Ath Thuri Community Centre, 2020).

**Map 1. Water network in 2013 (Cesvi 2019)**



Despite officially the average water consumption per capita per day in Jerusalem seems to be 0,21 m<sup>3</sup> <sup>3</sup>, not less than the “minimum water required sustaining a healthy life per capita per day” established by the World Health Organization, corresponding to 1.1 m<sup>3</sup>, in East Jerusalem the water supply per capita appeared to be 55% of the WHO minimum standard<sup>4</sup>. Unfortunately, exhaustive data concerning water availability and consumption in Silwan and Ath Thuri communities are not available in this regard.

As regards municipal water service fees, Gihon Corporation considers as a standard value the consumption of 3,5 m<sup>3</sup> of water per capita 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/cu.m. For any amount exceeding 3.5 cu. m/per person per month, the rate is up to 13.461 NIS/cu.m. 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/cu.m.

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 m<sup>3</sup> and the connection unit cost per m<sup>3</sup> corresponds to 165 NIS. To this cost must also be added the cost of installing and supplying the water meter which corresponds to 3700 NIS (Silwan and Ath Thuri Community Centre, 2020).

## **1.2 Waste water**

The use of septic tanks or cesspits are impermissible under the regulations of the Ministry of the Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Health. Installation of main sewage lines, to which dwellings can connect, is a service generally provided to residents. In the past years, the high costs and the bureaucratic challenges involved in installing sewage lines have proven an obstacle for people to take advantage of the potential of building on their property<sup>5</sup>.

Taking into account the extension of the sewerage, it could be estimated that a high percentage of dwellings were connected to the public network in 2013 (Map 2.). The same cannot be said for the drainage network for which only a few traits have been identified in a small fractions of the community. Recently, the 2018 Gihon plan predicted to develop the sewer system through a line extension of about 11 km, with a diameter greater than 200 mm up to 300 mm. In 2019, the same company set out to extend about 15 km of lines with a diameter of more than 200 mm up to 300 mm<sup>6</sup>. Currently, 95% of the HHs is officially connected to the sewer network and it is expected to reach 100% shortly. It is assumed that the remaining 5% of the population still uses cesspits or septic tanks, even if no information regarding frequency and costs have been traced (Silwan and Ath Thuri Community Centre, 2020).

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<sup>3</sup> Jerusalem Institute for Policy research, 2016.

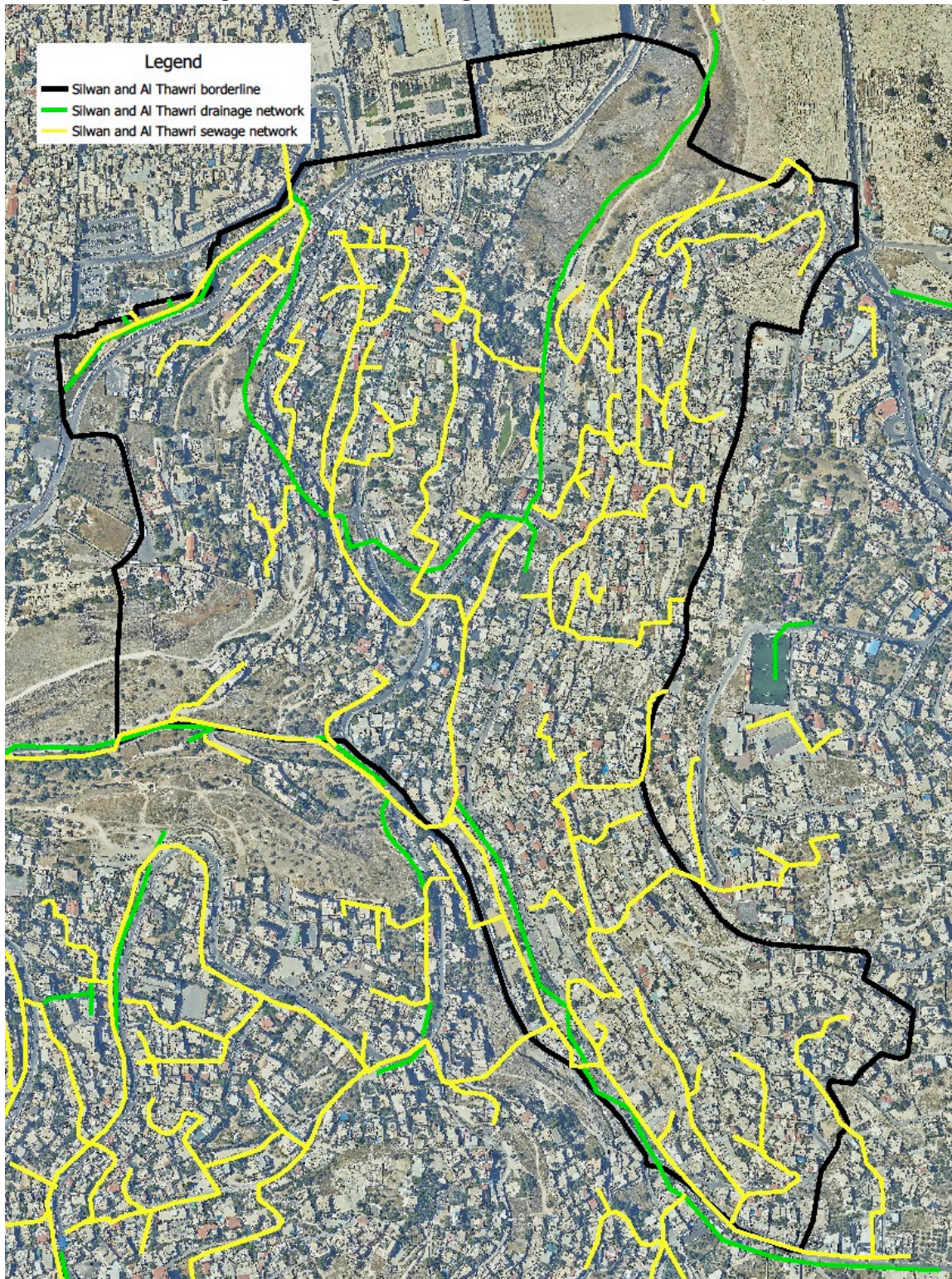
<sup>4</sup> According to the WHO, the Minimum water required sustaining a healthy life per capita per day is 0,1 m<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Bimkom, 2010

<sup>6</sup> Gihon Company, 2020.

In 2019, through some field visits, it was discovered the presence of some critical sewerage and drainage points, in the north of Umm Tuba that call to a system not perfectly functional. Some examples are shown in the images below and the location points detected are reported in **Map 2**. It can be asserted that the community may be easily subject to flooding because of its sharp topography.

**Map 2. Sewerage and drainage networks in 2013 (Cesvi 2019)**



**Picture 1. Drainage critical point**



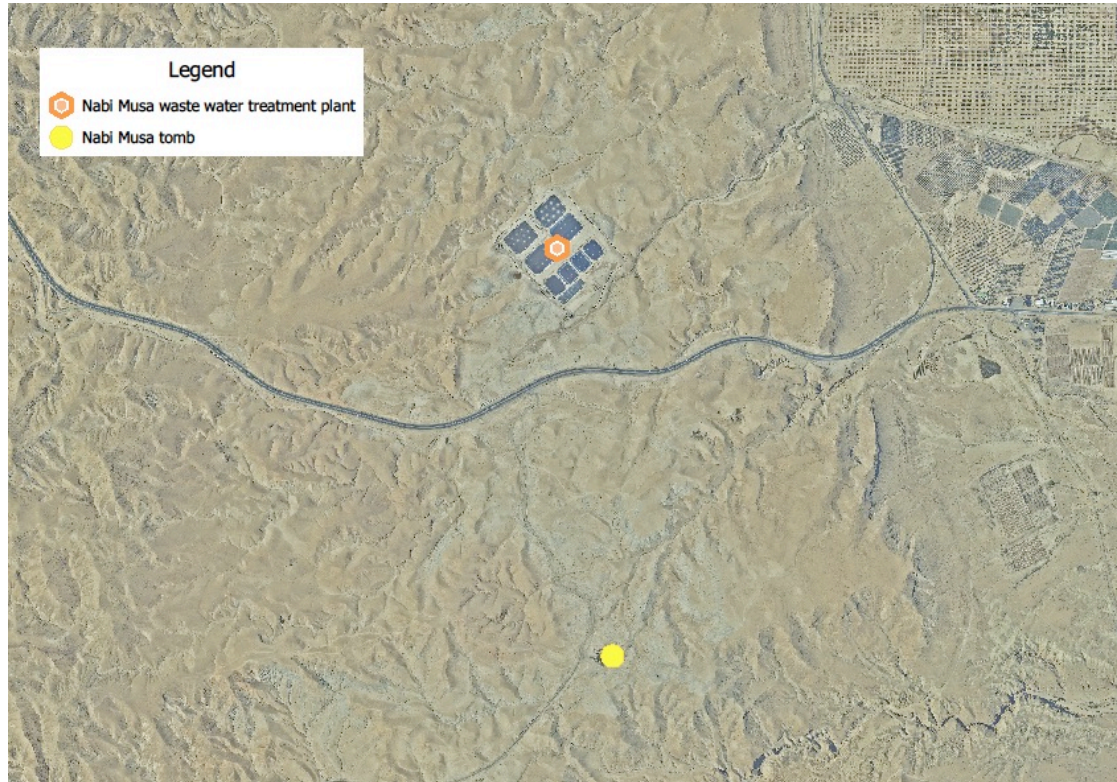
**Picture 2. Sewerage critical point**



Regarding service fees, where the sewerage connection service is integrated in the drinking water supply service, the unit costs applied shall be those shown above. As regards the area supplied by Gihon, if drinking water and sewerage connection services are provided separately, the basic rate for the sewerage service varies between 2,832 and 3,184 NIS/cu.m, calculated according to the cadastral category of the property and the water consumption. The cost of connecting to the network is particularly expensive and it depends on the dwelling meters squares. According to the average size of the dwellings in the target communities, the cost per dwelling is between 40,000 and 60,000 NIS. This cost is calculated on the basis of the m<sup>2</sup> of the dwelling. The size of housing units in East Jerusalem varies between 90 and 120 m<sup>2</sup>, for which the unit cost is therefore estimated between 400 and 500 NIS per m<sup>2</sup> (Silwan and Ath Thuri Community Centre, 2020).

As far as waste water generation is concerned, no data has been found. However, it is well known that the waste water confers in the Waste Water Treatment Plan (WWTP) of Nebi Musa, east of Jerusalem, capable of treating approximately an amount of 540,000 m<sup>3</sup> of waste water per day (**Map 3**).

**Map 3. WWTP location**



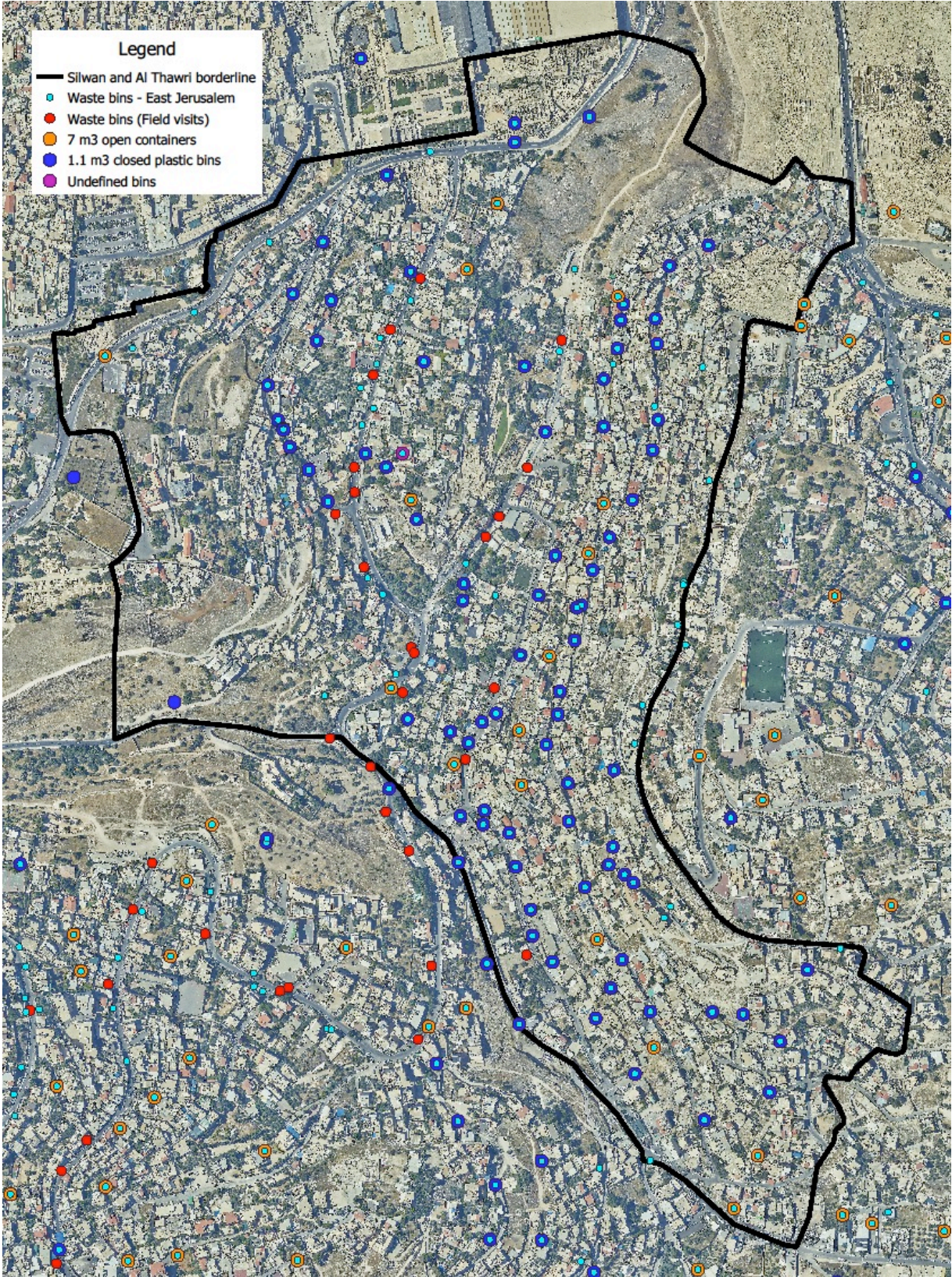
## 2. Solid Waste

The Solid waste<sup>7</sup> value chain in both communities is managed by the Jerusalem Municipality. Concerning the solid waste collection service coverage, solid waste bins and containers are distributed in various areas in a not equitable manner (**Map 4.**). 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 lateral boundaries in the northern part. Through the information published by Jerusalem Municipality and some filed visits, it was possible to trace the location of the solid waste collection points and the types of bins and containers. 139 collection points and 164 bins and containers have been identified in the target area (**Table 3.**).

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<sup>7</sup> 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 4. Solid waste collection points (Cesvi 2019)



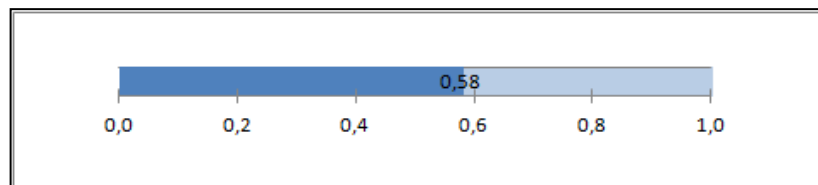


**Table 3. Solid waste bins and containers**

N. Collection points	Bin/container type	N. bins/containers	N.bins/containers for which NO collection frequency is detected	N.bins/containers for which collection frequency is detected	Waste density per bin/container kg (250 kg /1 m3)	Waste density per total bins/containers (ton)
139	All types	164	103	61		110,000
99	1,1 m3 closed bin	120	78	42	275	33,000
40	7 m3 open container	44	25	19	1750	77,000

Comparing the total number of bins and containers collection capacity (110 tons) with the amount of waste generated per day (61.142 tons)<sup>8</sup>, we can consider the system discretely efficient. On a scale of 0 to 1, which measures the total collection capacity based on the total number of bins and containers located in the community, we can measure the saturation level of the system based on the amount of waste daily generated by the community population. The system in the target communities present a low saturation level corresponding to 0,58 (**Figure 1**).

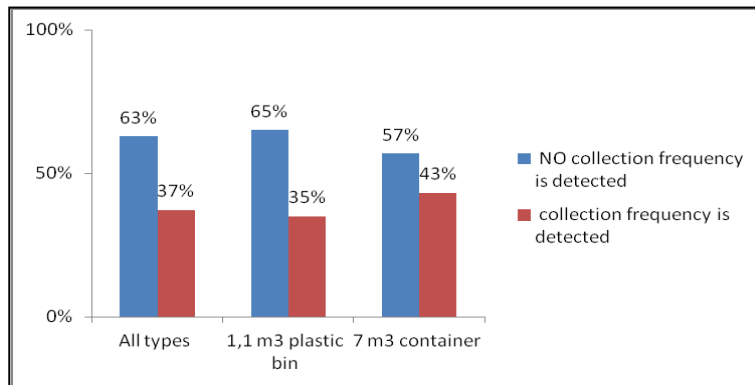
**Figure 1. Saturation level of the solid waste system**



For most of the bins and containers, it was not possible to gather the data on the weekly emptying frequency (**Figure 2**). Six compactors are used for the solid waste collection for both communities. Each compactor is capable to collect between 10-12 tons per trip (East Jerusalem SWM contractor, 2020).

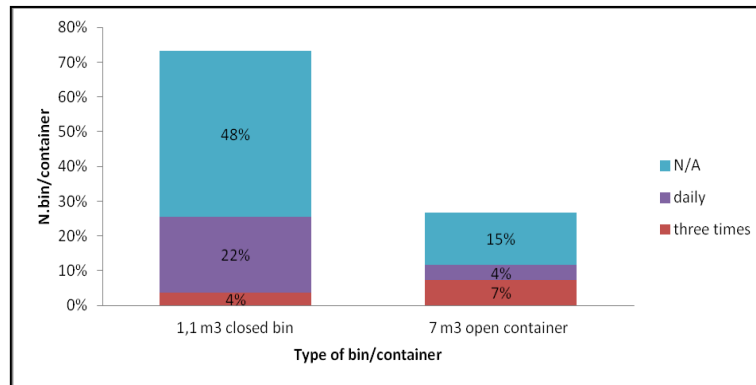
<sup>8</sup> The average waste generation per day per capita in East Jerusalem is considered as 1,9 kg, according to the Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection, 2018.

**Figure 2. Detection of the weekly emptying frequency of bins and containers**



According to the data collected, it emerges that the 7 m3 closed containers are mainly emptied daily while the 1,1 m3 closed bins mainly 3 times a week (**Figure 3.**).

**Figure 3. Weekly emptying frequency of bins and containers**



**Picture 1. 1,1 m3 closed bin (Cesvi 2019)**



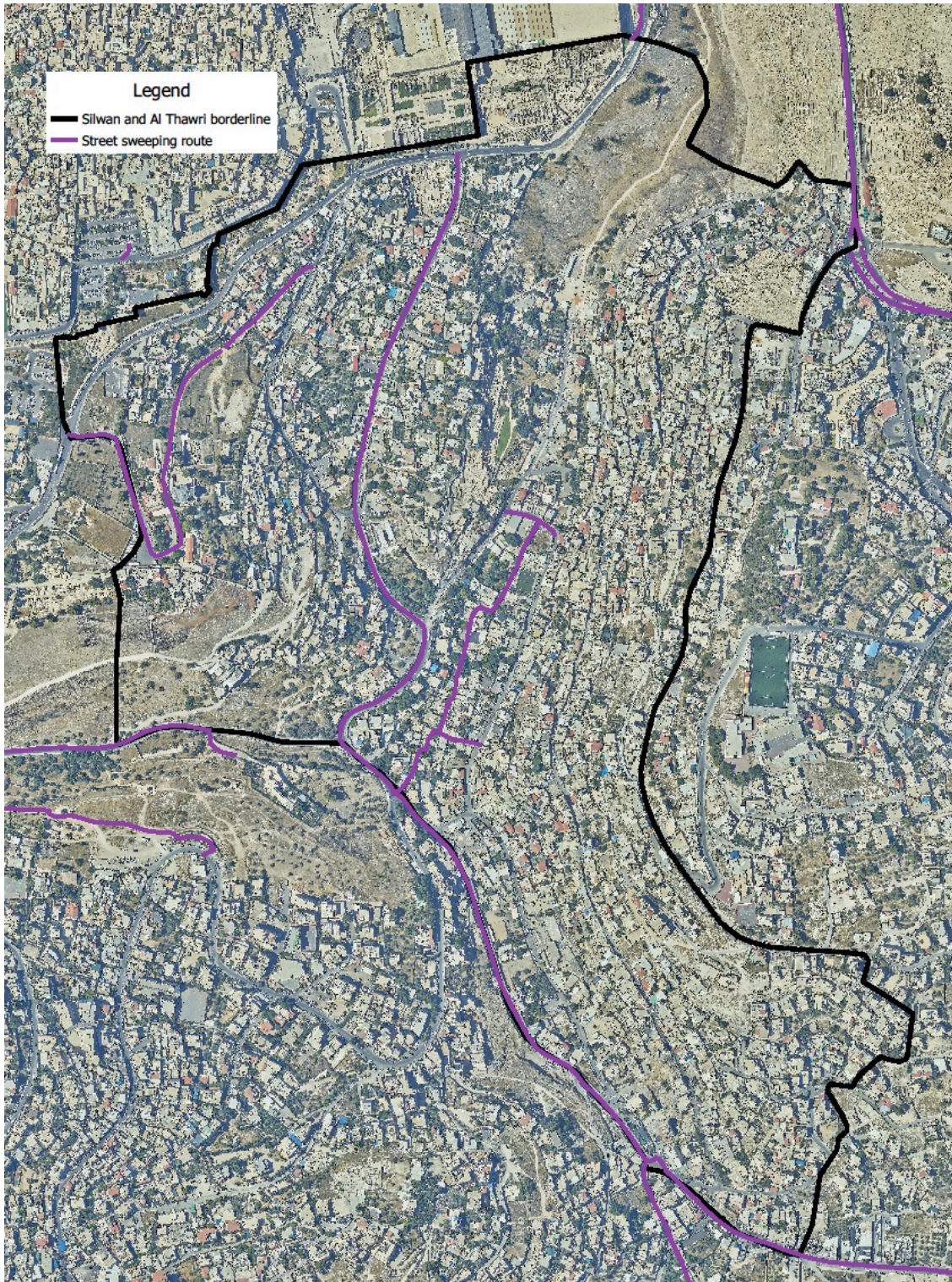
**Picture 2. 7 m3 open container (Cesvi 2019)**



The street sweeping service in the target area seems quite inefficient, according to the data of 2019, despite the population commitment to paying their taxes to the Municipality (**Map 5.**). Definitely, the service is not guaranteed to all the areas where solid waste collection points are located (**Map 4.**). Street cleaning and garbage removal generally took place only in some main street of the

communities. Side streets do not have the benefit of proper cleaning and garbage removal. And even less can be said for the whole southern part. In the beginning of the last decade, waste accumulated in the streets for several days before it was collected and for this reason the drainage system was affected and flooding very common<sup>9</sup>.

Map 5. Street sweeping service (Cesvi 2019)



<sup>9</sup> Bimkom, 2010.

In 2019, some dumping areas and critical collection points were detected through field visits in both communities (**Picture 3**). The images collected during the field visit suggest that this service is inefficient.

**Picture 3. Critical waste collection points and dumping areas (Cesvi 2019)**



The fee for the solid waste service is included in the Arnona, the annual expense that include all municipal services and it can be paid in instalments to Jerusalem Municipality. The Arnona is calculated upon the area where the housing unit is located (category of the living area) and it also depends on the square meters of the accommodation.

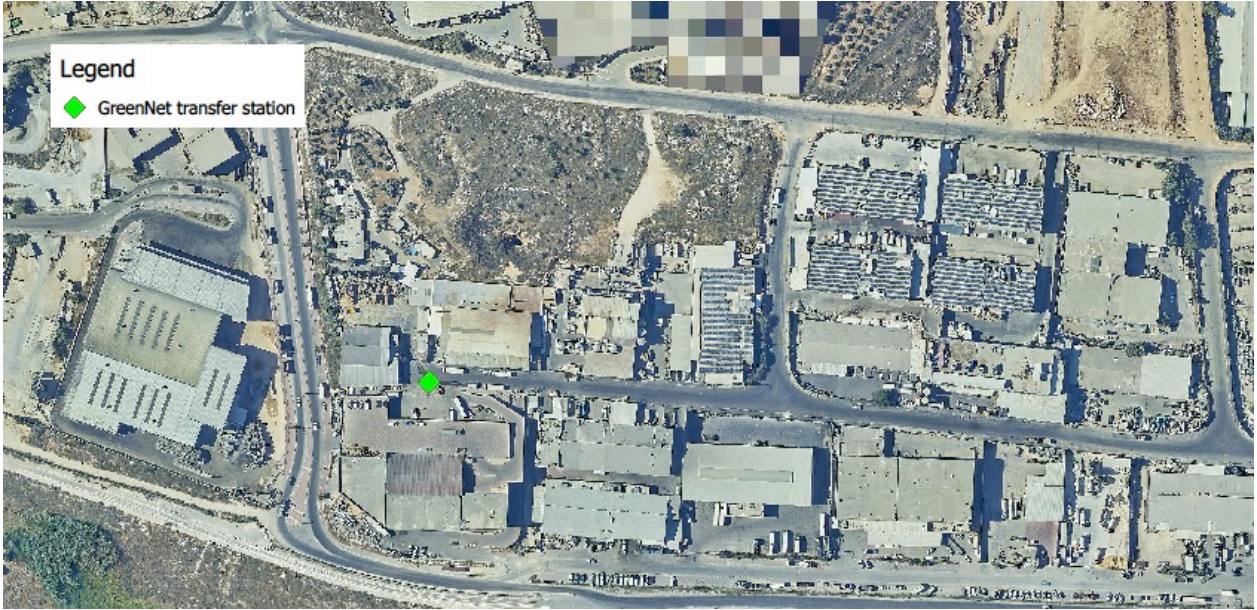
According to the available data for Silwan and Ath Thuri, there are no separate collection points of solid waste. Further, the clearance service of scrap and old furniture is not available as in other Jerusalem neighbourhoods, according to the information published by the Jerusalem Municipality website.

As for the waste disposal methods, no detailed information was found to describe this phase of the waste value chain, but the previous most used methods was burning and landfilling<sup>10</sup>. Currently, Jerusalem solid waste is collected through Solid waste collection system, performed by the municipality and conveyed to GreenNet sorting facility in Atarot industrial area, north of the city of Jerusalem (**Map 6** and **Map 6.1**) (Atarot – North of Jerusalem).

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<sup>10</sup> The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ), Locality Profiles and Needs Assessment for Jerusalem Governorate, 2014.

**Map 6. Green Net transfer station**



**Map 6.1 Green Net transfer station comparing to Qalandia airport**



### 3. Survey

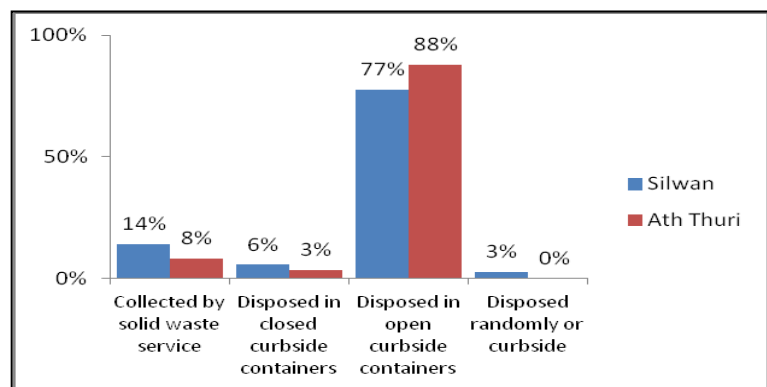
In 2019 some interviews were conducted by The Union of Charitable Societies-Jerusalem (UCS). Out of a population of 32,180, a sample of 418 people was interviewed, in order to obtain a clearer view of the services delivered at household level for which people behaviour and perception were investigated:

#### 1. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

##### Solid waste disposal method

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

More than 2/3 of the HHs interviewed in both communities stated to dispose the solid waste in open curbside containers and just a restricted number declared to use different methods. It is clear that a very high number of the HHs interviewed uses the current solid waste management system for domestic waste disposal. Other methods like burning or burying in small pits were not mentioned.

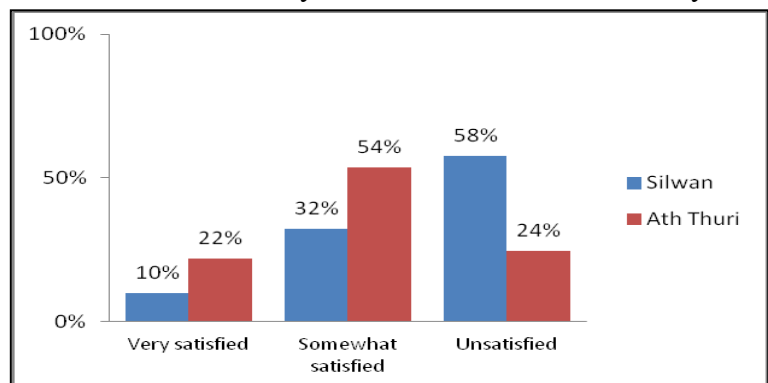


#### 2. STREET SWEEPING

##### Satisfaction with curb side and streets sweeping

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

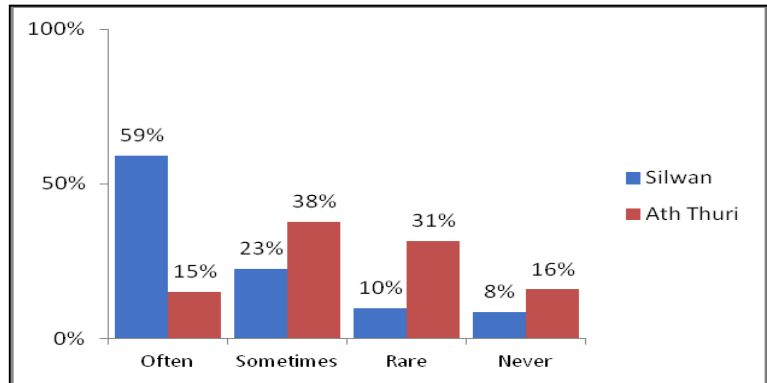
Most of the people interviewed in Silwan community seems not be satisfy with this service. By contrast, most of the people interviewed in Ath Thuri community seems to be somewhat satisfy with service. Given the difference in this perception of the service between the two communities, it could be assumed that the service is not guaranteed in an equitable manner between the two communities, but seems to be more efficient in Ath Thuri. However, for both, the number of respondents very satisfied with the service is rather low.



Street uncleanness

*(Q: Do you suffer from unclean street?)*

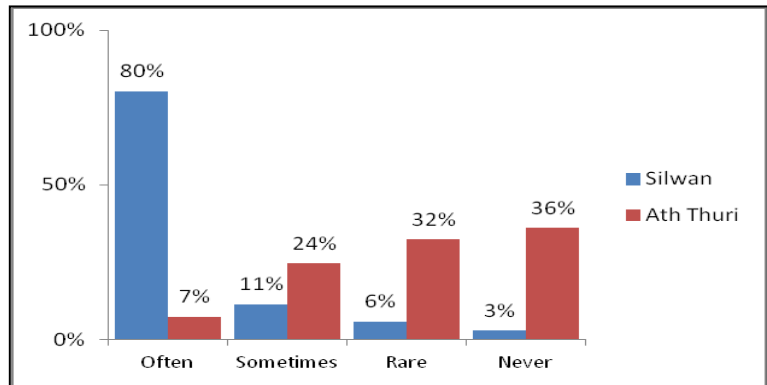
This information confirms the above assumption that street sweeping service seems to be more efficient in Ath Thuri community than in Silwan. Most of the interviewees in Silwan stated to suffer from unclean streets.



Outbreak of rodent population

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

Evidence of the above hypothesis shows that the community of Silwan is often affected by outbreak of rodent population (80%), unlike the community of Ath Thuri, for which most respondents consider this phenomenon as rare (32%) or even non-existent (36%).

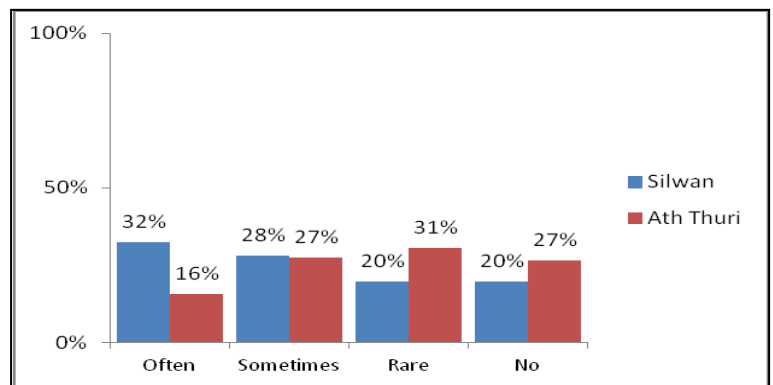


3. AIR POLLUTION

Bad odours emitted from solid waste near the house

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

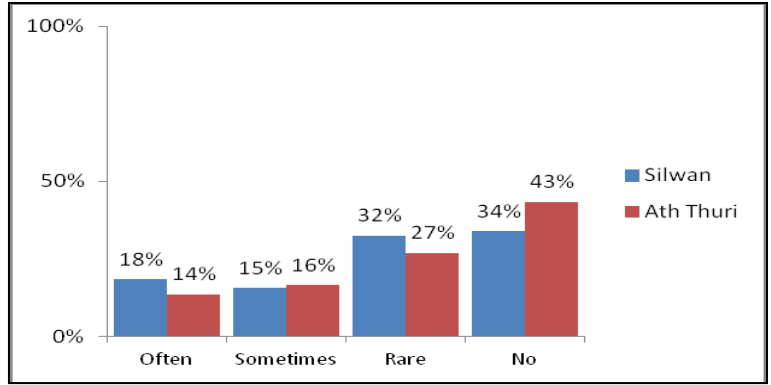
Regarding the emission of odours from solid waste, the two communities seem to have a very similar perception. However, even in this case the Silwan community seems to suffer more than Ath Thuri because of this problem.



### Solid waste burning emissions/gases

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

The data collected here show that in both communities burning as a solid waste disposal method is used in the target area, despite the fact that none of the respondents reported using it. The analysis of the data also shows that the community of Silwan suffers more from this phenomenon. Although, the general perception of respondents in relation to this phenomenon is not particularly different between the two communities.

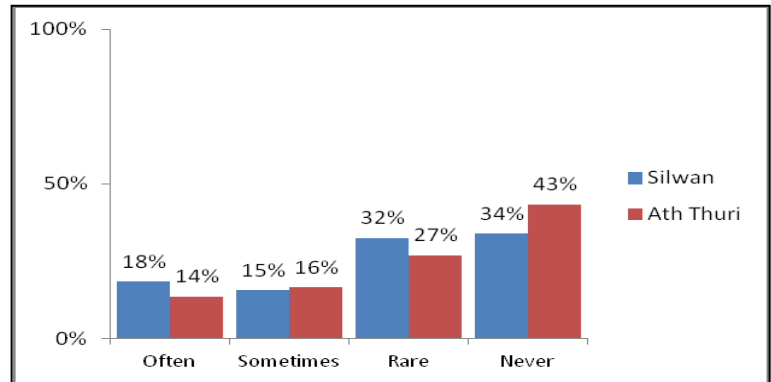


## 4. WASTE WATER

### Wastewater overflowing

*(Q: Do you suffer from overflowing wastewater?)*

The data gathered in this case highlights that the phenomenon of the wastewater overflowing exists even if it does not significantly affect the community. However, we can assume that in both communities the sewerage and drainage network are not entirely efficient although recent plans for their development have been put in place by Gihon Company.



## **Electricity and Telecommunications**

The town of Silwan has a public electricity network since 1965, 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 95% (Wadi Hilweh Information Center, 2012). The town also has a telephone network, which operates through an automated switchboard in Jerusalem municipality, and nearly 100% of the housing units are connected to this telephone network.

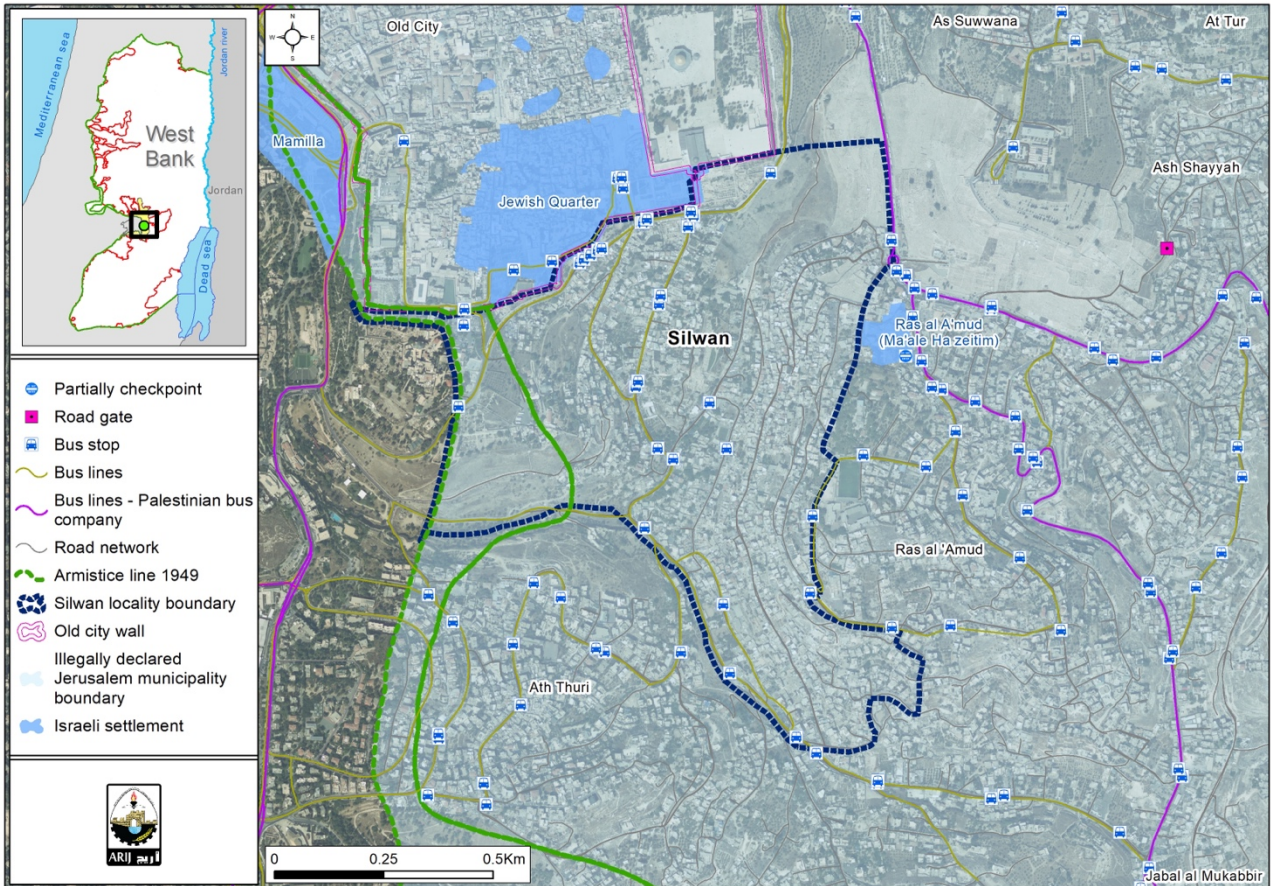
## **Transportation**

In the town of Silwan, there is a bus network designated for public transport, served by the bus transportation company in east Jerusalem, on Silwan and Ras al 'Amood - Jerusalem line. As for the



road network in the town, there are 44.8 km of paved roads (The Union of the Charitable Societies - Jerusalem (UCS) and ARIJ database, 2019).

**Map 7: Land use and the route of the Apartheid Wall in Silwan**



**Source:** ARIJ Geographic Information Systems Unit, 2020

## Town Development Priorities and Needs

Silwan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 4 shows the development priorities and needs in the town according to the Development Committee's feedback

**Table 4: Development priorities and needs in Silwan**

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

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