Acknowledgments

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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 at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing 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 at preparing 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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Furush Beit Dajan Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Furush Beit Dajan is a Palestinian village in Nablus Governorate, located 18.5km east of Nablus City. It is bordered by Tammun to the east, Tammun and ‘Ein Shibli to the north, Al ‘Aqrabaniya and Beit Dajan to the west, and Al Jiftlik to the south (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Furush Beit Dajan location and borders

Furush Beit Dajan is located at an altitude of 175m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 249mm. The average annual temperature is 21°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 50.7% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Furush Beit Dajan village consists of approximately 20,083 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 1996, Furush Beit Dajan has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). The Council however does not own a permanent headquarters but is located within the Middle Jordan Valley’s Joint Council (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Furush Beit Dajan, including (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Protection of governmental properties.

**History**

Furush Beit Dajan village was named as a result of its location on a flat land which is considered an extension to Beit Dajan neighboring village.

The village was established pre-1948, with its residents descending from the neighboring village of Beit Dajan, Tammun, Tubas, Beit Furik and Hebron, among others (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).
Religious and Archaeological Sites

There is only one mosque in the village (Furush Beit Dajan Mosque). The village has a few sites of archaeological interest including Khirbet at Tahuna (ruins). All of these sites are in need of rehabilitation in order to be qualified for tourism, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Furush Beit Dajan Village

![Map 2: Main locations in Furush Beit Dajan Village](image)

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Furush Beit Dajan in 2007 was 758, of whom 411 were male and 347 female. There were additionally 121 households registered as living in 177 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 Furush Beit Dajan is as follows: 37.7% were less than 15 years of age, 62% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3.3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 118.4:100, meaning that males and females constitute 54.2% and 45.8% of the population, respectively.
Families

Furush Beit Dajan residents are from several families, including Hamid, Bsharat, Ismael, Abu Thabet, Abu Kbosh, Hajj Muhammad, Hanini, Abu Hneish and others (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 15 families have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among Furush Beit Dajan population is approximately 12.1%, of whom 60.5% are females. Of the literate population, 22.5% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27.1% had elementary education, 26.4% had preparatory education, 9.2% had secondary education, and 2.7% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Furush Beit Dajan by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Can read &amp; write</th>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Preparatory</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>Associate Diploma</th>
<th>Bachelor</th>
<th>Higher Diploma</th>
<th>Master</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


There is one public school in the village (Furush Beit Dajan Co-educated Secondary School) which is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education, but there are no kindergartens (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

In the village there are 149 students, 18 teachers, and 11 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 8, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 14 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

In case of the lack of any educational levels; students head to Al ‘Aqrabaniya Secondary School; 7 km from the village (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

The educational sector in Furush Beit Dajan village faces a number of obstacles; mainly (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The existence of Al Hamra checkpoint at the village entrance.
- The long distance between the school and the village residential area.
Health Status

Furush Beit Dajan has no health centers or clinics. Thus, patients are transferred to Al Jiftlik Health Clinic (5km away), Rafidiya or the national hospitals in Nablus city (37km away) or Jericho Governmental Hospital in Jericho city (50km away) (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The lack of an ambulance.
- The lack of health clinics of any kind in the village.
- The long distance between the village and the qualified health centers outside of the village.

Economic Activities

The economy in Furush Beit Dajan is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 96% of the village’s workforce (Furush Beit Dajan Village 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 Furush Beit Dajan are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (96%)
- Israeli labor market (2%)
- Government or other employees sector (1%)
- Trade sector (1%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Furush Beit Dajan

Source: Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013
Furush Beit Dajan has only 2 groceries (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Furush Beit Dajan reached 20% and the group most affected economically by Israeli restrictions has been workers in the agricultural sector (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

**Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 39.5% of Furush Beit Dajan’s labor force was economically active, of whom 97.4% were employed, 60.5% were not economically active, 47% were students, and 44.2% were housekeepers (See Table 2).

**Table 2: Furush Beit Dajan population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Currently Unemployed</th>
<th>Unemployed (never worked)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Housekeeping</th>
<th>Unable to work</th>
<th>Not working &amp; not looking for work</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Not stated</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>587</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Agricultural Sector**

Furush Beit Dajan has a total area of approximately 20,083 dunums of which 11,617 are ‘arable’ land and 233 dunums are registered as ‘residential’ (See Table 3 and Map 3).

**Table 3: Land use and land cover in Furush Beit Dajan village (area in dunum)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Area</th>
<th>Built up Area</th>
<th>Agricultural area (11,617)</th>
<th>Inland water</th>
<th>Forests</th>
<th>Open Spaces</th>
<th>Area of Industrial, Commercial &amp; Transport Unit</th>
<th>Area of Settlements, Military Bases &amp; Wall Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20,083</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>4,354</td>
<td>5,776</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.
Palestinian Localities Study

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Furush Beit Dajan Village

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Furush Beit Dajan. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are squash and eggplants. In addition, the village has 399 dunums of greenhouses cultivated with different types with vegetables (Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Furush Beit Dajan (area in dunums)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fruity vegetables</th>
<th>Leafy vegetables</th>
<th>Green legumes</th>
<th>Bulbs</th>
<th>Other vegetables</th>
<th>Total Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.
Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Furush Beit Dajan is famous for citrus cultivation and there are approximately 1,075 dunums of land planted with citrus trees in the village.

Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Furush Beit Dajan (area in dunums)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Olives</th>
<th>Citrus</th>
<th>Stone-fruits</th>
<th>Pome fruits</th>
<th>Nuts</th>
<th>Other fruits</th>
<th>Total Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.
Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010
In terms of field crops and forage in Furush Beit Dajan, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 225 dunums (See Table 6).

Table 6: Total area of forage and field crops in Furush Beit Dajan (area in dunums)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cereals</th>
<th>Bulbs</th>
<th>Dry legumes</th>
<th>Oil crops</th>
<th>Forage crops</th>
<th>Stimulating crops</th>
<th>Other crops</th>
<th>Total Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ’s GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization’s definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas and not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ’s survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 20% of the residents in Furush Beit Dajan rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Furush Beit Dajan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cows*</th>
<th>Sheep</th>
<th>Goats</th>
<th>Camels</th>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Donkeys</th>
<th>Mules</th>
<th>Broilers</th>
<th>Layers</th>
<th>Bee Hives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7,289</td>
<td>2,430</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 22 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

Table 8: Agricultural Roads in Furush Beit Dajan Village and their Lengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suitability of Agricultural Roads</th>
<th>Length (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For vehicles</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For tractors and agricultural machinery only</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For animals only</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuitable</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

The agricultural sector in the village faces a number of problems including (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- The confiscation of land.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The difficult internal and external market of agricultural production.
- The high prices of the agricultural production inputs.
Institutions and Services

Furush Beit Dajan village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013):

- **Furush Beit Dajan Village Council**: Founded in 1996 and is currently registered by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.
- **Furush Beit Dajan Cooperative Society for Protected Cultivation**: Founded in 2007 by the Ministry of Labor. The Society provided agricultural guidance and networking with other institutions.
- **Furush Beit Dajan Cooperative Society for Livestock**: Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Labor. The Society is interested in matters of collective buying and marketing of agricultural inputs, the implementation of permanent development projects, as well as networking with other institutions.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

**Electricity and Telecommunication Services:**

Furush Beit Dajan has been connected to a public electricity network since 2013. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village, through the North Electricity Company. Approximately 60% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network. The village residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the electrical network not covering all housing units in the village (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Furush Beit Dajan is not connected to a telecommunication network (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

**Transportation Services:**

There are 4 taxis and 2 public buses in Furush Beit Dajan. The village suffers from a lack of vehicles and residents often have to use their own private cars. Earth mounds and military checkpoints are the main obstacles regarding transportation in Furush Beit Dajan (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). There are 5km of main roads and 5km of secondary roads in Furush Beit Dajan, all of which are unpaved (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

**Water Resources:**

Furush Beit Dajan is provided with water by Mekorot through the public water network established in 2005. The percentage of housing units connected to the public water is approximately 90% (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Furush Beit Dajan village in 2012 was recorded at approximately 96,000 cubic meters/year (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 84 liters/day. However, no Furush Beit Dajan citizen
consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 30% (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. As a result, the rate of water consumption per capita in Furush Beit Dajan is 59 liters per day (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). The average water consumption of Furush Beit Dajan residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. In the village there is also five special artesian wells, which used in agriculture, in addition to 20 domestic wells to collect rain water (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 2 NIS (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Sanitation:

Furush Beit Dajan lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks, as a main means for wastewater disposal (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 189 cubic meters, or 69,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 222 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:

Furush Beit Dajan Village Council is not responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste in the village. Citizens collect their own solid waste and burn it beside their house (Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Furush Beit Dajan is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Furush Beit Dajan residents is nearly 0.6 tons, or 218 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental Conditions

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

Water Crisis

• Interruption of water supply for long periods in the summer
• Israeli control over some of the artesian wells in the village, thus depriving the population to benefit from its water resources.

Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that Furush Beit Dajan 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 village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents’ health.

**Solid Waste Management**

Furush Beit Dajan suffers from a number of problems related to the management of solid waste. There is no service in the village for the management of solid waste. As a result, citizens collect their own solid waste and burn it next to their homes. This results in insect infestation and the attraction of rats and stray animals. The odors, toxic gases and black smoke emitted are hazardous to residents’ health and the surrounding environment.

Therefore, Furush Beit Dajan cannot utilize the local environmentally-friendly landfill site at Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate to dispose of its solid waste safely, as other villages and towns for Nablus Governorate do.

**Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

**Geopolitical status in Furush Beit Dajan village**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, all the village lands of Furush Beit Dajan are classified as Area C. Consisting of 20,083 dunums in total, Israel retains full control over the security and administration of the area. Palestinian building and land management is prohibited in Area C unless consent or authorization is given by the Israeli Civil Administration. It is worth mentioning, that most of the lands lying within Area C are agricultural areas, settlements, Israeli military bases and open areas. (See Table 9).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Area in dunums</th>
<th>Percentage of total village area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area A</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area C</td>
<td>20,083</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,083</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

**The Israeli Occupation practices in Furush Beit Dajan village**

Hundreds of dunums of land belonging to Furush Beit Dajan village 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 the village of Furush Beit Dajan:
Israel has confiscated 1,370 dunums from Furush Beit Dajan village for the establishment of “Al Hamra” settlement, located on the western side of the village. Founded in 1971, it occupies an area of approximately 1,582 dunums and contains approximately 184 Israeli settlers. Israeli authorities have also confiscated 192 dunums from the village lands to set up a military base on the eastern side of the village, near to "Al Hamra" military checkpoint.

**The Israeli Checkpoints on Furush Beit Dajan village**

After the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, the Israeli authorities established "Al Hamra" permanent military checkpoint on main road No. 57, which is controlled by the Israeli authorities. The checkpoint was established on the road that links the Jordan Valley and Jericho to northern provinces such as Nablus Governorate and Tubas Governorates. This important road passes by Furush Beit Dajan village. "Al Hamra" checkpoint is considered a crucial military checkpoint in the West Bank because of its strategic location, as it is situated at the main entrance for Palestinians coming from northern governorate to the Jordan Valley. There have been continuous violations by Israeli military forces against Palestinians for over 12 years at this checkpoint, including shootings, arrest procedures and denial of access. Furthermore, farmers in the Jordan Valley area have suffered from the long closure of this checkpoint and have limited or no access to their land; this area is considered “the bread basket of Palestine” and is the main source of fruit and vegetables. Consequently, there has been an increase in poverty and unemployment rates in this area. The checkpoint still exists in Furush Beit Dajan, but Israeli forces have currently reduced their presence in the area.

**The Israeli bypass Roads on Furush Beit Dajan village**

Israeli authorities have established multiple bypass roads across the West Bank, confiscating thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements to each other and to separate the Palestinian community. These roads also serve to enhance Israeli security control on these roads. Israel has confiscated further Furush Beit Dajan village territory in order to construct Israeli bypass road No. 57, which connects the Jordan Valley to Nablus city. This road, which contains to permanent "Hamra" checkpoint, is under full Israeli control. In addition, the Israelis have constructed bypass road No. 578 and bypass road No. 508. The length of these roads extends approximately 7km onto the village territory of Furush Beit Dajan.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in 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.

**The Demolitions of Housing and facilities in Frush Beit Dajan village**

As a result of Furush Beit Dajan village being situated in Area C, and on the main road that connects the Jordan Valley and the northern governorates, it has become a target for Israeli occupation forces to confiscate lands, and violate the rights of citizens living in the area. There has been a number of house demolitions and resulting displacement. , where the Israeli occupation forces demolished houses and
agricultural facilities several times in the village, for example, the Israeli military forces demolished five residential facilities in April 2008, home to 31 members of local Bedouin families. Two residential tents belonging to Shehda Ibrahim Abu Awad, his son Mohammed, and 15 members of their family were demolished, alongside three housing units owned by Mohammed Hassan Jibril Srayah, his brother and their mother, which collectively housed 16 people.

In January 2012 the occupation forces accompanied by with the military bulldozers demolished agricultural barracks (a building with a zinc roof used as a store for farmers), an agriculture room, and destroyed a water vector channel, which is used to irrigate agricultural land. This water channel moved the water from the area of Ain Shibli to the farms in the Hamra area. Israeli authorities justify the demolitions by stating that no building can occur without a permit in Area C according to Oslo agreement. However, Israeli authorities reject the majority of building license applications submitted by Palestinians in these areas.

**Development Plans and Projects**

**Implemented Projects**

Furush Beit Dajan Village Council has implemented only one development project in Furush Beit Dajan during the past five years (See Table 10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Project</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Donor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some improvement works on the old electricity network</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Furush Beit Dajan Village Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013

**Proposed Projects**

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

2. Paving road in the village (6km long) and rehabilitating some secondary roads.
3. Establishing a health clinic and providing the village with all relevant health services.
4. Protecting agricultural products through the reduction of production inputs, and assisting farmers in the marketing process.
5. Establishing a structural plan for the village.
6. Developing livestock through the creation of a feed factory and canceling the tax imposed on farmers.
Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Furush Beit Dajan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 11 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council’s perspective:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Strongly Needed</th>
<th>Needed</th>
<th>Not a Priority</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Infrastructural Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Opening and pavement of roads</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 km^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of old water networks</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Extending the water network to cover new built up areas</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Construction of new water networks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Construction of water reservoirs</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,000 cubic meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Construction of a sewage disposal network</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Construction of a new electricity network</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Providing containers for solid waste collection</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Providing a sanitary landfill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Health Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Building new clinics or health care centres</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 health center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Purchasing medical equipment and tools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Educational Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Building new schools</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of old schools</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>adding classrooms in the school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Purchasing new school equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Agriculture Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of agricultural lands</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500 dunums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Building rainwater harvesting cisterns</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Construction of livestock barracks</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15 barracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Provision of Veterinary Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Provision of seeds and hay for animals</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500-800 tons per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Construction of new greenhouses</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10 greenhouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rehabilitation of greenhouses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 greenhouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Provision of field crops seeds</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Provision of plants and agricultural supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Other Needs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Constructing harvesting pools (of 150-200 cubic meters)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ 5 km main roads, 5 km secondary roads and 10 km agricultural roads.

Source: Furush Beit Dajan Village Council, 2013
References: