

# Qabalan Town Profile



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## *Acknowledgments*

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## Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and town in the Nablus Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Nablus Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in improving the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Town Profiles and Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Town Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Nablus Governorate.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Nablus Governorate. In addition, the project aims to prepare strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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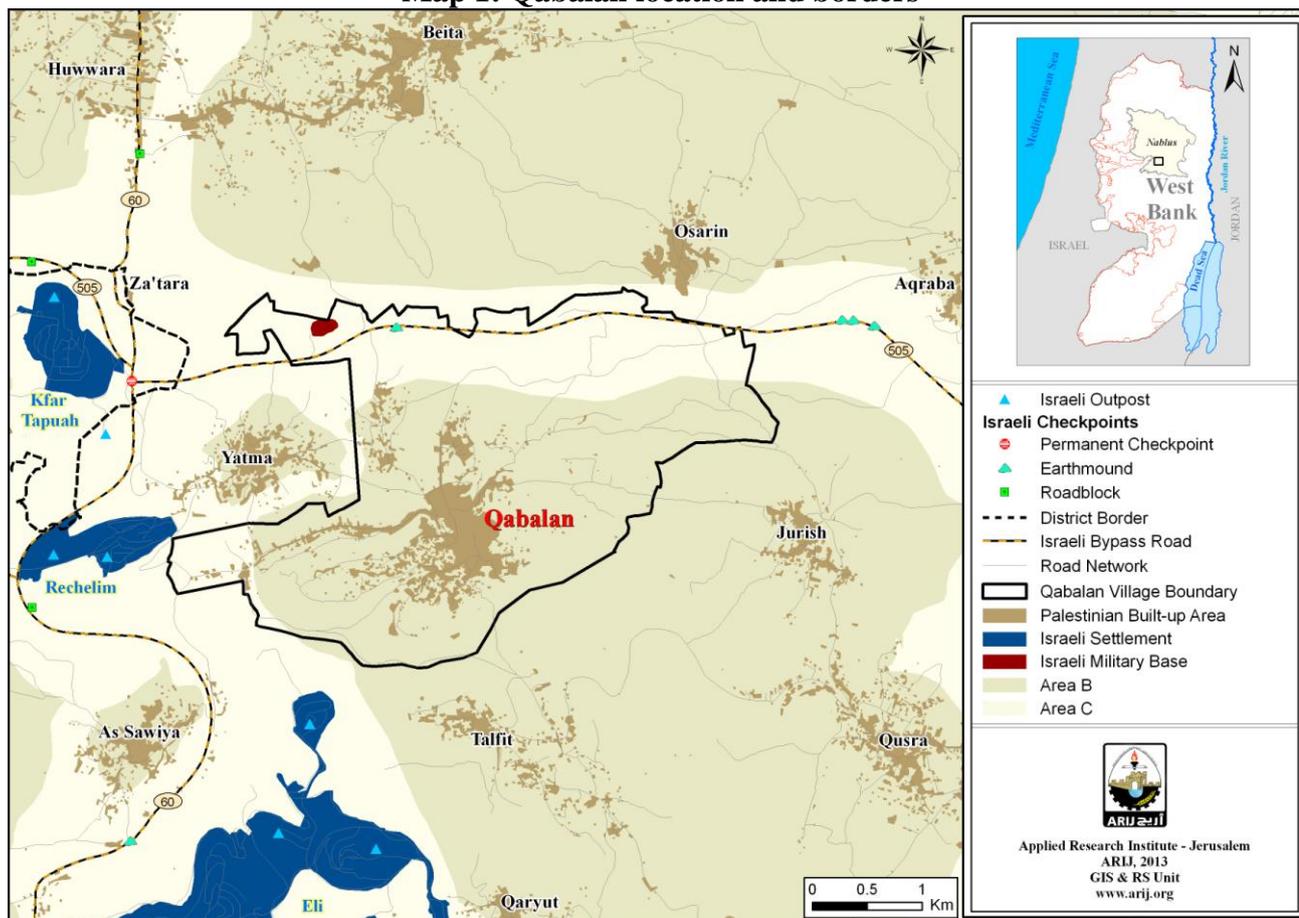
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# Qabalan Town Profile

## Location and Physical Characteristics

Qabalan is a Palestinian town in Nablus Governorate, located 13.4km south of Nablus City. It is bordered by Aqraba & Jurish to the east, Talfit & As Sawiya to the south, As Sawiya & Yatma to the west, and Beita & Osarin to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

**Map 1: Qabalan location and borders**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Qabalan is located at an altitude of 613m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 488.6mm. The average annual temperature is 18°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 59.4% (ARIJ-GIS, 2014).

The total area of Qabalan town consists of approximately 10,546 dunums. This is according to the new borders of the local bodies which were 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 1997, Qabalan has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 23 employees working in the council, which has a permanent headquarters included within the Joint Services Council for Planning and Development southeast of Nablus. The Municipal Council has a car that collects waste, 2 pick-up cars, a tractor, bagger, water and electricity maintenance equipment (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Qabalan, including (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, street cleaning and public services.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Organization of the construction and issuance of licenses processes.
- Provision of a center for governmental services (mail, security).
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Provide first aid services and the provision of an ambulance.
- Organize and transportation.

## History

The village of Qabalan is mentioned in Ottoman records. It is pronounced by the opening of the first, second and third, A and N, and there is nothing fixed about this name,

There is an oral tale which states that Ala'zar founder of the town, the Ottoman governor was offered several places to stay where he is rejection, and when he was offered Qabalan town site for him he approved, so from here the name of Qabalan come "acceptance and approval".

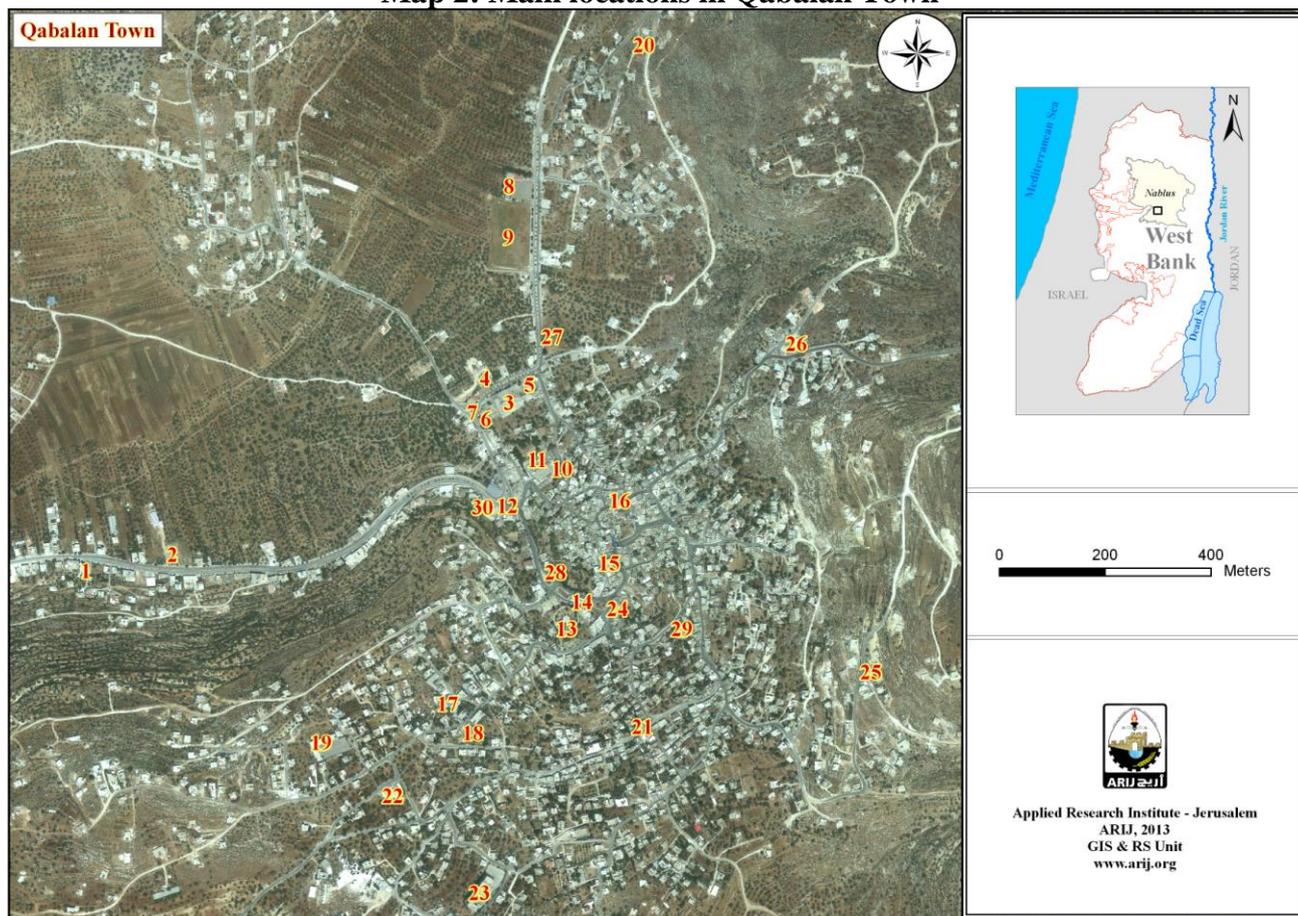
The town was established in 1550 AD (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

**Photo of Qabalan**

## **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are six mosques in the town (Sheikh Othman Mosque, Khalid ibn al-Walid Mosque, Abu Bakr As-Siddiq Mosque, Al Suhada' Mosque, Usama ibn Zayd Mosque, As Salhen Mosque). The town has several sites of archaeological interest including, the town mosques, and some archaeological Khirb (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013). (See Map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in Qabalan Town**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Qabalan in 2007 was 7,021, of whom 3,609 were male and 3,412 female. There were additionally 1,250 households registered as living in 1,526 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 Qabalan is as follows: 43.5% were less than 15 years of age, 53.5% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.8% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 105.8:100, meaning that males and females constitute 51.4% and 48.6% of the population, respectively.

### Families

Qabalan residents are from several families, including Az'ar, Akraa', and Emla families (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 10 families have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, the illiteracy rate amongst Qabalan population is approximately 4.9%, of whom 90.3% are females. Of the literate population, 13.7% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27.1% had elementary education, 35.2% had preparatory education, 13.8% had secondary education, and 5.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Qabalan by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Qabalan population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Unknown	Total
M	24	347	732	965	341	56	107	1	9	1	0	<b>2,583</b>
F	224	343	629	805	351	36	57	0	2	0	0	<b>2,447</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,030</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are six public schools in the town run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012) (see Table 2).

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Qabalan Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Qabalan Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Qabalan Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Qabalan Girls' Elementary School	Government	Female
Az Zahra' Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female
Ar Rashid Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the town there are 2,264 students, 131 teachers, and 79 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 17, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 29 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

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

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

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Children light of modern Kindergarten	3	4	Private
loved Sultan Kindergarten	5	8	Private
Birds of Paradise Kindergarten	4	5	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the absence of certain stages of education such as industrial secondary level, students go to Nablus Industrial School (20km away), Salfit Industrial School (15km away), or to Deir Dibwan Industrial School (30km away) (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

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

- Overcrowded classrooms.
- The lack of many essential school facilities, such as: a library, scientific laboratories, computer labs, and gyms.

## Health Status

Qabalan has several health facilities available, including a government health center, one government medical lab, a government mother and child care center, 4 private general physician clinics, one private bone clinic, 3 private dental surgeries, one private pediatrician clinic, a private physiotherapy clinic and 3 private pharmacies. In addition, charitable organizations run a health center, X-ray center, a medical lab, and a pharmacy. The village has two ambulance cars; one of them owned by 'Arura Association, and the other is privately owned. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidiya or the national hospitals, or to another clinic in Nablus city (20km away) (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

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

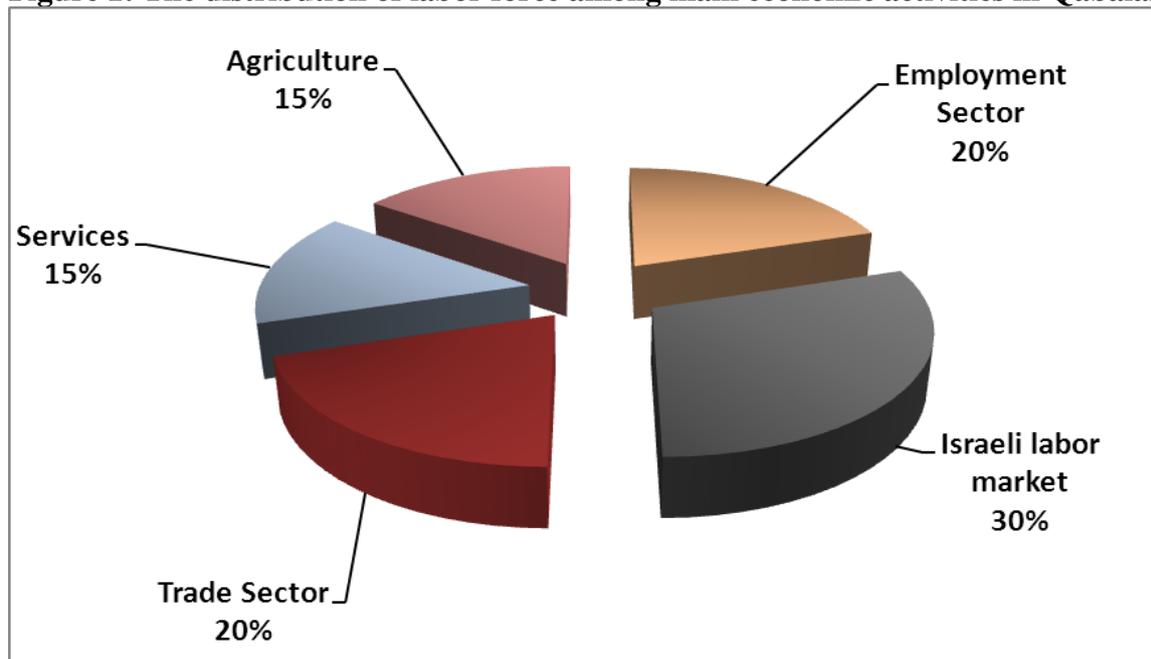
- The lack of full time health services.

## Economic Activities

The economy in Qabalan is dependent mainly on the Israeli labor market, which absorbs 30% of the town's workforce (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013) (See Figure 1).

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

- Israeli labor market (30%)
- Government or other employees sector (20%)
- Trade sector (20%)
- Agriculture sector (15%)
- Services sector (15%)

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

Source: (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013)

Qabalan has 56 groceries, 4 bakeries, 4 butchers, 3 fruit and vegetable stores, 150 different professional workshops, 13 professional industry stores, 3 quarries, 6 stone cutters, 3 olive oil presses, and 6 scrap stores (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Qabalan reached 25% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013):

- Workers in the Israeli labor market.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in the agriculture sector
- Workers in the services sector.
- Workers in the Government or other employees sector.
- Workers in the industry sector.

### Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 30.8% of Qabalan's labor force was economically active, of whom 85.1% were employed, 69.1% were not economically active, 55.2% were students, and 33.7% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

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

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Un-employed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	1220	81	134	<b>1435</b>	917	1	164	9	55	<b>1146</b>	2	<b>2583</b>
F	101	5	10	<b>116</b>	1003	1172	126	2	28	<b>2331</b>	0	<b>2447</b>
T	<b>1321</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1551</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3477</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5030</b>

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

## Agricultural Sector

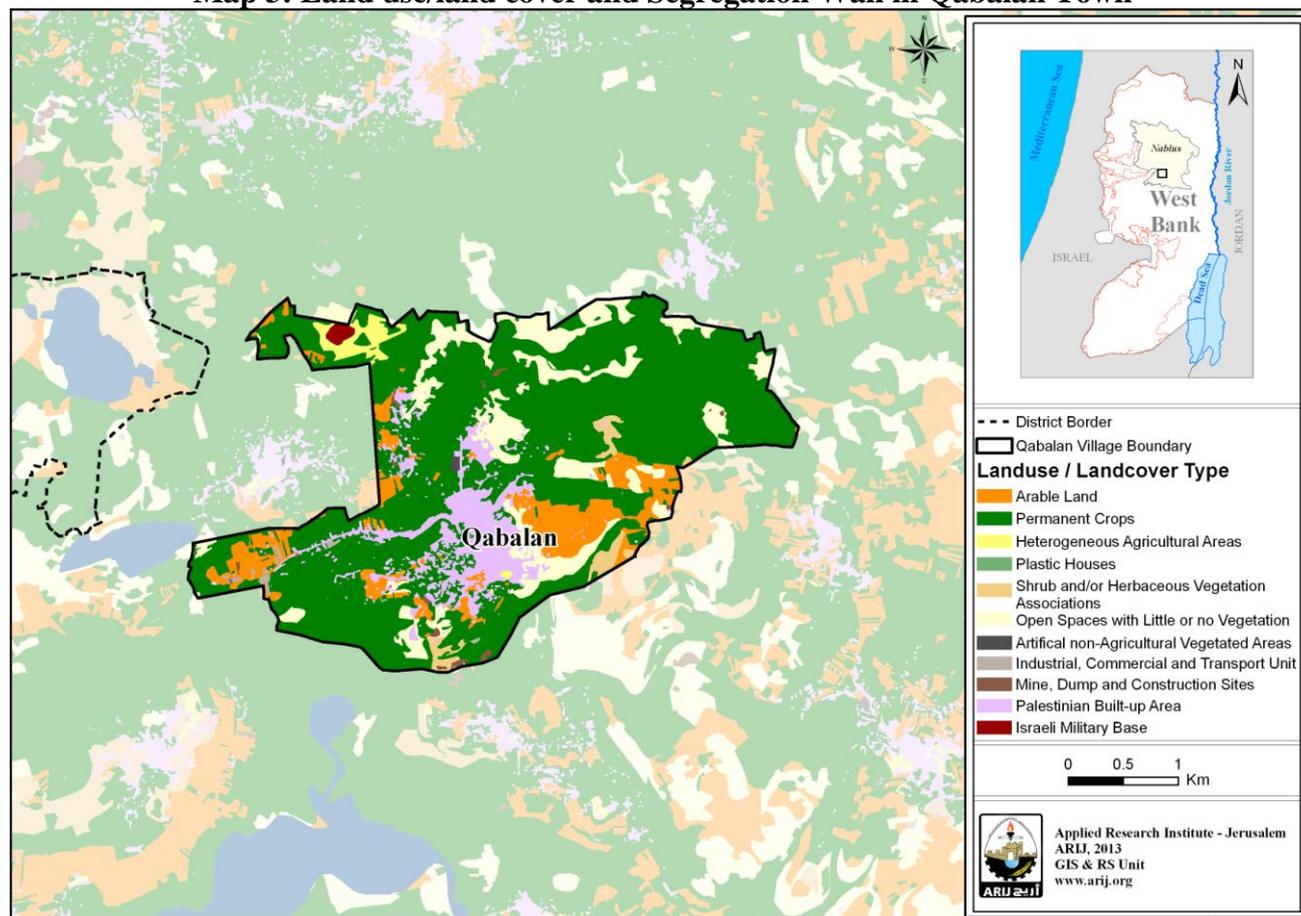
Qabalan has a total area of approximately 10,546 dunums, of which 8,132 are 'arable' land and 979 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

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

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (8,132)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
10,546	979	6,930	3	172	1,027	0	0	1,300	99	36

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2014.

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Qabalan Town**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

There are different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Qabalan. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are green beans. There is a total area of 2 dunums of land cultivated with green beans (Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010).

Table 6 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Qabalan is famous for olive trees cultivation and there are approximately 4,855 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the town.

**Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Qabalan (area in dunums)**

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
4,855	0	0	0	70	0	126	0	130	0	88	0	5,269	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Qabalan, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 216 dunums (See Table 7).

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

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
120	0	3	0	42	0	4	0	30	0	0	0	17	0	216	0

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture-Nablus, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in 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 50% of the residents in Qabalan rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013) (See Table 8).

**Table 8: Livestock in Qabalan**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
26	740	190	0	0	0	0	40,000	0	40

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 15 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013):

**Table 9: Agricultural Roads in Qabalan Town and their Lengths**

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	8
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	4
For animals only	3
Unsuitable	0

Source: Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013

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

- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of economic feasibility.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of access to agricultural land.

## Institutions and Services

Qabalan town has several governmental institutions, including a post office and police station, in addition to a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013):

- **Qabalan Municipal Council:** Founded in 1997, and registered later by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of different issues concerning the town and providing various services to its population, in addition to infrastructure services.

- **Al Qastal Sports Club:** Founded in 1998, and registered later by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, with the aim of establishing sports teams and implementing cultural and recreational activities.
- **Qabalan Cultural Club:** Founded in 2002, with the aim of providing educational and cultural services.
- **Eastern Mediterranean Association:** Founded in 2009, with the aim to provide educational and cultural services.
- **Al Wafa' Development Social Charity Association:** Founded in 2009, with the aim of providing social and cultural services.
- **Qabalan Agricultural Association Charity.**

## Infrastructure and Natural Resources

### Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Qabalan has been connected to a public electricity network since 1986. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, through the North Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 99% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

Qabalan is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 50% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

### Transportation Services:

There are 18 taxis in Qabalan, one bus and two taxi offices. Military checkpoints are considered the main barriers to free movement of residents to neighboring cities and communities (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013). There are 15km of main roads and 9km of secondary roads in Qabalan (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013) (See Table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Qabalan Town**

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
<b>1. Paved &amp; in good condition</b>	10	5
<b>2. Paved &amp; in poor condition</b>	3	2
<b>3. Unpaved</b>	2	2

Source: Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013

**Water Resources:**

Qabalan is provided with water by Mekorot through the public water network established in 1983. Approximately 97% of housing units are connected to the public water network (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Qabalan town in 2012 was recorded at approximately 156,000 cubic meters/year (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 54 liters/day. However, no Qabalan citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 25% (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Qabalan is 41 liters per day (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013). The average water consumption of Qabalan residents is very low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. In addition, the town has 3 groundwater wells, and a public water reservoir with a capacity of 200 cubic meters is located in the town. The town also has 500 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 5 NIS (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

**Sanitation:**

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 256 cubic meters, or 93,600 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 32 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:**

The Qabalan Municipal Council is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 15 NIS/ month per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Qabalan benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 90 containers (of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity), located at various points in the town. Qabalan Municipal Council collects the solid waste once daily and transports it using a waste vehicle to a special dumping site located 3km from the town, where it is subsequently burned and buried without concern for the environmental or health hazards this creates (Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Qabalan is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Qabalan residents is nearly 8.3 tons, or 3,033 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

## **Environmental Conditions**

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

### **Water Crisis**

- An increase in the proportion of wastewater network, which reaches about 25%.
- Interruption of water supply for long periods in the summer.

### **Wastewater Management**

The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that Qabalan residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater into the streets, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers. This is particularly common in winter. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

### **Solid Waste Management**

Qabalan town suffers from the absence of a central, safe landfill site for its solid waste. Qabalan utilizes 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 Qabalan town**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Qabalan was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 7,086 dunums (67% of the town's total area) were classified as Area B, where the Palestinian National Authority has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to retain overriding responsibility for security. The rest of the town's area, constituting 3,460 dunums (33% of the total area), was classified as Area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory. In Area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. The majority

of Qabalan's population resides in Area B while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land and open space. (See Table 11).

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

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	7,086	67
Area C	3,460	33
Nature Reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,546</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

### Israeli occupation practices in Qabalan town

Whilst there are no Israeli settlements established on Qabalan lands, the town still suffers from Israeli occupation practices; settlements, camps and Israeli military checkpoints still exist not far from the village. "Rechelim" settlement, established on the territory of the neighboring village of As Sawiya, is situated to the western side of Qabalan town. "Aleï" settlement, also established on the territory of As Sawiya village, is located to the south-western side of Qabalan. There have been a number of attacks on Palestinian residents, their land and property from these settlements. "Kfar Tapuah" settlement bloc is located to the north-west of Qabalan, which encompasses the settlement of "Kfar Tapuah", an Israeli military base, and "Tapuah" military checkpoint. "Tapuah" military checkpoint is known to Palestinians as "Za'tara" checkpoint; it is an important site which links the northern and southern governorates. This outpost has been in place since the Second Intifada, and has continued to be a central point for Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian civilians, such as killings, arrests, torture and denial of access.

### Conversion of evacuated military base on the territory of Qabalan town and Yatma village to an illegal settlement outpost

Israeli occupation authorities previously established a military base on Qabalan town lands. It was approximately 36 dunums in size. The base was located on the northern side of the town near Israeli bypass road No. 505 in the Mount Sabih area. The camp was evacuated in the mid-1990s. In May 2013, a group of Israeli settlers fenced off this land and posted banners displaying the word "Tfouham", relating to "Tapuah" settlement (Land Research Center). The settlers conducted buses to the site to impose control and establish it as a new outpost.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.poica.org/editor/case\\_studies/view.php?recordID=6256](http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=6256)

### **Israeli military checkpoints in Qabalan town**

During the Second Intifada, Israeli occupation forces established several checkpoints on the lands of Qabalan, particularly on the north side of the town. Concrete blocks were put in place in order to shut down all major and agricultural roads which connect the town and bypass road No. 505.

Residents of Qabalan village, as well as the neighboring villages, have been negatively impacted by Za'tara permanent checkpoint, particularly through the extensive search procedures imposed on residents by the Israeli military. This checkpoint cuts through the West Bank.

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

### **Israeli bypass roads in Qabalan town**

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

On the northern side of Qabalan, Israeli authorities have constructed bypass road No. 505 which stretches 4km onto the territory of the town and isolates a number of agricultural lands.

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.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013, Israeli occupation forces issued Military Order No 6/57/T that confiscated 3.8 dunums of land from Yatma village and the north side of Qabalan town for the construction of a security fence adjacent to bypass road No. 505, under the pretext of “military and security control.”

The Israeli occupation authorities have amended a section of road No. 60. This is considered a main road. The road is 4.5 km long and passes near the villages of Qabalan and Yatma, from another passage which is away from the villages to the west side and wraps around these villages at the expense of the territory of the neighboring village As Sawiya .

### **Settler attacks on Qabalan town**

The occupation did not only confiscate lands from the town of Qabalan for the purposes of establishing their settlements, but also these settlements started to pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements

on Qabalan town land have had a profoundly negative impact on village residents and their property. Palestinian land owners are unable to access their lands, as they have been fenced off with barbed wire. Settlers have planted trees in these areas to reinforce their control over the area. The settlers have damaged and burned a number of Palestinian owned trees and plants. Settlers have also attacked the land owners in an attempt to intimidate and deter them from returning to their land, which is located near the settlements.

The occupation did not only confiscate lands from the town of Qabalan for the purposes of establishing their settlements, but also these settlements started to pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. Since the establishment of the surrounding settlements, Palestinian residents have been subjected to several violent attacks, for example farmers have been attacked in order to prevent them from reaching their agricultural land. Settlers have also stolen crops, damaged trees and attacked homes, places of worship, cars and other private property.

## Development Plans and Projects

### Implemented Projects

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

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

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Purchase lands for roads and public utility	Infrastructure	2009	Qabalan Municipal Council
The development of the water network	Infrastructure	2009	Qabalan Municipal Council
Rehabilitating and Paving the secondary road	Infrastructure	2009	Qabalan Municipal Council
Rehabilitating Qabalan police center	Services	2009	Qabalan Municipal Council
Rehabilitating and Expansion part of the main roads	Infrastructure	2009	KFW
Purchase Commercial Vehicle	Services	2010	Qabalan Municipal Council
Purchase Lands for Public Utility and Roads	Infrastructure	2010	Qabalan Municipal Council
Purchase Hurry Digger	Services	2010	Qabalan Municipal Council
Establish a roof for parking	Services	2010	Qabalan Municipal Council
Rehabilitating and Paving the secondary road	Infrastructure	2010	Qabalan Municipal Council
Rehabilitating and Paving the road connected with Talfit village	Infrastructure	2010	KFW
Rehabilitating and Paving the secondary road	Infrastructure	2012	Qabalan Municipal Council
Built a settlement Floor for Municipal Council	Services	2012	Qabalan Municipal Council & UNDP
Rehabilitating and Paving the secondary road	Infrastructure	2012	Qabalan Municipal Council
The restoration of the old building of the Qabalan Girls' Secondary School	Educational	2012	International Christian Assembly & Qabalan Municipal Council

**Source:** Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013

## Proposed Projects

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

1. Establish a mobile line for water network between Jurish and Qabalan, with a length of 3km, in addition to the construction of a water tank (with capacity of 400 cubic meters).
2. Prepare reconciliations for unfinished land.
3. Develop health and education institutions.
4. Reopen the closed gym, in addition to the rehabilitation of the municipal stadium .
5. Establish an area/center for craft work.
6. Rehabilitate and expand the public water network, electricity network, and the road network of the Association.
7. Provide headquarters for different institutions in the town.
8. Training and rehabilitation related to human resources.
9. Support the farmers of animal and plant resources.
10. Establish a center for the rehabilitation and welfare of disabled people.
11. Establish a center for heritage and culture.
12. Establish institutions for banking services in the town.
13. Establish a center for Civil Defense.
14. Establish a sanitary landfill for solid waste.

## Locality Development Priorities and Needs

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

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

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural Needs</b>					
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*			5 km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		3 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas		*		2.5 km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			3 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs			*	
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			400 m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			15 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		2 km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection		*		40 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
<b>Health Needs</b>					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres		*		Rehabilitation two health centres
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational Needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			elementary school & secondary school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
<b>Agriculture Needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands		*		500 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			400 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		20 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals		*		12,000 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		5 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds		*		
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies		*		

<sup>^</sup> 2 km main roads, 1 km secondary roads and 2 km agricultural roads.

Source: Qabalan Municipal Council, 2013

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