

# An Nabi Elyas Village Profile



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## Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Qalqiliya Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Qalqiliya Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and present 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 programs and activities needed to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Qalqiliya 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 Qalqiliya Governorate. In addition, the project 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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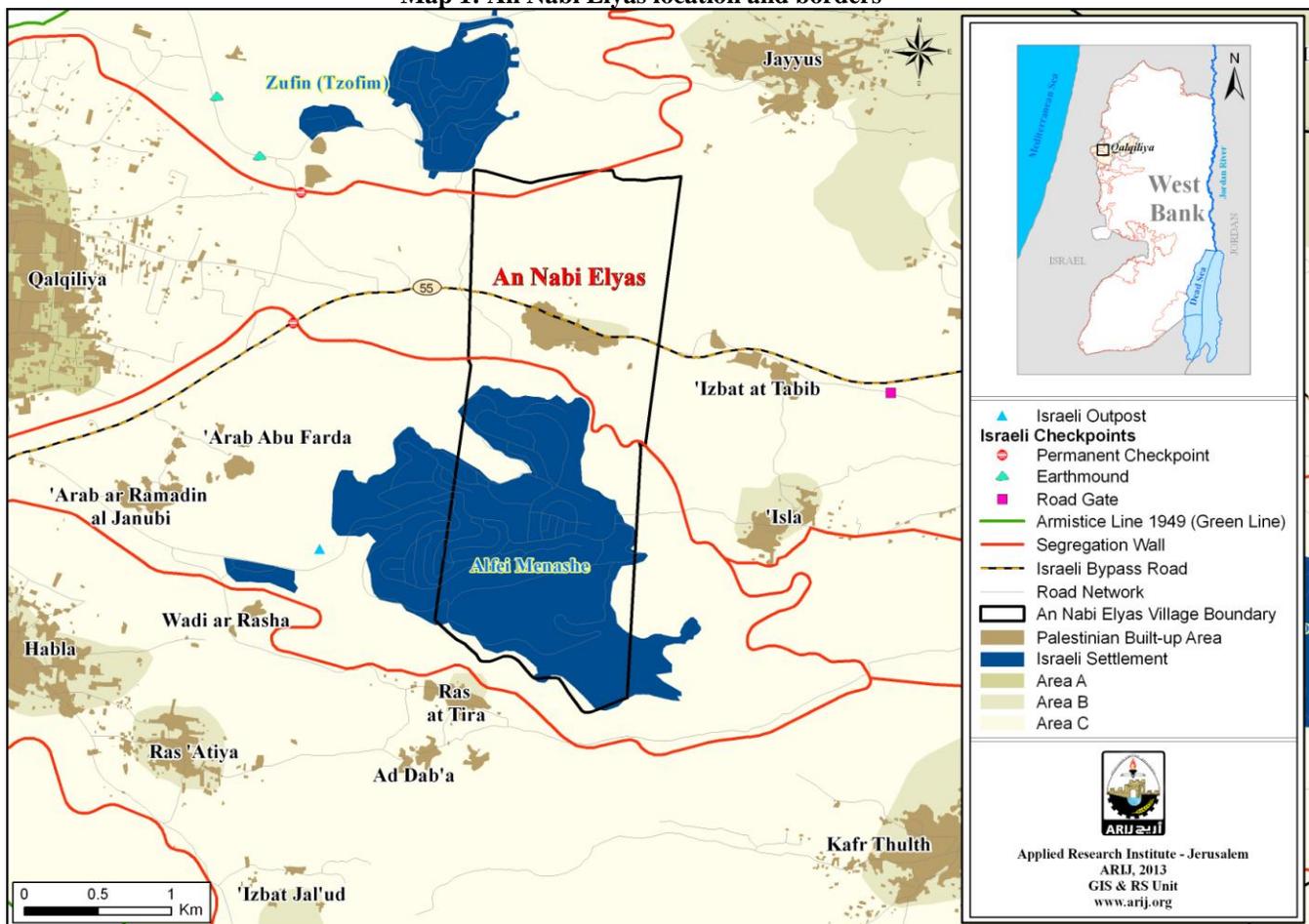
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# An Nabi Elyas Village Profile

## Location and physical characteristics

An Nabi Elyas is a Palestinian village in Qalqiliya Governorate located 5.06 km east of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by 'Izbat at Tabib and 'Isla to the east, Ras at Tira and 'Izbat al Ashqar to the south, 'Arab Abu farda to the west, and Jayyus to the north. All of these localities are located in Qalqiliya Governorate (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: An Nabi Elyas location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

An Nabi Elyas is located at an altitude of 187m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 583.9mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 63% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

The classification of the residential areas borders has been adopted in this profile based on the administrative division of Palestinian communities, according to the Palestinian National

Authority(PNA). This administrative division system has been developed by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics(PCBS), and the Central Election Commission (CEC).

Since 2005, An Nabi Elyas has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are an additional 3 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the Middle Joint Services Council (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of An Nabi Elyas, including:

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

(An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

## **History**

An Nabi Elyas, literally meaning the prophet Elyas, was named in relation to the shrine of Prophet Elyas existing in the village.

The village was established in 1930 A.D. However its residents are originally from the neighboring village of ‘Azzun (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

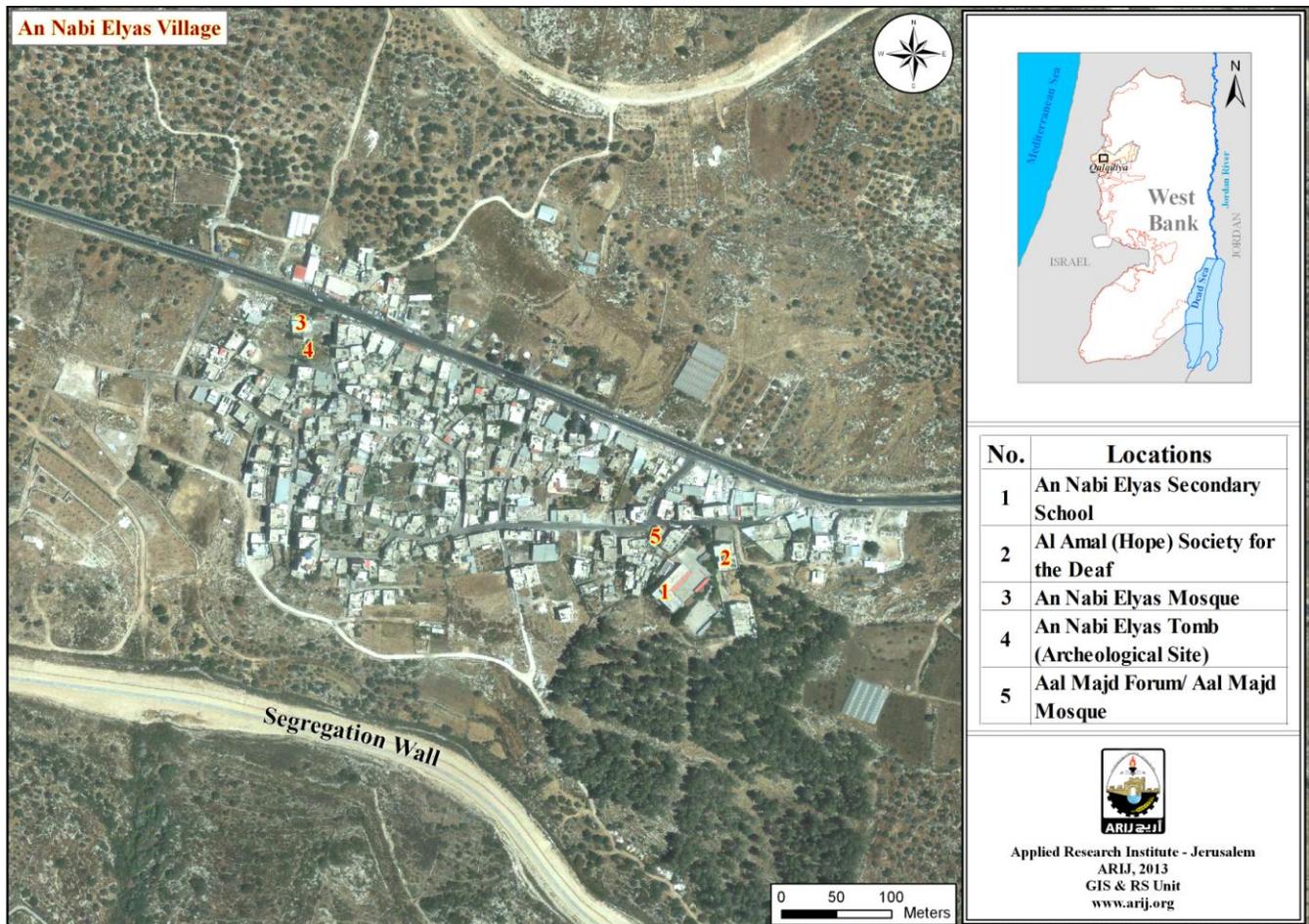
### **Photo of An Nabi Elyas**



## Religious and archaeological sites

There are two mosques in the village (the Eastern and An Nabi Elyas Grand (Western) mosques). The village has various sites of archaeological interest including the Shrine of Prophet Elyas. However, in order for this to be utilized for tourism it must be rehabilitated and then approved by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

**Map 2: Main locations in An Nabi Elyas village**



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of An Nabi Elyas in 2007 was 1,137; of whom 583 were male and 554 female. There were 216 households registered as living in 226 housing units.

### Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed that the distribution of age groups in An Nabi Elyas was as follows: 41% were less than 15 years of age, 55.9% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.9% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 105.2:100; meaning that males and females constituted 51.3% and 48.7% of the population, respectively.

## Families

An Nabi Elyas residents are from several families, including Hannoun, Khalif and Majd (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

## Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 10 people from different families have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among the population of An Nabi Elyas is approximately 5.2%, of whom 88.3% are females. Of the total population, 11.3% could only read and write with no formal education, 32.5% had elementary education, 25.7% had preparatory education, 14.5% had secondary education, and 10.9% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of An Nabi Elyas by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: An Nabi Elyas population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

| Sex      | Illiterate | Can read & write | Elementary | Preparatory | Secondary  | Associate Diploma | Bachelor  | Higher Diploma | Masters  | PhD      | Unknown  | Total      |
|----------|------------|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| M        | 5          | 53               | 147        | 121         | 58         | 20                | 31        | 0              | 2        | 0        | 0        | 437        |
| F        | 38         | 41               | 124        | 93          | 63         | 11                | 26        | 0              | 0        | 1        | 0        | 397        |
| <b>T</b> | <b>43</b>  | <b>94</b>        | <b>271</b> | <b>214</b>  | <b>121</b> | <b>31</b>         | <b>57</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>834</b> |

Source: PCBS, 2009

There is only one public school in the village (An Nabi Elyas co-educated secondary school) which is run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. There is no kindergarten in the village (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There are 333 students, 19 teachers, and 12 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 18, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 28 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

Due to the lack of some levels of education in the village school, in particular scientific branches, students head to 'Azzun Boys' Secondary and 'Azzun Girls' Secondary Schools located in 'Azzun neighboring village (5km away) (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

The educational sector in An Nabi Elyas village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of a secondary/scientific education levels.
- The difficulty faced by students reaching school on the main bypass road, as it has no sidewalk or traffic lights.

(An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

## Health status

An Nabi Elyas has a health center (An Nabi Elyas Health Clinic), a governmental general physician clinic and a private pharmacy. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital, the UNRWA Hospital or Qalqiliya Health Department in Qalqiliya; all of which are located 4km away (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

The health sector in the village faces a number of obstacles and problems, principally:

- The lack of a resident physician working on daily basis in the health center.
- The lack of an ambulance.

(An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012)

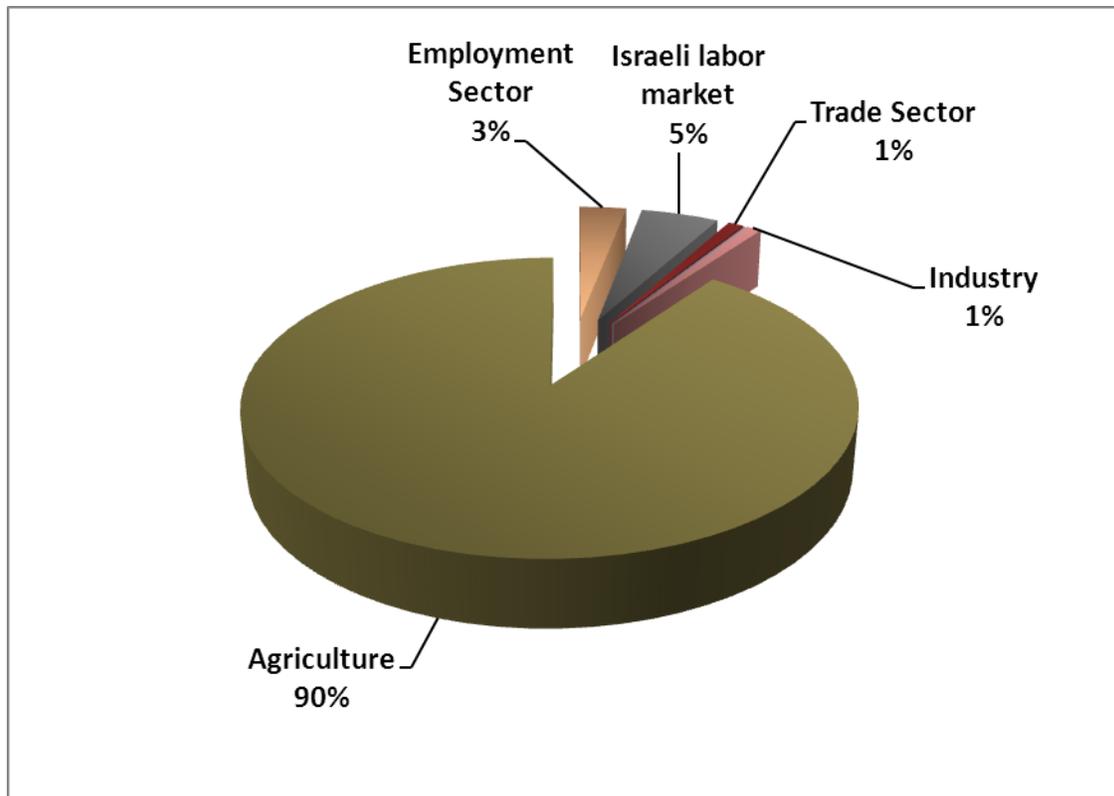
## Economic activities

The economy in An Nabi Elyas is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector which absorbs 90% of the village's workforce (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ field team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in An Nabi Elyas, are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (90%)
- Israeli labor market (5%)
- Government or other employees sector (3%)
- Trade sector (1%)
- Industry (1%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in An Nabi Elyas**



Source: An Nabi Elyas village council, 2012

An Nabi Elyas has 3 groceries, 3 fruit and vegetable stores, 3 butchers, 27 service stores and 13 different professional workshops (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in An Nabi Elyas reached 10% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

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

(An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012)

**Labor force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 33.7% of the An Nabi Elyas labor force was economically active, of whom 83.6% were employed, 66.2% were not economically active, 56.3% were students, and 35.1% were housekeepers (see table 2).

**Table 2: An Nabi Elyas population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status**

| Sex      | Economically active |                      |                           |            | Non-economically active |              |                |                                    |          |            | Not stated | Total      |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|
|          | Employed            | Currently unemployed | Unemployed (never worked) | Total      | Student                 | Housekeeping | Unable to work | Not working & not looking for work | Others   | Total      |            |            |
| M        | 204                 | 16                   | 24                        | <b>244</b> | 161                     | 1            | 24             | 4                                  | 2        | <b>192</b> | 1          | <b>437</b> |
| F        | 31                  | 2                    | 4                         | <b>37</b>  | 150                     | 193          | 16             | 0                                  | 1        | <b>360</b> | 0          | <b>397</b> |
| <b>T</b> | <b>235</b>          | <b>18</b>            | <b>28</b>                 | <b>281</b> | <b>311</b>              | <b>194</b>   | <b>40</b>      | <b>4</b>                           | <b>3</b> | <b>552</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>834</b> |

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

## Agricultural sector

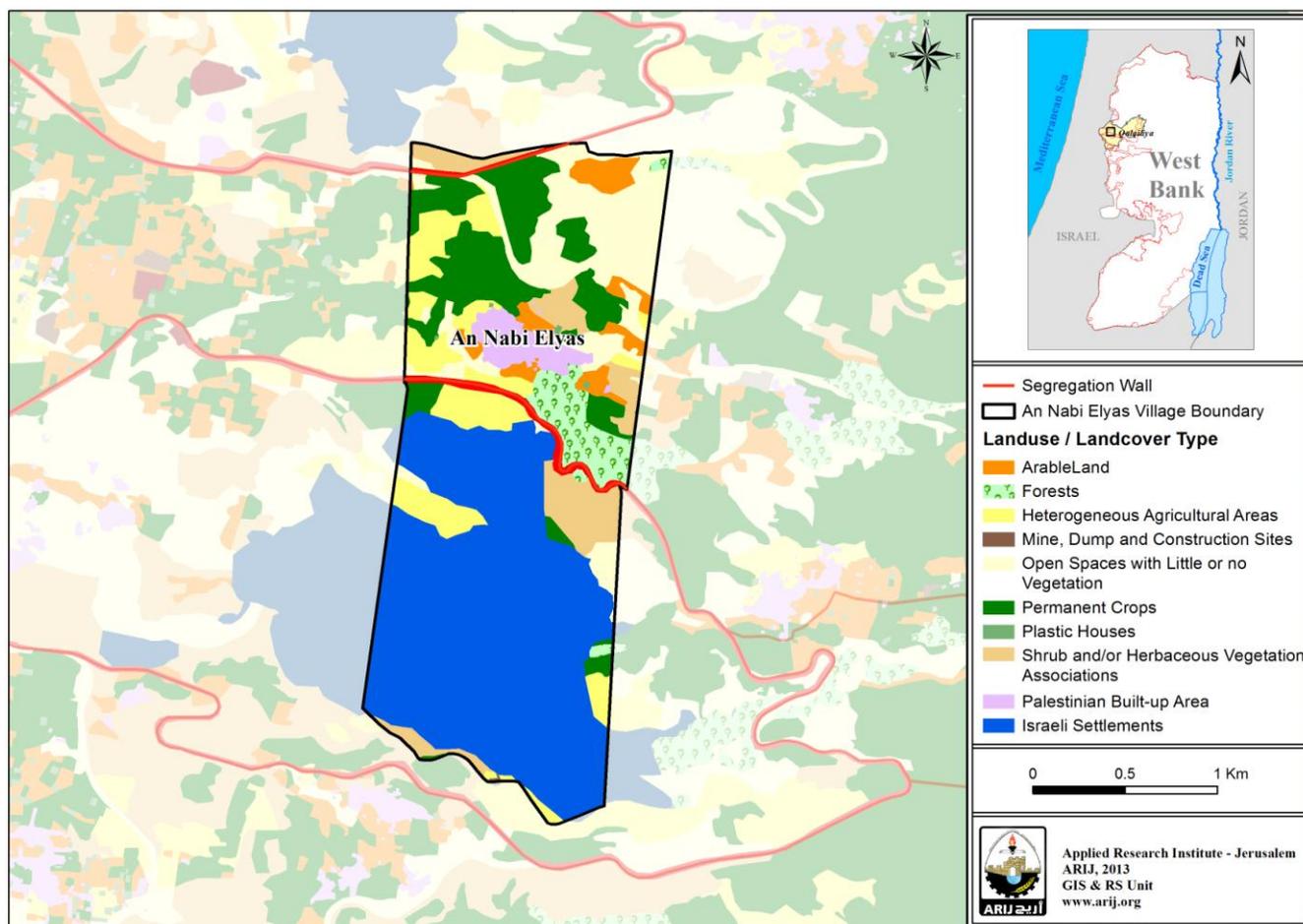
An Nabi Elyas has a total area of approximately 4,435 dunums of which 1,499 are arable land and 123 dunums are registered as residential (see table 3 and map 3).

**Table 3: Land use and land cover in An Nabi Elyas village (area in dunums)**

| Total area | Built up area | Agricultural area (1,499) |              |             |              | Forests | Open spaces | Area of industrial, commercial & transport Unit | Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------|---|---|
|            |               | Permanent crops           | Green-houses | Range-lands | Arable lands |         |             |   |   |
| 4,435      | 123           | 1,024                     | 4            | 311         | 160          | 188     | 597         | 1   | 2,027   |

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

**Map 3: Land use/land cover and the Segregation Wall in An Nabi Elyas Village**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in An Nabi Elyas. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are squash and eggplant, there are a total area of 123 dunums of greenhouses in the village and the most commonly cultivated crops within this cucumber

**Table 4: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in An Nabi Elyas (area in dunums)**

| Fruity vegetables |      | Leafy vegetables |      | Green legumes |      | Bulbs |      | Other vegetables |      | Total area |      |
|-------------------|------|------------------|------|---------------|------|-------|------|------------------|------|------------|------|
| Rf.               | Irr. | Rf.              | Irr. | Rf.           | Irr. | Rf.   | Irr. | Rf.              | Irr. | Rf.        | Irr. |
| 0                 | 30   | 0                | 50   | 15            | 8    | 0     | 0    | 0                | 35   | 15         | 123  |

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. An Nabi Elyas is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 1,230 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

**Table 5: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in An Nabi Elyas (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.  |
| 1,230  | 0    | 0      | 142  | 0            | 0    | 0           | 0    | 0    | 0    | 4            | 9.6  | 1,234      | 151.6 |

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in An Nabi Elyas, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 25 dunums (see table 6).

**Table 6: Total area of forage and field crops in An Nabi Elyas (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. |
| 25      | 0    | 3     | 0    | 3           | 0    | 0         | 0    | 10           | 0    | 0                 | 0    | 1           | 0    | 42         | 0    |

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 5% of the residents in An Nabi Elyas rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 7).

**Table 7: Livestock in An Nabi Elyas**

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Beehives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|----------|
| 0     | 510   | 122   | 0      | 0      | 0       | 0     | 9,000    | 0      | 0        |

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 9km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012):

**Table 8: Agricultural roads in An Nabi Elyas village and their lengths**

| Suitability of agricultural roads            | Length (km) |
|--|-------------|
| For vehicles                                 | 2           |
| For tractors and agricultural machinery only | 3           |
| For animals only                             | 2           |
| Unsuitable                                   | 2           |

Source: An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012

The agricultural sector in the village faces some problems, including:

- The existence of lands behind the Wall with farmers prevented from accessing them.

The lack of irrigation water for lands located behind the Wall. (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012)

## Institutions and services

An Nabi Elyas village has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society, including:

- **An Nabi Elyas Village Council:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services to its population, as well as infrastructure services.
- **An Nabi Elyas Gals Society:** Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of the Interior. The Society is interested in food processing projects.
- **The Deaf & Dumb Center:** Founded in 2005. The Center is interested in providing vocational training to people with special needs (focusing on deaf and dumb people). (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

## Infrastructure and natural resources

### Electricity and telecommunication services:

An Nabi Elyas has been connected to a public electricity network since 1985. It is served by the ‘Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company,’ which is the main source of electricity in the village, and 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to the network (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

An Nabi Elyas is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

### Transportation services:

There is no licensed public transportation in An Nabi Elyas and thus residents use Qalqiliya taxi offices or the neighboring villages’ public vehicles (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012). There are 3km of main roads and 1.5km of secondary roads in An Nabi Elyas (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012) (see table 9).

**Table 9: Roads in An Nabi Elyas village**

| Status of internal roads       | Road length (km) |     |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----|
|                                | Main             | Sub |
| 1. Paved and in good condition | 1.5              | 0.7 |
| 2. Paved and in poor condition | 0.8              | 0.8 |
| 3. Unpaved                     | 0.7              | 0   |

Source: An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012

### Water resources:

An Nabi Elyas is provided with water by the ‘West Bank Water Department’ through the public water network established in 1985. All housing units are connected to the network (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to An Nabi Elyas village in 2012 was recorded at approximately 72,000 cubic meters/year (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 150 liters per day. However, no An Nabi Elyas citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 6% (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012). These losses happen at the main source, on major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in An Nabi Elyas is 141 liters per day (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of An Nabi Elyas residents is considered good compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

The village has 50 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns in addition to one agricultural well with a pumping rate of 80 cubic meters per hour, which is used for the irrigation of a total area of 500 dunums of agricultural lands cultivated with vegetables and guava (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

**Sanitation:**

An Nabi Elyas lacks a public sewerage network and most of the residents use cesspits and septic tanks as the main means of wastewater disposal (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily water consumption per capita, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 148 cubic meters, or 54,144 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the wastewater generation per capita is approximately 113 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. 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 Joint Services Council for Solid Waste is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the village. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 20 NIS per household is charged to the residents and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. All of these fees are collected from the citizens (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in An Nabi Elyas benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 14 containers (of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity), located at various points in the village. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times a week and transports it using a waste vehicle to Zahret al Finjan dumping site in Jenin Governorate, 70 km from the village. Here the waste is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012).

The daily rate of solid waste production per capita in An Nabi Elyas is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the An Nabi Elyas residents is nearly 0.9 tons, or 337 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

**Environmental conditions**

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

**Water crisis**

Water in the village is often cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long periods of time due to the Israeli control over Palestinian water resources, which causes problems for the organization in terms of pumping water and distributing it among residents. The water is distributed to various areas on an interval basis because the quantity of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. In addition, the West Bank Water Department purchases water from Israeli companies in order to meet the citizens' water needs.

## Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in the village means that An Nabi Elyas 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. 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. The untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is also often disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

## Solid waste management

An Nabi Elyas village does not suffer from any problems concerning the management of solid waste. This is due to the adequate organization and management of waste disposal services by the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste. In addition, village residents meet their requirements (the payment for waste services) in terms of facilitating waste disposal. Waste is disposed of in Zahret al Finjan landfill in the Jenin Governorate, which is the main environmentally sound landfill serving both An Nabi Elyas village as well as most of the other localities in Qalqiliya Governorate.

## Impact of the Israeli Occupation

### Geopolitical status in An Nabi Elyas

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995, An Nabi Elyas was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 120 dunums (2.7% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth noting that most of the population of An Nabi Elyas resides in area B. The rest of the village’s area, constituting 4,315 dunums (97.3% of the total), is 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 without the prior consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements built on the village’s territory(see table 10).

**Table 10: The geopolitical divisions of An Nabi Elyas according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995**

| Area           | Area in dunums | Percentage of total village area |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Area A         | 0              | 0                                |
| Area B         | 120            | 2.7                              |
| Area C         | 4,315          | 97.3                             |
| Nature reserve | 0              | 0                                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>4,435</b>   | <b>100</b>                       |

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

## **Israeli occupation practices in An Nabi Elyas village**

An Nabi Elyas has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements, and bypass roads on the village territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan realized through the Segregation Wall. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have all had a negative impact on An Nabi Elyas village:

Israel confiscated 1,943 dunums of land (43.8% of the total village lands) in An Nabi Elyas to establish the Alfei Menashe settlement. It is important to note that only part of this settlement was established on the land of An Nabi Elyas village, while the rest of the settlement was established on the lands of other villages, including Wadi ar Rasha, 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, 'Arab Abu Farda, Ras at Tira, 'Isla, and 'Izbet al Ashqar. The settlement of Alfei Menashe is considered one of the most important settlements for Israel because of its geographic and strategic location as well as the large area which it occupies, making it the largest Israeli settlement in Qalqiliya Governorate in terms of area and population. In addition, the settlement of Alfei Menashe also forms a key component of the large 'Ariel Kedumim settlement bloc, which Israel is seeking to include within its borders by constructing the Separation Wall on West Bank lands.

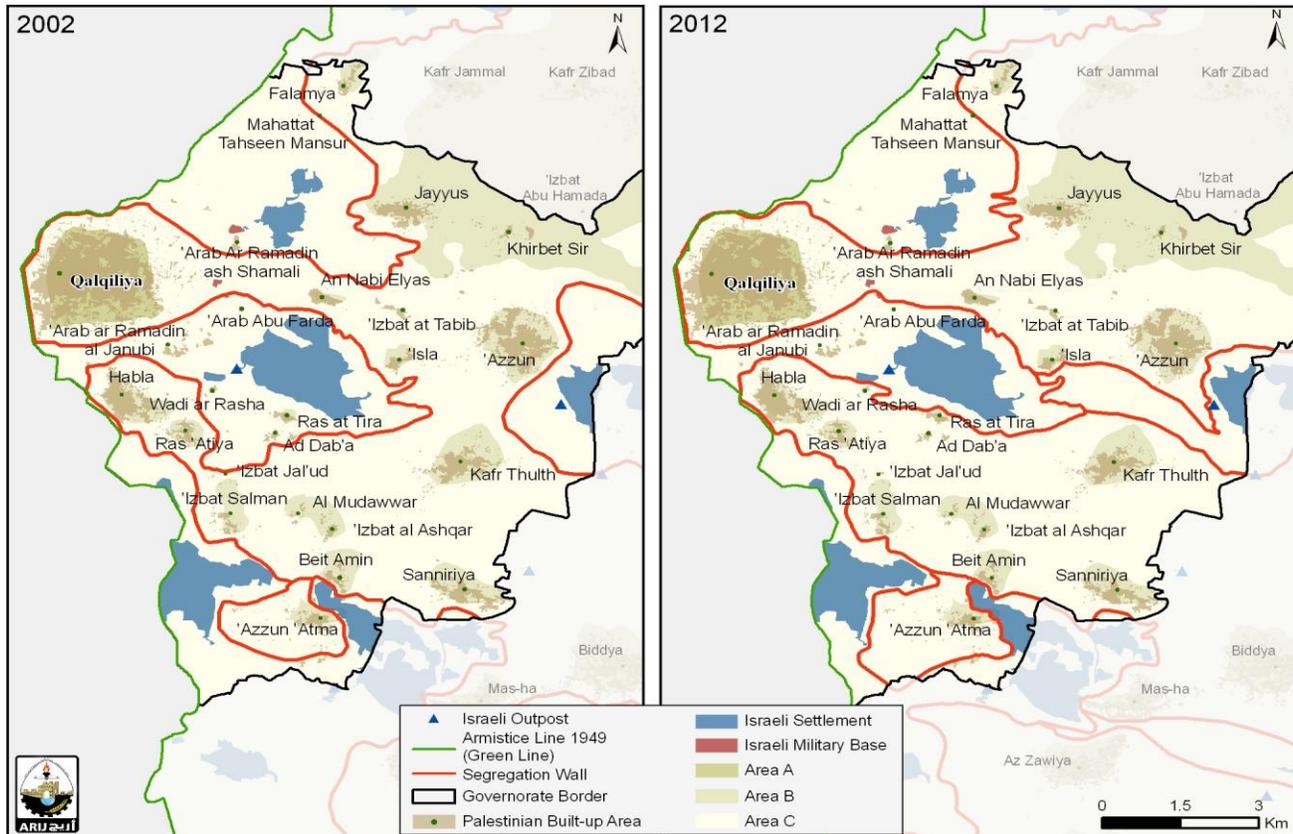
### **The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in An Nabi Elyas village**

Implementation of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan on the ground has been ongoing since 2002. This began after the decision of the Israeli Authorities to implement the policy of separation between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories by establishing an isolation zone in the western part of the West Bank. This isolation zone stretches from the north to the south of the West Bank, thereby confiscating the most fertile agricultural lands, isolating Palestinian societies and separating communities from one another. By connecting most of the Israeli settlements in an attempt to legitimize the route of the Separation Wall inside the West Bank, the isolation area also undermines the regional interaction between Palestinian towns and villages, and controls the natural resources. The construction of the wall has therefore ignored the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) made on July 9th 2004, in which they recommended that the route of the Wall should be changed and Palestinians affected by the Wall in this area should be offered compensation. However, in 30 April, 2007, new amendments were, which concentrated on the new route of the Separation Wall, in the areas which had a geographical Obstacles in the west bank, as these amendments were based on solving the problems which considered a challenge in front of the continuously building process of the Separation Wall. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages, as they became more isolated from one another.

The amendments to the original route (published in 2002) of the Separation Wall, showed that the Wall would completely isolate Qalqiliya city and the villages of 'Arab Abu Farda, Habla, Ras 'Atiya and An Nabi Elyas away from their neighboring Palestinian villages on the east side, as the Wall separates them on the north, south and west sides, leaving only the east side accessible for the village residents to interact with their neighboring villages. And from the east side such as the villages of 'Azzun, Kafr Thulth, 'Izbat at Tabib, and surrounding villages. Meanwhile, the route aims to include the Alfei Menashe settlement and other surrounding settlements (Oranit, Sha'are Tikva, Elkana and Binot Orot Yesrael) within the new borders which are being drawn through the construction of the Separation Wall,

which ultimately connects all of the settlements together inside the Green Line (the Armistice Line of 1948)(see map 4).

**Map 4: Comparison between the path of Israeli Segregation Wall plan in 2002 and 2012**



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

In March 2003, the Israeli military website published a new map for the route of the Separation Wall in the occupied West Bank, showing amendments that included isolation zones that have Qalqiliya city and the villages of 'Arab Abu Farda, Habla, Ras 'Atiya, An Nabi Elyas. As a result, three isolation zones were created, the first being the isolation of Qalqiliya city through the construction of the Separation Wall around the city from the northern, southern, and western sides. The only side which stayed half open was the eastern side of the city, in order for the residents of the aforementioned villages to remain connected to their neighboring villages,

with the exception of An Nabi Elyas village which remained between two walls from the north and the south. While, The second isolation affects the villages of Ras 'Atiya and Habla, and the third isolation zone included the villages of Ad Dab'a, Ras at Tira, Wadi ar Rasha, 'Arab Abu Farda and 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi.

It also worth mentioning that the Israeli Authorities started to work on the Wall in this area in late 2003, resulting in Israeli bulldozers razing agricultural lands belonging to the village and the surrounding villages. This issue caused substantial economic losses for the village residents, who were dependent on agriculture to earn a living. The main objective behind the amendments to the route of the wall issued in

2003, is to connect Israeli settlements to surround each other without worrying about what may result from these adjustments that will have negative effect and disasters for the Palestinian communities and its residents. According to the Israeli charts in 2003, it was scheduled to build 3.4 km of the wall on the territory of the village of An Nabi Elyas, and this will isolate an area of 3129 dunums of the village land ( 70.5 % of the total area of the village ). During the following years in, 2005, 2006 and 2007, the Israeli army announced several amendments to the path of the wall in the occupied West Bank. However, None of these amendments included the village of An Nabi Elyas despite of all the protests that was made by the villagers to oppose the catastrophic situation in which the wall had on the people of the village. These amendments also came to serve the interests of the Israeli settlements and in order to ensure the inclusion of the new boundaries drawn by Israel through its construction of the wall. In February, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the Israeli Army announced an "Israeli Military Order" No. 07/09/T, which provides an amendment to the northern section of the wall of the village of An Nabi Elyas towards the side of the Israel settlement "Zufin (Tzofim)" where the village of An Nabi Elyas will restore part of its agricultural land that has been isolated by the wall. In February of 2009, the Israeli bulldozers resumed their work on the territory of the village of An Nabi Elyas, were more Palestinian lands of the village and the village of Jayyus neighboring it were razed, so as to change the route of the Separation Wall and this is according to Israeli military order 07/09/T, despite that this new plan don't meets the minimum aspirations of the needs of the Palestinian farmers in the village of An Nabi Elyas and nearby villages, where the wall stayed to isolate vast areas of agricultural land and open areas owned by hundreds of Palestinian families which considered as the main source of their livelihood.

According to the most recent amendments of the Segregation Wall Plan that was published, it appears that 2.5 km from the Wall was built to the Southern and northern side of An Nabi Elyas village, and isolating 2,554 dunums of its land. (57.6 from the total area). This isolated area includes agricultural lands and open spaces, which were previously considered as the only chance for the village residents to build and expand in the future (see Table 11).

**Table 11: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in An Nabi Elyas village**

| No. | Land classification               | Area (dunums) |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1   | Forests                           | 11            |
| 2   | Open space                        | 271           |
| 3   | Agricultural lands                | 273           |
| 4   | Israeli settlements               | 1,943         |
| 5   | Mine, dump and construction sites | 1             |
| 6   | Segregation Wall                  | 55            |
|     | <b>Total</b>                      | <b>2,554</b>  |

*Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013*

### **The Israeli bypass roads on the Lands of An Nabi Elyas village**

The concept of "Bypass roads" started to appear during the time of Oslo Agreement in September-1993 (which was signed between the PLO and Israel) to refer to the roads built by the Israelis in the occupied Palestinian territories in an aim to link Israeli settlements in the West Bank with each other and the ones inside Israel. Since then, Israel started to raise their efforts to increase the size of bypass roads in the

occupied Palestinian territories as part of its policy to impose these facts on the ground , which will affect the Peace negotiations with the Palestinians, and the establishment of a Palestinian state that is geographically connected and alive . During the last 46 years of occupation since the year 1967 , Israel has been able to make and pitch 810 kilometers of bypass roads to facilitate the connection of the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank . According to the Oslo Agreement that was signed between the Palestinians and the Israelis , the Palestinians were allowed to use these roads , but after the start of the second Intifada on 30 September 2000 , the Israeli occupation authorities prevented Palestinians from using these roads under the reason of ' security concerns ' . It is worth mentioning that the establishment of the Israeli bypass roads in the occupied Palestinian territories has contributed to weaken the development of the Palestinian communities in the West Bank through making real obstacles in the areas that is marked for Palestinian development . In 2004 , Israel proposed a network of bypass roads that will transform the path way of the Palestinians and prevent them from using the Israeli roads and move their path way to another road network that is entirely separated from the Israeli bypass roads to ensure the uniqueness of the Israeli absolute use of these roads , which will help Israel to tighten its grip and control on the Israeli bypass roads and at the same time to deprive the Palestinians from their right” to freedom of movement” within the occupied Palestinian territory, as guaranteed by international humanitarian law to them. The Palestinian village of An Nabi Elyas are similar to other Palestinian villages in the occupied Palestinian territories faced many land confiscation because of the establishment of the Israeli bypass road No. 55 which cuts the village from the middle. Following the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada in late September 2000 , the Israeli occupation authorities increased their control over the bypass road number 55 and started to prevent the Palestinians from An Nabi Elyas and neighboring Palestinian villages from using the bypass road violence and throwing stones at Israeli settlers who use this Street entry to Israel and vice versa.

### **Previous Israeli Violations Against An Nabi Elyas’s Land and Property**

The residents of An Nabi Elyas’s Palestinian village are still suffering from the prohibitions of the Israeli occupation authorities in all forms , because after they ended building the Separation Wall on the territory of the village , they started to prevent the villagers from approaching the area of the Wall in an attempt of the Israeli occupation to create a security zone , adjacent to the eastern side of the Wall, on the Palestinian side , as a result there would be more confiscation of Palestinian land in the village. The villagers also suffer from the remnants of the Israeli settlement of Alfei Menashe, that is nearby them from the western side , where the settlement opens its normalcy on the territory of An Nabi Elyas village and it’s neighboring Palestinian villages , which causes pollution of farmlands and the open areas of the village and creates a health crisis in the village, and also causes the spread of insects which is difficult to live with them . The residents in the village of Nabi Elias faces dangerous times because of Alfei Menashe settler attacks on them because these settlements surrounds the village from the north and south sides. These attacks included the attack of the villagers line slogans in addition to burning the Palestinians vehicles of the citizens .

While the Israeli occupation authorities refused to allow the villagers to build outside the structural plan of the village , the Israeli occupation authorities expanded within the settlement of Alfei Menashe that is adjacent to the village from the west side. And this is by introducing many bids and settlement plans for this purpose , in which the most recent one were launched in 2013, that was for the construction of 15 housing units in the settlement of Alfei Menashe, which was part of a larger scheme that was put forward by the Israeli authorities back in 2010 for the construction of 800 housing units in the settlement

of Alfei Menashe. It should be noted that in the 12, September 2010 the Israeli ' peace movement ' called "Al-Aan" published a detailed report on the expansion plans for 124 Israeli settlement rate of 37 684 housing units that will be implemented after the end of the period of ' freezing settlement construction in the Israeli settlements in the West Bank in the seventh and the twentieth of September in the year 2010 and announced by the Israeli government in the fifth and twentieth of the month of November of 2009 under the pretext of moving the peace process negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis. And in the analysis of the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem ( ARIJ) to report the Israeli movement of ' Peace Now ' , it shows that the settlements covered by the expansion is concentrated mostly in the 52 settlements in the Western buffer zone ( by 75.2% 28,319 housing units ) to strengthen the control over these settlements . The settlement of Alfei Menashe were included within the Israeli expansionist plan where the report included building 1,389 new housing units in the settlement. It is clear from the previous details that Israel is preparing for a change in the distribution areas of the settlers in the West Bank and Arab occupied areas since the plans that is offered for the expansion of the settlement is over any natural population growth of those settlements even in the Israeli standards it's exaggerated . It is worth mentioning here that this pattern of expansion plans and construction has prevailed over the past decade as focused construction during the past ten years in what is now the western region of the insulation, which includes the largest settlement blocs in Jerusalem city.

### **The Israeli Checkpoints on An Nabi Elyas's village**

The Israeli military checkpoints are considered a uniform procedures for the Israeli army in the occupied Palestinian territories , it didn't exists until the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising Intifada in September 2000. During this period the Israeli army started putting a number of checkpoints to unprecedented levels in addition to the restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people when they attempt to cross these barriers . Moreover these checkpoints witnesses many facts of abuse and severe violations practiced by the Israeli soldiers against Palestinian civilians from all segments of society , students, teachers, patients, medical staff and employees. These acts involves beatings , humiliation and stripping clothes and making them wait for long hours under the burning sun or in cold weather before allowing them to cross the checkpoints . Moreover, the practices of the soldiers that are stationed at the checkpoints made a negative impact on the Palestinian society , which causes a separation for the social relations , economic separation between areas , high unemployment rates , and internal migration . Moreover , the actions of Israeli soldiers exceeded the attacks against Palestinian medical crews , where Israeli soldiers prevented doctors and patients in most cases from crossing Israeli checkpoints , including emergencies.

The suffering of An An Nabi Elyas village is not different from the suffering of other Palestinian villages in the governorate of Qalqiliya, where the Israeli army controls the entrance of the Palestinian farmers from the village of An Nabi Elyas to their agricultural lands to plant and cultivate them which is located in the isolated zone west of the wall. Also, from the north-east side of the village, the Israeli occupation authorities established an agricultural gate , between the villages of An Nabi Elyas and Jayyus and this is in order for the villagers to reach their agricultural lands that have been isolated by the barrier . The villagers of An Nabi Elyas suffer because the Israeli authorities don't allow the Palestinian farmers from entering their lands , which has become isolated from the west side of the Wall path, where the access is limited to a specific number of Palestinian farmers , those who are able to prove their ownership of the land to the Israeli departments ( such as the Israeli civil administration ICA ), where permits usually are issued to the owners of the land (usually the elderly people ) in which their names

exists in the property instruments . It is worth mentioning that the Israeli Civil Administration will issue a permit from season to season , which is difficult for land owners to cultivate their agricultural lands by themselves , especially since these permits do not include labor or equipment' that is necessary for the cultivation of the land .

## Development plans and projects

### Implemented projects

An Nabi Elyas Village Council has implemented a number of development projects in An Nabi Elyas during the past five years (see table 12).

**Table 12: Implemented development plans and projects in An Nabi Elyas during the last five years**

| Name of the project              | Type           | Year | Donor               |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------|---------------------|
| Rehabilitating the artesian well | Infrastructure | 2012 | The Hydrology Group |
| Constructing the school hall     | Educational    | 2011 | Ministry of Finance |

**Source:** An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012

### Proposed projects

An Nabi Elyas village council, in cooperation with the village's civil society organizations, 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 workshop participants:

1. Expanding the village's structural plan.
2. Constructing a water reservoir with a capacity of 500m<sup>3</sup> and providing it with a transmission line.
3. Establishing a safe sidewalk on the main road that passes through the village center.
4. Rehabilitating approximately 700 dunums of agricultural land.
5. Constructing retaining walls (approximately 1,500 meters).
6. Creating productive projects in order to increase local labor opportunities and assist in the marketing of agricultural products.
7. Establishing a sports club.
8. Establishing a public park.
9. Constructing a multi-purpose hall to be used by various institutions.
10. Developing the vocational rehabilitation center.
11. Developing the health center.
12. Expanding roads (1.5 km) and constructing new ones (2.5 km).
13. Establishing a new school to accommodate the village students.

## Locality development priorities and needs

An Nabi Elyas suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 13 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the village council.

**Table 13: Development priorities and needs in An Nabi Elyas**

| No.                          | Sector  | Strongly needed | Needed | Not a priority | Notes                              |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------|--------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Infrastructural needs</b> |   |                 |        |                |                                    |
| 1                            | Construction and paving of roads                        | *               |        |                | 6.3km <sup>^</sup>                 |
| 2                            | Rehabilitation of old water networks                    | *               |        |                | 1km                                |
| 3                            | Extending the water network to cover new built up areas | *               |        |                | 3km                                |
| 4                            | Construction of new water networks                      |                 |        | *              |                                    |
| 5                            | Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs     | *               |        |                |                                    |
| 6                            | Construction of water reservoirs                        | *               |        |                | 500 cubic meters                   |
| 7                            | Construction of a sewage disposal network               | *               |        |                | 2km                                |
| 8                            | Construction of a new electricity network               | *               |        |                | 2km                                |
| 9                            | Providing containers for solid waste collection         | *               |        |                | 30 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             |                 | *      |                | 1 health center                    |
| 2                            | Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres    |                 |        | *              |                                    |
| 3                            | Purchasing medical equipment and tools                  |                 |        | *              |                                    |
| <b>Educational needs</b>     |   |                 |        |                |                                    |
| 1                            | Building new schools                                    | *               |        |                | A co-educational elementary school |
| 2                            | Rehabilitation of old schools                           |                 |        | *              |                                    |
| 3                            | Purchasing new school equipment                         | *               |        |                |                                    |
| <b>Agriculture needs</b>     |   |                 |        |                |                                    |
| 1                            | Rehabilitation of agricultural lands                    | *               |        |                | 200 dunums                         |
| 2                            | Building rainwater harvesting cisterns                  |                 | *      |                | 50 cisterns                        |
| 3                            | Construction of livestock barracks                      |                 | *      |                | 20 barracks                        |
| 4                            | Provision of veterinary services                        | *               |        |                |                                    |
| 5                            | Provision of seeds and hay for animals                  | *               |        |                | 200 tons per year                  |
| 6                            | Construction of new greenhouses                         | *               |        |                | 10 greenhouses                     |
| 7                            | Rehabilitation of greenhouses                           |                 |        | *              |                                    |
| 8                            | Provision of field crops seeds                          | *               |        |                |                                    |
| 9                            | Provision of plants and agricultural supplies           | *               |        |                |                                    |

<sup>^</sup> 1.5km main roads, 0.8km secondary roads and 4km agricultural roads.

**Source:** An Nabi Elyas Village Council, 2012

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