# **Beit Furik Town Profile**



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



**Spanish Cooperation** 

2014

## **Acknowledgments**

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, town 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 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 <u>http://vprofile.arij.org</u>.

## **Table of Contents**

Location and Physical Characteristics	4
History	5
Religious and Archaeological Sites	5
Population	6
Education	7
Health Status	8
Economic Activities	8
Agricultural Sector	10
Institutions and Services	13
Infrastructure and Natural Resources	13
Environmental Conditions	15
Development Plans and Projects	19
Implemented Projects	19
Proposed Projects	20
Locality Development Priorities and Needs	21
References:	22

# **Beit Furik Town Profile**

### **Location and Physical Characteristics**

Beit Furik is a Palestinian town in Nablus Governorate, located 8.24km south east of Nablus City. It is bordered by Al Jiftlik to the east, Ar Rajman, Yanun, and 'Awarta to the south, Rujeib and Nablus City to the west, and Beit Dajan, Salim and Deir al Hatab to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2014) (See Map 1).

#### Map 1: Beit Furik location and borders

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Beit Furik is located at an altitude of 520m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 417.5mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 58% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

The total area of Beit Furik village consists of approximately 28,552 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 is not included in the files of private land properties.

Since 1996, Beit Furik has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 13 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 26 employees working in the council within a permanent headquarters located within the Services Council of Southeast Nablus. The Council has a vehicle to collect solid waste, 1 pick-up car, a tractor, a bagger, and water and electricity maintenance devices (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Beit Furik, including (Beit Furik 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.
- Regulation of construction and issuance of licenses.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Protection of historical and archeological sites.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Provision of a center for governmental services (mail, security).

- Provision of first aid services and an ambulance.
- Organization of transportation.
- Provision of a kindergarten.

### History

Beit Furik this name relative to the garrison town inhabited the ancient Phoenician, has been called the "House of phoenix" and misrepresented them to Beit Furik,

Beit Furik's name could also originate from the ancient Canaanite, meaning "house of worship." The town was established 1,200 years ago, with its residents descending from Phoenician veterans (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).



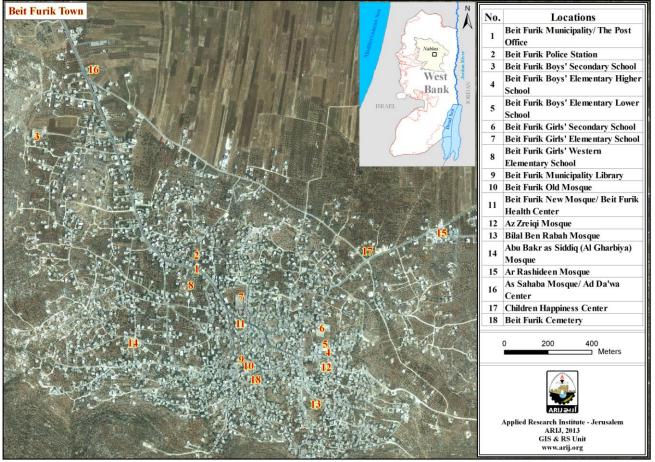
#### Photo of Beit Furik

### **Religious and Archaeological Sites**

There are seven mosques in the town: The Old Mosque, Bilal ibn Rabah, Al Imam Ali, As Sahabah, Umar ibn Al-Khattab, Mustafa Alzoreiky, and Rashidun.

The town has several sites of archaeological interest including; bronze chimneys in Al-Araneb Khalah, Phoenician chimneys in the neighborhood of the dome, ancient caves under the old town,

and ancient buildings dating back to the Byzantine era such as "Bishop Bermalah cylindrical and a half." All of these sites, except for the buildings dating back to the Byzantine era, are in need of restoration in order to qualify as a tourist location, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013) (See Map 2).



#### Map 2: Main locations in Beit Furik Town

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

### Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Beit Furik in 2007 was 10,182, of whom 5,167 were male and 5,015 female. There were additionally 1,999 households registered as living in 2,229 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 Beit Furik is as follows: 39.5% were less than 15 years of age, 57.6% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.7% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 103:100, meaning that males and females constitute 50.7% and 49.3% of the population, respectively.

#### Families

Beit Furik residents are from several families, including; Hanani, Mletat, Nasasrah, Khatatbah, and Al-Haj Mohammad families (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

### Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, the illiteracy rate among Beit Furik population is approximately 6.9%, of whom 80% are females. Of the literate population, 16.6% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27.4% had elementary education, 30.9% had preparatory education, 11.9% had secondary education, and 6.3% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Beit Furik by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

S E x	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
М	102	624	1195	1236	432	126	117	7	7	1	1	3848
F	408	614	842	1059	450	103	110	0	1	0	2	3589
Т	510	1238	2037	2295	882	229	227	7	8	1	3	7437

Table 1: Beit Furik population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment
---

Source: PCBS, 2009.

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

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Beit Furik Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Beit Furik Boys' High Elementary School	Government	Male
Beit Furik Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Beit Furik Girls' Elementary School	Government	Female
Beit Furik Girls' Secondary School	Government	Female

Table 2: Schools in Beit Furik by name, stag	ge, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012

In the town there are 2,993 students, 134 teachers, and 86 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 22, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 35 (Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012).

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

	unk town by nur	ne and super vising	, authority
Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
Salah ad Din Kindergarten	4	5	Private
Al Fayez Kindergarten	2	3	Private
As Sanabel "Ghassan Kanafani" Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Rays Of Light Kindergarten	3	4	Private
Source: Directorate of Education in Nablus, 2012			

#### Table 3: Kindergartens in Beit Furik town by name and supervising authority

In the absence of certain educational options, such as the commercial and industrial branches, students head to Nablus City schools (7km away) (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

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

- Inefficient and overcrowded classrooms of students.
- The lack of scientific equipment in the town schools.

### **Health Status**

Beit Furik has several health facilities available, including; a governmental health center, one government-run medical lab, 2 private dental surgeries, 2 private pediatrician clinics, 8 private physician clinics, one private physiotherapy center, and 3 private pharmacies. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Rafidiya Hospital, the national hospitals, Ar Rahmah clinic or to another clinic in Nablus City (7km away) (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

The health sector has been negatively impacted by the presence of a permanent military checkpoint at the entrance to the town (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

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

- Lack of medical staff in the town.
- The lack of medical equipment in the town.
- The lack of a resident physician working on daily basis.
- Low medical stock at the governmental health clinic.

### **Economic Activities**

The economy in Beit Furik is dependent mainly on the agriculture sector, which absorbs 30% of the town's workforce (Beit Furik 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 Beit Furik are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (30%)
- Israeli labor market (25%)
- Industry sector (20%)
- Government or other employees sector (10%)
- Trade sector (10%)
- Services sector (5%)

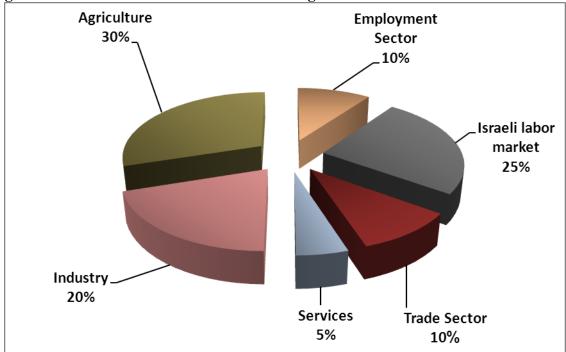


Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Beit Furik

Beit Furik has 90 groceries, 50 fruits and vegetable stores, one bakery, 10 butcheries, 29 industry professional stores ,15 different professional workshops, 7 stone cutters, 2 olive oil presses and 3 stores for agricultural tools (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

In 2013, the unemployment rate in Beit Furik reached 20% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013):

- Workers in the trade sector.
- Workers in the Israeli labor market.
- Workers in the agriculture sector.

#### **Labor Force**

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census 2007, 35.6% of Beit Furik's labor force was economically active, of whom 86.8% were employed, 64.3% were not economically active, 48.5% were students, and 40.3% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Source: (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013)

		Economical	ly active				Non-econor	nically active	9			
S e x	Employ- ed	Currently Unem- ployed	Un- employed (never worked)	Total	Stud- ent	House- keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total	Not stated	Total
Μ	2051	186	110	2347	1131	4	220	29	111	1495	6	3848
F	247	21	31	299	1189	1921	153	8	13	3284	6	3589
Т	2298	207	141	2646	2320	1925	373	37	124	4779	12	7437

#### Table 4: Beit Furik population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

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

Source: PCBS, 2009.

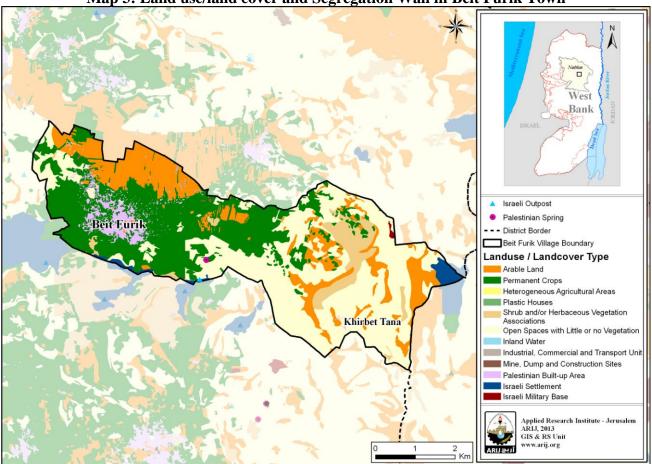
### **Agricultural Sector**

Beit Furik has a total area of approximately 28,552 dunums of which 15,942 are 'arable' land and 1,051 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

		1 4010 011	Buna abe	una mii				ii (ui cu	in admann)	
Total Area	Built up Area		Agricultura (15,942			Inland	Forests	Open	Area of Industrial,	Area of Settlements Military
		Permanent Crops	Green- houses	Range- lands	Arable lands	water	rorests	Spaces	Commercial & Transport Unit	Bases & Wall Zone
		ereps	nouses	iunus	Iunus					wan Zone
28,552	1,051	9,054	6	1,577	5,305	1	0	11,008	77	473

 Table 5: Land use and land cover in Beit Furik town (area in dunum)

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.



#### Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Beit Furik Town

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2014.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Beit Furik. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are Okra and green beans (Ministry of Agriculture Nablus, 2010).

Table 6: Total a	rea of rain-fed an	d irrigated open c	cultivated vegetab	les in Beit Furik (	area in dunums)
Fruity	Leafy	Cuson la sum as	Dulha	Other	Tetel Arres

Frui vegeta	•	Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bu	lbs	Otl veget		Total Area		
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	
3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture Nablus, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Beit Furik is famous for olive tree cultivation and there are approximately 8,245 dunums of land planted with olives trees in the town.

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.
8,245	0	0	0	30	0	2	0	100	0	86	0	8,463	0

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Beit Furik (area in dunums)

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture Nablus, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Beit Furik, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 2,030 dunums (See Table 8).

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		U		Other crops		Total	Area
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2,030	0	4	0	40	0	5	0	550	0	0	0	55	0	2684	0

Table 8: Total area	of forage and	field crops i	n Beit Furik	(area in dunums)
I abic of I ofai al ca	or rorage and	inclu crops i	II DOIL I ULIK	(ar ca m aunums)

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 ARIJ team shows that 25% of the residents in Beit Furik rear and keep domestic animals such as cows and sheep (See Table 9).

#### **Table 9: Livestock in Beit Furik**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee Hives
176	8,700	280	0	0	0	0	250,000	6,000	250

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture Nablus, 2010

There are approximately 96km of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Beit Furik Town and their Lengths			
Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)		
For vehicles	36		
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	40		
For animals only	5		
Unsuitable	15		

1 · D · F · I /

Source: Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013

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

- The lack of capital.
- Lack of government assistance to the agricultural sector.
- Harassment from Israelis.
- Land confiscation by Israeli authorities.
- The lack of water resources. •
- The lack of knowledge/experience of agricultural farmers.
- The lack of adequate markets to absorb all local agricultural products.

### **Institutions and Services**

Beit Furik 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 (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013):

- **Beit Furik Municipal Council**: Founded in 1996 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 Ashraq Women Association: Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Interior, it aims to socio-economically empower Palestinian women.
- School Mothers Association: Founded in 2005 by the Ministry of Interior, and runs parenting classes for local women.
- **Rural Women's Development Association (Women's Club):** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, it aims to empower Palestinian women in the community by providing them with job opportunities through different activities such as the preparation and sale of food.
- **Child Development Association:** Founded in 2004 by the Ministry of Interior, it organizes various training courses in, for example, communications. It also implements various agricultural projects aimed at threatened agricultural land.
- **Beit Furik Sports Club:** Founded in 2003 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, it aims to organize sport teams and art projects.
- **Beit Furik Feminist Cooperation Association:** Founded in 2002 by the Ministry of Interior, the Association promotes food processing and marketing of food products made by local women to local supermarkets.
- **Savings and Credit Association:** Founded in 2006 by the Ministry of Interior, it aims to raise the standard living of Palestinian families through the provision of financial loans.
- Youth Development Association: Founded in 2000 by the Ministry of Interior, it aims to empower young people, and organizes training courses in different areas of communication and others.
- **Rural Women Cooperation Association:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of Interior, it is manufactures local products, offers rural marketing, and gives easy financial loans for needy families.
- **Beit Furik Livestock Association:** Founded in 2009 by the Ministry of Agriculture, it provides food, technical, and medical services to farmers.

### **Infrastructure and Natural Resources**

#### **Electricity and Telecommunication Services:**

Beit Furik has been connected to a public electricity network since 1997. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company through the North Electricity Company, which is the main source of

electricity in the town. 100% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town faces a number of problems regarding the electricity supply, particularly weak electric current (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

Beit Furik is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 60% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

#### **Transportation Services:**

There are 25 taxis and 2 buses in Beit Furik. When there is a lack of transportation, citizens use private cars or a private taxi office (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013). Checkpoints are a major obstacle to residents' freedom of movement (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013). There are 18km of main roads and 71km of secondary roads in Beit Furik (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013) (See Table 11).

Status of Internal Roads	Road Len	Road Length (km)			
Status of Internal Koaus	Main	Secondary			
1. Paved & in good condition	5	11			
2. Paved & in poor condition	10	35			
3. Unpaved	3	25			

**Table 11: Roads in Beit Furik Town** 

Source: Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013

#### Water Resources:

Beit Furik is provided with water by private sources, represented by Beit Furik wells through the public water network established in 2010. Around 95% of housing units are connected to the network (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

The quantity of water supplied to Beit Furik town in 2012 was recorded at approximately 360,000 cubic meters/year (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013). Therefore, the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 86 liters/day. However, no Beit Furik citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 7% (Beit Furik 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 Beit Furik is 80 liters per day (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013). The average water consumption of Beit Furik residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization.

Beit Furik town has artesian wells which are used to provide citizens with water. Two water springs are used for agriculture and livestock. The town also has 800 domestic wells to collect rain water, in addition to a water tank with a 1000 cubic meter capacity (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013). Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 4 NIS (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

#### Sanitation:

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

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 734 cubic meters, or 268,600 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 64 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 Beit Furik Municipal Council for Solid Waste 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 9 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 (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

Most of the population in Beit Furik benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and placed in either 600 containers (of 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity) or 400 containers (of 240 liter capacity), located at various points in the town. Beit Furik Municipal Council collects the solid waste once a day and transports it using a waste vehicle to a random dumping site located 3km from the town, where it is subsequently buried (Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Beit Furik is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Beit Furik residents is nearly 12 tons, or 4,399 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

### **Environmental Conditions**

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

#### Water Crisis

• Interruption of water for long periods in the summer.

#### Wastewater Management

The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that Beit Furik 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

The lack of a sanitary landfill and a central service for the town is a major problem. Unlike other towns and villages in the Nablus governorate that dispose of their solid waste in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environmentally-friendly landfill serving the village, in addition to most of the localities in the Nablus Governorate.

### **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

#### Geopolitical status in Beit Furik town

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Beit Furik was divided into Area B and Area C. Approximately 12,857 dunums (45% 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 15,695 dunums (55% 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 Beit Furik's population resides in Area C while most of the land lying within Area C is agricultural land or has been taken for Israeli settlements and military bases. (See Table 12).

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of Total village area %
Area A	0	0
Area B	12,857	45
Area C	15,695	55
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	28,552	100

 Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Beit Furik town according to Oslo Agreement 1995

Source: Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2014

#### Israeli occupation practices in Beit Furik town

Hundreds of dunums of land belonging to Beit Furik town have been confiscated by the Israeli authorities, primarily for the purpose of establishing settlements, military bases and the construction of Israeli settlement roads. The following is a breakdown of Israeli land confiscations affecting Beit Furik.

Israel has confiscated an area of 441 dunums from Beit Furik town for the establishment of "Michola" and "Itamar" settlements. "Michola" settlement is located to the east of Beit Furik, and established on land belonging to Beit Furik and Al Jiftlik. It was founded in 1973, has a total area of 927dunums and

contains around 136 Israeli settlers. This settlement is established on the territory of the towns of "Beit Furik" and "Al Jiftlik". While, "Itamar" settlement is located to the south side of Beit Furik and is mainly built on the territory of neighboring 'Awarta town. Founded in 1984, it has a total area of 3,564 dunums and contains around 1,181 Israeli settlers. Itamar settlement is mainly built on the territory of neighboring 'Awarta town.

Israel has also confiscated an area of 30 dunums from Beit Furik town lands to set up two military bases. One of them is located on the eastern side of the town, near "Michola" settlement. The second is a military site with an observation tower near "Itamar" settlement. These military bases have been a source of attacks on Palestinian citizens and their land.

Israeli authorities have also isolated approximately 3,000 dunums of lands in Awarta village, Beit Furik, Yanun, Aqraba and Rujeib for the benefit of "Itamar" settlement and its related outposts. This is for the construction of a security fence separating the aforementioned Palestinian villages from "Itamar" settlement and its adjacent outposts. Most of this isolated land is agricultural land, which is a critical source of income for town residents.

#### Israeli checkpoints in Beit Furik town

After the outbreak of the Second Intifada in 2000, the Israeli authorities established military checkpoints at the northern entrance of Beit Furik town. A permanent checkpoint made of concrete blocks and an observation tower is situated on the road that connects with "Elon Moreh" settlement. Israeli authorities removed some of these checkpoints after 2009; however there is still an observation tower that blocks and a flying checkpoint at the entrance to the town. In recent years, Israeli forces have reduced their control over the movement of Palestinian civilians as a result of the current calm conditions.

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 the town as they are forced to travel further distances which takes more time, in order to reach their agricultural land, especially when checkpoints are closed. There are still many checkpoints on the road leading to "Elon Moreh" settlement used by the occupation forces to protect the security of the settlement.

#### Israeli bypass roads in Beit Furik town

Israeli authorities have constructed a number of bypass roads that stretch hundreds of kilometers from the north to the south of the West Bank. These roads have led to the confiscation of hundreds of agricultural and non-agricultural lands in order to link Israeli settlements with each other. It also impedes Palestinian territorial continuity, enabling further Israeli control over Palestinian territory. Israel has confiscated land from the east and west sides of Beit Furik town in order to construct two Israeli bypass roads. The eastern road links the military camps east of the town with "Michola" settlement, while the western bypass road links Huwwara with "Elon Moreh" settlement. These roads extend 9km along Beit Furik town territory.

It should be noted that the real danger of the bypass roads lies in the confiscated land that was taken for the benefit of 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.

#### Attacks on Khirbet Tana community in Beit Furik

Khirbet Tana is located 6km east of Beit Furik and lies within the town's territory. it is about 6 kilometers to the east. This community has been subjected to increased harassment and human rights violations by the occupation authorities stationed in Nablus. The Israeli occupation forces have demolished this small community several times between 2005 and 2011. The community is comprised of approximately 40 houses, mainly tents and houses made of tin. More than 200 Palestinian citizens live here and their primary source of income is agriculture and raising animals. Khirbet Tana has a severe lack of basic services such as water infrastructure, electricity, roads and communications. Despite this, Khirbet Tana community members have rebuilt their homes each time they have been demolished and have remained in their community.

This Palestinian community has been targeted by Israeli forces which aim to displace the hundreds of citizens living in it, under the claim that it is situated within military zones used for the training of the Israeli army as well as under the pretext that the community is located within Area C. The occupation authorities classified 125,788 dunums of land in the Jordan Valley area as a closed military zone, using it for training and citing security measures, whilst preventing Palestinians from accessing their land. and use it for the purposes of training and security isolation.

In 2011, the people of Khirbet Tana submitted a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court in order to stop the displacement and demolition process in the area. They also demanded a master plan for the area, in order to get building permits. However, the Israeli authorities still refuse to recognize the existence of this community. Khirbet Tana residents continue to struggle Until today, the resident of the region is still struggling, in order to stay on their land by all means, including pursuing recognition through the Israeli courts.

#### Israeli outposts in Beit Furik town and the neighboring villages

Territory belonging to Beit Furik, Rujeib, Awarta and Yanun villages has been taken by force by Israeli settlers to establish five outposts on the eastern hills of "Itamar" settlement. These outposts are named (Hill 851 - Har Gideon, Hill 782, Givat Olam outpost, Hill 836, and Hill 777- Hkonat Arnon, ). These outposts overlook the above villages, with the aim of extending the territory controlled along the eastern side of the settlement. As a result, more Palestinian land is controlled. These outposts are between 3km and 6km away from "Itamar" settlement and form a barrier which surrounds the Palestinian areas and its population. These outposts have been the source of several attacks on Palestinian residents and their land.

During the past two decades, Israel has built 232 outposts in the West Bank. The outposts are foundations for new settlements, and tend to be extended branches of a mother settlement a few miles away. The process usually begins with the establishment of mobile caravans on the land that has been taken by the settlers. Establishing settlement outposts was encouraged by Ariel Sharon; the aim was for Jewish settlers to occupy Palestinians hill tops and create facts on the ground, so that Palestinians could not claim the land if there was ever to be a future solution between the two sides. Consecutive Israeli governments have provided security and logistical support for these outposts. The Israeli army has also supported illegal Israeli settlers in their relocation to the settlements, in

addition to providing security and infrastructure support. Since 2001 when Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister, there has been a significant increase in the number of outposts across the West Bank.

#### Settler attacks on Beit Furik town

Attacks and violence perpetrated by settlers living in the settlements near Beit Furik town 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.

Israel has confiscated land from Beit Furik town and the neighboring villages in order to establish illegal settlements. But also these settlements pose a real threat for the Palestinians on their own land. "Where, "Itamar" settlement and the settlers living in it pose a constant threat for the residents of Beit Furik, Rujeib and 'Awarta. Since the establishment of this settlement in 1984, 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.

#### Israeli military orders in Beit Furik town

Israeli forces issued a series of military orders between 2004 and 2012 confiscating land, halting construction or ordering building demolition in Beit Furik. The military orders were issued to residents living in Khirbet Tana to the east of Beit Furik center. This area is targeted by Israeli forces as outlined in previous sections under the pretext that this area is a military zone, and Palestinian residents lack building permits for construction in Area C, as per the Oslo agreement. Israeli authorities reject the majority of building license applications submitted by Palestinians in Area C.

### **Development Plans and Projects**

#### **Implemented Projects**

Beit Furik Municipal Council has implemented several development projects in Beit Furik during the past five years (See Table 13).

Name of the Project	Туре	Year	Donor	
The construction of public water network in three phases:	Infrastructure	2008-	Red Cross and European	
water bus line, water tank, and internal water network		2010	Union	
Lighting project for the main street	Infrastructure	2010	Beit Furik Municipal Council	
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2011	Municipalities Fund	
Paving and lighting of the maid road	Infrastructure	2011-	Local Government	
I aving and righting of the maid toad	minastructure	2012		

Table 13: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Beit Furik during the Last Five Years

Source: Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013

### **Proposed Projects**

Beit Furik Municipal Council, in cooperation with the town's civil society organizations and local 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. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants' in the workshop:

- 1. Establishing a sewage network.
- 2. Establishing a boys' elementary school.
- 3. Finishing and decorating rooms on the ground floor in the Bilal ibn Rabah mosque.
- 4. Additional classrooms for overcrowded schools.
- 5. Establish a 24 hour medical center.
- 6. Establish a social and cultural center.
- 7. Establish a soccer field and a multipurpose gym.
- 8. Rehabilitation and paving of internal roads (8km).
- 9. Replacement of overhead power line.
- 10. Build retaining walls in steep, mountainous areas, and the project to establish a culverts.
- 11. Rehabilitation and paving of sidewalks and median of the main street.
- 12. Construction and rehabilitation of 20km of agricultural roads of and an agricultural reclamation project.
- 13. Creation and maintenance of an arboretum to provide seedlings and improved seeds, and to create a veterinary livestock breed center.
- 14. The need for feminist and agricultural projects to support needy families.
- 15. Completion of the lighting project in the median.
- 16. Establish a special aid center.

### **Locality Development Priorities and Needs**

Beit Furik suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the Municipal Council perspective:

	Table 14: Development Prio				
No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
	Infrastruc	tural Needs		1 1101 Ity	
1	Opening and pavement of roads	*	, 		149km^
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks			*	
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up	*			4km
	areas	Ŷ			
4	Construction of new water networks			*	
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells or springs	*			2 springs
6	Construction of water reservoirs	*			500m <sup>3</sup>
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			70km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			80-100 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste	*			1 vehicle
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
	Healt	n Needs			
1	Building new clinics or health care centres			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			1 health centre
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
	Educatio	nal Needs			
1	Building new schools	*			Boys Elementary School
2	Rehabilitation of old schools	*			Beit Furik Boys
					Elementary School and
					Beit Furik Girls
					Elementary School
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			Scientific and
	Agricult	ure Needs			Computers labs
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	ure riccus	*		1000 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns			*	
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			25 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			4,000 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses			*	· • • • •
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		2 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			-
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			
	Other	· Needs			·
1	Establish Retaining walls				
. 1.01	m main roads. 60km secondary roads and 76km agriculty				

#### Table 14: Development Priorities and Needs in Beit Furik

^ 13km main roads, 60km secondary roads and 76km agricultural roads. Source: Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013

### **References:**

- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2014. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit Database. Bethlehem Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ), 2014. Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing Unit; Land Use Analysis (2012) – Half Meter High Accuracy. Bethlehem -Palestine.
- Applied Research Institute Jerusalem (ARIJ). 2013. Water & Environment Research Unit Database (WERU). Bethlehem Palestine.
- Beit Furik Municipal Council, 2013.
- *Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MOHE) Nablus, 2012. Directorate of Education; A database of schools (2011/2012). Nablus – Palestine.*
- Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. 2009. Ramallah, Palestine: General Census of Population and Housing Censuses, 2007.
- Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), 2010. Directorate of Agriculture data (2009/2010). Nablus Palestine.