

'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi 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 at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment," the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in 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 aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

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

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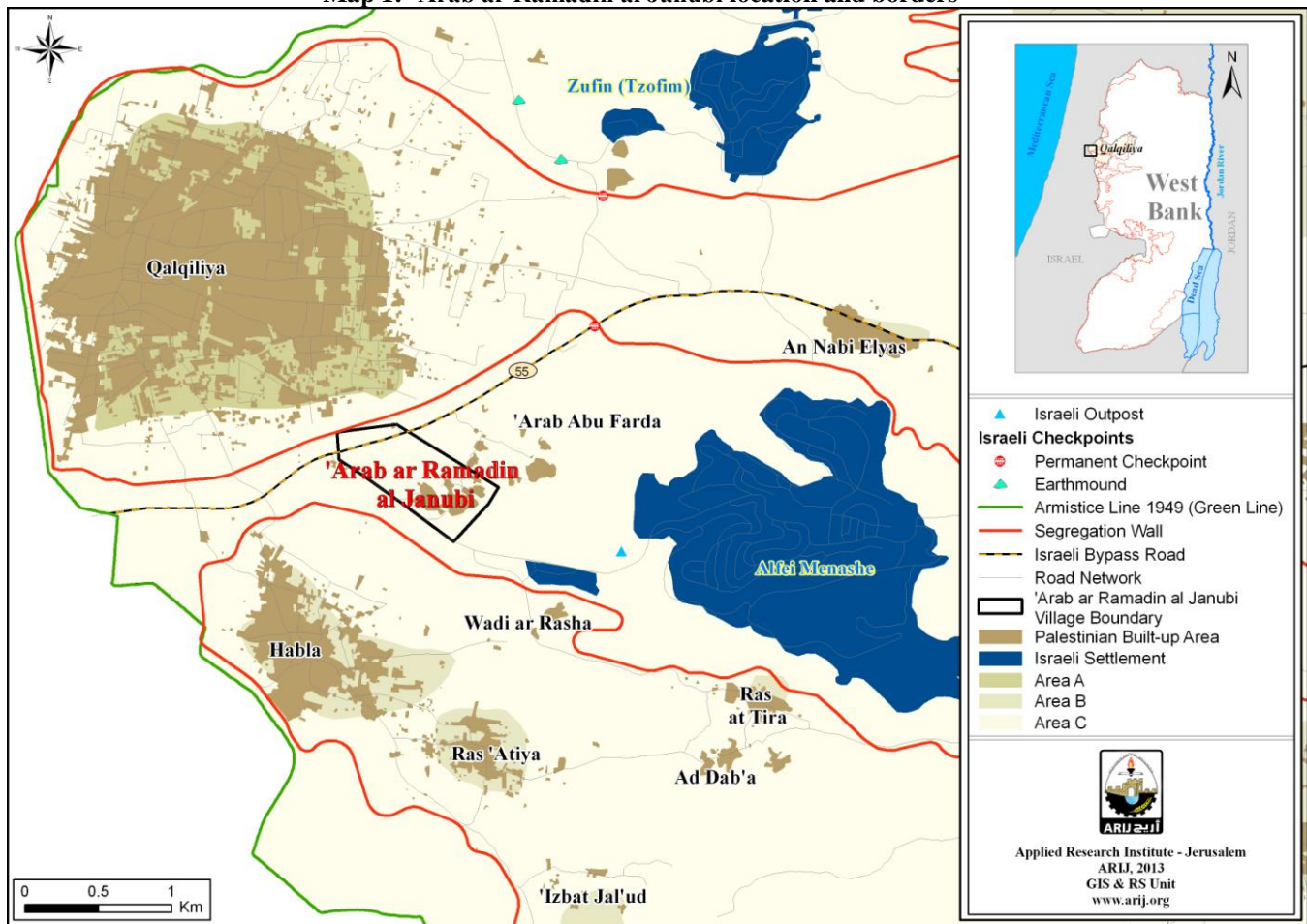
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‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Profile

Location and physical characteristics

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is a Palestinian village in the Qalqiliya Governorate located 2.56km south of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by ‘Arab Abu Farda village to the east and by Qalqiliya city to the south, west and north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is located at an altitude of 87m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 588.4mm. 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 2012, ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 3 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. The Council does not own a permanent headquarters (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.

(‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012)

History

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village’s name came from the Ar Ramadin tribe and ‘Al janubi’, which literally means ‘the southern’ was added to the name due to the village’s location south of Qalqiliya city.

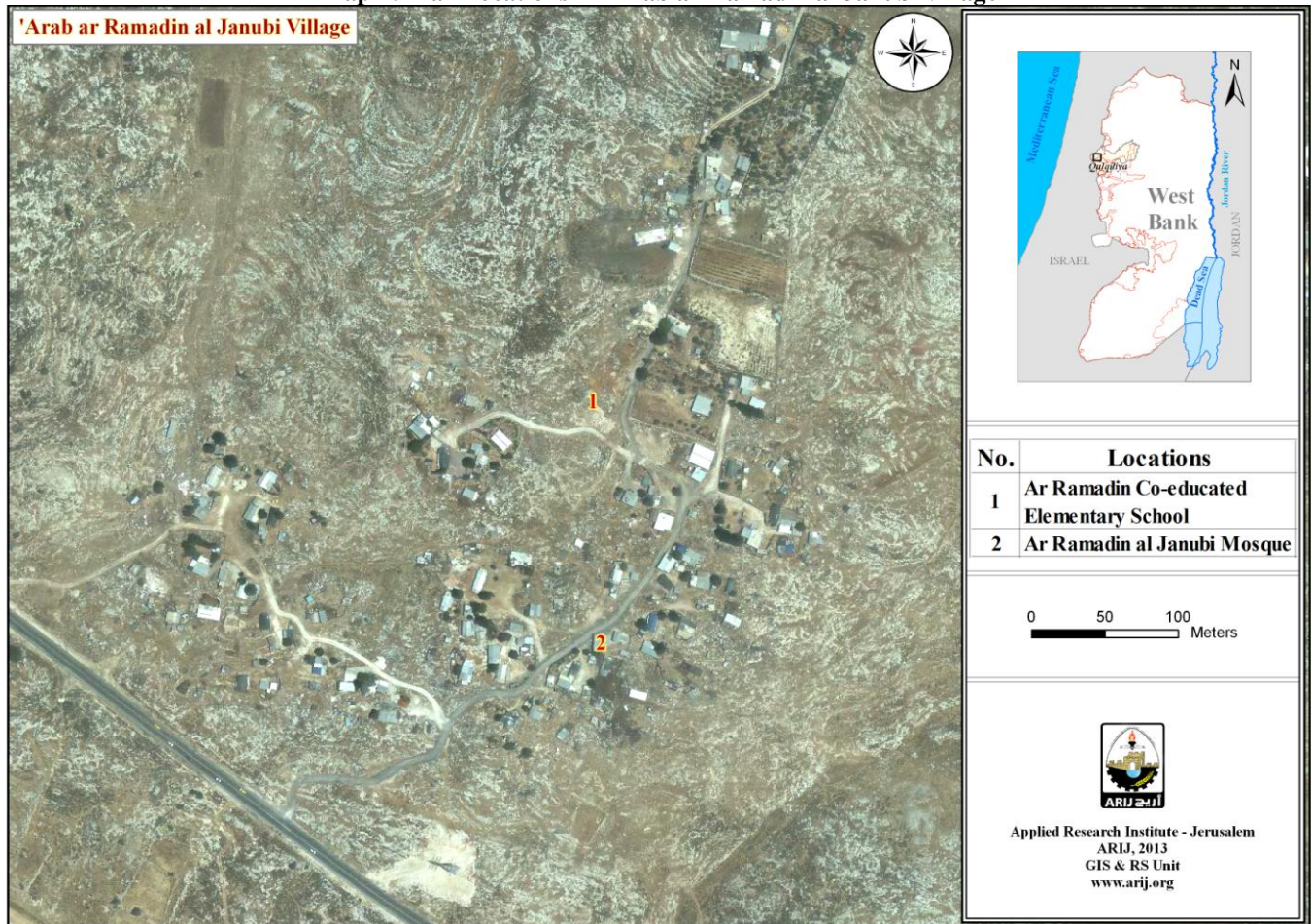
The village was established in 1956 A.D. Its residents are descended from the Bir as Sabi’ area (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

Photo of ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

Religious and archaeological sites

There is only one mosque in the village called Ar Ramadin Main Mosque. The village has no known archaeological sites (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi in 2007 was 215, of whom 114 were male and 101 female. There were 40 households registered as living in 40 housing units.

Age groups and gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi was as follows: 47.9% were less than 15 years of age, 49.3% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 112.9:100, meaning that males and females constituted 53% and 47% of the population, respectively.

Families

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi residents are from one family, the Sha’oor family (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi’s population is approximately 23%, of whom 75% are females. Of the total population, 15.8% could only read and write with no formal education, 28.8% had elementary education, 26.6% had preparatory education, 2.9% had secondary education, and 2.2% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi 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	8	12	34	18	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	76
F	24	10	6	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	63
T	32	22	40	37	4	2	1	0	0	0	1	139

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are no schools or kindergartens in the village run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012). This is considered a main obstacle faced by the village residents.

Due to the lack of schools in the village, students head to Habla Elementary and Habla Secondary Schools in Habla town as well as to Qalqiliya city’s schools, all of which are 4km away (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012). However, it is worth noting that these schools are subjected to Israeli harassment, represented mainly by the obstacles put by Israeli to hinder the access of students to the schools.

Health status

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi has no health facilities of any kind. Thus, due to the lack of health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital, the Health Center or the UNRWA Hospital in Qalqiliya city. Each of these health facilities is located 10km away from the village (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

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

- The lack of a health center.

- The difficulty of coordination in order to allow the access of an ambulance into the village in emergency cases.
- The harassments imposed by the occupation forces represented by the permanent and partial checkpoints on the roads leading to the health centers and hospitals in Qalqiliya city.

The lack of an ambulance.(‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012)

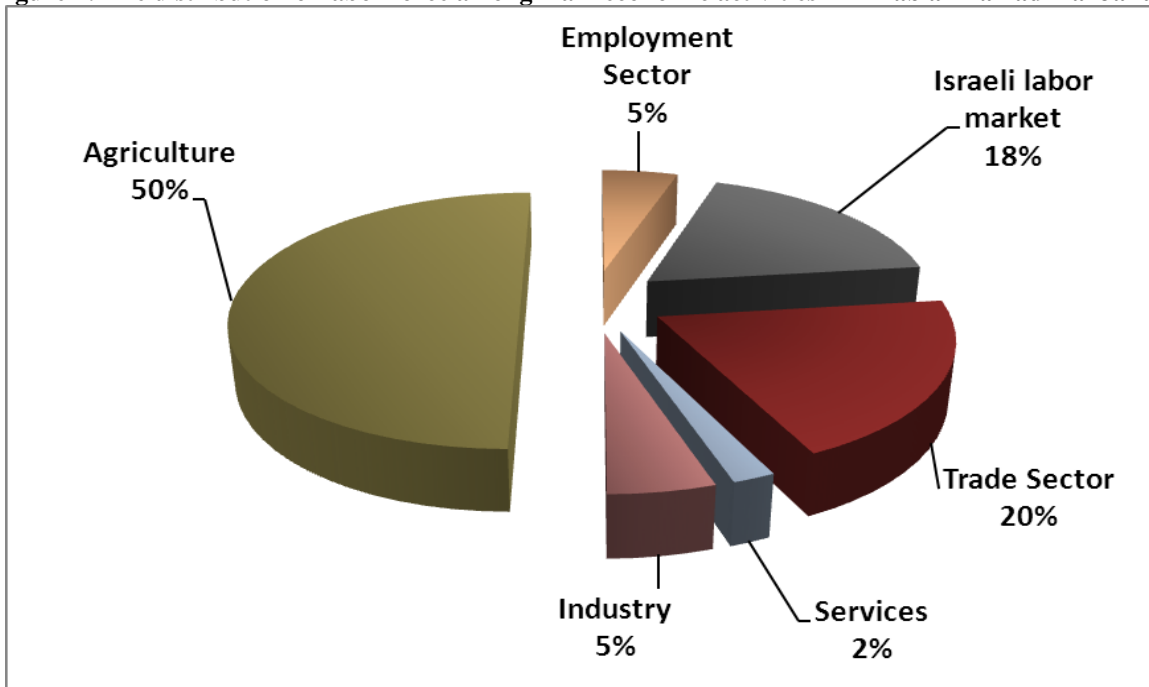
Economic activities

The economy in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector which absorbs 50% of the village’s workforce (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012) (see figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (50%)
- Trade sector (20%)
- Israeli labor market (18%)
- Government or other employees sector (5%)
- Industry (5%)
- Services sector (2%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi



Source: ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi has 3 groceries, 1 fruit and vegetable store and 1 professional workshop (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi reached 10%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012):

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.

Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 33.8% of ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi’s labor force was economically active, of whom 93.6% were employed, 66.2% were not economically active, 40.2% were students, and 48.9% were housekeepers (see table 4).

Table 4: ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi 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	44	0	3	47	22	0	7	0	0	29	0	76
F	0	0	0	0	15	45	3	0	0	63	0	63
T	44	0	3	47	37	45	10	0	0	92	0	139

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector

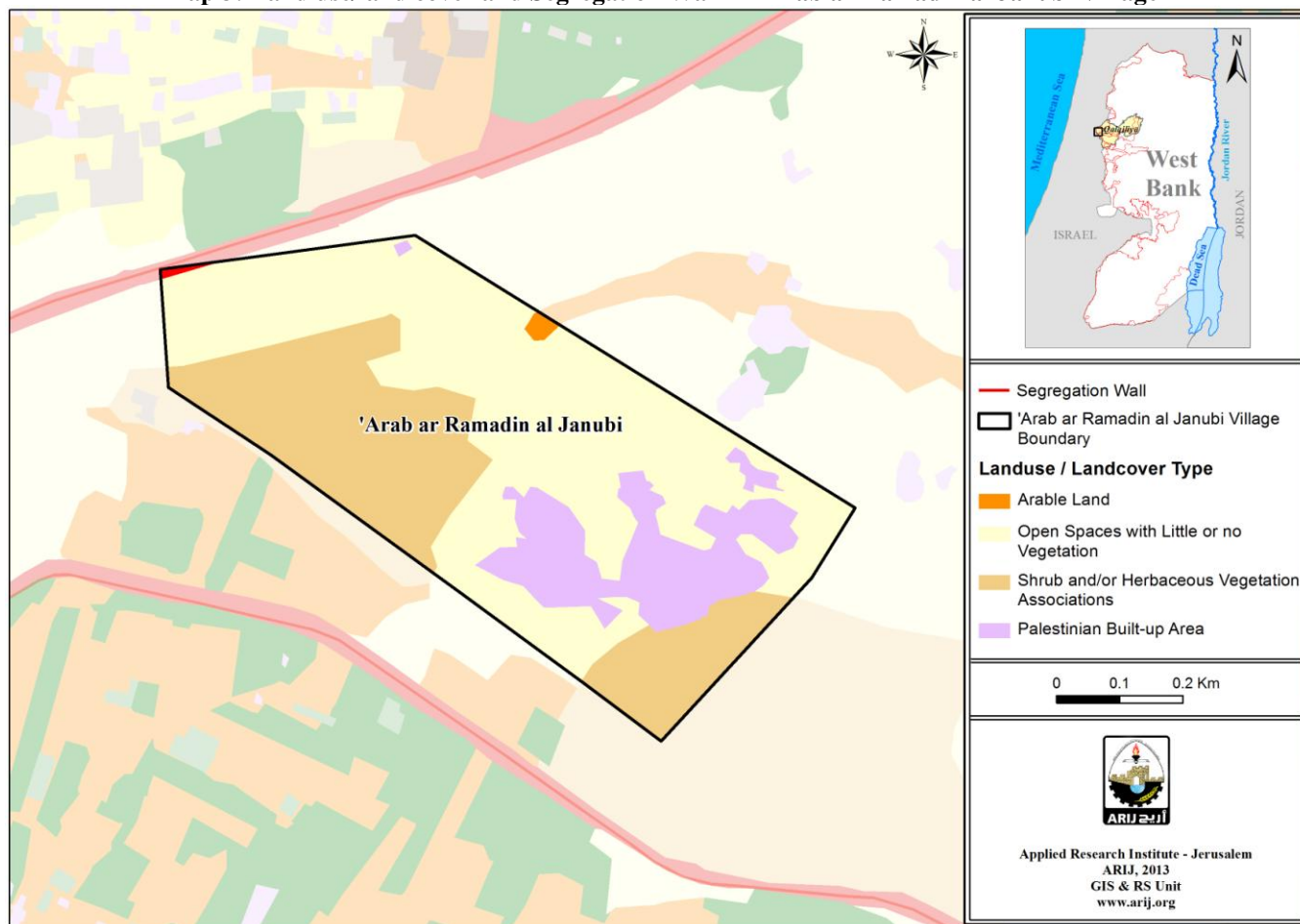
‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi has a total area of approximately 438 dunums of which 135 are arable land and 64 dunums are registered as residential (see table 5 and map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village (area in dunums)

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (135)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
438	64	0	0	133	2	0	0	239	0	1

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

The field survey conducted by the ARIJ team shows that 66% of the residents in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi rear and keep domestic animals, mainly cows (see table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
443	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 12km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows:

Table 10: Agricultural roads in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	3
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	7
For animals only	-
Unsuitable	2

Source: ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012

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

- The lack of agricultural machinery.
- The existence of a permanent checkpoint that prevents the access of any equipment to enhance agricultural production.
- The lack of access to some agricultural lands due to the Segregation Wall.
- The lack of water resources.

(‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village has no governmental institutions and only one local association that provides services to the society, which is:

- **‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council:** Founded in 2012 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the village and providing various services and infrastructure for its residents.(‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi has been connected to a public electricity network since 2012. 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 (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is not connected to a telecommunication network (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

There are no public transport in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi; thus, residents use private cars. Residents also suffer from the existence of the Segregation Wall during their travels, as it forces them to travel longer distances (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012). There are 1.5km of main roads and 1.5km of secondary roads in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi; all of which are unpaved (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

Water resources:

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is provided with water by Habla Municipality’s well through the public water network established in 1996. All housing units are connected to the network (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 12,000 cubic meters/year (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 132 liters/day. However no ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 5%. These losses happen at the main source, along major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore the rate of water consumption per capita in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is 125 liters per day (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi 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 2 NIS (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

There is also a public water reservoir with a capacity of 80 cubic meters in the village, as well as 6 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as the main means of wastewater disposal (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 25 cubic meters, or 9,100 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 100 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 both the environment and public health (ARIJ - WERU, 2013).

Solid waste management:

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi lacks a solid waste management service; each citizen collects the solid waste from his household and burns it nearby (‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi residents is nearly 0.2 tons, or 64 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water crisis

Water is cut off for long periods of time during the summer because the quantity of water available does not meet the citizens' water needs. In addition to this, the water networks are aged and require rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater management

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

Solid waste management:

'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village experiences many problems concerning the management of solid waste, as the village lacks the service of solid waste management. Therefore the citizens collect solid waste and burn it next to their houses, causing damage to health, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects, and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which are emitted when the waste is burned. All of these effects are harmful to both human health and the environment.

In addition to the lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village, like the rest of the villages and towns in Qalqiliya Governorate, which dispose their waste of in Zahrat al Finjan landfill located in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is considered the central sanitary landfill serving most of the localities in Qalqiliya Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995, by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel all the village lands of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi were classified as area C and consisted of 438 Dunums. This classification means that Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory, and land management is prohibited without the prior consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration (See Table 11)

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village according to Oslo Agreement 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage0 of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	0	0
Area C	438	100
Natural reserves	0	0
Total	438	100

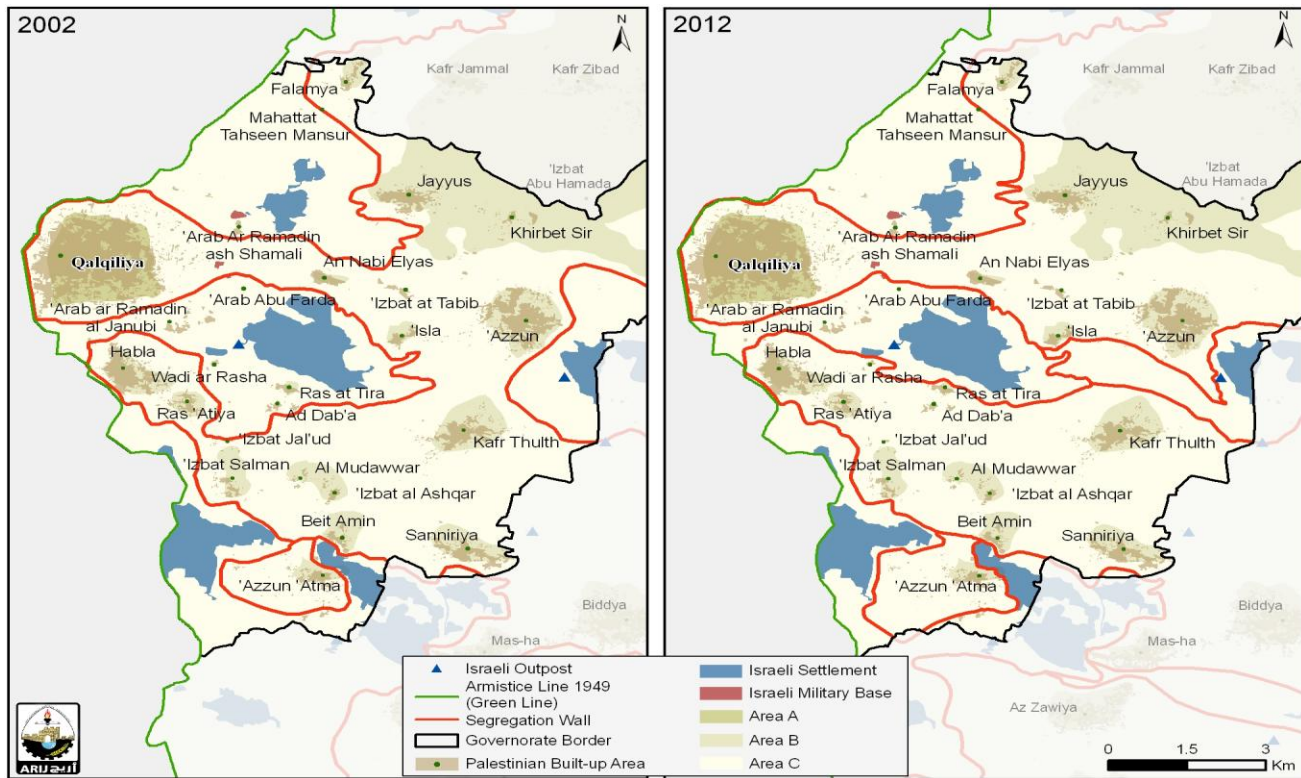
Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan on the lands of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

Implementation of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan on the ground has been ongoing since 2002. The plan began after the decision of the Israeli Authorities to implement the separation policy 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 controlling the natural resources and 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 2007 rather than changing the route of the wall to reduce the negative impact on these villages, Israel disregarded the human rights of these Palestinians by implementing further changes to the Wall's route.

The first map which was published by the Israeli military in April 2002 showed that the Separation Wall would completely isolate the village of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi and the other neighboring Palestinian villages such as, Habla, Arab Abu Farda, , Ras 'Atiya, An Nabi Elyas and Qalqiliya city, (in an isolation zone called Qalqiliya isolation zone) The Wall separates the town on the northern, southern and western sides, leaving only the eastern side accessible for the village residents to interact with their neighboring villages. The map also showed another isolation zone called Ad Dab'a zone, this isolation zone included the villages of Ad Dab'a, Ras at Tira, Wadi ar Rasha (See map4).

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 new amendments that included the village of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, and the surrounding villages. According to this amendment, Qalqiliya isolation zone was to be divided into two separate parts, the first part included the construction of the Separation Wall around the city from the northern, southern, and western sides. The only side which remained partly open was the eastern side of the city, in order for the residents of the 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. The second isolation zone affected the villages of Ras 'Atiya and Habla, as the map shows, the wall would surround the villages of Ras 'Atiya and Habla from all sides, with only the south eastern side of the city remaining partly open in order for the residents of the villages to remain connected to their neighboring villages. 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi and 'Arab Abu Farda were completely geographically separated from the neighboring Qalqiliya city from the north-western side, which was no longer included in Qalqiliya isolation zone, however, became included in Ad Dab'a isolation zone, which also includes the villages of Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha.

It is worth mentioning that in order to connect the settlement of Alfei Menashe to other Israeli settlements that has to be attached to the new borders had to be made by rebuilding the wall, which can be seen as the segregation wall. This scheme resulted in an isolation zone. It should be noted that the Israeli authorities did not take into consideration the negative effects of the annexation of the settlement

of Alfei Menashe on the surrounding Palestinian communities. The changing borders resulted in the annexation and isolation of these four Palestinian communities. These towns were entirely geographically isolated from their surroundings which deprived the inhabitants of their freedom of movement, dignity, and freedom to use their land as they had been doing, which has long been a source of livelihood and life for them.

During the following years, there were several amendments to the path of the Segregation wall in the West Bank. In particular further changes were made on 20th February 2005, 30th June 2006, and 30th April 2007. 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi was not among those villages which saw amendments to the Wall route and the village still suffers until to this day from the construction of the Segregation Wall on its territory. On the one hand, the urban area of the village remained isolated from its surrounding villages, such as the Palestinian city of Qalqiliya from the north-west side. And the villages of Habla and Ras 'Atiya from the south-west side. And in order for the people in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi to communicate with their surrounding Palestinian communities, the Israeli army put a gate at the main entrance of the village, and on the Israeli bypass road No. 55. This iron gate was established after the completion and construction of the Segregation Wall in the area, and only the villagers of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi and 'Arab Abu Farda were allowed to enter and exit through the gate, which was their only space connecting the village to the city of Qalqiliya and the neighboring Palestinian villages from the eastern side. The Israeli army controls the movement of the Palestinians who are passing through this gate and only allows them to enter and exit to and from the village at certain times during the day and only for limited hours. It also uses people gathered 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi assembly next to him, 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi gate based on the territory of the village Wadi ar Rasha to communicate with the Palestinian villages in the south and south-east of Qalqiliya governorate such as the village of Habla and Ras Atiya and 'Izbat Jal'ud and 'Izbat Salman and Beit Amin and Sanniriya and Kafr Thulth.

It is worth mentioning that while amendments to the route of the Separation Wall, which were announced in the previous years, did not improve the situation of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village residents, . However, these amendments were for the benefit of the Israeli settlements near to the village of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi and the surrounding villages, such as Ariel settlement bloc. This settlement bloc is considered to be one of Israel's main concerns, hence they decided to separate this bloc into two parts; the first is Ariel and the second is Kedumim. It is important to note that after these changes, the Ariel settlement bloc will include another five settlements. These settlements are Revava, Kiryat Netafim, Barqan, Barqan Industrial Zone and Ariel industrial settlement. Upon completion of the amendments to the Wall's route, the Kedumim bloc will include 12 settlements: Kedumim, Kedumim Zefon, Jit (Mitzpe Yishai), Giv'at HaMerkaziz, Emmanuel, Yakir, Nofim., Neve Oramin, Karne Shomron, Shavei Shomron, Ma'ale Shomron and Ginnot Shomeron. It is also worth mentioning here that as well as remapping the Wall around the Ariel bloc, the Wall has also been made longer with these amendments, extending from 120km to 133km long to surround both the Ariel and Kedumim settlement blocs. These changes also increase the area of land to be confiscated by the Wall in the Palestinian villages surrounding these two settlement blocs. Furthermore, Israel will connect the Ariel settlement bloc with the rest of Israel by constructing bypass road no. 5, whilst the Kedumim settlement bloc will be connected to the Alfei Menashe settlement through bypass road no. 55, which also connects to Israel.

According to the latest amendment to the route of the Separation Wall in the West Bank that was announced on April 30th 2007, all the village lands became included within the Israeli Isolation Zone, and completely separated from its surroundings. They only can connect through military gates that are controlled by the Israeli occupation authorities(See table 12).

Table 12: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Agricultural lands	2
2	Open spaces	239
3	Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation associations	133
4	Segregation Wall	1
5	Palestinian built up area	64
	Total	438

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli occupation claims that the goal behind the construction of the Separation Wall in the occupied Palestinian territories is due to security reasons under the pretext of protecting Israeli citizens, but on the ground, some 733 square kilometers of Palestinian territories, 13% of the West Bank will be isolated between the Separation Wall and the Armistice Line of 1949 (Green Line). There will also be an annexation of 107 Israeli settlements constituting more than 85% of the Israeli settlers' living in the occupied territories of the West Bank. It seems that Israel has begun the second phase of what it is seeking to achieve by building the Segregation Wall, after the isolation of the Palestinian territories from the main communities in the West Bank, Israel is taking advantage of the uninhabited spaces to build roads linking settlements with Israel, following the same segregation pattern followed in the settlement construction process. Israel is seeking to link the Israeli settlements in the West Bank with the cities and Israeli communities which are adjacent to the Green Line (the armistice line of 1949) in an effort to undermine the development of the Green Line and redraw their eastern border. This can be seen as part of their preparation to impose their vision and plans on the peace process.

Israeli violations against the people and property of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

The residents of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi village are still suffering from the prohibitions of the Israeli occupation authorities which are enforced by the Israeli Occupation Army. The Israeli authorities claim that the villagers have "unlicensed constructions" since all lands in the region is classified as Area C. According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement Area C is under a full Israeli security and administrative control. In fact the Palestinian communities who live in Area C have no Master plans to meet the urban needs of the villagers. This is because the Israeli Civil Administration refuses to grant them building permits which might enable them to keep up with the population growth in these areas. Their buildings remain under threat of demolition because of the Israeli claim that they have "unlicensed construction" according to the Israeli allegations. In response to the Palestinians who dare to defy the Israeli law by constructing in Area C Israeli bulldozers do not hesitate to demolish Palestinian houses which is under full Israeli control. Every Palestinian who wants to build a home or add a room to an existing house, must go through long, complicated and expensive procedures to attain a license for their construction. In the end these licenses are normally rejected by the Israeli civil administration which claims that there is a lack of necessary conditions for building in those areas. While the Israeli occupation authorities refuse to allow the people in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi to construct and to expand, the Israeli occupation authorities expand within the settlement of Alfe Menashe adjacent to the East. and by introducing many of the bids and settlement plans for this purpose, Most recently in 2013 official Israeli tenders were launched for the construction of 15 housing units in the settlement of Alfe Menashe, which is part of a

larger scheme that was put forward by the Israeli authorities in 2010 for the construction of 800 housing units in the settlement of Alfe Menashe.

It should be noted that on the 12th September 2010 Israel published a detailed report on the expansion plans for 124 Israeli settlements which described an increase of 37 684 housing units. This increase was planned to be implemented after the end of the “freeze settlement construction” process time period which purported to prevent any increase in Israeli settlements in the West Bank until the 7th September 2010. This freeze of settlement construction agreement began on the 25th of November 2009 under the pretext of moving the peace talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis. An analysis done by the Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ) to report the progress of the organization named 'Peace Now' revealed that 52 Israeli settlements are to see renewed construction. These settlements are located in the western isolation zone (75.2% 0.28319 housing units) and have been chosen for expansion in order to strengthen the Israeli control over these settlements. The settlement of Alfe Menashe is included in the Israeli expansion plan, which details the planned building of 1389 new housing units in the settlement. The settlement Zufin which is located to the north of the village, is considered within the Israeli settlement plans in order to increase the control over the Palestinian territories that have been isolated by the wall. This imposes facts on the ground which makes Israeli occupation of Palestinian land difficult to reverse.

It is clear from the aforementioned data that Israel is preparing for a change in the distribution areas of settlers in the West Bank and the occupied areas. This is obvious since the planned settler expansion outweighs any natural growth of the population of those settlements, especially considering the Israeli standards originally exaggerated. It is important to note that this pattern of settlement expansion and construction has been prevalent over the last decade as there has been focused construction in what is now the western region of the southern isolation zone. This area includes the largest settlement blocs and Jerusalem.

Demolition and evacuation orders for the village of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

In the beginning of June 2008 the Israeli Civil Administration proceeded to submit a plan that ordered the displacement of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi residents. The plan suggested several alternative areas for the residents to relocate to. The residents were told they had to leave the village, and would be provided with basic services such as electricity and water in the new areas that were proposed. These new areas are located outside the Segregation Wall route. After the refusal of the residents to accept the Israeli displacement proposal, the Israeli army started to put stress on the residents of the village through their control of their access to and from the village, through the only gate available.

On the 9th of July 2008 the Regulation and Building Committee of the Israeli Civil Administration handed over notification papers which were essentially military orders to eight buildings in the village to stop the construction of these buildings under the pretext of illegal construction since the targeted buildings are located in Area C according to Oslo II Interim Agreement signed in 1995. The homes and construction materials Barracks' which received the warning included two kitchens, one house, one residential room, and a grain store. They belonged to the following names: Younis Jabr Khalil and Maher Salim Al-Sha'or.

And also on June 25th 2009 a large force of the Israeli army accompanied by a group from the Israeli civil administration came to the house of the president of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Mr. Hassan Khalil Al-Sha'or . The forces came in order to deport the residents of 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi from the West side of the village adjacent to the settlement of Alfei Menashe. The Israeli forces wanted to remove the villagers and find them an alternative area to live. The Israeli civil administration officer has said during the visit that "the presence of Arabs in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi will not last and that there is a resolution of the Israeli government to deport the population of this area."

Moreover, at the beginning of June 2009, the Israeli civil administration handed over a number of military notifications to Palestinian farmers in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi which includes orders to stop the work constructions they were in the process of completing; this included in three agricultural barracks and one house, in addition to a village guesthouse building. These orders were given under the pretext of "illegal construction". These buildings belonged to the following citizens: Kamel Salamah Sha'or, Younis Jabr Sha'or, Kasab Bajes Sha'or, and Maher Salim Sha'or. The military orders were announced in April 2009 and gave the owners of these notified buildings a maximum time period until the 25th of May, approximately 3 weeks, in order to initiate licensing procedures for their targeted facilities. However, even after following the process to acquire the building license, the Israeli civil administration would not supply building permits.

On the twentieth of September 2010 the Israeli civil administration notified four Palestinian families living in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi to apply for building permits due to various construction work being undertaken in the homes made of wood and tin. The orders were given under the pretext that the buildings constituted non-licensed construction in the region classified as Area C of the Oslo II Agreement Second Interim. According to the military orders, the owners were given until the eighteenth of October 2010 to straighten out the situation of their facilities and to initiate licensing procedures. It is important to note that applying for building permits does not guarantee the occupants will receive the required license. Often it happens that the Israeli civil administration stalls and imposes conditions for those applying for licenses and in the end applications are rejected for not meeting the Israeli conditions for building in area C. The military orders targeted 3 agricultural barracks , a house and a stone oven (Tabun) which belongs to Kassab Bajes Sha'or and a house of Maher Salim Sha'or, and Adnan Lutfi Sha'or .

On the 2nd of February 2012 the Israeli army accompanied by the Israeli Civil Administration inspection committee gathered at 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi where they handed over military orders to stop the construction work on a number of their residential and agricultural facilities under the pretext of unlicensed construction for the occurrence of housing within the area classified as "C" according to Oslo II Interim agreement of 1995 . The Israeli civil administration had given the owners of the targeted buildings until the 23rd of February 2012 to initiate procedures for licensing. Regardless of the villagers' attempts to acquire the license, they continued to suffer from forced demolition by Israeli officials as part of the Israeli efforts to take control of this strategic region that seeks to achieve its objectives . The Israeli military has targeted two houses and three other facilities which belongs to the Kassab Bajes Sha'or feeling Lutfi and Adnan Lutfi Sha'or.

On the 2nd of June 2012 Israeli bulldozers targeted 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi where they demolished a barn used for cattle which was owned by the citizen Fahmi Kassab Sha'or. The demolition came under the pretext of 'unlicensed construction' because the target entity was in the region classified as Area C according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement of 1995.

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council has implemented several development projects in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi during the past five years (see table 13).

Table 13: Implemented development plans and projects in 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Establishing a water transmission line and pumps from Habla town well	Water	2009	Ministry of Finance
Establishing the electricity network	Infrastructure	2012	Ministry of Finance, The Energy Authority & the Village Residents

Source: 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012

Proposed projects

'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. Paving the main road (1.5km long).
2. Constructing secondary roads (1.5km long).
3. Paving secondary roads (1.5km long).
4. Developing and expanding the Co-educational Elementary School.
5. Renovating the water network (approximately 2km) and replacing the plastic pipes with metal ones.
6. Rehabilitating the electricity network (2km long).
7. Reclaiming approximately 40 dunums of agricultural lands.
8. Providing agricultural equipment, such as a tractor, a truck, a plow and a water transferring tank.
9. Installing around 40 cesspits.

Locality development priorities and needs

‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 14 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council’s point of view.

Table 14: Development priorities and needs in ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			5km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			3km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			1km
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		*		3km
8	Construction of a new electricity network		*		3km
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			45 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste		*		1
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health needs					
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			*	
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools	*			Co-educational school
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment			*	
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			50 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			35 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks	*			15 barracks
4	Provision of Veterinary Services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			500 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses		*		3 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses			*	
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 1.5km main roads, 1.5km secondary roads and 2km are agricultural roads

Source: ‘Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi Village Council, 2012

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