

# **Ras ‘Atiya Village Profile (including Ras at Tira & Wadi ar Rasha Localities)**



**Prepared by**



**The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem**

**Funded by**



**Spanish Cooperation**

**2013**

## *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, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.*

*ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.*

## Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the 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 presenting developmental plans to assist in improving 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 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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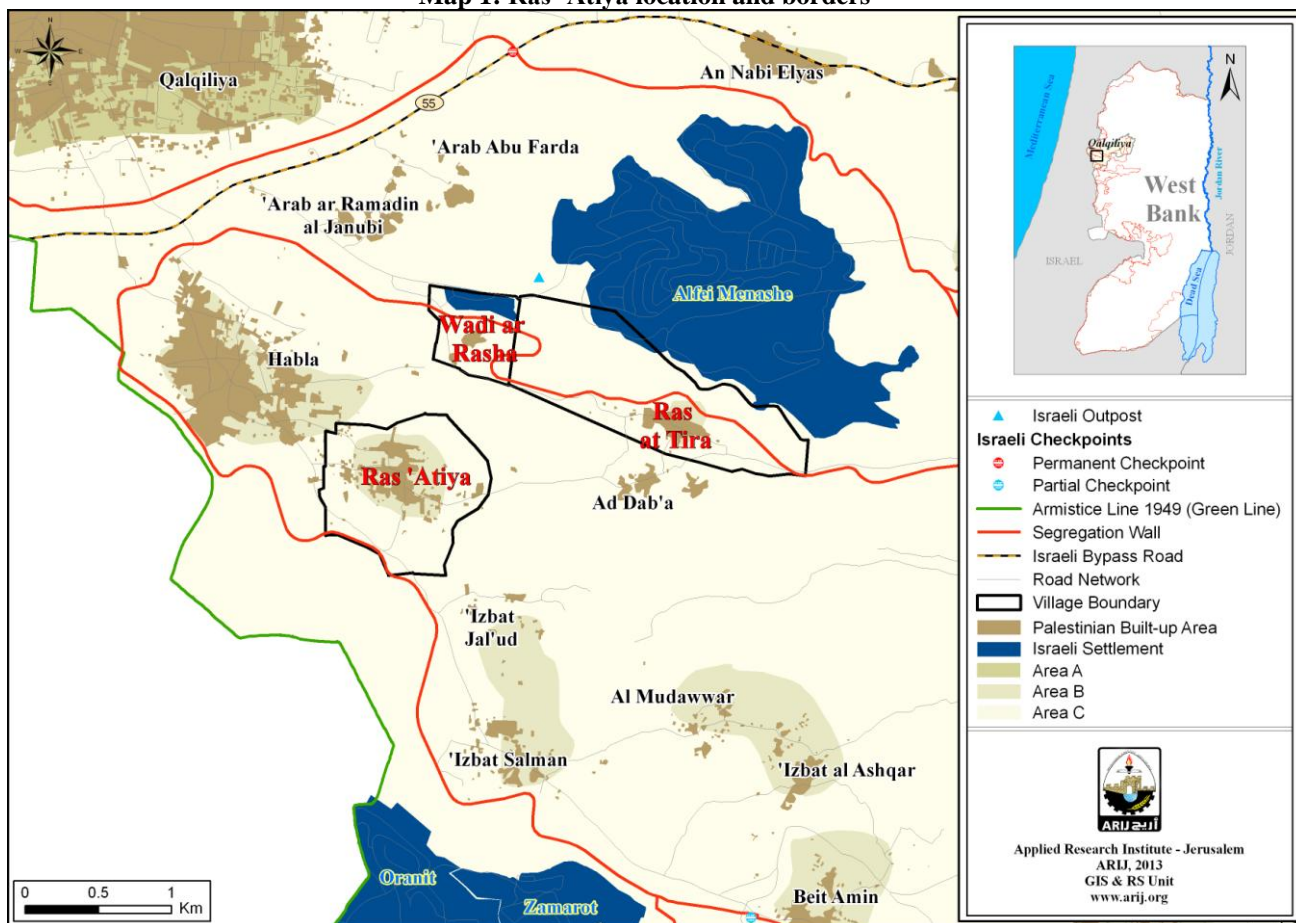
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# Ras ‘Atiya Village Profile<sup>1</sup>

## Location and physical characteristics

Ras ‘Atiya (including Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha localities) is a Palestinian village in Qalqiliya Governorate, located 4-5km south of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by ‘Izbat al Ashqar and Ad Dab’a to the east, ‘Izbat Jalud, Al Mudawwar and Ad Dab’a to the south, Habla town to the west, and An Nabi Elyas and ‘Arab Abu Farda to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Ras ‘Atiya location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Ras ‘Atiya is located at an altitude of 99-170m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 589mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C whilst the average annual humidity is approximately 63% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Until 2012, Ras at Tira & Wadi ar Rasha localities had been governed by a Projects’ Committee. However, in 2012, upon a decision by the Palestinian Ministry of Councils and the Ministry of Local

<sup>1</sup> The information listed in this profile includes the information of each of Ras ‘Atiya village and Ras at Tira & Wadi ar Rasha localities; based on the Local Government’s decision in 2012 to merge the three localities under one local council.

Government, Ras at Tira & Wadi ar Rasha localities were merged with the bigger locality of Ras ‘Atiya village under Ras ‘Atiya Village Council.

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 1995, Ras ‘Atiya has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are also 2 employees working in the council, whose permanent headquarters is included within the Western Joint Services Council (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Ras ‘Atiya, including:

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection and street cleaning.
- Road rehabilitation, construction and paving.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the village.
- Protection of governmental properties.
- Provision of transportations.

(Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012)

## History

Ras ‘Atiya (literally means the head of ‘Atiya) village’s name originates from two different sources (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012), these are:

- The first source claims it was named after a man called ‘Atiya who lived in one of the caves in the region. Oneday, he was found headless and his head was put on the entrance of the cave, and the region was named Ras ‘Atiya.
- The second source says that it was named after a feudal and oppressive man named ‘Atiya, whose head was cut off by the people of the village and hung at the village entrance.

Ras at Tira village, on the other hand, was first called “Tirat al Hawa” (“hawa” means air and tirat from the word “tayr” meaning bird) in relation to its high location on top of a mountain, however, the name was later converted into Ras at Tira. Wadi ar Rasha was named after a battle that occurred a long time ago when fighters used darts (“reesh” in Arabic), thus the locality started to be called “Wadi ar Reesh” (the valley of darts/feathers), and was later converted to Wadi ar Rasha.

The village was established around 200 years ago, with its residents descending from Kafr Thulth town (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

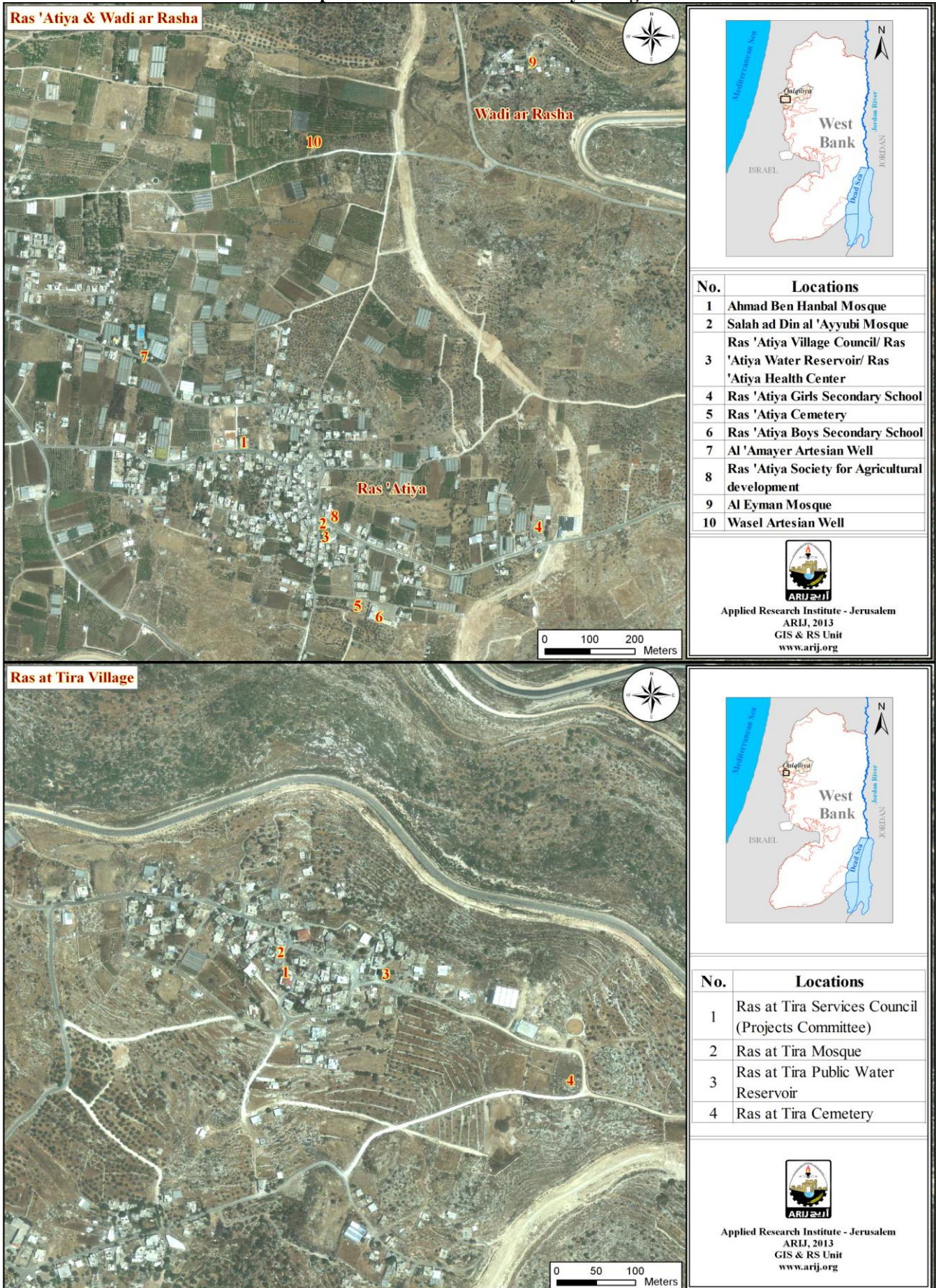
Photo of Ras ‘Atiya



## Religious and archaeological sites

There are four mosques in the village (Salah ad Din, Imam Ahmad ben Hanbal, Al Eyman and Ras at Tira Mosques). The village has a few sites of archaeological interest including the caves. All of these sites are in need of restoration in order to be suitable as a tourist sites, as determined by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012) (see map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Ras 'Atiya village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013



## Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Ras ‘Atiya in 2007 was 1,629, of whom 841 were male and 788 female. There were 351 households registered as living in 385 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 Ras ‘Atiya was as follows: 43% were less than 15 years of age, 55.1% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 1.8% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the village was 106.7:100, meaning that males and females constituted 51.6% and 48.4% of the population, respectively.

### Families

Ras ‘Atiya residents are from several families, including Aal Mara’iya, Aal ‘Arar, Aal Shawahna and Odah (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

### Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that approximately 60 people from different families, in addition to 5 other families, have left the village since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

## Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among Ras ‘Atiya population is approximately 9.5%, of whom 74.7% are females. Of the total population, 14.8% could only read and write with no formal education, 23.7% had elementary education, 31.7% had preparatory education, 15% had secondary education, and 5.3% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Ras ‘Atiya by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

**Table 1: Ras ‘Atiya population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment**

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Masters	Ph D	Unknow n	Total
M	33	105	159	254	115	13	31	1	2	1	0	<b>714</b>
F	98	105	166	192	98	8	18	0	0	0	0	<b>685</b>
<b>T</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,399</b>

Source: PCBS, 2009

There are two public schools in the village, both are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012) (see table 2).

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

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Banat Ras ‘Atiya Secondary School	Government	Mixed
Ras ‘Atiya Boys’ Secondary School	Government	Male

**Source:** Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 513 students, 39 teachers, and 24 classes in the village. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 13, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 21 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There is also 1 kindergarten in Ras ‘Atiya village (Bara’em al Eyman Islamic Kindergarten) run by a private organization. The kindergarten consists of 3 classes supervised by 3 teachers (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

Due to the lack of some educational levels at the village schools, (such as the secondary/scientific branch), students attend Habla boys’ and Habla girls’ secondary schools, which are 2km from the village (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

The educational sector in Ras ‘Atiya village faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of educational tools available..
- The continuous change of teachers which has a negative impact on students’ education.
- The lack of interest given by parents to their children.
- The numerous internet cafes located in the village, in which students spend too much time while neglecting their school work.

The restrictions and humiliation imposed on schools and students by the Israeli occupation forces, represented by the existence of permanent and partial checkpoints which hinder the access of students to their schools, inside or outside the village, including Bnat Ras ‘Atiya Secondary School.(Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012)

## Health status

Ras ‘Atiya has only a governmental general physician’s clinic and a private pharmacy, as well as an ambulance owned by a union inside the Wall. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital, the Health Center or the UNRWA Hospital in Qalqiliya city (7km away), to Ad Dab’a Health Clinic or to Habla Health Center (1-5km away) (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

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

- The lack of a nurse at the health center.
- The lack of equipment for medical tests.
- The lack of transportations to the health centers and hospitals in neighboring villages, in emergency cases.

(Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012)

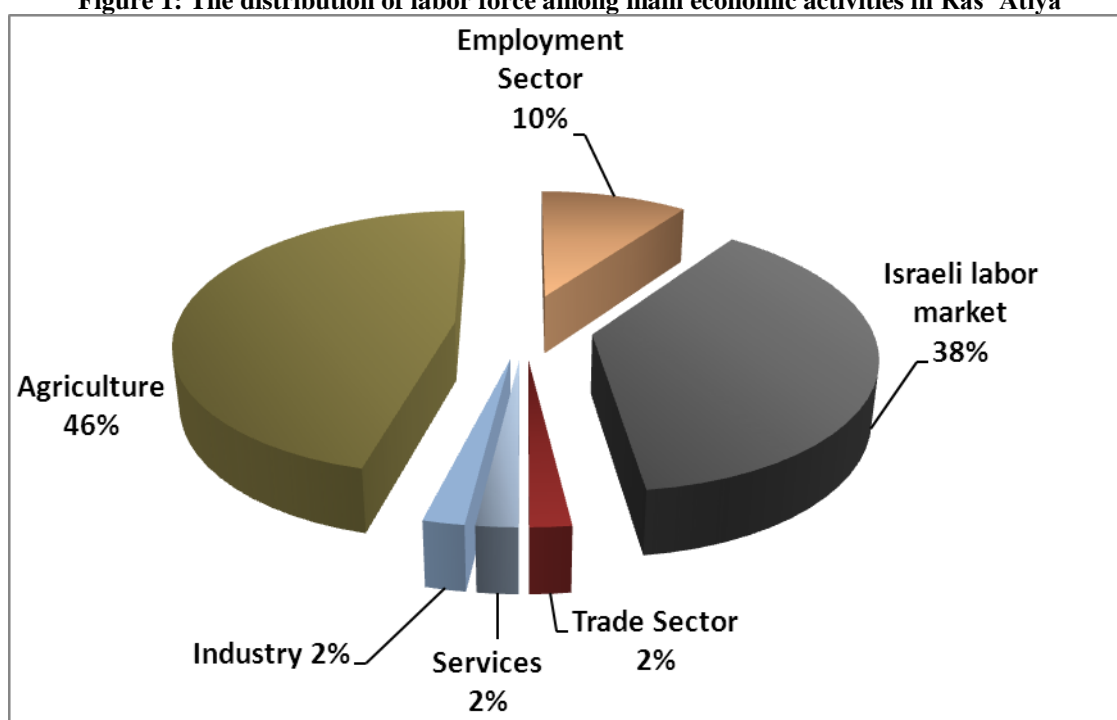
## Economic activities

The economy in Ras ‘Atiya is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector, which absorbs 46% of the village’s workforce (Ras ‘Atiya 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 Ras ‘Atiya are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (46%)
- Israeli labor market (38%)
- Government or other employees sector (10%)
- Industry (2%)
- Services sector (2%)
- Trade sector (2%)

**Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Ras ‘Atiya**



Source: Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012

Ras ‘Atiya has 9 groceries, 3 service stores, 3 different professional workshops, 1 quarry for cutting marble, 2 stores for agricultural tools and 1 agricultural nursery (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Ras ‘Atiya reached 23%. The groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

- Workers in the agriculture sector.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the services sector.
- Workers in the trade sector.

(Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012)

## Labor force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 32% of Ras ‘Atiya’s labor force was economically active, of whom 88% were employed, 67.8% were not economically active, 54.8% were students, and 38.8% were housekeepers (see table 4).

**Table 4: Ras ‘Atiya 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	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	354	28	23	<b>405</b>	269	3	32	0	2	<b>306</b>	3	<b>714</b>
F	40	1	1	<b>257</b>	251	365	27	0	0	<b>643</b>	0	<b>685</b>
T	<b>394</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,399</b>

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

## Agricultural sector

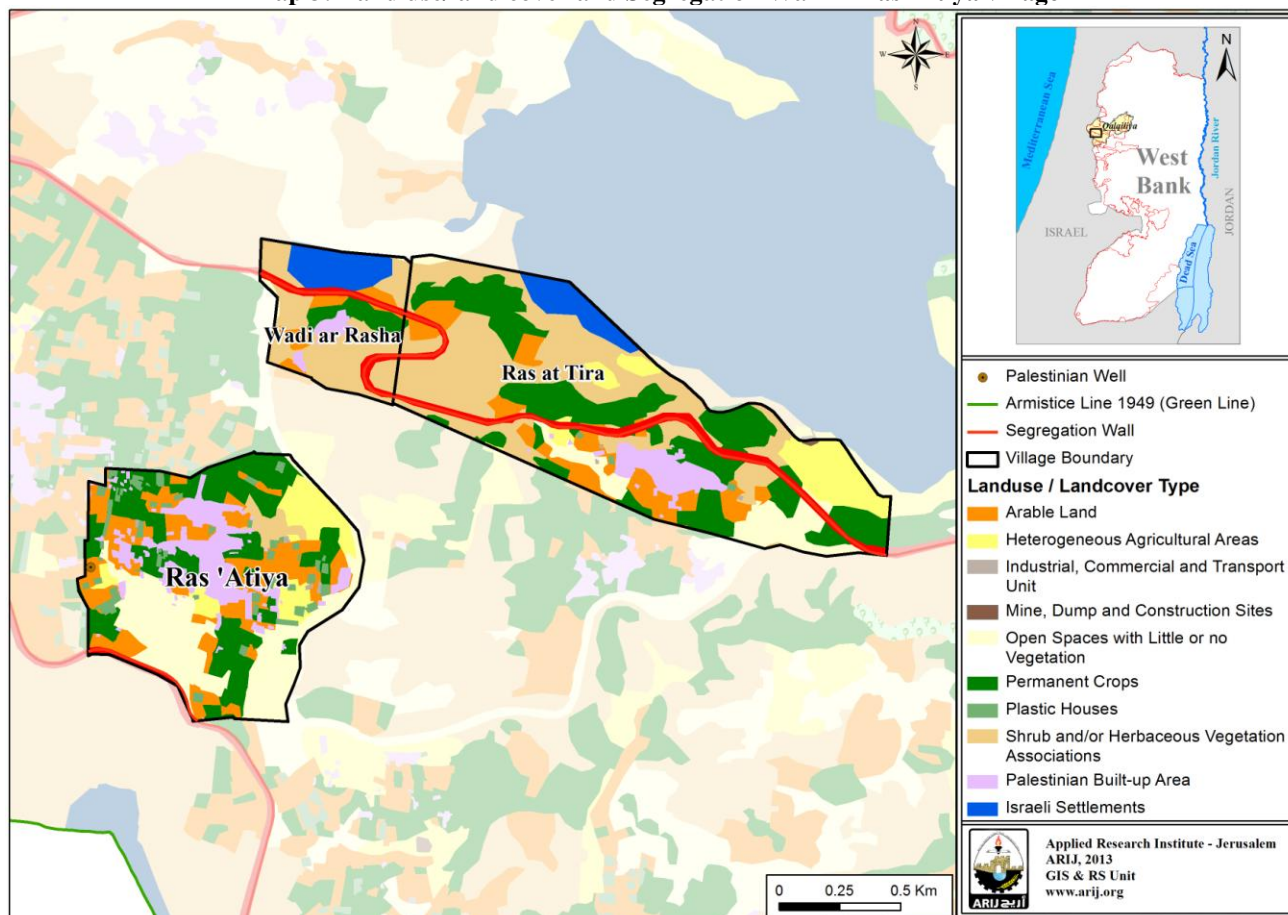
Ras ‘Atiya has a total area of approximately 2,483 dunums of which 1,723 are arable land and 203 dunums are registered as residential land (see table 5 and map 3).

**Table 5: Land use and land cover in Ras ‘Atiya village (area in dunums)**

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (1,723)				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					
2,483	203	770	54	567	332	0	0	319	4	234

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Ras ‘Atiya village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Ras ‘Atiya. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are white cabbages, green beans and peas.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Ras ‘Atiya (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.
5	10	0	10	25	0	0	0	0	5	30	25

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Ras ‘Atiya is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 935 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the village.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Ras ‘Atiya (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.
935	0	0	51.5	0	5	0	0	4	0	7	8	946	64.5

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Ras ‘Atiya, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 55 dunums (see table 8).

**Table 8: Total area of forage and field crops in Ras ‘Atiya (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.
55	0	8	20	2	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	2	81	22

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ’s GIS Unit in size 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 they did 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 43% of the residents in Ras ‘Atiya rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 9).

**Table 9: Livestock in Ras ‘Atiya**

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
305	812	140	0	0	0	0	18,000	0	30

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

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 13km of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012):

**Table 10: Agricultural roads in Ras ‘Atiya village and their lengths**

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	8.5
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	1
For animals only	1.5
Unsuitable	2

Source: Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012

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

- The confiscation of lands by the Israelis and their annexation within the Wall.
- The lack of economic feasibility for agricultural investment.
- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The lack of water resources.
- The lack of pastures.
- The high prices of feed, pesticides and fertilizers.
- The lack of a center for agricultural guidance.
- The lack of a veterinary center.
- The lack of access to agricultural lands because of the Segregation Wall.
- The problem of merchants trading on farmers.

(Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012)

## Institutions and services

Ras ‘Atiya village has no governmental institutions but a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012):

- **Ras ‘Atiya Village Council:** Founded in 1995 and currently registered by the Ministry of Local Government. Aims to address different issues concerning the village and provide various services and infrastructure to its residents.
- **Ras ‘Atiya Society for Agricultural Development:** Founded in 2010 by the Ministry of the Interior to serve and develop the agricultural sector in the village, providing guidance and services to farmers.

## Infrastructure and natural resources

### Electricity and telecommunication services:

Ras ‘Atiya, Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha have each been connected to public electricity networks since 1985, 2011 and 2010 respectively. All are served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in these localities. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the localities are connected to the networks. However, the village suffers some obstacles in the electricity sector, primarily:

- The weak electrical power supply
- The need for a 500 kilowatt adapter

(Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012)

Ras ‘Atiya and Ras at Tira only, are connected to telecommunication networks and approximately 80% and 10% of the housing units within the localities’ boundaries are connected to phone lines, respectively (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

### Transportation Sservices:

There is 1 taxi in Ras ‘Atiya, as well as 20 private cars.. However these are considered insufficient, and residents often use taxis from the neighboring villages or they simply travel on foot. The lack of vehicles in the village, the existence of partial checkpoints and the poor infrastructure of roads are considered the main obstacles faced by the village residents (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

There are 6.8km of main roads and 5km of secondary roads in Ras ‘Atiya (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012) (see table 10).

**Table 10: Roads in Ras ‘Atiya village**

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved and in good condition	5.8	2.1
2. Paved and in poor condition	0	0.2
3. Unpaved	1	2.7

**Source:** Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012

**Water resources:**

Ras ‘Atiya Village Council provides the village with water through ‘Amayer well, which supplies the residents with water through the public water networks established in each of Ras ‘Atiya, Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha in 1962, 2003 and 1999, respectively. All housing units are connected to the network (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to Ras ‘Atiya village in 2012 was recorded as approximately 170,000 cubic meters/year (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 200 liters/day. However, no Ras ‘Atiya citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 25% (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012). 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 Ras ‘Atiya is more likely to be 150 liters per day (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of Ras ‘Atiya 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 3.5 NIS (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

The village also has 55 individual household rainwater harvesting cisterns and 3 water reservoirs; two with 200m<sup>3</sup> capacity and the third with 50m<sup>3</sup> capacity (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

**Sanitation:**

Ras ‘Atiya town lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks as the main means of wastewater disposal (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximate quantity of wastewater generated per day is 280 cubic meters, or 102,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 120 liters per day. The untreated wastewater is being collected by cesspits and septic tanks and 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 as well as 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 25 NIS 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 (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Ras ‘Atiya benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 142 containers; 22 of which have 1m<sup>3</sup> capacity and 120 have 180 liters 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 80km from the village, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).



The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Ras ‘Atiya is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Ras ‘Atiya residents is nearly 1.6 tons, or 595.5 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

## **Environmental conditions**

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Ras ‘Atiya 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 everyone’s needs. The ageing network also results in a high percentage of water losses, and it is in desperate need of restoration (Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012).

### **Wastewater management**

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

### **Solid waste management**

Ras ‘Atiya village does not suffer 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. Waste is disposed of in the Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate, which represents the main environmentally sound landfill serving the village as well as most of the other localities in the Qalqiliya Governorate.

## **Impact of the Israeli Occupation**

### **Geopolitical status in Ras 'Atiya, Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Ras 'Atiya was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 302 dunums (32.2% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) retains 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. The majority of Ras 'Atiyas' population resides in area B. It is worth noting that most of the population of Ras 'Atiya resides in area B. The rest of the village's area, constituting 635 dunums (67.3% 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 and open spaces with Israeli settlements built on the village's territory.

**Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Ras 'Atiya according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	302	32.2
Area C	635	67.8
Natural reserves	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

**Table 12: The geopolitical divisions of Ras al-Tira according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	62	5
Area C	1173	95
Nature reserve	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

**Table 13: The geopolitical divisions of Wadi ar Rasha according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995**

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	0	0
Area C	310	100
Natural reserves	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

### **Israeli violations of the right to land and property in Ras Atiya village**

The village of Ras 'Atiya has been severely affected by Israeli violations committed by the Israeli Occupation Army and Israeli settlers. In September 2013, Israeli settlers confiscated 7 dunums of agricultural land planted with olives, guava, and citrus trees on the lands of Ras 'Atiya village. The Israeli bulldozers also demolished agricultural farms owned by the farmers Ahmed Fahmi Bisharat and Saed Shawahneh. The settlers confiscated the trees and transferred them via private cars to the settlement of Alfei Menashe. The lands that were confiscated lie in the area of Khlet al Ashr, which is close to the settlement of Alfei Menashe. They justified these actions by stating that the targeted land is located in an area which is classified as 'state property'.

## **Israeli military orders which targeted the territory of Ras Atiya village**

Throughout the years of Israeli occupation, the village of Ras 'Atiya has been targeted with many military orders which have affected land and properties. The following is an Israeli military order for which information is available:

- Israeli military order no.32/02/T: issued on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2002 to confiscate an area of 449 dunums of lands from the villages Ras 'Atiya , 'Azzun and Ras at Tira for the purpose of building the Segregation Wall.

## **The Israeli occupation practices in Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha villages**

In addition to the confiscation of land for the Segregation Wall Ras at Tira has been subjected to numerous land confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli objectives. This is demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the village territories. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have had a negative impact on Ras at Tira villages:

Israel confiscated 51 dunums of land in Ras at Tira village (4.1% of the village lands) and 60 dunums of land (19.4% of the total village lands) in Wadi ar Rasha, to establish the 'Alfei Menashe' settlement. Only part of this settlement was established on the village lands of Ras at Tira, while the remaining settlement area was established on the lands of other villages such as Wadi ar Rasha, Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, 'Arab Abu Farda, An Nabi Elyas, Isla, and 'Izbat al Ashqar. The settlement of 'Alfei Menashe' is considered to be one of the most important settlements for Israel. This is due to its strategic geographical location, as well as the large area which it occupies, since it is the largest Israeli settlement in Qalqiliya Governorate in terms of area size and population. 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 suffering of Ras 'Atiya village as a result of Israeli violations**

The suffering of Ras 'Atiya village has been similar to that of other Palestinian villages in Qalqiliya governorate and other Palestinian governorates. Before the completion of the Separation Wall plan which was published in 2003, Ras 'Atiya and Habla were isolated completely geographically and economically from Qalqiliya city. In addition, Ras 'Atiya and Habla were isolated from the surrounding villages such as; Ad Dab'a, Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha. However, after the establishment of the Separation Wall on Ras 'Atiya and Habla lands, the Israeli military built a checkpoint at the northern entrance to the village of Habla, on bypass road no.55 which separates the Israeli settlement Alfei Menashe and the settlement bloc Karne Shomron (Ginnot Shomeron and Ma'ale Shomron) and the village of Ras Atiya, under the pretext of providing protection to the Israeli settlers who use these bypass roads. They also installed checkpoint no.1351 which became the only way for Palestinians to access the villages of Ras at Tira, Ad Dab'a and Wadi ar Rasha from the neighboring Palestinian communities on the eastern, western, and southern sides. The Israeli

Occupation Authorities imposed severe procedures on those travelling through this gate, such as forcing them to wait at the gate for many hours and preventing them from bringing certain types of medicine, fertilizer and food through the gate. However, the situation changed following a protest by the residents in 2005, which forced the checkpoint to be removed and the Wall to be moved further away from the villages of Wadi ar Rasha, Ad Dab'a, and Ras at Tira, allowing them to become once more geographically connected with the rest of the surrounding villages from the eastern side (Ras 'Atiya and Habla).

The geographical separation caused by the Wall has had huge consequences on the residents of Ras 'Atiya and Habla because of their direct connection with each other. In the past, it used to take the villagers a few minutes to reach the city of Qalqiliya, but with the construction of the Wall according to the plan of 2003, reaching the city now takes more than an hour by car because the Palestinians from these villages are forced to take long and circuitous routes. Due to the suffering that is caused by the Wall and the poor economic situation in these villages, the residents of these Palestinian communities carried out a protest against the bad living conditions. The protest succeeded in forcing the Israeli Authorities to make changes to the plan for the Wall. And this plan included making a tunnel between Qalqiliya and the village of Habla, in order to create some kind of geographical communication between them so that the village of Ras Atiya rely on the village of Habla in economic terms as well as the neighboring Palestinian villages. Such as the village of Habla, that is considered as a link between the neighboring Palestinian villages ( including the village of Ras Atiya ) and the city of Qalqiliya and the dependence of these villages on the centers Life center in the city of Qalqiliya, such as educational institutions, health, economic, and service, etc. However, the passage of Palestinian vehicles through the main tunnel of Ras Atiya – Qalqilyia was controlled by the Israeli army through the establishment of an iron gate at the entrance. This gate was only open at certain times during the day to allow the Palestinians to travel to and from Qalqiliya.

After the publication of the amendment to the Wall plan in 2006, the section of the Wall on the land of Ras 'Atiya and the neighboring villages of Ras at Tira, Ad Dab'a and Wadi ar Rasha was altered. As a result, their lands were no longer included in the Israeli isolation zone and they became once more geographically connected with the villages of Ras 'Atiya and Habla on their western side and Ras at Atiya, 'Izbat Salman, 'Izbat Jal'ud, Al Mudawwar, Beit Amin, and Kafr Thulth on the eastern side.

### **The suffering of Ras at Tira and Wadi ar Rasha villages as a result of Israeli violations**

The suffering of Ras at Tira village has been similar to that of other Palestinian villages in Qalqilya governorate and other Palestinian governorates. Before the completion of the Separation Wall plan which was published in 2003, Ras at Tira, Wadi ar Rasha and Ad Dab'a were connected to each other and could interact with the surrounding villages without any problem. However, after the establishment of the Separation Wall on the land of these villages, they became completely geographically and economically isolated. The Israeli military built a checkpoint to the south of Ad Dab'a village in Ras at Tira isolation zone, on the border with Ras Atiya village, in order for the residents of Ad Dab'a, Wadi ar Rasha, and Ras at Tira villages to connect with their surrounding Palestinian villages through this gate.

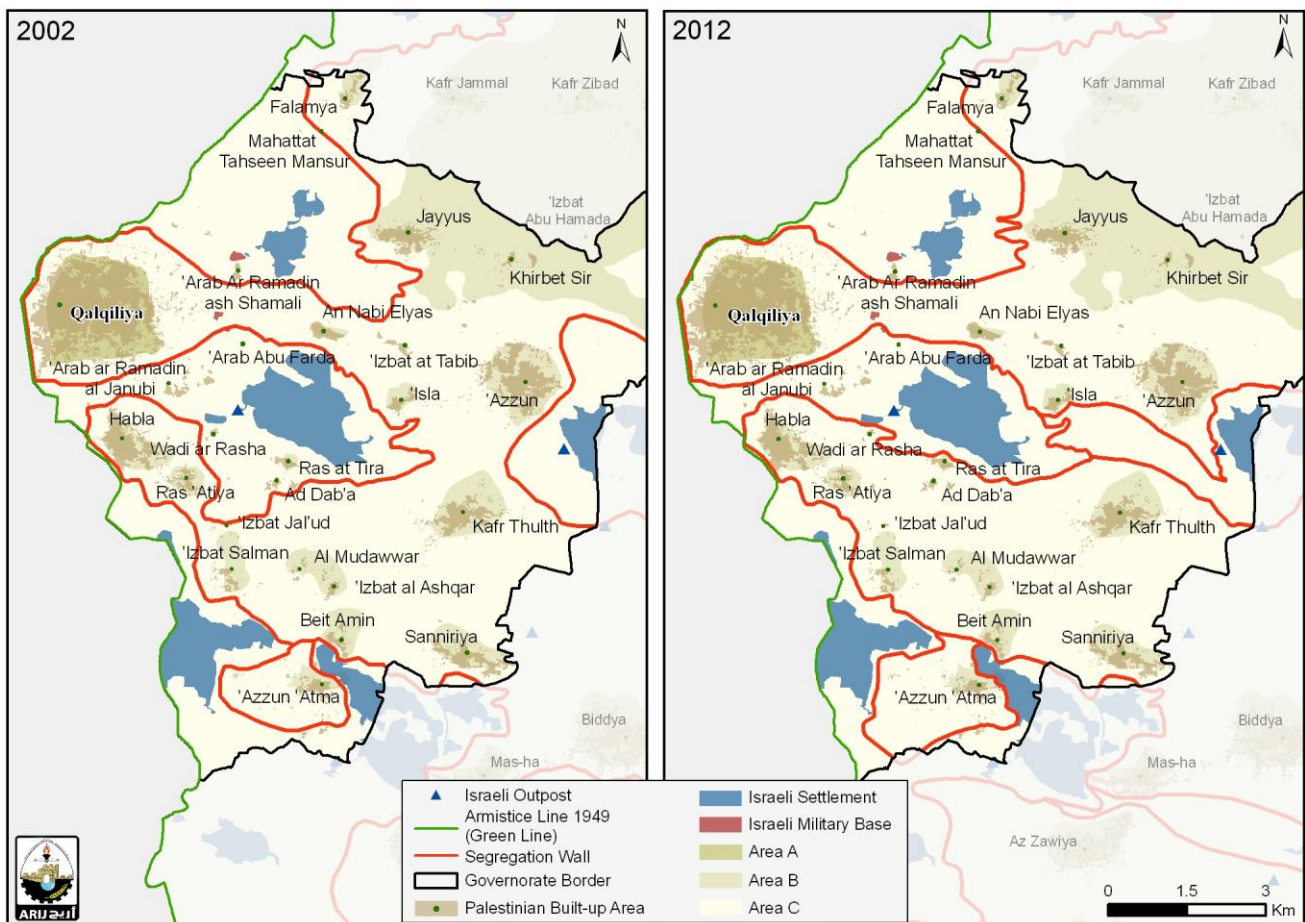
The geographical separation caused by the Wall has had significant negative consequences for the residents of Ras at Tira, Ad Dab'a and Wadi ar Rasha villages, due to their dependence on access to Qalqilya city for their educational and health needs, trade links and others services.

It is also difficult for the residents of Wadi ar Rasha village to reach their agricultural lands behind the Separation Wall, because the Israeli Authorities prevent them from reaching their olive groves. Although the residents of the village submitted a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court to obtain an injunction order to allow them to harvest their olives, the Israeli authorities continued to prevent them from accessing their land and rejected all applications submitted to them to allow them to enter lands located behind the Separation Wall and near the ' settlement of 'Alfe Menashe'. This issue had a negative effect on their source of living and income.

### **The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Ras 'Atiya village**

The implementation of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan on the ground has been ongoing since June, 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, 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 many of the natural resources. The construction of the wall has ignored the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) made on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2004, in which they recommended that the route of the Wall should be changed and Palestinians affected by the Wall in those areas should be offered compensation. However, in April, 2007, rather than amend the route to reduce the impact on these villages, Israel disregarded the human rights of these Palestinians by implementing more changes to the route, intended instead to connect the Israeli settlements to one another. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages, as they became more isolated from one another. Ras 'Atiya village was one of the villages that was affected by the amendments to the original route (published in June, 2002) of the Separation Wall. This map showed that the Wall would completely isolate the village of Ras 'Atiya and neighboring Palestinian villages such as, Habla, Arab Abu Farda, , 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, An Nabi Elyas and Qalqiliya city, as the Wall separates them on the northern, southern and western sides, leaving only the eastern side accessible for the village residents to interact with their neighboring villages (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 published a new map on their website for the route of the Separation Wall in the occupied West Bank, showing amendments which isolate the village of Ras ‘Atiya and its neighboring villages. In fact, three isolation zones were created, the first being the isolation of Qalqiliya through 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 neighboring villages, with the exception of An Nabi Elyas village which remained between the wall from the north and the south (see map 1). The second isolation zone affected 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.

Further changes to the route of the Separation Wall were announced on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2005, but these amendments did not affect Ras ‘Atiya village. However, on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006, the Israeli military published a further change to the route of the Separation Wall. This time, the amendments included a modification to the route of the wall in the Palestinian village of Ras Atiya and neighboring villages. This latest amendment (April, 2006) was for the benefit of Israeli settlements near to the village of Ras Atiya, namely the Ariel settlement bloc that is located to the east of Habla and Ras Atiya

villages. 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 5 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 by bypass road no.55, which also connects to Israel. The amendments to the route affected the villages of Ras at Atiya and the surrounding villages of Wadi ar Rasha and Ad Dab'a, as the Wall was moved further back towards the settlement of Alfei Menashe. Although this change meant that some of the villages became geographically connected once more on the eastern side, the rest of the villages remained isolated and surrounded by the wall from three sides (north, west and east). However, the amendment did not include the villages of Arab Abu Farda, and 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, as they remained within the buffer zone that Israel is seeking to attach to their new borders according to the new plan for the Wall. Furthermore, the amendment made to the route of the Wall in 2006 did not change the difficult economic situation that Ras Atiya and Habla villages are facing as a result of the Wall's route of 2003, but instead continued to separate the two aforementioned villages from Qalqilya city, which was considered the economic center for both villages. Although, this change to the route of the Wall in 2006 did give back some land to the villagers of Ras Atiya and re-connected the village geographically with the Palestinian communities .

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Defense published further amendments to the route of the Separation Wall on their webpage but these changes have not affected Ras 'Atiya and the surrounding villages. According to the latest map, it appears that 0.5km of the Separation Wall has been built on the village's lands from the northern, eastern, and western sides. In addition, the Wall has isolated approximately 8 dunums of the village's lands, approximately 1% of the total village area (see table 13).

**Table 13: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in Ras 'Atiya village**

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Open spaces	1
2	Segregation Wall	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

### **The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Ras al-Tira and Wadi ar Rasha villages**

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 many of the natural resources. The construction of the wall has therefore ignored the ruling that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) made on July 9<sup>th</sup> 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 amend the route to reduce the impact on these villages, Israel disregarded the human rights of these Palestinians by implementing more changes to the route, in order to connect the Israeli settlements to one another. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages, as they became more isolated from one another.

Ras at Tira village was one of the villages that was affected by the amendments to the original route (published in 2002) of the Separation Wall. This map showed that the Wall would completely isolate the villages of Ras at Tira, Wadi ar Rasha, and Ad Dab'a from the neighboring Palestinian villages on the eastern and western sides. Meanwhile, the route includes the 'Alfei Menashe' settlement and other surrounding settlements (Oranit, Sha'are Tikva, Elkana and Pinot Orot Yisrael) 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). These amendments also affect the Qalqilya villages of Arab Abu Farda, Habla, Ras 'Atiya, 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, and An Nabi Elyas, 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 (see map 4).

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 which isolate the villages of Ras at Tira, Wadi ar Rasha, and Ad Dab'a. The route of the Wall was also changed to destroy the geographical connection between the Palestinian village of Habla and the city of Qalqilya for the purpose of connecting 'Alfei Menashe' settlement to the Israeli settlements inside the Green Line (Armistice Line of 1948).

As a result three isolation zones were created the first being the isolation of Qalqilya 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. The second isolation affects the villages of Ras 'Atiya and Habla which will be surrounded by the Wall from all sides except the south eastern entrance which will stay slightly open in order for the residents of these isolated villages to connect to the neighboring Palestinian communities on the eastern side (the villages of Izbet al Ashqar, Kafr Thulth, Al Mudawwar and Beit Amin). The map also shows that villages which have common economic interests are divided from each other, such as Ras 'Atiya village and Habla village which will be completely separated geographically from Qalqilya city to



the north. 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.

Further changes to the route of the Separation Wall were announced on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2005, but these amendments did not affect Ras at Tira village. It is also worth mentioning that the Israeli Authorities started 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 new construction also isolated the villages of Ras at Tira, Wadi ar Rasha, and Ad Dab'a, Arab Abu Farda, and 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi from their surrounding environments, making it more difficult for them to access and interact with the surrounding villages. The residents of these villages therefore took the case to Israel's Supreme Court in order to show the situation that the villages were in and the losses they had incurred as a result of the Wall. The case forced the Israeli military to make further changes to the route of the Separation Wall, published on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The amendments to the route affected the villages of Ras at Tira and the surrounding villages of Wadi ar Rasha, Ad Dab'a as the wall was moved further back towards the settlement of 'Alfei Menashe'. Although this change meant that some of the villages became geographically connected once more on the eastern side (Ras 'Atiya and Habla), the rest of the villages remained isolated between two walls from the north and south and also geographically connected to their surrounding villages from their east side (Beit Amin, Al Mudawwar, Izbet al Ashqar and Kafr Thulth).

This change of the route of the Separation Wall actually had a negative effect on other neighboring Palestinian villages close to the settlement. With the change in the villages of Wadee al-Rasha, Dabaa, and Ras at Tira, more land was taken even though the purpose was for these villages to be geographically connected to their neighboring villages from their east and west sides, like the villages of Habla, Ras 'Atiya, Beit Amin al Mador, Ezbet al-Ashkar, Kafr Thulth. More land which belonged to those villages was taken in order to make a geographical connection between the Israeli settlements in the area without worrying about what this change may cause to the entire Palestinian community. In addition, the isolation of the villages of Arab Abu Farda, and Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi continued as they remain inside the area that Israel wants to include to their new borders. Israel will continue to implement this plan by building the separation wall which will isolate the previously mentioned villages completely away from the surrounding Palestinian villages.

The latest change was made in April 2006 in favor of the Israeli settlements which lie in the area of Ras at Tira and the surrounding villages and which make up the settlement bloc of Ariel based to the east of Ras at Tira village. This settlement bloc is considered to be one of the main obstacles facing Israel, consequently 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 5 settlements. These settlements are Revava, Kiryat Nitavim, Burgan, Barkan industrial settlement and Ariel industrial settlement. Upon completion of the amendments to the Wall's route, Kedumim bloc will include 12 settlements: Kedumim, Kedumim Sepon, Jit (Mitzpe Yishai) (Quarry), Giv'at HaMerkaziz, Emmanuel, Yakir, Novim., Neve Oramin, Karne Shomron, Shavei Shomron, Ma'ale Shomron and Guinot Shomron. 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, growing from 120km long to 133km long to surround both the Ariel and Kedumim settlement blocs. These changes also increased 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 through the construction of bypass road no.5, whilst the Kedumim settlement bloc will be connected to 'Alfei Menashe' settlement by bypass road no.55 which also connects to Israel.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Defense published further amendments to the route of the Separation Wall on their webpage but these changes have not affected Ras at Tira and the surrounding villages since the last change in 2006. According to the latest map, it appears that 2.7km of the Separation Wall has been built on the village's lands from the northern side. In addition, the Wall has isolated approximately 781 dunums of the village's land (63% of the total village area), which included agricultural lands and open spaces which were previously considered to be the only chance for the village residents to build and expand in the future.

**Table 14: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in Ras al-Tira village – Qalqiliya Governorate**

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Israeli settlements	51
2	Open spaces	321
3	Agricultural lands	353
4	Segregation Wall	55
5	Mine, dump and construction sites	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>781</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Israeli Ministry of Defense published further amendments to the route of the Separation Wall on their webpage but these changes have not affected Wadi ar Rasha and the surrounding villages from the last change in 2006. According to the latest map, it appears that 1 km of the Separation Wall has been built on the village's lands from the northern side. In addition, the Wall has isolated approximately 131 dunums of the village's lands, approximately 42.3% of the total village area which included agricultural lands and open spaces (see table 15).

**Table 15: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in Wadi ar Rasha village**

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Open spaces	48
2	Agricultural lands	6
3	Settlements	60
4	Segregation Wall	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

In 2009, the Israeli occupation authorities started to mark the territory of Wadi ar Rasha village as a prelude to modify the route of the Segregation Wall in the southern part of the village and the surrounding settlement ' Alfe Menashe ' According to the Wall plan in the years 2006 and 2007, which pushed the village of Wadi ar Rasha and the surrounding Palestinian communities ( the villages of Ad Dab'a, and Ras at-Tira) out of the isolation zone of Ras at-Tira. While, large and huge areas of the village lands were kept behind the Segregation Wall, which means that the villagers were separated from their lands because the lands stayed inside the isolation zone, unlike the villagers who were out of this zone. The isolated lands were considered a main source of income for

the villagers, in addition to the income which comes from their sheep. Moreover, new amendments of the Wall were made 100 meters away from the homes of the villagers of Wadi ar Rasha. On the other hand, the Israeli occupation continued to expand in the ' settlement of 'Alfe Menashe', at the expense of Palestinian villages that were deprived of their lands and became isolated behind the isolation Wall.

## Development plans and projects

### Implemented projects

Ras 'Atiya Village Council has implemented several development projects in Ras 'Atiya during the past five years (see table 16).

**Table 16: Implemented development plans and projects in Ras 'Atiya during the last five years**

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing a second floor in the boys' school	Educational	2011	UNDP
Constructing a medical lab	Public Services	2011	UNDP
Constructing agricultural roads	Infrastructure	2011	Islamic Relief
Providing solid waste containers	Public Services	2011	UNDP
Establishing an internal electricity network	Infrastructure	2011	Power Authority & Ministry of Finance
Connecting the village with Al Qatariya electricity network through Habla Municipality	Infrastructure	2011	Power Authority & Ministry of Finance
Constructing an electricity room	Infrastructure	2009	Ministry of Finance
Constructing agricultural roads	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Paving the main road	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Establishing a water network	Infrastructure	2010	Ministry of Finance
Establishing an agricultural water network	Infrastructure	2011	Ministry of Finance
Establishing an electricity network	Infrastructure	2010	Power Authority & Ministry of Finance

**Source:** Ras 'Atiya Village Council, 2012

## Proposed projects

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

1. Establishing a sewerage network (approximately 15km).
2. Constructing an elementary school in the village.
3. Constructing an additional floor in Ras 'Atiya girls' school.
4. Constructing a services complex to include a public services office for the village, a kindergarten and a gym, among others.
5. Providing the village with a transportation vehicle to transport students from the village to Habla town schools.
6. Establishing a sports stadium to serve the youth sector in the village.
7. Paving secondary roads (approximately 3km long).
8. Paving the road connecting Wadi ar Rasha with Habla town (approximately 1.5km).
9. Constructing a hall at the village council (an area of 40m<sup>2</sup>) at a cost of about 60,000 NIS.
10. Providing the council with a car to facilitate movement and reduce transportation expenses.
11. Reclaiming 800 dunums of agricultural lands.
12. Constructing a headquarters for the Agricultural Society in the village (an area of approximately 200m<sup>2</sup>).
13. Implementing development and agricultural projects to serve farmers and needy families, such as the distribution of sheep, the establishment of layer chicken farms and greenhouses, and planting and fencing lands.
14. Providing the agricultural society with an agricultural tractor and equipment.
15. Constructing, rehabilitating and adding a base-course layer to 5km of agricultural roads.
16. Constructing water transmission lines to agricultural lands (approximately 2km long).
17. Paving the internal/secondary water network (approximately 2.5km long).
18. Adding umbrellas for travelers and traffic signals on the village streets.
19. Constructing a building for the Women's Center and providing it with financial and technical support, such as food processing, embroidery, sewing programs and others.
20. Supporting and activating the women's sector through sewing workshops, handmade crafts, embroidery and other activities.
21. Changing the current power adapter of 400 mA to 600 mA .
22. Modernizing the street lighting and adding 150 new bulbs.
23. Strengthening the power supply in the public electricity network and installing an additional adapter.
24. Constructing a wall of concrete around the cemetery (120 meters long and 2 meters high).

## Locality development priorities and needs

Ras ‘Atiya suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 17 shows the development priorities and needs in the village, according to the Village Council’s perspective:

**Table 17: Development priorities and needs in Ras ‘Atiya**

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
<b>Infrastructural needs</b>					
1	Construction and paving of roads	*			9.5km <sup>^</sup>
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		4km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas		*		1km
4	Construction of new water networks	*			1.5km
5	Rehabilitation/construction of new wells or springs	*			1 well
6	Construction of water reservoirs		*		500 cubic meters
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			8.5km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection			*	
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste		*		1
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	*			1 health center
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
<b>Educational needs</b>					
1	Building new schools	*			Elementary and secondary levels
2	Rehabilitation of old schools			*	
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
<b>Agriculture needs</b>					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands		*		400 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns		*		35 cisterns
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		65 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			350 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses		*		44 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses		*		17 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

<sup>^</sup> 5.3km main roads, 2.7km secondary roads and 1.5km agricultural roads

Source: Ras ‘Atiya Village Council, 2012

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