

The Western 'Izab Locality Profile (including 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Salman, 'Izbat al Mudawwar & 'Izbat al Ashqar)



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Qalqiliya Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Qalqiliya Governorate, which aims to depict the overall living conditions in the governorate and 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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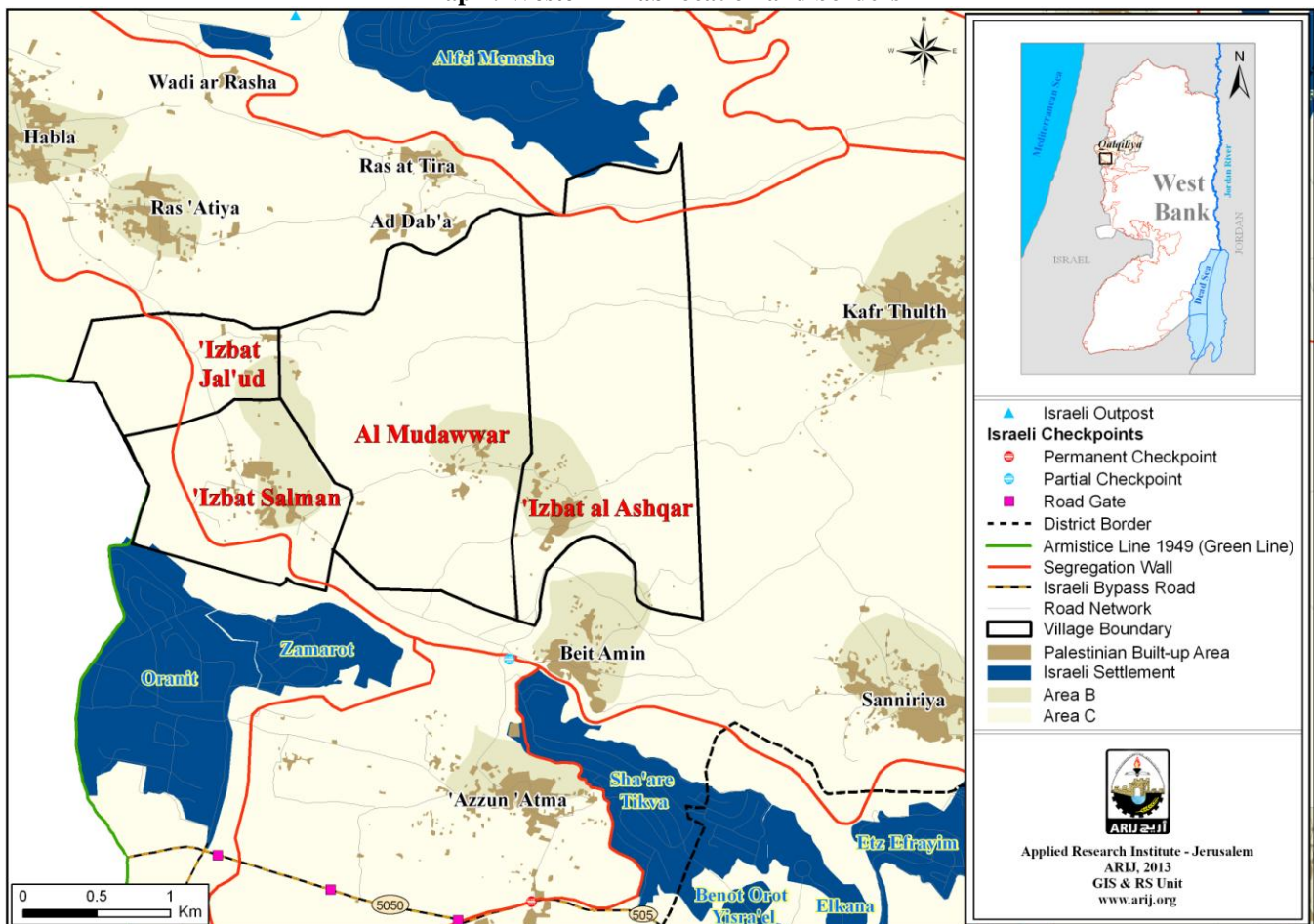
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Western 'Izab Locality Profile

Location and physical characteristics

The Western 'Izab is a Palestinian locality in the Qalqiliya Governorate which includes four smaller localities or 'Izab' ('Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Salman, 'Izbat al Mudawwar and 'Izbat al Ashqar). The Western 'Izab locality is located 5-6km south of Qalqiliya City. It is bordered by Kafr Thulth village to the east, 'Azzun 'Atma and Beit Amin villages to the south, the Green Line (lands of 1948) to the west, and Habla, Ras 'Atiya, Ad Dab'a, Ras at Tira, An Nabi Elyas and 'Isla villages to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (see map 1).

Map 1: Western 'Izab location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

The Western 'Izab locality is located at an altitude between 111-159m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall between 587-589mm. The average annual temperature is 19°C and the average annual humidity is approximately 62% (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, the Western ‘Izab locality has been governed by a Village Council which is currently administrated by 5 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority. There are also 5 employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the Western Joint Services Council (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Western ‘Izab, including

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks
- Waste collection and public development services
- Road construction, paving and restoration
- Implementation of projects and studies for the locality
- Provision of transportation
- Provision of educational kindergartens
- Provision of a sewerage network

(The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012)

History

The Western ‘Izab Council includes four localities (Al Mudawwar, Jal’ud, Al Ashqar and Salman) which are named after the families that inhabited these four localities.

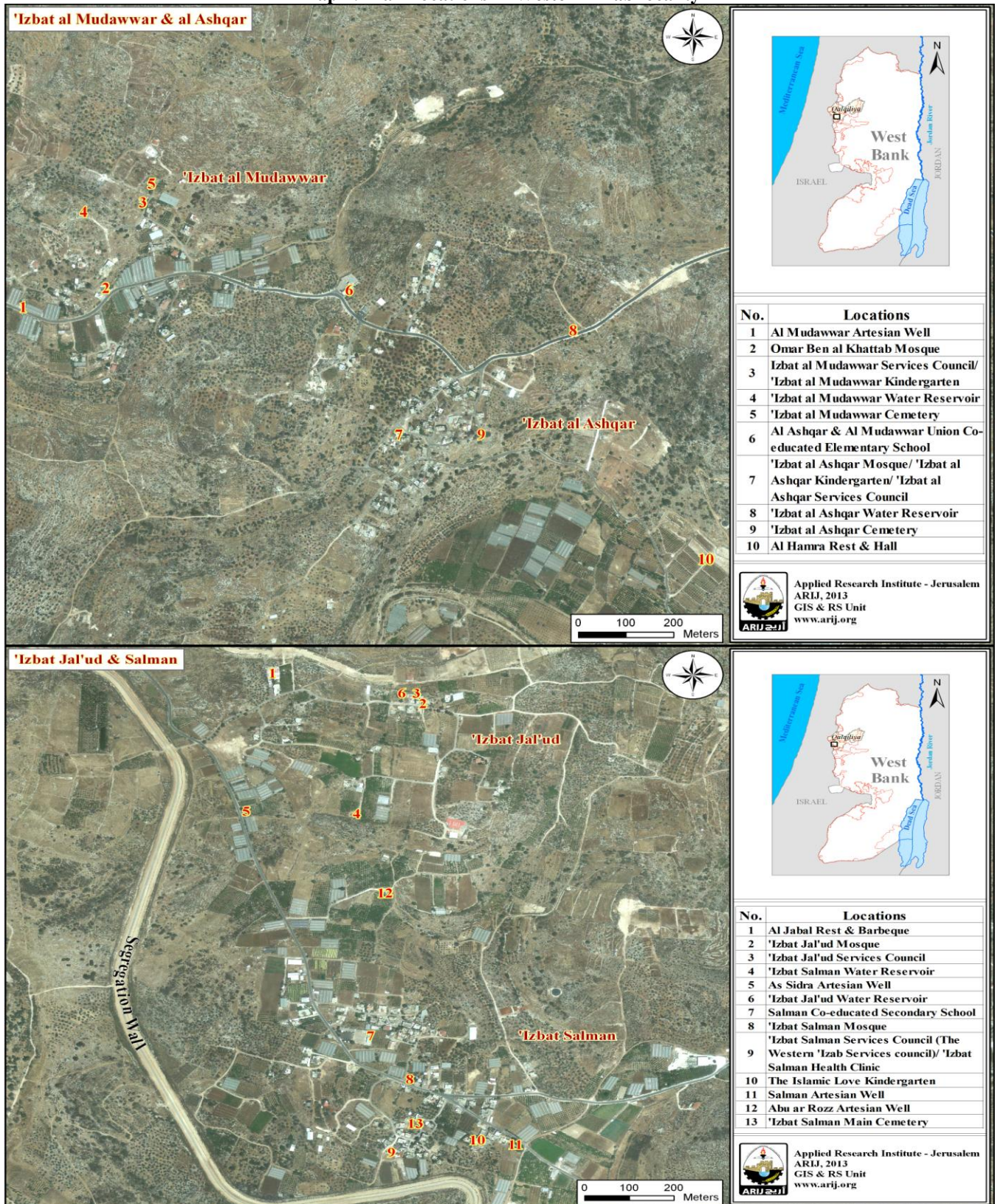
The locality was established in 1950 A.D, however its residents are descended from Az Zaqour area (1948) (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

Photo of Western ‘Izab

Religious and archaeological sites

There are four mosques in the locality (‘Izbat al Mudawwar, ‘Izbat Jal’ud, ‘Izbat Al Ashqar and ‘Izbat Salman Mosque). To date, no archaeological sites have been discovered. (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012) (see Mmp 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Western 'Izab locality



source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Population¹

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Western 'Izab in 2007 was 1,379, of whom 725 were male and 654 female. There were 245 households registered as living in 265 housing units.

Age groups and gender²

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by the PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in the Western 'Izab was as follows: 42.5% were less than 15 years of age, 53.1% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 3% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the gender ratio of males to females in the locality was 110.9:100, meaning that males and females constituted 52.6% and 47.4% of the population, respectively.

Families

The Western 'Izab residents are from several families, including the Salman, Qazmar, Al 'Ashqar, Jal'ud, Al Mudawwar, Mara'yah, Abu Haniyah and 'Odah families (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

Education³

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, the illiteracy rate among the Western 'Izab population is approximately 10.2%, of whom 69% are females. Of the total population, 12% could only read and write with no formal education, 21.3% had elementary education, 26.5% had preparatory education, 21.6% had secondary education and 8.3% had completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the locality of the Western 'Izab by gender and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: The Western 'Izab 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	30	40	102	140	121	16	42	0	2	0	0	493
F	67	74	100	112	84	6	13	0	0	0	1	457
T	97	114	202	252	205	22	55	0	2	0	1	950

Source: PCBS, 2009

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

¹ These data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

² These-This data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

³ These-This data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

Table 2: Schools in the Western ‘Izab by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School name	Supervising authority	Sex
Salman Co-educatioanal Secondary School/‘Izbat Salman	Government	Mixed
Al Ashqar & Al Mudawwar Union Co-educational Elementary School/‘Izbat Al Ashqar	Government	Mixed

Source: Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012

There are 392 students, 36 teachers and 22 classes in the locality. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 11, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 18 (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

There is also one kindergarten (Al Mahabba Islamic kindergarten) in the Western ‘Izab locality (‘Izbat Salman) run by a private organization. The kindergarten has 2 classes supervised by 2 teachers (Directorate of Education in Qalqiliya, 2012).

Due to the lack of secondary level of education in the locality,, students attend Kafr Thulth Secondary School in Kafr Thulth village (5km away) or Habla Boys’ Secondary School in Habla (7km away) (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

The educational sector in the Western ‘Izab locality faces a number of obstacles, mainly:

- The lack of transportation facilities to schools.
- The bad economic and financial situations of the village residents.

The loss of students to the labor market at the expense of their education. (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012)

Health status

The Western ‘Izab has only one governmental general physician clinic. Due to the absence of many required health services and/or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Darweesh Nazzal Hospital or to Qalqiliya Health Center, both of which are located in Qalqiliya city approximately 7km from the locality (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

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

- The lack of an ambulance service.
- The lack of a regular or resident physician.
- The lack of a resident nurse.
- The lack of certain medications at the health clinic.

The clinic operates only one day a week, which is insufficient.(The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012)

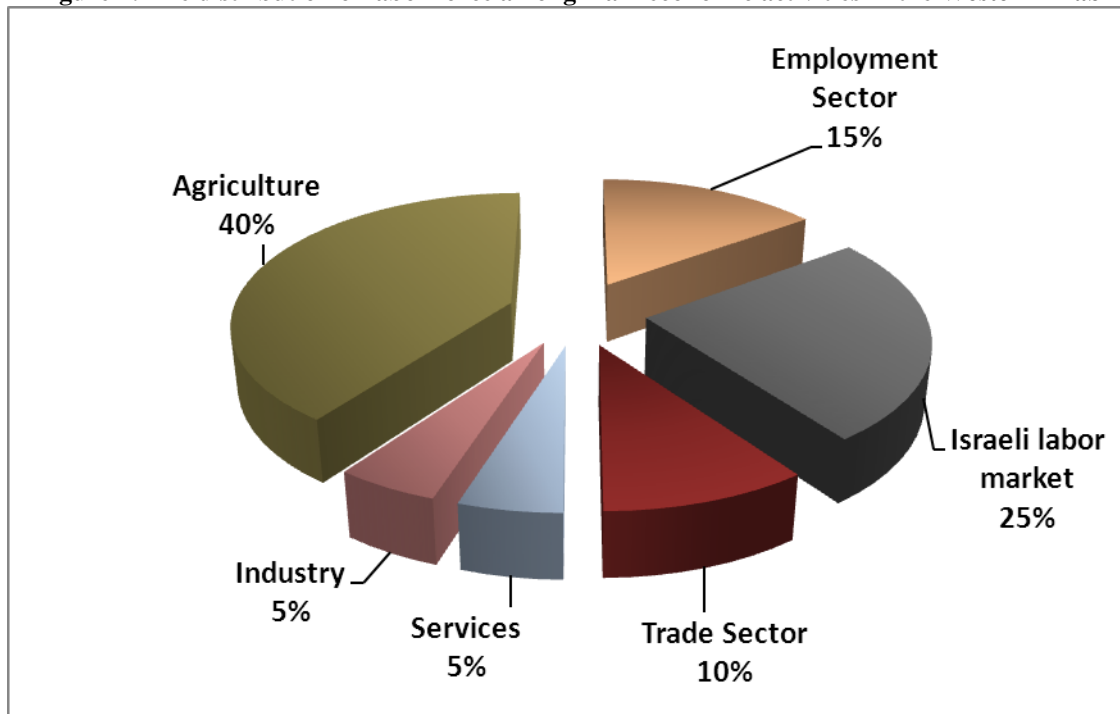
Economic activities

The economy in the Western ‘Izab is dependent mainly on the agricultural sector which absorbs 40% of the locality’s workforce (The Western ‘Izab 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 the Western ‘Izab are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (40%)
- Israeli labor market (25%)
- Government or other employees sector (15%)
- Trade sector (10%)
- Services sector (5%)
- Industry (5%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in the Western ‘Izab



Source: The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012

The Western ‘Izab has 10 groceries, 3 fruit and vegetable stores, 2 butchers, 2 service stores, 3 different professional workshops, 1 olive oil press, 3 agricultural tools stores and 3 agricultural nurseries (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in the Western ‘Izab reached 35% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been:

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

(The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012)

Labor force⁴

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census - 2007, 38.5% of the Western 'Izab labor force was economically active, of whom 92.6% were employed, 61.2% were not economically active, 53.2% were students, and 37% were housekeepers (see table 3).

Table 3: The Western 'Izab 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	284	12	8	304	149	0	25	4	9	187	2	493
F	55	1	6	62	160	215	19	0	0	394	1	457
T	339	13	14	366	309	215	44	4	9	581	3	950

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

Source: PCBS, 2009

Agricultural sector⁵

The Western 'Izab has a total area of approximately 8,598 dunums of which 6,884 dunums are arable land and 179 dunums are registered as residential (see table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in the Western 'Izab locality (area in dunums)⁶

Total area	Built up area	Agricultural area (6,884)				Inland water	Forests	Open spaces	Area of industrial, commercial & transport unit	Area of settlements, military bases & Wall zone
		Permanent Ccops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
8,598	179	3,506	154	2,055	1,169	0	271	1,041	11	212

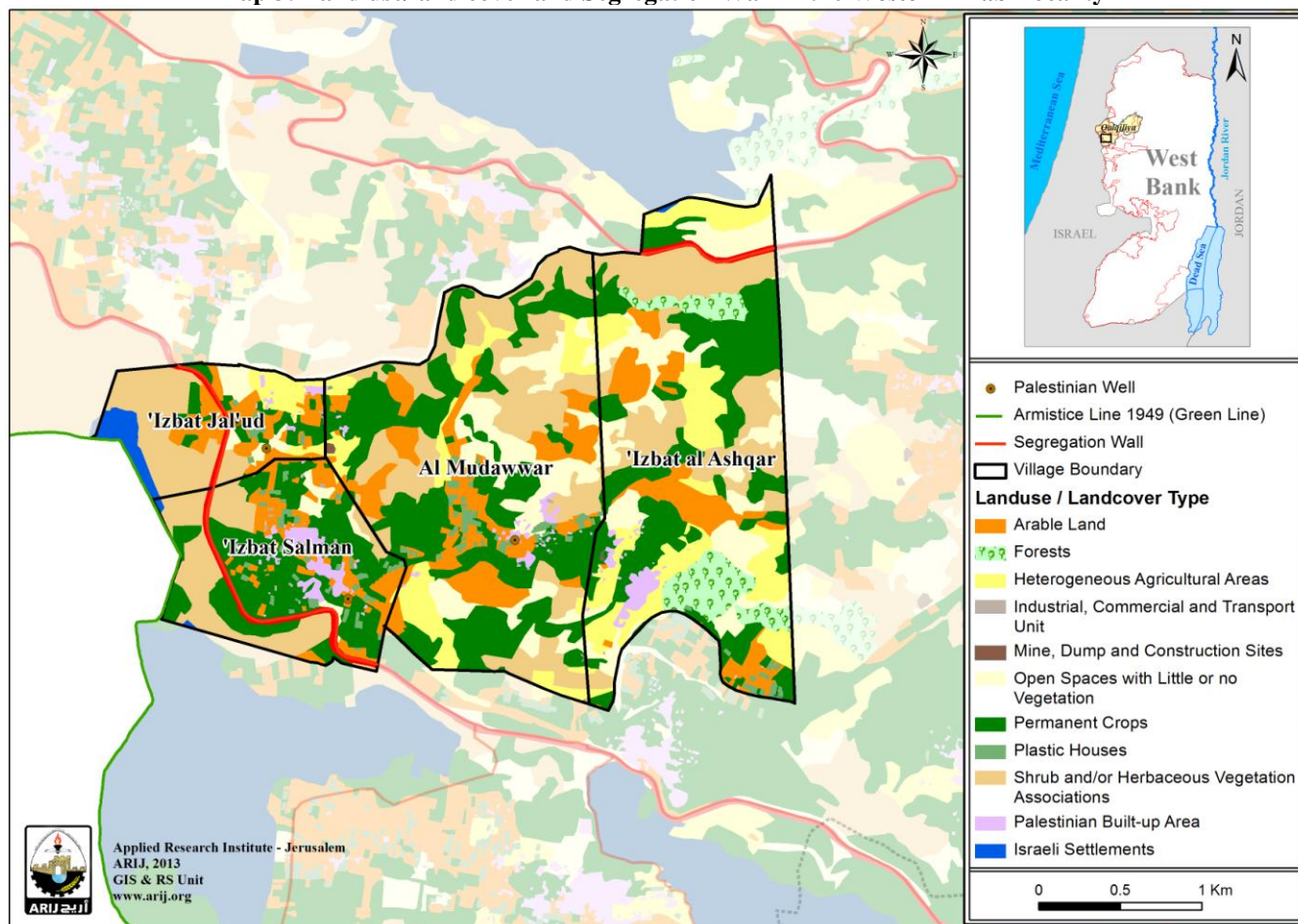
Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2013

⁴ Thisese data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

⁵ Thisese data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

⁶ Thisese data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in the Western ‘Izab Locality



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013

Table 5 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in the Western ‘Izab. The most commonly cultivated crops within this area are peas and green beans, there are a total area of 427 dunums of greenhouses in the village and the most commonly cultivated crops within this cucumber

Table 5: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in the Western ‘Izab (area in dunums)⁷

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
5	29	0	12	60	22	10	0	0	25	75	88

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The Western ‘Izab is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 439 dunums of land planted with olive trees in the locality.

⁷ These data covers ‘Izbat al Mudawwar, ‘Izbat Jal’ud, ‘Izbat Al Ashqar and ‘Izbat Salman localities

Table 6: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in the Western 'Izab (area in dunums)⁸

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.
439	0	0	273.5	0	17	0	0	0	0	9	33.5	448	324

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

Source: Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in the Western 'Izab, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of around 88 dunums (see table 7).

Table 7: Total area of forage and field crops in the Western 'Izab (area in dunums)⁹

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.
88	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	3	5	116	8

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 just 5% of the residents in the Western 'Izab rear and keeps domestic animals such as sheep and goats (see table 8).

Table 8: Livestock in the Western 'Izab¹⁰

Cows*	Sheep	Goats	Camels	Horses	Donkeys	Mules	Broilers	Layers	Bee hives
1	1,693	274	0	0	0	0	19,000	0	162

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Qalqiliya, 2010

There are approximately 10km of agricultural roads in the locality, divided as follows (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012):

Table 9: Agricultural roads in the Western 'Izab Locality and their lengths

Suitability of agricultural roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	4
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	4
For animals only	1
Unsuitable	1

Source: The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012

⁸ Thisese data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities⁹ Thisese data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities¹⁰ Thisese data covers 'Izbat al Mudawwar, 'Izbat Jal'ud, 'Izbat Al Ashqar and 'Izbat Salman localities

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

- The confiscation of more than 60% of the Western ‘Izab lands.
- The lack of access to agricultural lands due to the Segregation Wall.
- The rugged lands.
- The lack of capital by farmers to exploit in agricultural.

The lack of labor forces. (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012)

Institutions and services

The Western ‘Izab locality has no governmental institutions and only one association that provides services to various sectors of society. This is:

- **The Western ‘Izab Village Council:** Founded in 2012 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of addressing different issues concerning the locality and providing various services and infrastructure to its residents.

(The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012)

Infrastructure and natural resources

Electricity and telecommunication services:

The Western ‘Izab has been connected to a public electricity network since 1999. It is served by the Israeli Qatariya Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the locality, and 100% of the housing units in the locality are connected to the network. However, the residents face some problems concerning electricity, primarily the aged and exposed electrical cables and the lack of sufficient lighting lamps (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

The Western ‘Izab is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 80% of the housing units within the locality boundaries are connected to phone lines (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012).

Transportation services:

Although there are 52 taxis in the Western ‘Izab, this is not sufficient for the population. Many residents therefore use private cars due to the lack of transportation facilities (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012). There are 2km of main roads and 17km of secondary roads in the Western ‘Izab (The Western ‘Izab Village Council, 2012) (see table 10).

Table 10: Roads in the Western 'Izab locality

Status of internal roads	Road length (km)	
	Main	Secondary
1. Paved and in good condition	2	4
2. Paved and in poor condition	-	3
3. Unpaved	-	10

Source: The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012

Water resources:

The Western 'Izab is provided with water by the Western 'Izab Village Council through the public water network established in 2006 which is fed with water from 3 artesian wells owned by the Village Council. Approximately 60% of the housing units are connected to the network (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

The quantity of water supplied to the Western 'Izab locality in 2012 was recorded as approximately 110,400 cubic meters/year (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012). Therefore the estimated rate of water supply per capita is approximately 189 liters/day. However, no Western 'Izab citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 5% (The Western 'Izab 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 the Western 'Izab is more likely to be 180 liters per day (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012). The average water consumption of the Western 'Izab 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 (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

There is a public water reservoir with a capacity of 200 cubic meters in the locality as well as 5 artesian wells; 3 of which supply the locality's residents with water through the public water network, and the other two (Abu ar Rozz and Salman wells) are privately owned. The latter two wells have a daily pumping rate of 920 cubic meters and are used for agricultural purposes, including the irrigation of trees and vegetables (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

Sanitation:

The Western 'Izab has been connected to a public sewerage network since 2006. Approximately 60% of the housing units use the sewage network as a means for wastewater disposal, while the rest of housing units use cesspits and septic tanks (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 230 cubic meters, or 84,000 cubic meters annually. At the individual level it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 144 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected from housing units that are not connected with the sewage network by cesspits and septic tanks (40%) is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with no regard for the environment. There is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at

the disposal sites and this poses a serious threat to both environmental and 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 locality. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 15 NIS per household is charged to the population and facilities served by domestic solid waste collection and transportation services. Approximately 90% of these fees are collected from the citizens (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in the Western 'Izab benefits from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops and public squares in plastic bags and placed in 30 containers (of 1m³ capacity), located at various points in the locality. 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, 40km from the locality, where it is subsequently buried in an environmentally friendly way (The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in the Western 'Izab is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from the Western 'Izab residents is nearly 1.1 tons, or 408 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2013).

Environmental conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, the Western 'Izab 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 summer because the quantity of water available does not meet the citizens' water needs. The network is also in desperate need of expansion in order to reach all housing units.

Wastewater management

The absence of a public sewage network in many neighborhoods (40%) means that the Western 'Izab residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in 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 town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid waste management:

The Western 'Izab locality does not suffer any problems concerning the management of solid waste, as the Joint Council for the Management of Solid Waste is responsible for the process of collecting waste from the village and disposing it in Zahret al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate. This landfill is the main environment friendly landfill serving the village as well as most of the other localities in the Qalqiliya Governorate.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical status in 'Izbat Al Mudawwar

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, 'Izbat Al Mudawwar was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 356 dunums (11.1% of the village’s total area) was assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) retained complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security, as area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the population in 'Izbat Al Mudawwar reside in area B. While, the rest of the village’s area, constituting 2861 dunums (88.9% 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 (see table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of 'Izbat Al Mudawwar according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	356	11.1
Area C	2861	88.9
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	3217	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Geopolitical status in 'Izbat Jal'ud

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, 'Izbat Jal'ud was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 74 dunums (8.6% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security, as area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas including municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. Most of the population of 'Izbat Jal'ud resides in area B. While, the rest of the village’s area, constituting 785 dunums (91.4% 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 (see table 12).

Table 12: The geopolitical divisions of 'Izbat Jal'ud according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	74	8.6
Area C	785	91.4
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	859	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Israeli occupation practices in 'Izbat Jal'ud village

'Izbat Jal'ud has been subjected to numerous Israeli land confiscations for the benefit of the various Israeli objectives, such as the construction of Nirit Israeli settlement on 78 dunums of the village lands. This is in addition to the construction of the segregation wall and the isolation of agricultural lands and open areas within the village which will become part of the western isolation zone. This is an area that Israel will try to include within their new borders which will be marked by the Segregation Wall. This is despite the area consisting of nothing bar the village. The biggest threat to the area is settlement expansion which would consume more village territory and the villages surrounding the area. For example, Nirit settlement is located to the west of the Green line (Armistice Line of 1949). According to the PCPS, 2010, the number of settlers living in this settlement is 1,132. This settlement Bloc was established in 1981, and expanded through the years, 1986, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2011 to absorb more Palestinian lands, also allowing the population living in the settlement to increase (see table15).

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in 'Izbat Jal'ud village

The 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 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, confiscating lands, as well as isolating and separating Palestinian communities from one another. By controlling 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 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, on the 30th April, 2007, new amendments were made focused on a new route of the wall which have countered the obstacles previously encountered. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages, as they became more isolated from one another. According to the latest amendments of the Wall route in April,30th, 2007 published on the Web page of

the Ministry of Israeli defense, it showed that 0.9km of the Wall was built on the village lands of 'Izbat Jal'ud village, and isolated an area of 463 dunums (53.9 % of the village land)(See table 13).

Table 13: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall in 'Izbat Jal'ud village

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Israeli settlements	63
2	Segregation Wall	23
3	Open spaces	288
4	Agricultural lands	89
	Total	463

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Following the completion of the Segregation Wall on 'Izbat Jal'ud village territory and the isolation of their lands inside the Israeli isolation zone, it became hard for the residents of the village to reach their agricultural lands where they have been isolated by the wall. Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities established an agricultural gate in the Wall path, in order for the Israeli army to control the entrance of the Palestinian farmers of 'Izbat Jal'ud village to their agricultural lands. Access is limited to those who can provide ownership of the land through Israeli administration. It is worth mentioning that the Israeli Civil Administration will issue a permit from season to season, which makes it difficult for land owners to cultivate their agricultural lands by themselves, especially since these permits do not include labor or equipment' that is necessary for the cultivation of the land.

Geopolitical status in Izbat Salman

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995, between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, 'Izbat Salman was divided into areas "B" and "C". Approximately 334 dunums (24.2% of the village's total area) was assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel retains responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas including the municipalities, villages and some refugee camps, as a result, most of the population of 'Izbat Salman resides in area B. The remaining village' area, constituting 1,046 dunums (75.8 % 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 prior consent or authorization from the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas and open spaces, the confiscated lands were taken for the purpose of Israeli settlement construction within the village's territory (see table 14).

Table 14: The geopolitical divisions of ‘Izbat Salman according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	334	24.2
Area C	1,046	75.8
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	1,380	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Israeli occupation practices on ‘Izbat Salman village

‘Izbat Salman has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli objectives, demonstrated by the construction of Israeli settlements Nirit and Oranit on the village territories. This is in addition to the Segregation Plan actualized through the Segregation Wall. In addition, to the isolation of agricultural lands and open areas which Israel tries to include within their new borders through constructing the Separation Wall. The following is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations which have all had a negative impact on ‘Izbat Salman village:

Israel confiscated 6 dunums of land to establish the Nirit and Oranit settlements. The area equates to 0.5% of the village land, however the danger is that the settlement expansion (currently occurring) on the village lands will stretch more towards the surrounding Palestinian communities. For example, Nirit settlement is located to the west of the Green line (Armistice Line of 1949). According to the PCPS, 2010, the number of settlers living in this settlement is 1,132. This settlement Bloc was established in 1981, and expanded through the years, 1986, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2009, and 2011 to enter through the Palestinian lands, which raised the population number living in it.(see table 15 and map 4).

Table 15: Number of buildings that have been added to the new neighborhood ' Nov Hisharon ' inside the Palestinian territories and of Nirit Israel Bloc within the Green Line

<i>Buildings</i>	<i>Year</i>
27	2006
30	2008
42	2009
47	2011

Source: ARIJ- 2011

Map No. 4: Settlement expansion in Nirit settlement Block during 2006 and 2011

The Israeli occupation claims that the goal behind the construction of the Separation Wall in the occupied Palestinian territories is to protect Israeli security under the pretext of protecting Israeli citizens. However, the reality is that the Palestinian territories area which will be isolated between the Separation Wall and the Armistice Line of 1949 (Green Line) is 733 square kilometers , representing 13% of the total area of the West Bank in addition to the annexation of 107 Israeli settlement of more than 85% of the Israeli settlers number living in the Israeli settlements 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 creating link roads between them to Israel, following the same confiscation pattern that has been done in the building process of the settlements. But this time, 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) with an effort to undermine the development of the Green Line and redraw it in order to fit with what they are trying to impose as facts on the ground, such as the Segregation Wall. Through the wall creation Israel seeks to redraw their eastern border as part of a grander plan in which they impose their vision and their plans for the peace process. Within the past few years, the Israeli plan aimed to expand Nirit settlement bloc Israel which stretches within the occupied West Bank territories, in order to link it with Alfei Menashe. Moreover, the Kedumimn finger settlement is nothing more than a move to impose a reality on the ground through the establishment of control on the western isolation zone (Palestinian territories isolated between the Separation wall and between the Green Line).

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Izbat Salman village

The Implementation of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan has been ongoing since 2002. This 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 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 undermines the regional interaction between Palestinian towns and villages controlling the natural resources. The construction of the wall has ignored the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) made on July 9th 2004, in which they recommended that the route of the Wall should be changed and Palestinians affected by the Wall in this area should be offered compensation. However, in 30 April, 2007, new amendments were made concentrating on the new route of the Separation Wall. The wall was re-planned according to the solving of some previous obstacles within the West Bank. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages, as they became more isolated from one another. According to the latest amendments of the Wall route in April, 30th, 2007, published on the web page of the Ministry of Israeli defense, it showed that 1.9km from the Wall were built on the village lands of 'Izbat Salman village, and it isolated an area of 432 dunums of the village land (31.3% from the total village area)(See table 16)

Table 16: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall 'Izbat Salman village

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Israeli settlements	5
2	Segregation Wall	50
3	Open space	247
6	Agricultural lands	130
	Total	432

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Following the completion of the Segregation Wall construction on 'Izbat Salman village territory and the isolation of their lands inside the Israeli isolation zone, it became hard for the residents of the village to reach the isolated lands. Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities established an agricultural gate on the Wall path, in order for the Israeli army to control the entrance of the Palestinian farmers of 'Izbat Salman village to their agricultural lands, where the access is limited to a specific number of Palestinian farmers, those who are able to prove their ownership of the land to the Israeli departments (such as the Israeli civil administration, ICA), where such permits are usually issued to the owners of the land. The Israeli Civil Administration will usually issue a permit from season to season, which is difficult for land owners, it means that outside of certain seasons they are unable to cultivate their lands especially since these permits do not include the movement of labor or equipment' that is necessary for the cultivation of the land.

Geopolitical status in Izbat al Ashqar

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Izbat al Ashqar were divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 341 dunums (10.8% of the village’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security, area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas including the municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. Most of the population of Izbat al Ashqar reside in area B. The remaining village area, constituting 2,806 dunums (89.2% of the total), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In area C, Palestinian building and land management is prohibited without prior consent or authorization of the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements built on the village’s territory (see table 17).

Table 17: The geopolitical divisions of Izbat al Ashqar according to the Oslo II Interim Agreement in 1995

Area	Area in dunums	Percentage of total village area
Area A	0	0
Area B	341	10.8
Area C	2,806	89.2
Nature reserve	0	0
Total	3,147	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli occupation practices in Izbat al Ashqar

Izbat al Ashqar has lost part of its lands to the construction of Alfei Menashe, an Israeli settlement. Only part of the settlement encroaches into Izbat al Ashqar village, the remaining part of the settlement border into the territory of the following villages Ras at Tira, 'Arab ar Ramadin al Janubi, 'Arab Abu Farda, An Nabi Elyas, 'Isla, and Wadi ar Rasha. The settlement of Alfei Menashe is considered one of the most important settlements for Israel because of its geographic and strategic location as well as the large area which it occupies, it is the largest Israeli settlement in Qalqiliya Governorate regarding area and population. The settlement of Alfei Menashe forms a key component of the large 'Ariel Kedumim settlement bloc, which Israel is seeking to include within its borders of Greater Jerusalem through the construction of Separation Wall on West Bank lands. Israel confiscated 4 dunums of land in Izbat al Ashqar village to establish the Alfei Menashe settlement.

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan in Izbet al Ashqar village

The implementation of the Israeli Segregation Wall plan on the ground has been ongoing since 2002. This began after the Israeli Authorities began 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, confiscating lands, isolating Palestinian societies and separating communities from one another. By controlling natural resources and connecting most of the Israeli settlements Israel are attempting 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 restricts access to the natural resources. The construction of the wall has ignored the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) made on July 9th 2004, in which they recommended that the route of the Wall should be changed and Palestinians affected by the Wall in this area should be offered compensation. However, in 30 April, 2007, new amendments were announced, which concentrated on the new route of the Separation Wall, in the areas which had geographical obstacles in the West Bank, as these amendments were based on solving the problems which were considered a challenge to the continuously building process of the Separation Wall. These changes worsened the situation for the affected villages, as they became more isolated from one another. According to the latest amendments of the Wall route in April, 30th, 2007 which was published on the Web page of the Ministry of Israeli defense, it showed that 0.8 km from the Wall were built on the village lands of Izbet al Ashqar village from the northern side, and it isolated an area of 251 dunums of the Izbet al Ashqar village. (See table 18)

. Table 18: Land classification of the isolated area behind the Segregation Wall Izbet al Ashqar village

No.	Land classification	Area (dunums)
1	Israeli settlements	4
2	Open space	91
3	Agricultural lands	135
6	Segregation Wall	21
	Total	251

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

Development plans and projects

Implemented projects

The Western 'Izab Village Council has implemented several development projects in the Western 'Izab during the past five years (see table 19).

Table 19: Implemented development plans and projects in the Western 'Izab during the last five years

Name of the project	Type	Year	Donor
Constructing a water reservoir with 300m ³ capacity	Water	2010	Islamic Development Bank
Building additional classrooms in Salman Secondary School	Educational	2011	UNDP
Installing a main water line between the reservoir and the network	Infrastructure	2012	Palestinian National Authority

Source: The Western 'Izab Village Council, 2012

Proposed projects

The Western 'Izab Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the locality and the locality 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 locality. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the participants in the workshop:

1. Establishing a public services complex to include a gym, a health clinic, a meeting room and a kindergarten.
2. Constructing agricultural roads (approximately 14km long), distributed as follows: 3km in 'Izbat al Ashqar, 5km in 'Izbat Salman, 3km in 'Izbat al Mudawwar and 3km in 'Izbat Jal'ud.
3. a. Expanding the electricity network by 8 km, distributed as follows: 2km in 'Izbat al Ashqar, 2km in 'Izbat Salman, 2km in 'Izbat al Mudawwar and 2km in 'Izbat Jal'ud.
b. Expanding the water network by 4.5km, distributed as follows: 1km in 'Izbat al Ashqar, 1km in 'Izbat Salman, 0.5km in 'Izbat al Mudawwar and 2km in 'Izbat Jal'ud.
4. Constructing 10 additional classrooms in 'Izbat Salman Secondary School, and 10 classrooms in Al Ashqar & Al Mudawwar Union School.
5. Completing the sewage network project in the locality to include each of 'Izbat al Ashqar, 'Izbat al Mudawwar and 'Izbat Jal'ud (approximately 17km long).
6. Establishing retaining walls along the valleys (approximately 2km long) in order to protect the agricultural lands and greenhouses.
7. Reclaiming 160 dunums of agricultural land.

Locality development priorities and needs

The Western 'Izab suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 20 shows the development priorities and needs in the locality, according to the Village Council's point of view.

Table 20: Development priorities and needs in the Western 'Izab

No.	Sector	Strongly needed	Needed	Not a priority	Notes
Infrastructural needs					
1	Construction and paving of roads		*		5km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks		*		4km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			5.5km
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	*			15km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection		*		10 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
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	*			The health clinic
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational needs					
1	Building new schools			*	
2	Rehabilitation of old schools		*		Elementary level school
3	Purchasing new school equipment	*			
Agriculture needs					
1	Rehabilitation of agricultural lands	*			50 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns			*	
3	Construction of livestock barracks		*		10 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services		*		
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			100 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 1km main roads, 1.5km secondary roads and 2.5km agricultural roads

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