

# Community Profile: ANABTA

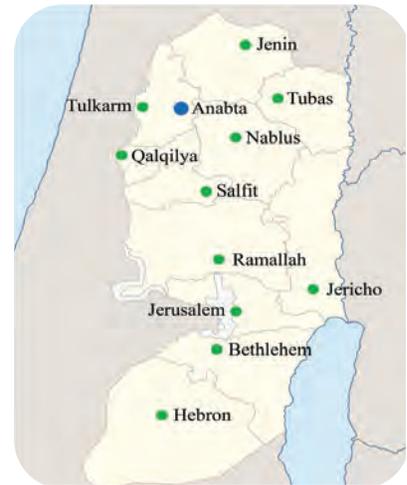
**About the Community:** Anabta is a Palestinian town located in the northern West Bank governorate of Tulkarm. Its roughly 8,000 inhabitants pride themselves on their high literacy rate and love of education. The community has produced famous politicians and artists, including the late Samiha Al-Qubaj Salameh Khalil, who founded one of the largest Palestinian charity organizations, Inash Al-Usra Society.

**Global Communities (formerly CHF International) and Anabta Municipality began a long-term partnership to improve the municipality's ability to meet the needs of its citizens in a transparent and effective manner, beginning in 2009 under the Local Democratic Reform Program (LDR) and the Emergency Jobs Program, and now operating through the Local Government and Infrastructure Program (LGI) (2011-2015), with all programs funded by USAID.**

**Center for Governance Excellence:** In line with the strategic objectives of the West Bank's local governance sector, Global Communities' partnership with Anabta will focus on three key areas - **leadership development, community participation** and **service delivery** - to support the municipality's vision of becoming a more responsive, efficient, and effective center for governance excellence. Demonstrating their commitment to this process, the municipality and the wider community have already contributed over \$288,954 towards activities, along with countless staff and volunteer hours.

**Leadership Development:** Global Communities is supporting the municipality to develop and plan for a long-term vision of sustainable development, and more efficient and responsive governance for the community.

**Community Participation:** From start to finish, Global Communities and the municipality gather citizen feedback to inform government decision-making and service delivery.



Key Interventions: Leadership Development & Community Participation	Outcomes
Municipal Capacity Index and Municipal Action Plan (2013)	Municipality and community undertake a capacity assessment and develop an action plan to address gaps and needs.
Physical Planning (2014)	Municipality and community will develop a Physical Plan to coordinate local development, transportation, and zoning, improve access to public services and recreational spaces and ensure greater environmental protection.
GIS Spatial Data Management System & Complementary Sectoral Plans (2015)	GIS technology will be used to create an interactive database, coding and naming streets and mapping public and private infrastructure to facilitate municipal planning and access for emergency services.



Scientific Park in Anabta

**Global Communities and Anabta's partnership is based on equity and exchanging ideas and opinions. We see it as a quantum leap toward community partnership... Through this [partnership], the municipality has accomplished great strides in applying good governance principles, including accountability and transparency among council members, the mayor, employees, and heads of departments.**

**Engineer Ali Sabbuba, former Mayor of Anabta**





Left to right: Anabta Citizen Service Center; Anabta YSLC food coupons distribution; Anabta YSLC “Anabta clean & safe initiative”

Through such as innovations as the **Youth Shadow Local Councils (YSLC)** - where elected groups of youth ages 15-22 mirror the structure, role and functions of the local council to participate in resolving community needs - citizens of all ages will have the opportunity to take a leading role in their community's development.

Global Communities, and partner Sharek Youth Forum, pioneered the Anabta YSLC in 2010 and have completed two election cycles to date, including the most recent in December 2012 where 264 youth elected 8 young men and 5 young women to their council. This new YSLC has already led a variety of community-based initiatives, such as:

- Supporting emergency food distributions by the World Food Programme and Global Communities following severe flooding that affected the community in early 2013.
- Replacing traffic and other signs destroyed by the same storm in coordination with the municipality and police.
- Developing a documentary film that provides historical information about the town and the role youth have played in overcoming challenges.

**Service Delivery:** Based on the outcomes of community planning processes, Global Communities - with funding from USAID - supports the municipality and community to complete prioritized infrastructure and to streamline municipal services for citizens.

Key Interventions: Service Delivery	Outcomes
Rehabilitation of the Anabta Youth Club (2010)	Renovation of the theater, kitchen and bathrooms, and construction of a stairway, for a youth club serving 2,760 youth.
Scientific Park (2011)	Renovation of a green space for play and socializing; rental of the space to a local organization also provides a source of income for the municipality.
Food Assistance (2013)	Ongoing assistance to Anabta's most vulnerable citizens and emergency assistance as needed, through Global Communities and the World Food Programme
Citizen Service Center (CSC) & streamlined administration (2013)	Construction of a state-of-the-art municipal facility to provide key services in an automated and transparent manner, and restructuring and updating of administrative systems and procedures to reduce processing time for citizens and staff.



Anabta Youth Shadow Local Council members

In the past, youth were not aware of the role of the LGU due to the LGU's leadership and management styles in terms of being overly centralized, and the fact that the LGU never reached out to the youth. Today, I personally know 90% of the LGU functions. I act as an advocate for the role of the LGU and I ask people to go and inquire rather than being simply critical... Overall, our awareness of local governance has improved.

**Alaa' Saboobeh, YSLC President, Anabta**