

# Community Profile: Beit Fajjar

**About the Community:** Beit Fajjar is a Palestinian town located in the Bethlehem governorate, eight kilometers south of Bethlehem city, in the central West Bank. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the town had a population of over 11,000 in 2007. The primary economic sectors are agriculture and stone-cutting. Beit Fajjar is a major player in the stone industry; there are 140 stone production outlets in Beit Fajjar.

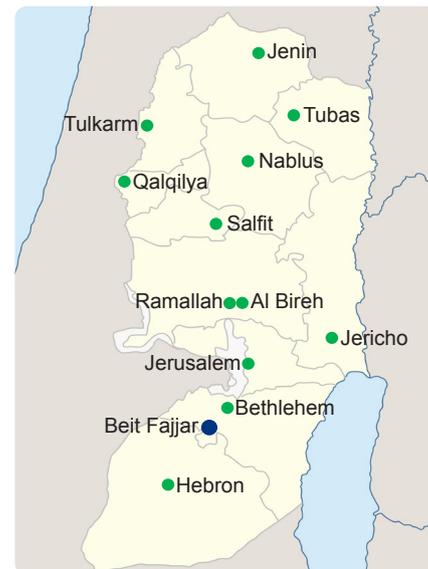
Global Communities (formerly CHF International) and Beit Fajjar Municipality began a long-term partnership to improve the municipality's ability to meet the needs of its citizens in a transparent and effective manner, beginning in 2007 through the Local Democratic Reform (LDR) Program, with additional funding via the Emergency Jobs Program (EJP) and continuing now through the Local Government and Infrastructure (LGI) Program. These projects were made possible through USAID funding.

**Governance Excellence:** In line with the strategic objectives of the West Bank's local governance sector, Global Communities' partnership with Beit Fajjar focuses on three key areas - leadership development, service delivery, and community participation - 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 towards activities, along with countless staff and volunteer hours.

### Community Participation:

From start to finish, Global Communities and the municipality gather citizen feedback to inform government decision-making and service delivery. Through such as innovations as the Youth Local Councils (YLCs) - where elected groups of youth ages 15-22 mirror the structure, role, and functions of the local council, and participate in resolving community needs - citizens of all ages will have the opportunity to take a leading role in their community's development.

**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.



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Key Interventions	Outcomes
Updating the Strategic Development Framework (2013)	Community members have identified priorities in infrastructure, governance, and other key areas in developing a Strategic Development Framework that will be the guiding document for Beit Fajjar over the next three years.
Municipal Strategic Corporate Plan (2013)	Based on the results of a new municipal capacity assessment tool, the municipality is developing a plan that outlines how they will address institutional development priorities.
Electronic Document and Record Management System (EDRMS) (2013)	The municipality is automating the management and provision of services to reduce waiting and response times, and to serve citizens in a fair and transparent manner.

**“Global Communities has provided us with an important opportunity to develop Beit Fajjar, especially with regard to our strategic development framework for the coming 16 years, as well as in developing policies and procedures to fulfill our citizens’ needs in a variety of sectors.”** Kamel Hammash, Mayor of Beit Fajjar



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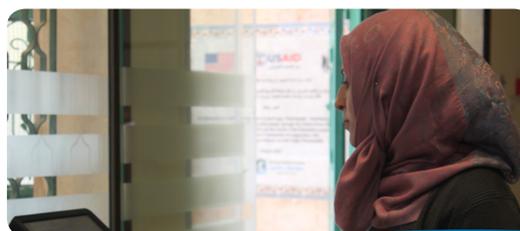
Beit Fajjar Citizen Service Center

**“Global Communities has enhanced the capacities of our staff by offering continuous workshops and trainings in areas relevant to their work.”** Aysheh Thawabteh, Beit Fajjar CSC Employee

**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.

**Youth Local Council (YLC):** Global Communities, and partner Beit Fajjar Municipality, pioneered the Beit Fajjar YLC in 2009 and have completed three election cycles to date, including the most recent in November 2013 where 374 youth elected 8 young men and 5 young women to their council. This YLC has already led a variety of community-based initiatives, such as: awareness campaigns, free medical days, environmental and cleaning initiatives. The Beit Fajjar YLC joins a network of similar councils throughout the West Bank that provide a forum to sensitize youth to good governance practices, engage in leadership roles in their communities and implement community service activities.

SERVICE DELIVERY	
Key Interventions	Outcomes
Citizen Service Center (CSC) and 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.
Human Resources Management System (2014)	The human resources management system and procedures will ensure the reduction in municipality's operating cost, and will improve the responsiveness, accuracy, and control of HR operations and functions. It will also help the municipality to streamline the integration with other existing systems within the various departments.
Construction at the Haifa Elementary School for Girls (2010)	Included construction of seven classrooms at the Haifa Elementary School for Girls.
Renovation of Buildings in the Old City (2010)	Renovation of Dar Atia and Dar Abdul Hadi, a traditional community and youth place, respect
Construction of a Community Center (2007)	The center provides a venue for the municipality, NGOs, and community members to hold meetings, workshops, and trainings.



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