Mikhmas Village Profile



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Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, village, and town in the Jerusalem Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all villages in Jerusalem Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in the Jerusalem 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 the Jerusalem 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 village profiles in Arabic and English are available online at http://vprofile.arij.org.

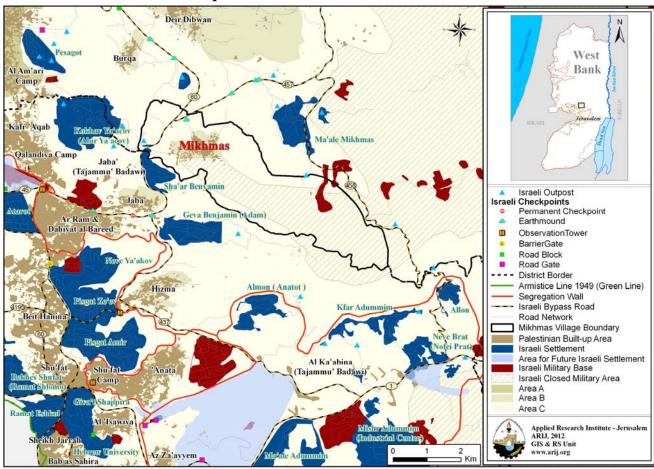
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Mikhmas Village Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Mikhmas is a Palestinian village in Jerusalem Governorate located (horizontally) 11.2km north-east of Jerusalem City. It is bordered by Deir Dibwan lands (in Ramallah Governorate) to the east and north, Burqa lands (in Ramallah Governorate) to the west, and Jaba' village to the south (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012) (See map 1).



Map 1: Mikhmas location and borders

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012

Mikhmas is located at an altitude of 590m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 405.6mm. The average annual temperature is 17 °C and the average annual humidity is approximately 60% (ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012).

Since 1996, Mikhmas has been governed by a village council, which is currently administrated by 9 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority in addition to 3 permanent employees. The

village council rents a permanent headquarters but does not possess a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Village Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Mikhmas, including (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012):

- Managing and maintaining the drinking water network.
- Establishing the electricity network or providing generators.
- Collecting solid waste, rehabilitating, constructing, and paving roads, cleaning streets and providing social development services.
- Implementing projects and case studies for the village.
- Protecting governmental properties.
- Protecting historical and archeological sites.
- Organizing the construction and issuing of licenses processes.

History

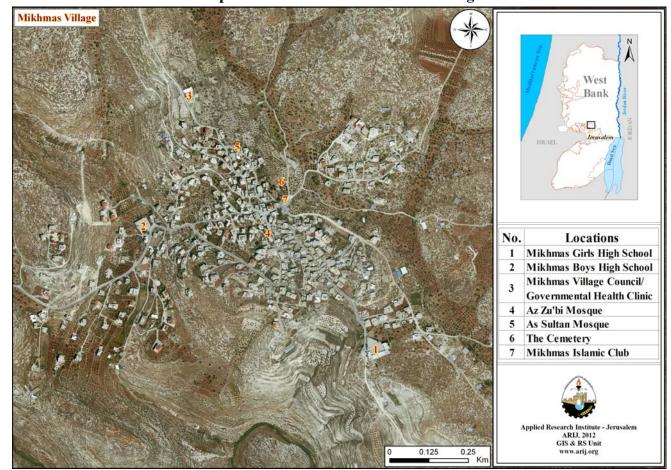
Mikhmas, the Palestinian village was known in the roman era as Micmash, meaning the hidden (Howiyya, 2012). The village is thought to have been established thousands of years ago, probably during the Canaanite era; it is known to be the town of Benjamin, the son of Jacob, who was born in Canaan. Its current residents are descended from villagers who migrated to Mikhmas from east Jordan (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012) (See photo 1).



Photo 1: Mikhmas village

Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are four mosques in the village, Mikhmas Main Mosque (Az Zu'bi), As Sultan Ibrahim, Ad Daboor and 'Aal Sayyam Mosques. There is one site of archaeological interest in the village, Virgin Mary Hill; which was called after her, during her travel toward Bethlehem (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012). Additionally, there are some tombs decorated with mosaic, Khirbet al Hai and Khirbet ad Duwwarah which contains a cave and dilapidated walls (Al Dabbagh, 1991) (See Map 2).



Map 2: Main locations in Mikhmas Village

Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Mikhmas in 2007 was 1,305 of whom 610 were male and 695 female. There were 312 households living in 503 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The General Census of Population and Housing carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Mikhmas was as follows: 35.4% were less than 15 years old, 52.6% between 15 - 64 years old, and 8.4% were 65 years of age or older. Data additionally showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the village is 87.8:100, meaning that males and females constituted 46.7% and 53.3% of the population respectively.

Families

Mikhmas residents are from several families, mainly the Kan'an, Abu Sayyam, Al Hajj, Abu 'Awwadah, Hussein and Muhanna families (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), the illiteracy rate amongst the population of Mikhmas was approximately 17.9%, of whom 70.3% were female. Of the literate population, 14.4% could only read and write with no formal education, 27.3% had elementary education, 21.8% had preparatory education, 12.9% had secondary education, and 5.6% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the village of Mikhmas by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Mikhmas population (10 years of age and older) by sex and educational attainment, 2007

| S E x | Illite- rate | Can read & write | Elem- entary | Prepa- ratory | Second- ary | Associate Diploma | Bach- elor | Higher Diploma | Master | PhD | Un- known | Total |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------|-----|--------------|-------|
| M | 51 | 60 | 135 | 96 | 60 | 3 | 14 | - | 3 | - | - | 422 |
| F | 121 | 78 | 127 | 113 | 64 | 15 | 18 | - | 1 | - | - | 537 |
| Т | 172 | 138 | 262 | 209 | 124 | 18 | 32 | - | 4 | - | - | 959 |

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are two public schools in the village, both run by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), but there are no kindergartens in the village (see Table 2) (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

Table 2: The Schools in Mikhmas by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority

| School Name | Supervising Authority | Sex |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------|
| Mikhmas Boys High School | Government | Male |
| Mikhmas Girls High School | Government | Female |

Source: Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011

In the village there are 338 students, 39 teachers, and 24 classes (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011). The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 9, and the average number of students per class is approximately 14 (Directorate of Education in Jerusalem, 2011).

The educational sector in Mikhmas village faces some obstacles, primarily the small number of students due to immigration (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Health Status

There are very few health centers available in Mikhmas village. There is a governmental physician clinic, and a motherhood and childcare center. In the absence of required health services and in emergencies, residents of Mikhmas go to Palestine Medical Center in Ramallah city, El 'Eizariya Health Clinic in El 'Eizariya town or Ar Ram Health Clinic in Ar Ram town; 15km, 28km and 8km from the village respectively (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

The health sector in the village faces many obstacles and problems, including (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012):

- The lack of specialized physicians.
- The lack of an ambulance in the village.
- The lack of a radiology center.
- The lack of medical equipments.
- The lack of a private health center.
- The lack of sufficient medicines.
- The lack of a medical analysis laboratory.

Economic Activities

The economy in Mikhmas is dependent on several economic sectors, mainly the agriculture sector, which absorbs 60% of the workforce (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012) (See Figure 1).

A field survey conducted by ARIJ in 2012 showed that the distribution of labor by economic activity in Mikhmas is as follows:

- Agriculture sector (60%)
- Services sector (35%)
- Government or private employees sector (5%)

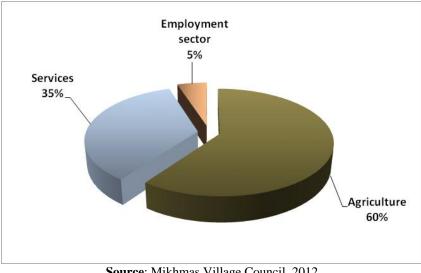


Figure 1: Economic activity in Mikhmas village

Source: Mikhmas Village Council, 2012

In terms of commercial and industrial productions in Mikhmas, there are 11 grocery stores, 2 butcheries, 3 vegetable and fruit stores, 5 different services stores and 2 different professional workshops (blacksmith, carpentry etc.) (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

The unemployment rate in Mikhmas is approximately 2% in 2012 (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census (2007), 23.3% of Mikhmas's labor force was economically active, of whom 85.2% were employed, and 76.4% were not economically active, of whom 39.6% were students and 39.3% were housekeepers (See Table 3).

Table 3: Mikhmas population (10 years and above) by sex and employment status-2007

| | | Economica | Economically Active | | | Not Economically Active | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|
| S E X | Emp- loyed | Currently Un- employed | Un- employed (Never worked) | Total | Stud- ents | House- keeping | Unable to work | Not working & Not looking for work | Other | Total | Un- known | Total |
| M | 167 | 16 | 15 | 198 | 144 | - | 64 | 9 | 6 | 223 | 1 | 422 |
| F | 23 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 146 | 288 | 75 | 1 | - | 510 | 2 | 537 |
| T | 190 | 17 | 16 | 223 | 290 | 288 | 139 | 10 | 6 | 733 | 3 | 959 |

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

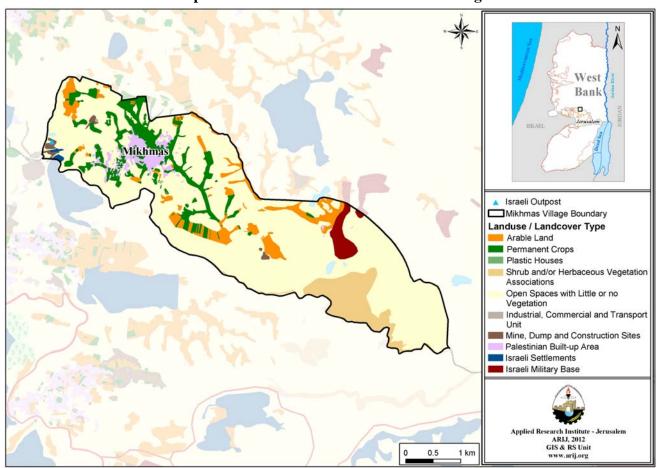
Mikhmas has a total area of around 13,642 dunums of which 3,177 are considered agricultural land and 424 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See table 4 and map 3).

Table 4: Land use and land cover in Mikhmas village in 2010 (area in dunum)

| Total | Built up | £ | Agricultura (3,177 | | | Inland | Forests | Open | Area of Industrial, | Area of Settlements, Military |
|--------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Area | Area | Permanent Crops | Green- houses | Range- lands | Arable lands | water | | Spaces | Commercial & Transport Unit | Bases & Wall Zone |
| 13,642 | 424 | 1,227 | 1 | 1,002 | 947 | 0 | 0 | 9,633 | 72 | 337 |

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover in Mikhmas village



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2012.

Table 5 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. The village is known for the cultivation of olives; there are 1,010 dunums in the village cultivated with olive trees.

Table 5: Total area of fruit and olive trees in Mikhmas village (dunum)

| Fruit trees | Rainfed | Irrigated |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Olives | 1,010 | 0 |
| Citrus | 0 | 0 |
| Stone-fruits | 5 | 0 |
| Pome fruits | 0 | 0 |
| Nuts | 7 | 0 |
| Other fruits | 17 | 0 |
| Total Area | 1,039 | 0 |

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Mikhmas cereals, particularly wheat and barley, are the most cultivated covering an area of about 185 dunums (See table 6).

Table 6: Total area of field crops in Mikhmas village (dunum)

| Fruit trees | Rainfed | Irrigated |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| Cereals | 185 | 0 |
| Bulbs | 0 | 0 |
| Dry legumes | 5 | 0 |
| Oil crops | 0 | 0 |
| Forage crops | 13 | 0 |
| Stimulating crops | 0 | 0 |
| Other crops | 0 | 0 |
| Total Area | 203 | 0 |

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and by ARIJ's GIS Unit in sizes of agricultural areas is explained by the fact that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2010) 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 instead of seasonal ones. The survey 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, thus accounting for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that 22% of the residents of Mikhmas rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep, goats, chickens, and bees (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012) (See Table 7).

Table 7: Livestock in Mikhmas village

| Cows* | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Broilers | Layers | Bee Hives |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|-------|----------|--------|--------------|
| 0 | 2,310 | 2,650 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 35 |

^{*} Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Jerusalem, 2010

There are also around 52 kilometers of agricultural roads in the village, divided as follows (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012):

Table 8: Agricultural roads in Mikhmas village and their lengths

| Suitability of Agricultural Roads | Length (km) |
|--|-------------|
| For vehicles | 9 |
| For tractors and agricultural machinery only | 11 |
| For animals only | 20 |
| Unsuitable | 12 |

Source: Mikhmas Village Council, 2012

The village faces some obstacles concerning the agricultural sector, mainly:

- The problem of marketing agricultural products.
- The high prices.
- The lack of rain.
- The Israeli occupation's control over pastures.
- The lack of experience and guidance.
- The lack of capital.
- The confiscation of lands.
- The difficulties in accessing agricultural lands.
- The lack of water sources.

Institutions and Services

Mikhmas village has very few governmental institutions, only a post office division, but has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012):

- **Mikhmas Village Council**: Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government with the goal of solving issues in the village and providing various services to its population.
- **Mikhmas Islamic Club**: Founded in 1998 by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, focusing on sports, cultural, and social activities.

• **Alumni Association**: Founded in 2011 by Mikhmas Club, providing social events and awareness activities for its members.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services

Mikhmas has been connected to a public electricity network since 1975. It is served by Jerusalem Electricity Company, which is the main source of electricity in the village. Approximately 100% of the housing units in the village are connected to this network (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Mikhmas is connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 90% of the housing units within the village boundaries are connected to phone lines (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Transportation Services

A number of taxis are the primary means of transportation in Mikhmas village (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012). There are 13km of designated 'main' roads and 4km of 'secondary' roads (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012) (See Table 9).

Table 9: Roads in Mikhmas Village

| | Road Leng | gth (km) |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Status of Internal Roads | Main | Sub |
| Paved & in good condition | 10 | 3 |
| Paved but in poor condition | 3 | - |
| Unpaved | - | 1 |

Source: Mikhmas Village Council, 2012

Water Resources

Mikhmas is provided with water by Jerusalem Water Authority (for Ramallah and Al Bireh areas) through the public water network established in 1970. Approximately 100% of the housing units are connected to this network (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012). The quantity of water supplied to Mikhmas through Jerusalem Water Authority in 2010 was approximately 45,758 cubic meters/ year; therefore, the average rate of water supply per capita in Mikhmas is 104 liters per day (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). However no Mikhmas citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are recorded at around 26.5%. These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level (Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011). Therefore, the rate of water consumption per capita in Mikhmas is 76 liters per day. The rate experienced by Mikhmas residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization; suggested to be 100 liters per capita per day. There are 150 domestic rainwater harvesting cisterns in the village (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

The water authority has adopted an upward rate to determine water costs, where the price of water increases in tandem with the increase in water consumption. Table 10 shows the price of water by category of consumption.

Table 10: Water tariffs of Jerusalem Water Authority adopted since 01.01.2012

| Consumption Category (m³) | Domestic (NIS/m³) | Industrial (NIS/m³) | Tourist (NIS/m³) | Commercial (NIS/m³) | Public Institutions (NIS/m³) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 0 – 5 | 4.5 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| 5.1 – 10 | 4.5 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| 10.1 – 20 | 5.6 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 5.6 |
| 20.1 – 30 | 6.8 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 6.8 |
| 30.1+ | 9 | 9.9 | 10.8 | 9 | 9 |

Source: Jerusalem Water Authority, 2011

Sanitation

Mikhmas lacks a public sewerage network with most of the village residents using cesspits as their main means of waste-water disposal (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the estimated amount of wastewater generated per day is approximately 389 cubic meters or 141,860 cubic meters annually. At the individual level in the village it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is 61 liters per day, depending on the consumption rate. The wastewater collected by cesspits is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas with no concern 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, 2012).

Solid Waste Management

The Joint Services Council for Development and Planning north-east of Jerusalem is the official body responsible for managing the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by the citizens and establishments in the village (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Most of the population in Mikhmas benefit from the solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags and then transferred to 50 containers distributed throughout the village. The council collects the solid waste on a tri-weekly basis, then transports it using a waste vehicle to Ramallah Municipality dumping site, 50km from the village, where it is buried (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Mikhmas is 0.7kg. Thus the estimated amount of solid waste produced per day from Mikhmas residents is nearly 1 ton, or 370 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other villages and camps in the Governorate, Mikhmas experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by Jerusalem Water Authority for long periods of time in summer in several neighborhoods of the village.
- High rate of water losses, because the water network is old and in need of rehabilitation and renovation.
- Weak pumping of water within the distribution network.

Wastewater Management

• The absence of a public sewage network means that Mikhmas residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, or to discharge wastewater into the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the village. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, allowing wastewater to enter into the ground and avoiding the need to use sewage tankers. 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 lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Mikhmas and neighboring communities is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill, because the appropriate land is within Area C and under Israeli control. In addition, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is hazardous to human health, a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced by solid waste, and produces bad odors and distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation

Geopolitical Status of Mikhmas Village

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed on 28th September 1995 by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, Mikhmas village was divided into areas 'B' and 'C'. Approximately 872 dunums (6.4% of the total village 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 municipalities, villages, and some camps. Most of the village's population resides in area 'B' which constitutes a very small area in comparison to the total area of the village. Approximately 12,770 dunums (93.6% of the total village area) is classified as area 'C', where Israel retains full control over security and administration. In area 'C' Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through a permit given by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within the area 'C' are agricultural and open spaces (Table 11).

Table 11: The geopolitical divisions of Mikhmas village according to the Oslo II interim agreement in 1995

| Area | Area in dunums | Percent of Total village area |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Area A | 0 | 0 |
| Area B | 872 | 6.4 |
| Area C | 12,770 | 93.6 |
| Nature Reserve | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 13,642 | 100 |

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2011

Mikhmas Village and the Israeli Occupation

Mikhmas village has had land confiscated by the Israeli state for various purposes, including the construction of Israeli settlements on village territories, the construction of Israeli bypass roads, and the establishment of Israeli military bases, outposts and military checkpoints. Below are further details on land confiscations in Mikhmas.

During the Israeli occupation, the Israeli government has confiscated 28 dunums of land in Mikhmas village to establish the settlement of Sha'ar Benyamin; the largest part of this settlement is located within the boundaries of Jaba' village. Israeli occupation authorities have also established the settlement of Ma'ale Mikhmas to the east of the village, and on the lands of Deir Dibwan village in Ramallah and Al Bireh Governorate (Table 12).

Table 12: Israeli Settlements constructed over Mikhmas lands

| Settlement Name | Year of construction | Area confiscated from Mikhmas (dunums) | Population of settlers (2009) | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Sha'ar Benyamin | 1999 | 28 | unavailable | |
| Total | | 28 | unavailable | |

Source: ARIJ-GIS Unit, 2012

Israel has also confiscated lands from Mikhmas village to construct bypass roads; 60 and 457, to connect Israeli settlements established on the village's lands with neighboring settlements. Buffer zones created by the Israeli Occupation Forces, extending to 75m on either side of the roads, are more problematic and threatening than the roads themselves. Mikhmas village has two entrances: the main western

entrance which intersects with bypass road 60, and the northern entrance which is currently closed by an earth-mound barrier separating the village from bypass road 457.

The Israeli Occupation Authorities have also confiscated 258 dunums (2%) of village lands to establish an Israeli military base east of the village.

Additionally, Israeli settlers have seized land from Mikhmas village for the establishment of the Mi'far Mikhmas outpost to the west of the village. Over the past two decades, Israel has constructed 232 outposts in the West Bank. Outposts are centers of new settlements that usually begin by establishing mobile caravans on sites taken over by settlers. They are typically branches of a nearby 'mother settlement'. The increase in Israeli outposts started with a 'Sharonian' call for Jewish settlers to take control over Palestinian hilltops in order to prevent their transfer to Palestinians in negotiations. Although consecutive Israeli governments have not officially sanctioned these illegal outposts, the state provides them with military protection and infrastructure services, facilitating their permanent existence and encouraging further expansion.

Israeli Settler Violence in Mikhmas

On 14th of April 2010 tens of settlers living in the Ofra settlement and the Migron outpost uprooted 380 olive trees (of age four to six years) owned by Mikhmas residents, which were planted on agricultural lands near Ofra. The settlers have also removed the fence surrounding the lands separating bypass 60 from targeted lands. The estimated value of losses resulting from the uprooting of trees and removal of the fence is approximately \$27,000. Additionally, the owners of lands overlooking bypass 60 are often prevented from accessing and cultivating them. These attacks have caused considerable losses to farmers who typically irrigate their trees using water tanks costing 100 NIS per tank, plus the labor of two workers at 200 NIS per worker. Prior to the uprooting of trees, land owners had cultivated the land at a cost of 300 NIS/day.

Settlers have committed further violations against trees located on the eastern side of the village and close to Ma'ale Mikhmas. In August 2011, tens of settlers living in Ma'ale Mikhmas set fire to olive trees and agricultural lands, affecting approximately 100 trees.

17

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Mikhmas village council has implemented several development projects in Mikhmas during the past five years (See Table 11).

Table 13: Implemented development plans and projects in Mikhmas during the last five years

| Name of the Project | Туре | Year | Donor | | |
|--|----------------|-----------|---|--|--|
| Reclaiming agricultural lands | Agricultural | 2012 | Donations from Mikhmas Residents & Agricultural Relief | | |
| Constructing internal roads | Infrastructure | 2009-2010 | Donations from Mikhmas Residents | | |
| Rehabilitating the water network | Infrastructure | 2009 | Jerusalem Water Authority | | |
| Rehabilitating the electricity network | Infrastructure | 2010 | Jerusalem Electricity Company | | |
| Expanding the village entrance | Infrastructure | 2008-2009 | Ministry of Works | | |
| Reclaiming agricultural lands | Agricultural | 2010-2011 | Agricultural Relief | | |
| Expanding Mikhmas Girls School | Educational | 2007 | PECDAR | | |

Source: Mikhmas Village Council, 2012

Proposed Projects

Mikhmas Village Council, in cooperation with the civil society organizations in the village and the village residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the PRA workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the village. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the perspectives of the participants in the workshop:

- 1. Rehabilitating some internal roads.
- 2. Reclaiming agricultural lands and constructing agricultural roads.
- 3. Establishing an integrated health center in the center of the village.
- 4. Constructing rainwater harvesting cisterns in agricultural areas and rehabilitating Roman cisterns.
- 5. Constructing a headquarters for the women's center.
- 6. Establishing a sewage network.

Village Development Priorities and Needs

Mikhmas suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 12 shows the development priorities and needs in the village according to the village council's feedback (Mikhmas Village Council, 2012).

Table 14: Development priorities and needs in Mikhmas

| No. | Sector | Strongly Needed | Needed | Not a Priority | Notes | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Infrastructural Needs | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Opening and Pavement of Roads | * | | | 15km × | | | |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Water Networks | | | * | | | | |
| 3 | | | | * | | | | |
| 4 | | | | * | | | | |
| 5 | Rehabilitation/ Construction of New Wells or Springs | | | * | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | 500 cubic meters | | | |
| 7 | 7 Construction of a Sewage Disposal Network | | | | 25km | | | |
| 8 | Construction of a New Electricity Network | | | * | | | | |
| 9 | Providing Containers for Solid Waste Collection | | | * | | | | |
| 10 | Providing Vehicles for Collecting Solid Waste | | | * | | | | |
| 11 | Providing a Sanitary Landfill | | | * | | | | |
| | Health Needs | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Clinics or Health Care Centres | * | | | 1 health clinic | | | |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Clinics or Health Care Centres | | | * | | | | |
| 3 | Purchasing of Medical Equipment and Tools | | | * | | | | |
| Educational Needs | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Building of New Schools | | | * | | | | |
| 2 | Rehabilitation of Old Schools | | | | elementary level | | | |
| 3 | Purchasing of New Equipment for Schools | * | | | computer devices | | | |
| | Agricultur | e Needs | | | | | | |
| 1 | Rehabilitation of Agricultural Lands | * | | | 200 dunums | | | |
| 2 | Building Rainwater Harvesting Cisterns | * | | | 50 cisterns | | | |
| 3 | Construction of Barracks for Livestock | | | | 10 barracks | | | |
| 4 | Veterinary Services | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Seeds and Hay for Animals | | | | 100 tons per year | | | |
| 6 | Construction of New Greenhouses | | | * | | | | |
| 7 | 7 Rehabilitation of Greenhouses | | | * | | | | |
| 8 | Field Crops Seeds | * | | | | | | |
| 9 | Plants and Agricultural Supplies | * | | | | | | |

x3km are main roads, 1km are a sub roads and 11km are agricultural. ■

Source: Mikhmas Village Council, 2012

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