

Towards the establishment of a Natural National Park in Upper Akkar –
Donnieh

Village Profile

Michmich



In 2008 and 2009, Mada association collected data's on infrastructure, education, health and environment in various villages of the National Park pilot area. These data were collected from the municipalities, mokhtars, universities, public institutions, NGOs, school directors, cooperatives, clinics etc.

Being regularly updated

LOCATION

All the roads need serious technical interventions and some need complete reconstruction. Residents have been pushing for 4 years the Ministry of public works to invest in road constructions especially the road leading to Jord Michmich and still the renovation of the road didn't take place. The agricultural road leading to Michmich Valley is no longer accessible even for small trucks and needs restoration. (at least for a distance of 200m to 300m).

Main roads leading to Michmich are:

- Tripoli – El Abdeh – Berkayel – Bzel – Hrar – Mishmish
- Tripoli – Halba – Gebrayel – Rahbeh – Al Krayet – Mishmish
- Hermel – Beit Jaafar – Al Qamouaa – Fnaideq – Mishmish

Main roads within the village are: Al Wadi; Beit Badra and Al Ess; Shalha and Beit Khalil Al Jord roads.

BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE:

WATER

Michmich has more than 11 important water sources. Some lack maintenance, others need retention pools (mainly water sources that have week water flow). Ministry of Health and UNICEF conducted studies concerning Michmich waters.

POTABLE WATER

The currently used water network was established in 1960. The only non contaminated water source in Mishmish is Ain Bou Milleh. Some residents get their potable water in cittern trucks. Some households drink directly from the neighbouring water sources like Ain el Tineh and Nabeh Abou Abeid.

The most important water sources are:

- Nabeh el Delb (main source of the Naher El Bared river; 20 inches). This water source has a big potential for the establishment of a dam project.
- Ain el Tineh (20 inches (winter) - 10 inches (summer)). Used for drinking and irrigation.

IRRIGATION, WATER RESERVOIRS AND ARTESIAN WELLS

Most of the water sources are used for irrigation. Ain Al Ghabeh or Ain Al Kouaa irrigates around 20 hectares, Ain el Teffeha irrigates 10 hectares, Ain Jbaibet irrigates 5 hectares, Ain Abou Abeid, Ain Chkaik, Ain Bou Malla, Ain Jbaybeit and Ain El Wata are essential water sources irrigating the region. The irrigation network is divided into two sections; the first is 10 Km long and needs renovation. The second is 30 Km long and is made from mud on this section, maintenance is provided by the local farmers when needed.

A 200 m3 volume reservoir have been established by the government and is linked to a very bad quality network to which are connected 100% of households. Four water retention basins were established to serve for irrigation.

June 2009

The governmental water services dwelled a 240m deep well that supplies a permanent 6 inches of fresh and clean water. This well is fully equipped and ready to be used. But, the Water Services will not put it into service until Michmich municipality completes its water networks. In addition to the governmental well, there are more than 12 private wells that were executed by different engineers (the tree branch method) without any required license or authorization. Used mainly for irrigation and some also as drinking water supply, they can reach a depth of 240m (Wata Mishmish). The remaining wells depth is between 40m and 60m.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity network was first established in 1960. The network was established to serve the population at that date and has not been updated to serve the actual volume of population. Al Wadi region (3% of Michmich) is still not connected to electricity. It regroups 40 houses with more than 300 persons. 300m of electrical network cables are needed to connect the area (Mayor Ali Houssein Abdallah).

The electricity is following a four hours cycle of availability (4h available and four hours not available). In Mishmish, wood is used for heating more than fuel.

Mishmish village is using UPSs instead of fuel consuming electricity generators. There is one private solar energy system installed in the village. The municipality board is interested in adopting new renewable energy option.

PHONE LINES, GSM COVERAGE AND INTERNET AVAILABILITY

The Ogero fix phone lines network was established in 2000 and counts 200 registered members. The GSM coverage (MTC & Alfa) is excellent within the municipality perimeter.

SEWAGE

60% of Michmich is not connected to the sewage network and 40% are connected to a primitive network that is not well managed and is not emptied at all. The sewage water finds its way through the underground water.

SOLID WASTE

An agricultural truck collects on a daily basis the solid wastes (including medical wastes from the dispensaries) and dumps them right into the river. Local population is supposed to be paying the municipality an amount of 39 000 L.L per year in return for the solid waste collection but only 5% of the population really pays that amount.

EU is supposed to fund (400 000 euros) the establishment of a solid waste sorting plant. Some of the required equipment was given to the municipality by the governmental department of national development (pickup trucks, generator and 300 solid waste storage bins).

POPULATION

The number of registered locals is around 16 300. The number of voters during the last elections (2004) was 5 925. Mishmish population living outside mishmish in Lebanon is estimated around 4 300. Mishmish emigrants are estimated around 2000 persons

The mayor Khaled al Khalidy mentioned that the local population is 16 300. This number resulted from an assessment that was held in mars 2008.

Less than 21 years: 7 498 (46%)

From 21 to 65 years: 7 580 (46.5%)

More than 65 years: 1 222 (7.5%)

Total: 16 300 (100%)

Population estimation, using SDATL methodology: 4.923 residents. Primary residences: 1042; Secondary residences: 69; Empty residences: 18 - (ACS 2004).

Parents tend to build an additional floor in their building for their children. 10% of the local population is on site in holidays and summer vacancy with a 20% of empty houses in summer and 30% of empty houses in winter.

Mishmish emigrants are building houses in the village. Emigrants have also established five different commercial enterprises in Tripoli. In general, all emigrants send financial aid to their relatives in need.

MIGRATIONS

DESTINATION OF INTERNAL MIGRATION:

- Tripoli (Abu Samra , Al Khannak and Al Mankoubiin).
- El Koura (Kousba and Kfarakka)
- El Abdeh (Berj El Arab – Bayader Minyara – Arka)

DESTINATION OF EXTERNAL MIGRATION

Michmich emigrants living outside Lebanon are spread in the following countries:

- Australia (around 1 500 persons)
- Canada (around 500 persons)

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

22% of men in Michmich are into governmental positions (army essentially).

INDUSTRY

18 persons are employed in Rose water and orange flower production and 21 in dairy production. We can find in Mishmish; Wrought iron 5, car body work 1, aluminium 5, car mechanics 3, car paint job 1, car electricity 2, carpentries 2, furniture 1, shoes shop 2, wheat straw baskets 1, car wheel reparation 2, pavement factories 2, Tailoring 6, Glass and clay workshops 4, concrete blocks factories 5

AGRICULTURE

Despite the relatively big area of Mishmish, only 27% of the total area is used for agriculture practices. The following table illustrates the agricultural land use:

Non used agricultural area 900 hectares (25%), Cultivated area (with no irrigation) 1 200 hectares (32%), Irrigated cultivated area 550 hectares (15%), Abandoned areas 800 hectares (28%)

FARMERS

10% of the resident is into farming activities and making their living from agriculture. This number is constantly declining.

MAIN PRODUCTION

The following table, provided by the municipality, illustrates the available products, their growing area and their part form the total production.

Product	Hectares	Percentage
Cereals	1 200	69%
Apples	200	11%
Almond	100	5.5%
Vegetables	150	9%
Other (Roses, citrus ...)	100	5.5%
Total	1 750	100%

Source: municipality

Products sold inside the village are;

- Fruits: apples, pears, plums, cherries, apricots and peach
- Vegetables: zucchinis, tomatoes, French beans and cucumber

Some fruits and vegetables are sold in the local market, in Tripoli and to some Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Egypt).

GRAZING AND LIVESTOCK

The village has 89 cow breeders owning 241 local breed cows (118 produce milk). All the cattle dairy products are sold inside the village.

Sheep production is restricted to one person who has 15 sheep and sells all his dairy products inside Mishmish. Goats are kept by eight different shepherds. The total goat population is around 1 125. Goat dairy products are sold inside the village (45%) and outside Mishmish (55%).

WOODCUTTING

According to the municipality, woodcutting is made by the pruning method. It is done by specialized personnel using a sustainable method that guarantees that the pruned trees will grow back to the same size in four to five years interval. But still, at Arz El Illeh is subject to severe wood resources exploitation

TOURISM

The village is now equipped with a municipal hotel (5 rooms, lodging capacity: 25 persons, for 10\$ to 15\$ per day). Nature is the first centre of attraction. Mr. Nazih Qamareddine from the municipality is organizing field visits. There are also caves and grottos like Al Arayiss grotto, Abou Zeid grotto and Al Hamra grotto. Mishmish also has lots of *makams* (holy places where important muslim religious persons used to live) considered as holy places like Sheikh Abdullah maqam, Prophet Ezzeddine maqam

NATURAL AREAS

There are 3 wakefs in Michmich (map) that are subject to a strict conservation (due to tradition and beliefs, these areas are considered as sacred and anyone who trespasses will encounter maledictions). In addition to these 3 self protected areas, there are two relatively big areas with a big potential for conservation and two landowners in these two areas are interested in establishing protected areas.

QUARRIES

There are no smelters but five “jaroucheh” (like a very small smelter used to process small rocks). They work only for 2 months per summer. After shutting down these jarouchehs, no rehabilitation plans or projects are taking place or are being planned. These jarouchehs were stopped by the darak and need an authorization from a concerned organism in order go back to work. They are all located in Wata Michmich.

EDUCATION

School Name	Level	Public/ Private/ free Private	Number of students	Number of Primary students	Number of Intermediate students	Number of Secondary students
Mishmish Al-Rasmiyye	Primary - Intermediate	Public	601	372	229	
Wata Mishmish Al-Rasmiyye	Primary - Intermediate	Public	173	104	69	
Al-Maqasid Al-Islamiyye	Primary	Free private	232	232		
Al-Maqasid Al-Islamiyye - Wata Mishmish	Primary	Free private	117	117		
Al-Diyaa	Primary - Intermediate	Private	441	353	88	
Al-Safaa	Primary - Intermediate	Private	400	287	113	
Mihaniyyat Mishmish Al Rasmiyye	Secondary	Public	350			350

(Technical)						
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HEALTH

DISPENSARIES

AL MARKAZ AL BALADI LIRA'AYET SOHET AL OUM WA TTEFL

Status: public
Date of creation: 2008
Nb. of doctors and specialties: around 35 physicians

General Health Pediatrician E.N.T. specialist Bones	Eye-specialist Gynecologist Dentist Diab./Endo.	Surgery Dermatologist Physiotherapist
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Nb of employees: 5
Opening days: 7 days a week
Contact: 06 896155
Services:

- Emergency 24 hours
- Pharmacy

Problems according to the dispensary:

- Shortage in certain medical equipments
- Means to increase salaries of staff

Beneficiaries: Mishmish and surroundings

AL KANJ FREE CENTER

Status: private
Date of creation: 1998
Contact: 06 895600
Nb. of doctors and specialties:

Gynecologist (1) Pediatrician (2) Dermatologist (1)	Urologist (1) Digestive(1)
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Nb of employees: 2
Opening days: Monday – Saturday
Services:

- Echo
- Blood transporting center
- Medicines

Problems according to the dispensary:

June 2009

- Financial needs
- Shortage in certain medical equipments
- Waste management

Beneficiaries: Mishmish and surroundings (Fnaideq, Hrar, Qab'it, Chan...)

DOCTORS AND SPECIALTIES (PRIVATE CLINICS)

Only two private clinics; one pediatrician and one gastro

PHARMACIES

Only one pharmacy

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

MOSKS

Al Tahta	Al Cheikh Abdallah	Beit Badra	Beit Kassab
Al Mhawta	Beit Khalil	Beit Al Ess	

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

CENTER OF MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Date of creation: 2001

Nb of employees: 4

Opening days: Monday – Saturday

Activities:

- A dispensary (it contains 4 doctors: 2 general health doctors, a gynecologist and a pediatrician)
- Day care center
- Teaching computer, sewing, drawing on ceramic ...

Beneficiaries: Mishmish and surroundings (Fneideq, Al Qorneh, Beit Ayoub, Beit Youness, Hrar...)

MUNICIPAL CENTER

Date of creation: 1961/ restarted in 1998

Municipal income: 500 000 000L.L per year used for buying lands/plots

Contact: 03 239631

Nb of employees: 12

ASSOCIATIONS/ NGO'S

AL JAM'IYA AL THAKAFIYA AL INMA'IYA

Date of creation: 2006
Contact: 03 803219 (Bilal Al Hawly)
Nb of members: 6

AL NADI AL THAKAFI AL EJTIMA'I

Date of creation: 1973
Contact: 03 543808 (Adel Baraket)
Nb of members: 30 teachers
Main activities:

- Undertaking sporting rounds (football, basketball...)

Beneficiaries: Mishmish and surroundings

AL MARKAZ AL TARBAWI AL THAKAFI

Date of creation: 2008
Main activities:

- Training courses on computers (this center contains 14 computers)

Beneficiaries: Mishmish

AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

Date of creation: 2003
Contact: 03 914631 (Kabalan Soultan)
Nb of members: 44
Main activities: The agricultural cooperative was established in 2003, President: Hajj Kabalan Sultan, Board committee: 5 members and 3 moulazimins, number of members: 44. The coop objectives are; Agriculture development; vegetable and animal productions improvement. The management lacks professionalism, they have to get to know how to gather their raw materials and how to promote them and find good deals / market for their products. New coops are taking place in Michmich like the dairy products coop and the Apple products coop.

- Produce agricultural goods
- Participating in training courses about agricultural products

BEEHIVE COOPERATIVE

Date of creation: 2005
Contact: 03 863573
Nb of members: 20
Beneficiaries: Mishmish, Fneideq, Hrar, Al Qorneh, Beit Ayoub and Qab'it
Main activities: Mishmish counts 42 bee hives keepers and 1 530 hives. Some of the beekeepers are part of the cooperative created in 2003, in the framework of the ESFD project but is not really operational. Honey production is estimated up to 7 500 kg (5kg per hive). The production costs of 1kg of honey during the past year were around 30 000L.L. 90% of the production is sold in Mishmish.

CULTURAL AND SPORT CENTERS OR ACTIVITIES

SPORT'S GROUNDS

Activities:	football
Size:	1500m ²
Users:	youth between 10 and 16 years old
Location:	outside school
Status:	private

INTERNET CAFÉ

Number:	3
Nb. of computers:	30
Users:	children, youth and adult

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Agriculture: No investments are investing in this sector. Farmers growing apple trees (second major production in the village) are complaining from the lack of growing and irrigation awareness; contamination of the water sources; endemic diseases and marketing. Livestock breeders complain from: marketing their products; lack of breeding and feeding awareness and the lack of dairy product processing equipment. Bee hives keepers complain from: diseases; lack of awareness and the limited production due to diseases and other inconveniences. The rose water production has difficult access to raw materials and equipment.

In industry and production: This sector suffers from deficiency in machinery and modern equipment knowing that this sector is still using traditional methods and needs updating. Finally, industrial and artisan products lack good quality and qualifications. Mini-markets and butcheries don't meet the basic hygienic standards. Sewage runs in open canalization in front of these shops. All the shops are located on the main road inside the village and create a terrible traffic jam without parking places for clients. There are no banks in the village.

Other needs identified by the municipality:

- Complete the drinking water canalizations in order to put in service the pumps established by the government and is not yet in use.
- Link al Wadi region to the electric network.
- Stop dumping solid wastes in the river and inducing salmonella sicknesses in the villages that used the waters of the river and see what to do with the solid waste sorting plant with the UE.
- Retention pools for some of the water sources
- Rehabilitate the road leading to Mishmish jords.
- Use the flora assessment to make use of the available aromatic and medicinal herbs.
- Put an end to illegal woodcutting in Arz al Illeh.

CONTACT LIST

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