

Tubas City profile



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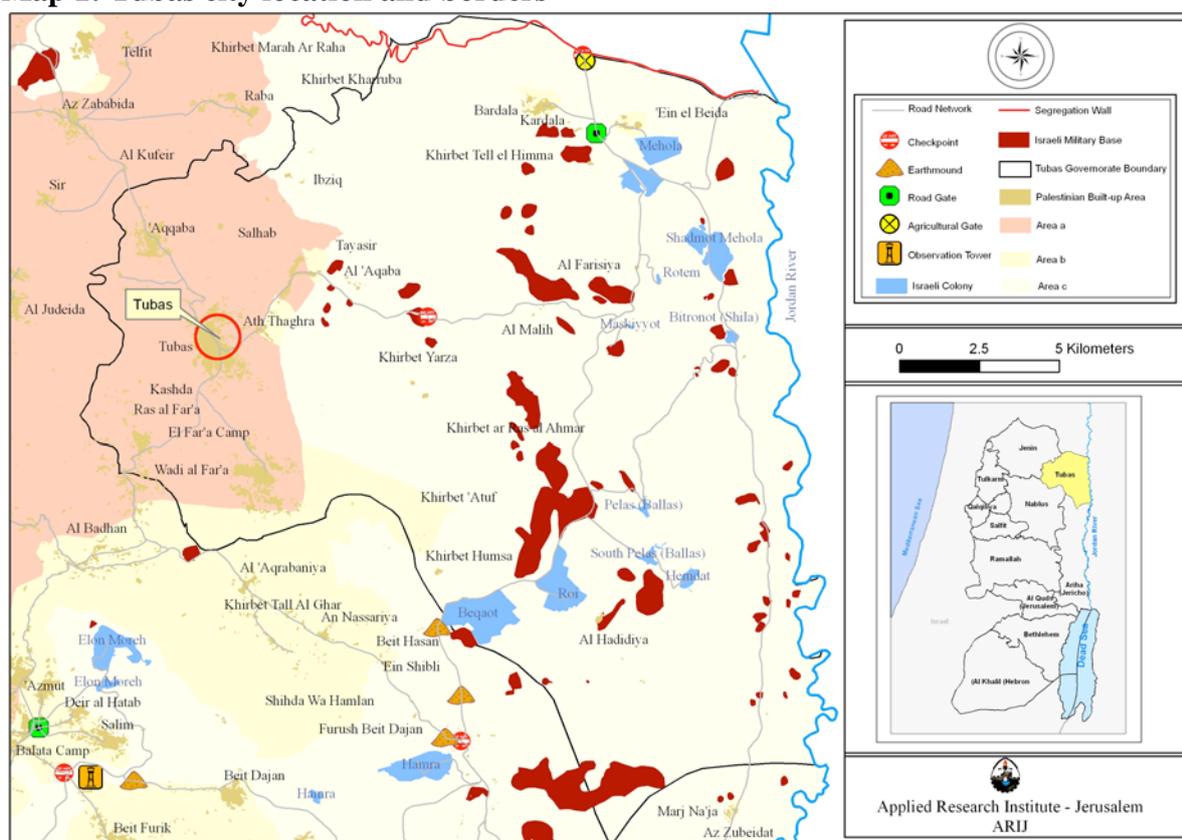
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Tubas city profile

Location and Physical characteristics

TUBAS is a Palestinian city which is located in the north eastern part of the West Bank. The city is located to the west of the Governorate of Tubas. It is bordered by Tayasir and Alaqaba villages to the east, Aqqaba to the north, Aljededah and Sereas villages (Jenin Governorate) to the west and Tamun and Alfarha to the south.

Map 1: Tubas city location and borders



The total area of Tubas city is 295,123 dunums, which represents approximately 55.6 % of the Tubas Governorate's land area. 3000 dunums are classified as 'built up' areas, whilst 150,000 dunums are agricultural, and 180,000 further dunums have been confiscated by Israeli occupation.

Tubas city is the administrative center of the Governorate of Tubas and also the largest locality. Whereas most of the governorate is in the Jordan valley, Tubas itself is located in the hills of the West Bank at the moderate elevation of 362 m above sea level.

Tubas city is characterized by a moderate climate; the summer is hot and dry, whilst the winter sees a lot of rainfall. The mean annual rainfall in Tubas city is 329 mm; the average annual temperature in Tubas city is 21 °C, and the average annual humidity is 56 % (ARIJ GIS).

Since 1953 the city has been governed by a city municipal council, currently the city council comprises of 15 members who were elected during the 2005 local authority elections. The city municipality has 60 employees and its operations and responsibilities include:

1. Administration, planning and development;
2. Social development services;
3. Infrastructural maintenance, water, electricity, solid waste collection, the issuing of building licenses and the distribution of social services.

History

Tubas is an old city, where the word tubas comes from the Canaanite word "Tuba Syoys", or the "illuminating star". Which means in Canaanite the light star or brilliance and it was mentioned in the Roman period by "*thepas*". Archeological evidences indicated that there are many bases, cemeteries, press and archaeological stones. The area was first inhabited at the end of the 19th century, when groups of shepherds and farmers living in the Jordan Valley started to move up into the hills to a more moderate climate during the summer months.

The first family to dwell in the Tubas area was Daraghmeh family - who has been present in the area for hundreds of years – who exploited the areas proximity to the river Jordan, for agriculture and the rearing of livestock. The bulk of the population of Tubas city came from as far away as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria as well as the local cities of Nablus and Hebron (Tubas municipality).

Photography of Tubas city



Demography and Population

In 1997 the total population of Tubas city was 11,760 people, of which 5,978 were males and 5,782 were females. There were 1989 households resident in 2308 housing units. (1997 census)

The population of Tubas city constitutes about 33.4 % of the total population of the Tubas Governorate which is considered the governorate urban population.

Age groups and gender

The data of the 1997 census reveals that the classification of population of Tubas city by age groups and sex. The data showed that 42.6 % are less than 15 years, 52.4 % are in the age group 15-64 years and 5 % are 65 year and above (See table 1)

Sex	Age group			Total	percent
	0 -14	15 -64	65 +		
Male	2514	3213	251	5978	50.8
Female	2500	2944	338	5782	49.2
Total	5014	6157	589	11,760	100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

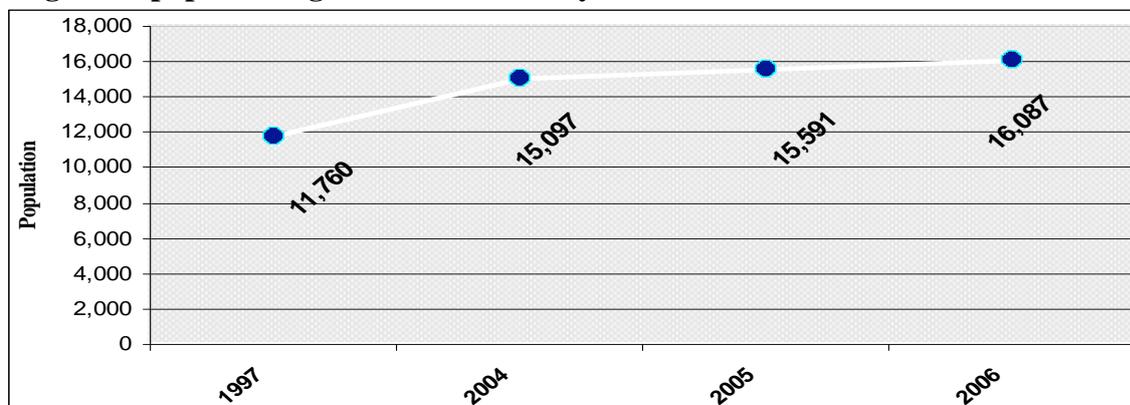
The sex ratio in the city was 103.4 males for every 100 females. Males constitute 50.8 % of the population and females constitute 49.2 %.

The estimated population of Tubas city by mid 2005 was 15,591 and in mid 2006 will increase to 16,087. The data in table 2 indicate that the population of Tubas city grew by 32.6 % between 1997 and mid 2005 and in 2006 will increase by 3.2 % (an increase of 496 people).

	1997 census	Mid-year population in		
		2004	2005	2006
Tubas	11,760	15,097	15,591	16,087

Source: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/populati/pop10.aspx>

Figure 1: population growth in Tubas city



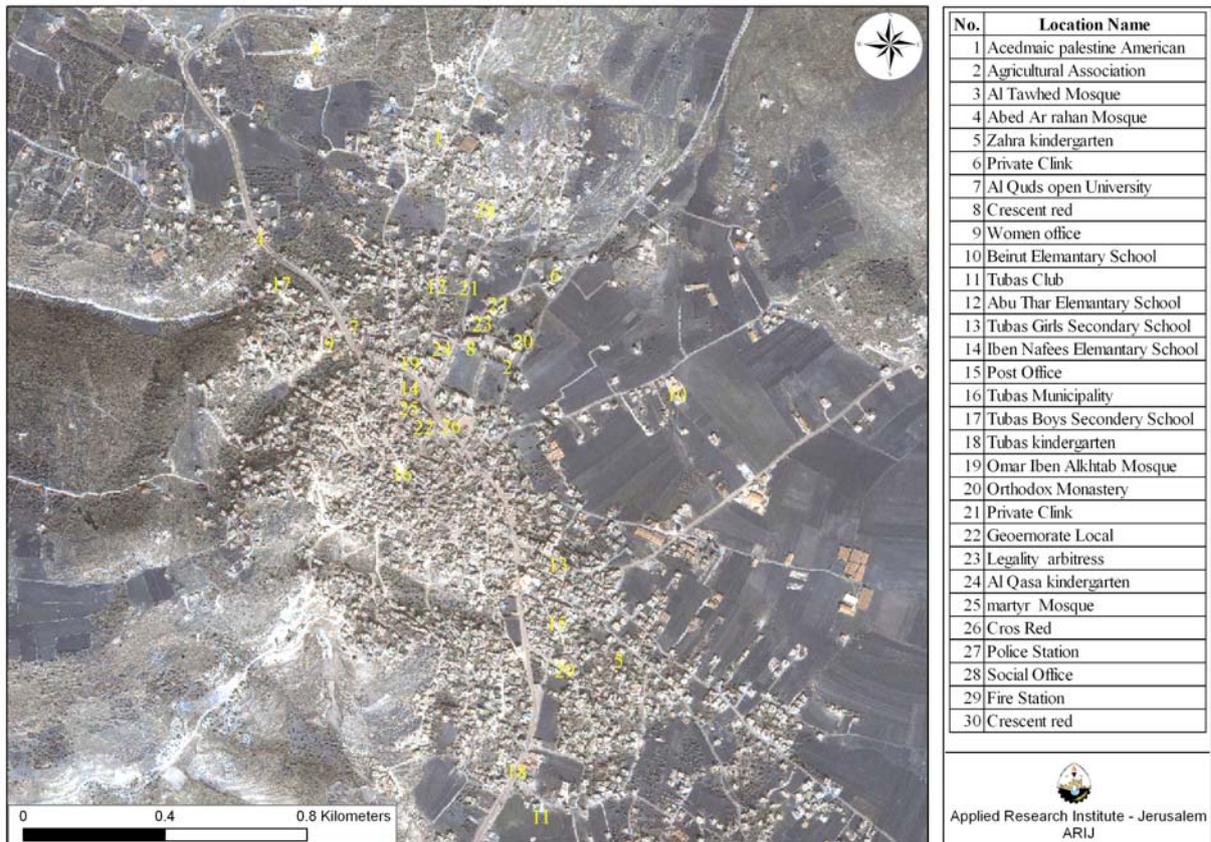
Families:

The population of the city comprises of four main families: Daraghma 70 %, Sawafta 25 %, Fughha 2 %, Husheh 3 %.

Religious and Archeological Sites

There are seven places of worship in Tubas city; six mosques and one church. There are also a few historical and archeological sites in the city such as: the old mosque and Aqed Sawafta which has been derelict, due to neglect, for many years.

Map 2: Main locations in Tubas city



The Economy

The economic base in Tubas city was previously dependent on the agriculture sector. The majority of the population made their livelihood from cultivated field crops, vegetables and live stock.

Following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967 a large percentage of the Palestinian labor force became migrant workers inside Israel proper and the Israeli settlements; some gaining better incomes by leaving behind their farms, lands and subsistence way of life. This is mostly because of land confiscation and stiff competition from Israeli agricultural goods, deprived them from working in the traditional national economy and in the public sector.

Since the establishment of Palestinian Authority in 1993, in addition to depending on the agriculture sector and Israeli labor market new employment opportunities have been opened in front of Palestinian population in the form of public sector, trade and service sectors.

Labor Force Construction

In 1997, the percentage of participants in labor force in Tubas city was 68.8 % of the total population of the city. The participation of women was assessed to be 33.6 % (3947 women in total). The labor force in Tubas city is 8094 people in total, of which 40.1 % are 'economically active' people and 59.9 % are 'non-economically' active people. Of the economically active people 84.4 % are employed people, 15.6 % are unemployed people. The largest groups of non-economically active people are the students and housewives, who constitute 46.2 % and 36.5 % respectively. Table 3 shows the labor force in Tubas city.

Table 3: Tubas Population (10 years and Over) by Sex and Employment Status

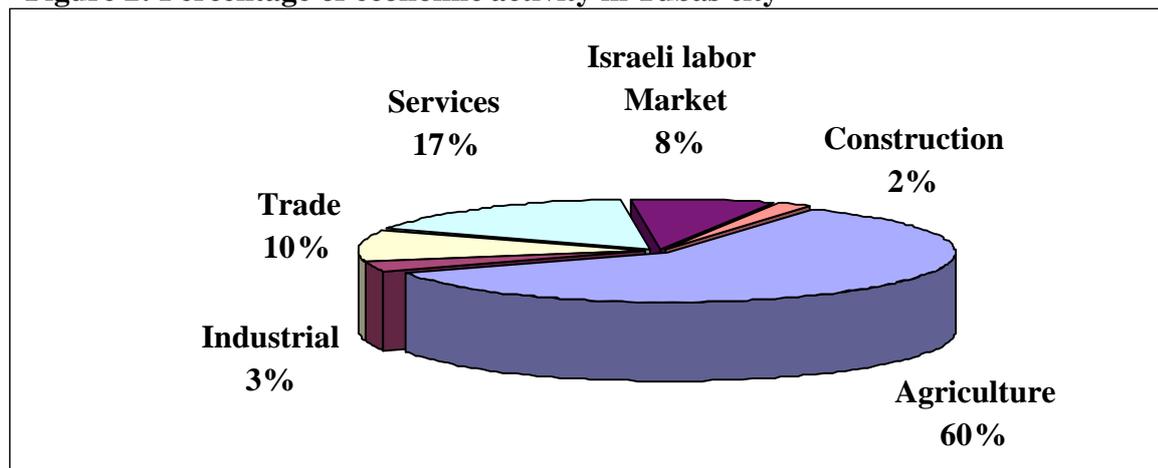
Sex	Economically Active				Not Economically Active						Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Un-Employed Never Worked	Total	Students	House-Wife	Unable to work	Not working & Not looking For Work	Other	Total	
M	2402	221	118	2741	1163	-	147	66	30	1406	4147
F	335	57	110	502	1079	1770	188	28	380	3445	3947
T	2737	278	228	3243	2242	1770	355	94	410	4851	8094

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

Since the outbreak of second Intifada in September 2000, most of the Palestinian migrant labour force could not reach their places of work in Israel and settlements. As a result the workers have lost their primary source of income and many have returned to working in their lands.

Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH in November 2005, the share of the population working in the various sectors of the economy is listed below by percentage:

- The agricultural sector 60 %,
- The industrial sector 3 %,
- The trade sector 10 %,
- The service sector 17 %,
- Israeli labor market 8 %.
- The construction sector 2 %.

Figure 2: Percentage of economic activity in Tubas city

The survey also indicated that the social groups most affected by Israeli measures in Tubas city during the second Intifada are: 1) former migrant workers in the Israeli labor market, 2) families maintaining 6 individuals and more, 3) small farmers, 4) small traders and 5) housewives and children.

The average household income in Tubas has been heavily affected by the second Intifada. Prior to this the average income stood at 2500 NIS. Today however it has declined sharply to 1500 NIS. The result is that the average household income has decreased by 40 % in only four years.

In Tubas city there are 240 shops and stores, 30 small factories, 70 service institutions and many household hand craft workshops which are capable of providing convenient living conditions and basic needs.

Education

In 1997 census the education status in Tubas city indicated that about 14 % of the residents were illiterate, with women (78.3 %) comprising a greater percentage of illiterates than men (21.7 %). Of the literate population, 14.9 % of residents could read and write, 25.8 % completed elementary education, 23.3 % completed preparatory education and 22.1 % completed their secondary and higher education. Table 4 shows the education status in Tubas by sex and education attainment in 1997.

Table 4: Tubas Population (10 years and over) by sex and Educational Attainment

Sex	Illiterate	Can read & Write	Elementary	Preparatory	Secondary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Total
M	245	682	1116	1013	554	265	241	1	27	6	4150
F	885	526	970	874	393	204	97	0	1	0	3950
T	1130	1208	2086	1887	947	469	338	1	28	6	8100

Source: PCBS, May 1999. Population, Housing and Establishment Census-1997, Final Results

There are four levels of education available in Tubas City: pre-school (kindergartens); elementary education; preparatory education and secondary education which provide the *Tawjihi* exam for local students to allow them to enter university.

At the end of the 2004/2005 scholastic year there were 12 schools in Tubas city, four schools for males, three schools for females and five schools for co-education system, the education status in Tubas city shows in table 5.

Table 5: Total No. of Schools, Classes and Students by Sex in Tubas city (2004-2005)

		Government	Private	Total
Male	No. of Schools	5	0	5
	No. of class	62	0	62
	No. of Teachers	0	0	0
	No. of Students	2270	0	2270
Female	No. of Schools	3	0	3
	No. of class	51	0	51
	No. of Teachers	0	0	0
	No. of Students	1997	0	1997
Co-education	No. of Schools	1	3	4
	No. of class	14	14	28
	No. of Teachers	0	0	0
	No. of Students	468	189	657

Source: ARIJ Data Base – 2005

In 2005 there were about six kindergartens in Tubas city providing pre-education schools for 620 children.

Health Status

Tubas city has a poor health services compared to other Palestinian cities. Only four health clinics provide services to the population; one is Governmental, two are NGO administered and one is private. With 15,591 people living in the city and 46,644 people in the Governorate as a whole, only two ambulances and 10 pharmacies provided services.

Tubas city is suffering of many obstacles and problems in the health service, which are:

1. There is no hospital in the city to provide health services to the Governorate as a whole.
2. There is a shortage in ambulances in the city.
3. There is a shortage of medicine and drugs in pharmacies.
4. Health clinics in neighboring Governorates are difficult to access due to Israeli movement restrictions and closures..
5. There is a shortage of qualified specialists and physicians in the local clinic.
6. There is a shortage of capital and investment to provide modern medical equipment.

Infrastructure, Natural resources and Services

Tubas city is the main city in the Governorate. As a result most of the services providers, and the National Authority offices, are located in the city yet they serve the governorate as a whole. There are twenty one institutions in Tubas city. These include the post office, the Ministry of Labor office, the Ministry of Agriculture office, the Ministry of Social Affairs Office, the Fire Department and the Police Office amongst various other institutions. Table 6 shows the number of institutions in Tubas city by Type.

Table 6: No of institutions in Tubas city by type

	Type of institution						
	Gov.	Charit-able	women	NGO	Agriculture	sports	Worship
Tubas City	7	2	-	3	1	1	7

- **Telecommunication services:** Tubas city is connected to the telecommunication network. Approximately 60 % of the households have a telephone connection.
- **Water services:** Tubas has been connected to the water network since 1968. Almost 90 % of the households are connected. Water resources in the area are administered by Tubas municipality. In addition to the water network there is one spring in the Tubas area which provides water for households use.
The city also has a water reservoir with a capacity of 900 m³. This is primarily used to provide water to the city in the summer time and is only available only a once on a weekly basis. There are several problems in the water sector in Tubas city:
 1. The water network does not cover the new built up area constructed in last ten years.
 2. The old network consists of low capacity pipes (0.5 inch) and is in need of rehabilitation to increase its capacity.
 3. The fluctuation of rainfall in the Tubas area has had a negative impact on water reservoirs ability to supply the necessary quantity of water for the population.
- **Electricity services:** From 1963 to 1997 Tubas city was provided all its electricity needs by local generators owned by municipality. In 1997 the city connected with the Tubas Area Electricity Network which was provided by Israeli Electric Cooperation. 99 % of households in the city are connected with electricity network.
- **Solid Waste Collection:** Solid waste management in Tubas is operated by the municipality and Joint Services Council. According to the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH, solid waste is collected 3-4 times a day from the residential area, which is sent to a shared dumping site 3 km from Tubas city. Burning is the main methods used to disposal of solid waste.
- **Sewage Disposal Facilities:** Tubas city is not connected to the sewage network. All households must therefore dispose of their wastewater in cesspits. This is considered one of the main sources of pollution to the groundwater.

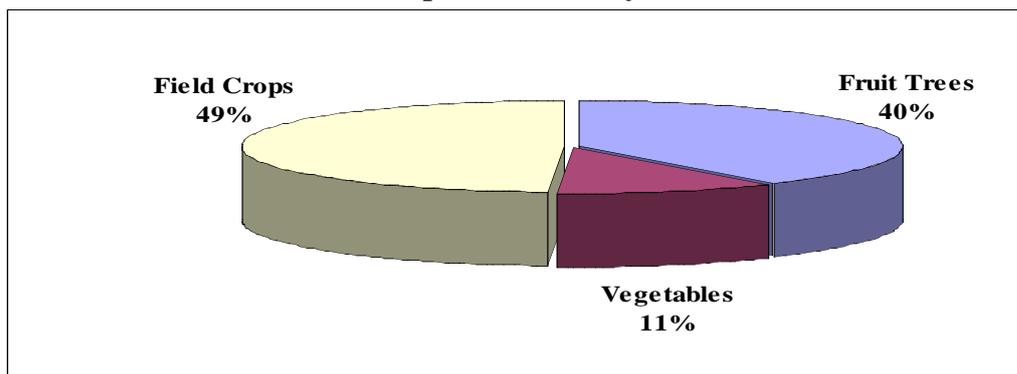
- **Transportation services:** In Tubas city there are many types of transportation used to transport residents to and from rural areas and from Tubas to other governorates and localities. The primary means of transportation in Tubas city is buses and taxis.

The road network in the city suffers from rapid deterioration and much of it is unpaved. The total length of paved and good quality roads is 10,000 meters, whereas there is 10,000 meters of deteriorating paved roads and 25,000 meters that are entirely unpaved.

Agriculture Sector

Tubas city's main source of livelihood is agriculture, 60 % of the population work in various agricultural fields. The total area of arable land in the Tubas governorate is 150,000 dunums, whilst the cultivated area has reached 10604 dunums. 124,450 further dunums are forests and 1000 dunums are grazing area. Out of 10604 dunums which are cultivated, 4224 dunums are primarily planted with fruit trees, 1160 dunums are for the cultivation of vegetables and 5215 dunums are for the cultivation of field crops. There are also 5 dunums of green houses. (Ministry of Agriculture 2004)

Figure 3: Percentage of cultivated area of fruit trees, vegetables and field crops in Tubas city.



Based on the survey conducted by ARIJ and ACH, Tubas city produces 95 tons of olive oil, 4 tons table olive, 33.7 tons of nut stone, 360 tons of vegetables and 1300 tons of field crops per annum.

90% of the residents of Tubas also keep livestock. Data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicate that there are 96 heads of cattle, 880 goats, 6760 sheep, 123 bee hives and 140,000 poultry.

Impact of Occupation Practices

Tubas Governorate is considered a strategic area for the Israeli Military due to its location on the international border with Jordan. There are three Israeli settlements that have been built on the land of Tubas city, in addition to one military base and a permanent check point constructed to the east of the city (Tyasser military base and check point). In addition to permanent checkpoints the Israeli military forces place numerous flying check points periodically around the city.

In addition to the aforementioned procedures, the Israeli Military has also created trenches around neighboring villages of Khirbet 'Atuf and Kh ar Ras al Ahmar, which are the primary obstacle that blocks of Tubas city residents from access to their lands as the majority of Tubas agriculture land (amounted 20000 dunums) is located beyond these trenches. 40% of Tubas city's residents have land in this isolated area.

The Israeli Military has also destroyed and bulldozed 100 dunums of field crops, 7 houses, 5 trade shops and 5 cultivated farms. These procedures have a dire affect upon the basic rights of the residents (such as food security and access to health and water requirements). Tubas city is therefore directly and severely affected by the combined impact of the closures, movement restrictions and the construction of the segregation Wall.

Plans and Development Projects

Tubas city was neglected for consideration for projects and development plans in the period of direct Israeli rule. Since the Palestinian authority has governed Tubas Governorate, many projects have been implemented in Tubas city. The most recent of which have been the building of Tubas elementary School and the construction of roads.

The Municipality council in Tubas city has established a plan for development of the city which included various new projects. To address the shortages in the city the top projects were schools, a hospital water reservoirs and roads.

The developmental projects which have been established in the plan are listed in table 7.

Table 7: Development plans and projects in Tubas city

Project	Type	Budget
Build new school consist from 25 classes	Education	750,000 USD
Rehabilitation and increase water capacity	Infrastructure	300,000 USD
Construction of water reservoir with capacity 2000 m ³	Water	
Open, rehabilitation and paved mineral roads and gates with 25 km.	Infrastructure	-
Professional training center	Education	-
Governmental hospital	Health	-

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