

AIN BAAL VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Ain Baal is a village located in the district of Tyre a city in the Southern Governorate of Lebanon (one of the eight governorates). It is around 87 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 8 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Ain Baal is characterized by a moderate climate; its elevation is around 125 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm.

Ain Baal is bordered by Bazourieh and Burj Al Shimal to the north, Tyre to the west and Batoulieh to the South.

The village is distinguished by both its white and black soil suitable for the cultivation of all types of crops, especially citrus fruits and bananas.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Ain Baal is around 5510 inhabitants. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 600 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country as a result of war or internal conflicts, to places like Tyre and Southern Suburbs of Beirut. Additionally, around 500 migrated to countries such as Uruguay, Brazil and Ivory Coast (See Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of the Population

| Population | Number | In Percent |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Residents | 4410 | 80.0 |
| Displaced | 600 | 10.9 |
| Migrants | 500 | 9.1 |
| Total | 5510 | 100.0 |

There are 1100 inhabitants all year long (In addition to the inhabitants of Housh Basma), while the number of village inhabitants rises to around 1600 people during the summer (In addition to the inhabitants of Housh Basma). The number of registered voters is around 2900 voters, as indicated during the summer elections of 2010.

2.1 Age Groups

The distribution of the population by age groups in Ain Baal is as follows: 47 % are less than 21 years, 50 % are between 21 - 65 years, and 3 % are 65 years and older (See Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age Groups

| Age Group | Number | In Percent |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Under 21 | 2610 | 47.3 |
| Between 21-65 | 2735 | 49.7 |
| Above 65 | 165 | 3.0 |
| Total | 5510 | 100.0 |

2.2 Labour Force

The labour force in Ain Baal accounts for 30 % of the total resident population of the village, while unemployment is high reaching around 25 %.

The labour force is distributed as follows:

- Agriculture (40%) such as banana, citrus fruits, vegetables, olives, tobacco and fruit trees.
- Construction industry (15%)
- General trade (20%)
- Crafts (12%)
- Government Employees Sector, mainly in the security forces or the military (6%)
- Others (7%)

As for the women and the youth in the village they participate in the cultivation of vegetables and tobacco. Additionally, few women work in the educational sector.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The arable land in Ain Baal is around 79% of total area of the village. There are around 500 people working in the sector (See table 3).

Table 3: Land use (in dunums)

| Land use | Area (in dunums) |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Outlying area of the village | 6950 |
| Area of arable land | 5500 |
| Cultivated land | 3300 |
| Irrigated areas | 3100 |
| Non-arable land | 1450 |

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Ain Baal. The most common cultivated products within this area are citrus fruits, olives, tobacco and fruit trees.

Table 4: Cultivated areas by agricultural Products

| Products | Cultivated areas (in dunums) |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Olives | 10 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Citrus Fruits | 60 |
| Vegetables | 10 |
| Tobacco | 30 |
| Fruit trees | 35 |

Agricultural produce, particularly citrus and bananas, are sold in the wholesale market in Tyre, Saida and Beirut. The other agricultural products are marketed in the village and the Caza'. The different types of Agro- food are as follows:

- Olive Oil
- Thyme
- Borghul

Ain Baal does not face serious problems in agriculture. This is due to the fact that most of those who work in this sector are large farmers who own most of the cultivated land and use advanced and modern skills and machinery. The rest are small scale farmers and their numbers are very small; they do not rely on this sector as the main source of income.

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Most of the residents in Ain Baal are breeding and keeping domestic animals such as cows, goats, chickens, and bees (See Table 5).

Table 5: Livestock in Ain Baal

| Cows | Beehives | Chicken farms | Goats |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 20 heads | 150 | 2 farms | 800 heads |

The village produces an average of 400 kilos of milk per day which are consumed by the villagers. The village also consumes its produce of chicken and eggs from its poultry farms and the surplus of the production is marketed in Tyre.

3.3 CRAFTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Ain Baal (see Table 5). Further, Ain Baal has factories that produce concrete blocks, stones and tiles. It suffers from shortages of skilled labour.

Table 6: People working in Crafts and Trades

| Profession | Number of workers |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Concrete Carpenter | 40 |
| Carpenter | 13 |
| Industrial Smith | 5 |
| Car Mechanics | 4 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Painters | 15 |
| Butchers | 3 |
| Furniture painters | 8 |
| Construction | 20 |
| Sanitary | 10 |
| Tiling | 10 |
| Electricians | 10 |
| Bakers | 3 |
| Barber | 3 |
| Aluminium | 2 |
| Electricity of the cars | 2 |

4. EDUCATION

Ain Baal has 100 % enrolment in primary education. There are two public schools and two private schools in the village (Thanawiyat Al Moustafa and Thanawiyat Hiram).

5. HEALTH STATUS

Ain Baal health facilities are limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. However, there is a health clinic belonging to the Islamic Scouts (Kishafat Al Risala Al Islamiya) in the village which provides the following services: general medicine, paediatric health, and dentistry. Residents also benefit from the services of four medical doctors residing in the village.

In emergency cases, residents of Ain Baal use hospitals and health centres in Tyre.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Environmental conditions in Ain Baal are affected by the lack of proper wastewater management and solid water management. Waste water is disposed through sewage systems to a waste water treatment station which was set up by an international organization. The purified water is used properly and village does not benefit from it for irrigation purposes, instead the water goes to waste.

As for solid waste management, the lack of a sanitary landfill creates bad odours, distorts the landscape and the environment. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place and then burned without treatments to the hazards emitted and with no considerations to the environments. This situation will continue until the solid waste factory in Ain Baal becomes functional.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

Ain Baal has a public market place that opens every Thursday of the week and attracts a large number of shoppers from the neighbouring villages.

It has been noted that the number of villagers living outside Ain Baal is very large, especially after changing Housh Basma into a residential area for Ain Baal's villagers working in Tyre and neighbouring villages. This new area has attracted a big number of emigrates and residents from Tyre and Bin Jbeil. As such, the residents of Ain Baal who own half the area of Housh Basma have started focusing on the real estate market as a new economic sector (specially after the real estate prices have risen).

The remittances sent by immigrants to their families in the village have not been invested in the real estate market.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Ain Baal is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 1965, and is currently administrated by 15 members elected by the locals of the area. The council is assisted by several committees composed of locals from the village. There are also 3 permanent and 7 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council has been lent to the municipality.

Additionally, Ain Baal has a number of local institutions dealing with social matters in the village, they are:

- Al Nahda Sports Club
- Charity Association of Ain Baal
- The Federation of Democratic Youth
- Islamic Scouts Association