

AIN EBEL VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Ain Ebel is a village located in the Caza of Bint Jbeil. Ain Ebel is around 126 kilometres away from Beirut, and 0.5 Kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Its elevation is between 720-850 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm. Ain Ebel is characterized by a moderate climate and the average annual temperature is 25-27 degrees Celsius.

Ain Ebel covers 1155 hectares occupying several hills that are bordered by Bint Jbeil, Ainata, Koneen and Tiri from the north and north-west; by Aita Al Shaab, Rmeish and some Galilee villages from the south and south-east; by Yaroun, Maroun Al Ras from the east; and by Haneen and Dibel from the west.

The village is distinguished by its white soil suitable for the cultivation of olives and figs.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Ain Ebel is around 8000. The village inhabitants witnessed a wave of immigration by which 50 % of the families left it to other countries.

Ain Ebel has around 1000 inhabitants in winter, while the number of village inhabitants rises to around 4000 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 4500 voters, almost 2000 of them voted in the 2010 elections.

2.1 Labour Force

There are few cases of unemployment. Out of the 1000 residents in Ain Ebel:

- 30 people are employed with UNIFIL (Naqoura).
- 27 people are employed within the educational and military sectors.
- The rest of the population live on services such as trade, light industries, agriculture and rearing livestock.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The geographical nature of the village makes it suitable for the cultivation of olives. There are around 60,000 olive trees in Ain Ebel that constitute an additional source of income for the families living in and outside the village. Tobacco which is cultivated on an area of 80 dunums benefits from the village .

The rest of the arable land which is suitable for farming has been leased to neighbouring villages such as Rmeish and Aita Al Shaab.

The agro-food production in Ain Ebel is limited to the production of olive oil (3 olive presses) and carob molasses, which are sold at the local market and the rest is marketed in Beirut.

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Ain Ebel are breeding and keeping domestic animals such as sheep, goats, chickens, and bees (See Table 1).

Table 1: Livestock in Ain ebel

Cows	Goats	Pig farms	Chicken farms
60 heads, owned by around 11 families	3 herds	3	3

The families owning small numbers of cows produce milk that is marketed on a limited scale inside the village. As for the two big farms in the village, they market their dairy products in the village and the neighboring villages. The pig farms market their products in Beirut.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Ain Ebel mainly painting, aluminium, carpeting, concrete (see Table 2).

Table 2: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of workshops
Carpentry	3
Concrete Factories	2
Bakery	1 bakery
Aluminium	3
Casino	1
Gym	1
Restaurants	3
Gas Stations	4
Car maintenance	4

4. EDUCATION

100 % of the students had primary education. There are three schools in the village: two private schools (Saints-Cœurs and Saint Joseph) and one public school.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Ain Ebel health facilities are limited to two clinics, which are run by the nuns of the area.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Ain Ebel experiences, like other villages in the Caza, several environmental problems. The village relies on one artesian well managed by the Water Authority in Jabal Aamel. However, this summer the well was not functioning properly due to a malfunction in its pump, which forced the villagers to buy water.

Ain Ebel also faces a problem with its wastewater management, due to the absence of a public sewage network. A project for building a public sewage system started in the village; however it has not been fully implemented yet.

Additionally, the village lacks proper solid waste management. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place and then burned. This is due to the fact that the work of the sanitary landfill that was being shared with Bint Jbel and Yaroun was put to a halt during the 2006 war.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES

Ain Ebel has built trade relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, and relies on them to market most of its dairy productions, as well as for employments in the construction sector.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Ain Ebel is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 2004, 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 6 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council owns a permanent headquarters.