

**UNDP**  
**Socio Economic Rehabilitation Programme for South Lebanon**

**AL MARRI VILLAGE PROFILE**

**1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Al Marri is a village located in the Caza' of Hasbaya. It is around 114 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 15 Kilometres from the center of the Caza'. Al Marri is characterized by a moderate climate; its elevation is around 450 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600- 700 mm.

The village covers an area of around 1200 Hectares (12 square kilometres).

Al Marri is bordered by Palestine and Al Ghajar village from the south. The Hasbani River and Al khiyam village borders Al Marri from the west, while the Mazraat Halta and Mazraat Al Majidiya fall to its east and Rashayya Al Foukhar to the north.

The village is distinguished by its hills suitable for cultivation and a vast valley.

**2. POPULATION**

The total population of Al Marri is around 1500. There are the same number all around the year. The number of registered voters is around 700 voters.

*2.1 Labour Force*

Unemployment in Al Marri is insignificant. Women and young people participate in agricultural work of the village.

The distribution of the labour force by economic activity in Al Marri is as follows:

- Agriculture (70%).
- Liberal professions and trade (15%)
- Government Employees Sector, mainly in the security forces or the military (15 %)

**3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

*3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR*

Al Marri's agricultural land totals to around 8760 dunums, of which 2560 dunums are irrigated , while 1100 dunums are covered with forests and 650 dunums are for urban use.

Table 1 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Al Marri. There are around 50000 trees covering an area of 2500 dunums; while almond trees

cover an area of 50 dunums, followed by vine trees that cover 30 dunums. Al Marri also cultivates significant amounts of grains and vegetables.

Table 1: Agricultural Products

Products	Production (in tons)
<b>Olives</b>	1500
<b>Onions</b>	200
<b>Cucumbers</b>	100
<b>Watermelons</b>	1000
<b>Melon</b>	1000
<b>Wheat</b>	1000
<b>Vegetables</b>	260

There are two olive oil presses in Al Marri. Olive oil production is sold in the Lebanese market. Soap is produced by the population for personal use, while only two families in the village sell the soap in the market. As for the village’s agricultural products they are mainly marketed in various parts of Lebanon, specifically to the Beqaa, Nabatieh and Saida.

The village also has two cooperatives:

- Cooperative for agricultural guidance and the development of olive cultivation
- General Agricultural Cooperative

There are several problems facing the agricultural sector in Al Marri:

- Lack of agricultural guidance and support, despite the presence of knowledgeable farmers in the village.
- Difficulty in selling olive oil production with fair prices.
- The village’s distance from wholesale markets.
- Most of the cultivated land in the village does not belong to the people from the village. For example the field is owned by a person from Hasbaya, who rents each irrigated dunum for 100 US dollars and each non-irrigated dunum for 75 US dollars per year.
- High prices of nylon and irrigation systems
- Low vegetable prices, especially in wholesale markets

### 3.2 LIVESTOCK

Some of the residents in Al Marri breed animals such as cows, chickens, and bees (See Table 2).

Table 2: Livestock in Al Marri

Cows	Beehives	Chicken farms
<b>20 heads</b>	600 distributed among 32 families	2 farms, as well as 20 chickens per family

Milk production is consumed locally, while chicken are sold in neighbouring villages.

### 3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Al Marri, as listed in table 3.

Table 3: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of Workers or institutions
Blacksmith	5 people
Aluminium	3 people
Wire Factory	1 Factory

## 4. EDUCATION

100 % had primary education in the village's public and private school.

As for secondary education, students attend schools in Hasbaya which costs them an additional 60,000 LL per month to cover the transportation fees.

## 5. HEALTH STATUS

Al Marri health facilities are very limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. In emergency cases or for medical checkups, residents of Al Marri use the health centres in Hasbaya.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Al Marri does not face serious problems in securing water for drinking purposes. There is also a public sewage network as well as a water treatment plant funded by Mercy Corps. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place and then burned without treatments to the hazards emitted and with no considerations to the environment.

## 7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES

Al Marri has built excellent trade relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, and relies on them to market most of its agricultural and industrial production.

## 8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Al Marri is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 2004, and is currently administrated by 9 members elected by the locals of the area. The council is assisted by several committees composed of locals from the village. There are also 2 permanent employees- a policeman and treasurer- working in the municipality, while another 5 are

contracted to perform specific tasks such as cleaning, water maintenance and removal of wastes. The municipal council headquarters is owned by the villagers.

Additionally, Al Marri has a number of local institutions dealing with social matters in the village, such as the UNDP's Youth Gathering.