

BINT JBEIL VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Bint Jbeil is the second largest town in the district of Bint Jbeil. It is around 122 kilometres away from Beirut. Bint Jbeil is characterized by a moderate climate; its elevation is around 770 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700mm.

The village covers an area of around 802 hectares (8.02 km²).

Bint Jbeil is bordered by Aitaroun, Ainata, Tiri, Ain Ebel, Yaroun, Maroun Al Ras and Koneben. The village is distinguished by its slopes of hills and flat meadows.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Bint Jbeil is around 49500. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 10,000 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country as a result of wars. These numbers account to 20% of the total population of Bint Jbeil, who moved to work in different Lebanese regions specifically Beirut. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 37000 migrated to countries such as America, Australia, and Africa, and which account for 73% of the total population. The rest of the population resides in Bint Jbeil. (See Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of Population

Population	Number	In Percent
Residents	2, 500	5.1
Displaced	10,000	20.2
Migrants	37,000	74.7
Total	49,500	100.0

There are around 3500 inhabitants in the village in the winter, while the number rises to around 7000 during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 18000 voters.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Bint jbeil's agricultural sector has come to a halt. As for the arable land in the town it has been leased to farmers from neighbouring villages.

3.2 LIVESTOCK

The residents in Bint Jbeil don't breed or own any significant livestock.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Bint jbeil, mainly in the shoe and construction industry (see Table 2).

Table 2: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of Workers or institutions
Carpenter	2 people from the town and 2 from outside
Concrete Carpenter	30 people
Tinfoil	4 people
Blacksmith	4 people
Shoe industry	Out of the 60 factories that used to operate in Bint Jbeil, 5 factories are still functional.
Construction industry (electricity, plumbing, tiling, painting, ect..)	40

The economic status of the population has severely declined, as many citizens have lost their jobs and have become unemployed due to many challenges such as: foreign market competitions. For example due to the foreign market competitions and immigration of villagers: out of the 60 shoe factories that used to operate in Bint Jbeil, 5 are still functional.

4. EDUCATION

There are 3 public schools, a vocational school and a branch for the Faculty of Sciences of the Lebanese University. Additionally, there are 3 private schools and a nursery. As such, the town hold an educational destination for students from the surrounding villages.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Bint Jbeil health facilities are limited to a governmental hospital, a private hospital and two health clinics.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Bint Jbeil experiences several environmental problems and challenges. The village of Bint Jbeil mainly relies on old wells for the provision of water to its residents. This is due to the fact that most of the residents get limited water supply from the pond of Ras Al Ayn. As such they are obliged to rely on old wells and collect rain water to cover their water need. Additionally, the absence of a public sewage network and improper wastewater management are major problems in the village. Bint Jbeil has before 2006 built a sewage network that runs for around 38 kilometres; however this system has not been put to work and awaits the establishment of a filtration/wastewater treatment station.

Further, solid wastes are usually collected in the landfill owned by the municipality and then burned without treatments to the hazards emitted and with no considerations to the environments.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

It has been indicated that 73% of the total population of Bint Jbeil are immigrants, who visit the town on annual basis to spend their summer vacation.

Further, Bint Jbeil can be considered as a connecting point between the rest of the villages in the Kaza, whereas its market place is an attraction for the villagers from the neighbourhood.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Bint Jbeilis governed by a municipal council and is currently administrated by 21 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 permanent staff working in the municipality and 21 contracted employees. The municipal council owns a permanent headquarters, as well as a market place which it rents the shops (120 shops), and the slaughterhouse.

Bint Jbeil has a limited number of local institutions dealing with social matters in the village such as the UNDP Youth Gathering.