

CHEHABIEH VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Chehabieh is a village located in the district of Tyre. It is around 100 kilometres away from Beirut and around 20 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Chehabieh is characterized by a moderate climate; Its elevation is around 450 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm.

Chehabieh being the last village of Tyre from its southern end is bordered by Silaa to the north, Dayr Antar, Dibghal and Joya to the west, Kfardounin and Dayr Kifa to the east, and Al Majadel to the South.

The village is distinguished by its white soil which covers 80% of Chehabieh and is suitable for the cultivation of a variety of crops. The rest of the village is covered by rocky surfaces unsuitable for agriculture.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Chehabieh is around 12365. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 500 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country, such as Southern Suburbs of Beirut. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 300 migrated to countries such as Venezuela, Brazil, North America Germany and Africa (See Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of Population

Population	Number	In Percent
Residents	11565	93.5
Displaced	500	4.0
Migrants	300	2.5
Total	12365	100.0

There are 11565 residents in Chehabieh in winter, while the number rises to around 11915 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 6350 voters as indicated by the 2010 summer elections.

2.1 Age Groups

The distribution of the population by age groups in Chehabieh is as follows: 48.5% are less than 21 years, 45.3% are between 21 - 64 years, and 6.2% are 65 years and older (See Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age Groups

Age Group	Number	In Percent
Under 21	6015	48.5
Between 21-65	5600	45.3
Above 65	750	6.2
Total	12365	100.0

2.2 Labour Force

Labour force participation in Chehabieh is 35 % of the total resident population of the village.

Women participate in agricultural work of the village mainly in the cultivation of tobacco and olive, in addition to a few who occupy positions in the educational sector and others who trade in clothing. Additionally, many of the young people in the village are in liberal professions and trades, and some others have immigrated.

Unemployment in Chehabieh is negligible since most of the villagers participate in agricultural work.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Around 6000 dunums in Chehabieh are considered arable land, of which 4000 dunums are cultivated. There are around 1500 people working in the sector (See table 3).

Table 3: Land use

Land use	Area (in dunums)
Area of the village	8000
Area of arable land	6000
Cultivated areas	4000

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Chehabieh. The most common cultivated product within this area is olives which account for 75% of the cultivated land.

Table 4: Agricultural Products

Products	Cultivated areas (in dunums)
Olives	3000
Tobacco	750
Thyme	6
Others	244

Chehabieh also produces a range of agro-foods that are traded in neighbouring villages such as Nabatieh and Tyre, and to Beirut specifically its Southern Suburbs. The different types of Agro- productions are as follows:

- Olive Oil
- Jams (Apricot, cherry, figs, dates)
- Orange blossom water
- Ketchup
- Tomato paste
- Sumac
- Thyme
- Burghul

The village also has some agricultural and cooperatives such as:

- The General Agricultural Cooperative Association
- Association of Agricultural Industrialization in Chehabieh

There are some problems facing the agricultural sector in Chehabieh such as:

- High costs of production and labour force.
- Lack of training.
- Difficulties in marketing the produce
- Frequency of diseases (Olive flies and Eye of the Peacock diseases)

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Chehabieh breed cows for meat and milk production (See Table 5).

Table 5: Livestock in Chehabieh

Cows
100 heads, 60 of which are for milking and the rest for meat production

The village produces an average of around 1500 kilos of milk per day which are consumed by the villagers and the rest are marketed in nearby towns, mostly to the village of Baflieh. Meat produced in Chehabieh is also consumed locally, while the surplus is marketed in the neighboring villages.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Chehabieh see Table 6.

Table 6: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of Workers or institutions
Concrete Carpenter	80 people
Carpenters	6 people

Industrial Smith	15 people
Car mechanics	10 people
Painters	16 people
Furniture painters	11 people
Construction	25 people
Plumbing	10 people
Butchers	8 people
Tiling	10 people
Electricians	10 people
Bakers	10 person
Barber	10 people
Aluminium	14 people
Car Electricity	5 people
Oil Change	5 people
Supermarkets	20 supermarkets
Cellular shops	12 shops
Restaurants	8 restaurants
Internet shops	3 shops
Shoe shops	7 shops
Accessory shops	7 shops
Concrete factory	4 factories
Tile factory	3 factories
Marble factory	2 factories

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:

- Rising costs of raw materials.
- Use of conventional techniques and equipments in most of the crafts and professions.
- Lack of skills.

4. EDUCATION

100 % of the school children had primary education.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Chehabieh health facilities are limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. However, there is one health clinic which is part of the Islamic Health Organization in the village which provides specific services and another clinic owned by the Imam Sadr Foundation.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Chehabieh experiences several environmental problems. The village relies on one artesian well and the Water project in Wadi Gilo for both the provision of drinking water and

irrigation services. Additionally, wastewater is improperly managed due to the lack of a public sewage network. The village suffers from the problem of waste water disposal. Houses in the village were connected to a network to dispose waste water in containers outside the village. However, these containers are overflowed with waste water, which forces the municipality to empty them on a constant basis. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place and then burned without treatments to the hazards emitted.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

Chehabieh has built trade relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, and relies on them to market most of its agricultural and industrial production. Further, the village is a popular shopping destination for residents of nearby towns due to the presence and diversity of shops. The market in Chehabieh also benefits from the presence of the international forces.

The remittances sent by immigrants to their families in the village are minimal and limited to the support of income.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Chehabieh is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 1962, 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 4 permanent and 9 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council owns a permanent headquarters.

Chehabieh has also a sports association called the Association of sports cooperation.