

CHEHOUR VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Chehour 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 95 kilometres away from Beirut, and 22 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Chehour is characterized by a moderate climate; its elevation is around 345 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm.

Chehour falls on its north side along the Litani River and is bordered by Ain Baal and Tर्फelsei to the west, Srafa to the east, and Arzoun to the South.

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

2. POPULATION

The total population of Chehour is around 8100. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 5000 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country such as Tyre, Beirut and the Southern Suburbs of Beirut. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 1800 immigrated to countries such as Germany, Kuwait, UAE, Switzerland, Sweden and Africa (See Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of Population

Population	Number	In Percent
Residents	1300	16.1
Displaced	5000	61.7
Migrants	1800	22.2
Total	8100	100.0

There are 1300 inhabitants in Chehour in winter, while the number rises to around 3500 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 6407 voters, including 2180 which are registered in Beirut and the Southern Suburbs.

2.1 Age Groups

The distribution of the population by age groups in Chehour is as follows: 45.94 percent are less than 21 years, 51.27 percent are between 21 - 65 years, and 2.78 percent are 65 years and older (See Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age Groups

Age Group	Number	In Percent
Under 21	3719	45.9

Between 21-65	4155	51.3
Above 65	226	2.8
Total	8100	100.0

2.2 Labour Force

Labour force participation in Chehour is 27 % of the total resident population of the village, while unemployment is around 5 %.

Working women participate mainly in the educational sector, and some jobs in the private and public sector. The young people in the area mainly hold jobs in private sector or have specific professions or crafts.

It is estimated that 22 % of the labour force work in trade, 25% in crafts and free professions and 20% as government employees, mainly in the security forces or the military.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Around 6100 dunums of Chehour are considered arable land, with around 100 people working in the sector. Around 50% of land constituting 4200 dunums are cultivated (See table 3).

Table 3: Land use

Land use	Area (in dunums)
Area of the village	8393
Area of arable land	6100
Cultivated area	4200

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Chehour. The most common cultivated product within this area is olives.

Table 4: Agricultural Products

Products	In Percent of cultivated land
Olives	70.0
Tobacco	1.2
Grains and wheat	7.1
Sesame	2.4
Others	19.3
Total	100.0

Chehour also produces a range of Agro-food that are mostly consumed locally. The different types of Agro- productions are as follows:

- Olive Oil
- Burghul
- Sesame

The village also has some agricultural enterprises and cooperatives such as:

- Agricultural Cooperative of Chehour
- Beekeeper Cooperative of Chehour

The most prominent problem facing the agricultural sector in Chehour is the fact that farmers don't own the land they cultivate. This leads to higher costs of production and thus the farmers tend to abandon agricultural work in search for other opportunities in different sectors.

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Chehour have livestock such as cows, bees and chicken (See Table 5).

Table 5: Livestock in Chehour

Cows	Beehives	Chicken farms
21 heads	15 hives	4

The village produces a limited amount of milk per day which is consumed by the villagers. However, the milk produce does not cover the consumption needs of the local people, which force them to buy additional milk from the markets of Srifa and Arzon to meet their needs. Beef is not produced in Chehour and is imported for consumption from slaughterhouses in the region surrounding the village. The production of beef is replaced by the purchase of cattle from the markets in the region.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Chehour, mainly in painting, aluminium, carpentry and concrete (see Table 6).

Table 6: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of Workers or institutions
Concrete Carpenter	30 people
Carpenter	10 people
Industrial Smith	5 people
Car Smith	4 people
Painter	9 people
Construction	8 people
Sanitary	10 people
Tiling	9 people
Electrical installations	10 people
Bakers	2 people

Butchers	4 people
Barber	4 people
Aluminium	6 people
Car mechanics	7 people
Supermarkets	1 supermarket
Cellular phones	1 shop
Tools	3 shops
Restaurants	3 restaurants
Groceries	11 groceries
Internet shops	2 shops
AC shops	2 shops
Concrete plants	1

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:

- Power outages
- A narrow market
- Lack of modern technologies, particularly in professions and occupations related to blacksmithing and auto mechanics.

4. EDUCATION

100 % of school children had primary education. There is one elementary and one middle school in the village, and children attend also the schools of Al Abasiyah, Maaroub and Burj Rahal.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Chehour health facilities are limited; it relies on the general services provided by a health centre, such as general health checkups, dentistry, and distribution of medicines. Additionally, it relies on a second clinic which is owned by the Supreme Islamic Council and provides a range of services.

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

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Chehour experiences, like other villages in the Caza', several environmental problems, these problems can be identified as a water crisis, and the lack of proper solid waste management and waste water management. It has been noted that Chehour is undergoing a water crisis, as it relies on the water of one artesian well and the water project in Wadi Gilo.

As for the solid waste management, the town lacks a sanitary landfill this creates bad odours, distorts the landscape and the environment. Solid wastes are usually collected in

one place in the town and then burned. Additionally, the waste water is improperly managed due to the lack of sewage networks.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

Chehour has built trade relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, and relies on them to market most of its agricultural and industrial production. As such, a public market takes place each Thursday and it is visited by the villagers of the nearby towns such as Arzun. Additionally, there is a permanent market in Chehour which is a centre of attraction to the villages of Srifa, Bafliyeh, Dayr Ghbar, Arzun and Maaroub.

However, the remittances sent by immigrants to their families in the village has not been invested in the village itself but has been used as a source of support to boost the incomes of their relatives.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Chehour 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 2 permanent and 6 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council has been lent to the municipality.

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

- Sports Clubs of Chehour
- Agricultural cooperative
- Forum for Chehour Villagers
- Association of Muslim Scouts
- Scout Association of the Mahdi
- Commission for development in Chehour