

HAROUF VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Harouf is a village located in the district of Nabatieh a city in the Southern Governorate of Lebanon (one of the eight governorates). It is around 77 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 5 kilometres away from the centre of the Caza'. Harouf is characterized by a moderate climate. Its elevation is around 460 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm.

The village covers an area of around 662 hectares (6.62 km²). It is distinguished by its slopes and flat meadows.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Harouf is around 20,000 (35% of which are registered in Beirut). There are 12000 inhabitants during winter, while the number rises to around 17000 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 5200 voters.

2.1 Labour Force

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

- Agriculture (20%)
- Trade (50%)
- Small industries and liberal professions (20%)
- Employees (10%)

The village has around 165 young people that are currently unemployed. These young people which ages vary between 15 and 21 years old dropped out of school and their presence on the streets constitutes a prominent social problem that faces the village.

The working women entered the labour force around 15 years ago and currently occupy positions in the educational sector and commerce.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

An area estimated at 2500 dunums is cultivated in Harouf over a total area of about 7700 dunums.

The most common cultivated product within this area is olives, followed by wheat and tobacco. Harouf doesn't produce any agro-industrial product.

3.2 LIVESTOCK

The livestock in Harouf consists mostly of cows. There are around 180 heads of cows, 100 of which are owned by one farm and 40 are divided equally between two others. Additionally, 10 families in this village own 4-5 heads each.

The village produces milk and meat that goes beyond the needs of the population. The surplus is marketed and sold in the nearby towns and villages. The large farm sold the milk to a cheese factory in Arabsaleem.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade sectors in Harouf, mainly concentrated in the construction industry as there are 75 workers who work in painting, sanitary and electricity (see Table 1).

Table 1: Crafts and Trades

| Profession | Number of enterpises |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Industrial Blacksmithing | 6 |
| Wood industry | 7 |
| Aluminium | 3 |
| Furniture industry | 1 |
| Concrete and cement industries | 20 |

Harouf is considered an active commercial and an industrial centre in the Caza' of Nabatieh. The village gained its reputation starting the 1960s. Currently, hundreds of shops are occupied by merchants, professionals and craftsmen. Further, it has attracted a large number of workers from the village itself and the neighbourhood.

4. EDUCATION

100 % of the school children had primary education.

The village has two public and three private schools. As for the vocational and university education students usually attend the institutions in Nabatieh.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Harouf health facilities are very limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre in this village. In emergency cases, residents of Harouf use hospitals and health centres in Nabatieh.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The village relies on one artesian well and on Al Tassi spring for its drinking water needs.

Additionally, Harouf lacks proper waste water management due to the absence of a proper public sewage network. There is only a single sewage line that falls next to the Nabatieh sewage system. This line has been established by the donations and efforts of the villagers, the shop owners and the municipality.

Solid wastes are usually collected by Shkeif Municipal Federation.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES

Harouf has built excellent trade and social relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, due to it being a significant commercial and industrial centre.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Harouf is governed by a municipal council 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 5 permanent employees working in the municipality (policeman, treasurer, secretary, guard, and a tax collector), and there are another 5 contracted employees (these provide cleaning, guarding, management and water services). The municipal council has been lent to the municipality.