

HASBAYA VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Hasbaya is a village located in the district of Hasbaya a city in the Nabatiyeh Governorate of Lebanon (one of the eight governorates). It is around 114 kilometres away from Beirut. Its elevation is around 750 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600- 700 mm. Hasbaya is characterized by a moderate climate.

The village covers an area of around 2189 hectares (21.89 square kilometres). Hasbaya falls along the Hasbani River at the foot of Mount Hermon.

The village is distinguished by its valleys which are mainly planted with olives, vines and fruit trees.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Hasbaya is around 15000, among them 2,000 live outside Hasbaya, particularly in Beirut. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 5000 emigrated during the civil war. The field survey indicated that 3000 of those who emigrated were Christians whose ties are completely cut off with Hasbaya, while the remaining 2000 emigrated abroad.

There are 8000 inhabitants during the winter and summer. The number of registered voters is around 7890 voters.

2.1 Labour Force

Unemployment is very minimal in Hasbaya. Many village residents receive support from their families who have emigrated to work abroad.

Women and children participate in agricultural work of the village, especially in the cultivation of tobacco. Women employment outside the agricultural sector in Hasbaya is very minimal.

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

- Agriculture (80%)
- Liberal professions and crafts (10%)
- Government Employees Sector, mainly in the security forces or the military (10%)

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Olives constitute the most important crop in Hasbaya. In the basin of the Hasbani River there are around 1000 dunums of irrigated land and 1000 dunums of non-irrigated.

The cultivation of fruit trees began to recede, as there are only 70 dunums planted with apples. The decline in apple production is mainly due to production problems, such as the inability of farmers to control the diseases that affect these trees and the climate change and the decrease of rainfalls .

However, it is important to highlight that the plantation of pomegranate and pears is still active in the area. Additionally, grains are planted on the higher non-irrigated basin of the Hasbani river; while, the irrigated part of the basin is mostly planted with different kinds of vegetables and some citrus fruits that are usually marketed in the Bekaa and Nabatieh.

The main agro-food product in Hasabaya is olive oil. There are 6 olive oil presses; some of them are large presses that can process around 2000 kilograms of olives in one hour. The sector faces however serious marketing problems, particularly that the Lebanese Army is no more buying Hasabaya olive oil production.

The two main cooperatives in Hasabaya are:

- General Agricultural Cooperative
- Agricultural Cooperative Association for Manufacturing and Craftwork for the women of Hasabaya

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Some residents in Hasabaya are breeding livestock such as cows, chicken and goats (See Table 1).

Table 1: Livestock in Hasabaya

Cows	Goats	Chicken farms
80 heads	100	5

However, it has been noted that during the past 20 years the number of cows decreased from 300 to 80 heads, divided among 4 farms in the areas (10 heads per farm) and the rest belong to specific families (1-2 heads per family). The production of milk and meat by the town is not enough to cover the local needs.

As for the rearing of goats the process has nearly ended due to the lack of grazing land in the area. It is estimated that around 100 goats remain in Hasabaya.

Further, there are 3 large farms dedicated for the rearing and production of eggs and chicken in Hasabaya and their production mainly go to Hawa Chicken; while there are also 2 small chicken farms with around 500 chickens each.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Hasbaya, mainly in painting, aluminium, carpeting, and concrete carpeting (see Table 2).

Table 2: Crafts and Trades

Profession	Number of Workers or institutions
Carpenter	11 institutions
Aluminum and Black Smith	26 people
Concrete carpenter	25 people
Electricians	6
Stone saws	2 saws with 10 people working on each
Stone builders	10 people
Construction industry (sanitary, electricity, painting, tiling etc..)	Around 50 people

4. EDUCATION

100 % of school children had elementary education, and 100 % had primary education. of School drop outs is minimal. There is one public primary school, one public elementary school and public vocational school in Hasbaya. Additionally, there are 3 private primary, elementary and vocational schools. As for university education, students are usually enrolled at universities in Nabatieh, Beqaa and Beirut

5. HEALTH STATUS

Hasbaya health facilities consist of one public hospital and a public clinic which is part of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Additionally, there are 3 functioning clinics in the town.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Drinking water in Hasbaya is provided from the spring of Hasbani, as such there are very limited problems on the level of availability.

As for the management of solid wastes, the wastes are usually collected in one place owned by the municipality. Additionally, the municipality manages a public sewage network that covers around 40% of the houses. As for the waste water it is filtrated by a special water treatment plant which is also under the management of the municipality.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

Hasbaya has built excellent economic and trade relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, as well as with villages on the national level; and relies on them to market

most of its agricultural and agro-industrial production. The main markets for these products are Nabatieh, Saida and Beqaa.

The remittances sent by immigrants to their families in the village have not been invested in development projects of the town, but the personal use of the families.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Hasbaya is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 2004, 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 3 permanent staff members, 4 administrative officers, and 36 contracted employees (police, genitors, water managers) working in the municipality. The municipal council rents its headquarters.

Further, Hasbaya has a number of local institutions dealing with social matters in the village, such as the UNDP Youth Gathering.