

## **JBAA VILLAGE PROFILE**

### **1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Jbaa- Ain Bousouar 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 66 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 0.18 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Jbaa is characterized by a moderate climate and its elevation is around 850 meters above sea level. The snow covers this village for a couple of days during the winter and the temperature goes under 2 degrees Celsius most of the winter nights.

The village covers an area of around 1156 hectares (11.56 km <sup>2</sup>); the total area becomes around 1257 hectares (12.57 km <sup>2</sup>) when Ain-Bousouar, administratively part of Jbaa, is added.

The village is distinguished by its mountainous slopes and plain meadows.

### **2. POPULATION**

The total population of Jbaa-Ain Bousouar is around 7800 (6000 inhabitants in Jbaa, and 1800 inhabitants in Ain Bousouar. Around 2500 villagers live in Beirut and Saïda. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 1500 migrated from Jbaa to other countries.

There are 2500 inhabitants during winter in both Jbaa and Ain Bousouar (2000 inhabitants in Jbaa, and 500 inhabitants in Ain Bousouar), while the number of village inhabitants rises to around 5700 people during the summer (4500 inhabitants in Jbaa, and 1200 inhabitants in Ain Bousouar). The number of registered voters is around 4200 inhabitants (3600 inhabitants in Jbaa, and 600 inhabitants in Ain Bousouar).

#### *2.1 Labour Force*

Unemployment in the village consists of around 50 young men and women who are university graduates or vocationally trained with certificates. Another problem is related to the high rates of school dropouts, which totals around 100 young people under the age of 18 years old. These people doesn't attain any educational learning and end up being excluded from the labour force Working women occupy positions in the educational and trade sector in Jbaa or nearby villages. .

### **3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

#### *3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR*

Jbaa lies on a total area of about 1156 hectares of which 380 hectares are owned by the villagers, while the rest of the land is covered by oak and pine trees.

In 2000 a campaign started to rehabilitate the agricultural land. Until today around 30% of the land has been rehabilitated. The municipality has also constructed agricultural roads in this process. Additionally, the General Agricultural Cooperative in Jbaa has played a constructive role by providing fruit seedlings to the citizens on an annual basis for re-planting the areas. However, these trees need time to become productive fruit trees.

The most common cultivated products within this area are apples, pears, prunes, peaches, grapes and chestnuts. Additionally, the farmers have recently started to grow kiwi.

There are however some problems facing the agricultural sector in Jbaa. One of these problems is the presence of wild boars in the area which destroy most of the planted vegetables and grains, shrubs and even newly planted seedlings. As such, the costs of agricultural production have become very high in Jbaa. Another problem faced in the area is the need to build support walls due to the quality and type of land in this area, as well as to put up fences in order to avoid the destruction brought about by the wild boars.

Agro-industrial production in the village is confined to two olive oil presses and two small grain mills.

### 3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Jbaa are rearing cows, bees and goats (See Table 1).

Table 1: Livestock in Jbaa

<b>Cows</b>	<b>Beehives</b>	<b>Goats</b>
<b>20 heads (owned by 5 families, around 3-5 heads per family)</b>	250 hives owned by 11 families	2 families own 2 herds of goats

The village produces milk which is consumed by the villagers.

### 3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Jbaa, mainly in blacksmithing and aluminium (see Table 2).

Table 2: Crafts and Trades

<b>Profession</b>	<b>Number of enterprises</b>
<b>Industrial blacksmith</b>	5
<b>Saws</b>	3
<b>Aluminium</b>	2
<b>Mills</b>	2
<b>Oil presses</b>	2

#### **4. EDUCATION**

100 % of the school children had primary education.

The village has a kindergarden, one public primary school, one public elementary school and one vocational school. The village does not have any private schools. As for the graduate and university education it takes place in Nabatieh, Saida and Beirut.

#### **5. HEALTH STATUS**

Jbaa health facilities are limited to two clinics in the village.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

Jbaa experiences several environmental problems, these problems can be identified as follow by: a water crisis, improper sewage management, pollution and solid waste problems. The village previously relied on the presence of 365 springs, however most of these springs are very small and located in the lower parts of Jbaa which makes them dry out in the early spring. Currently, the village relies on two springs which is not enough to cover the water needs of the population. It is important to note is that Jbaa is not linked to the network of the Water authority in the South.

As for the solid wastes management the municipality built in 2002 a factory to sort out solid wastes however the factory stopped functioning in 2006. This factory was supposed to handle the wastes from 4 villages; however it became apparent that it cannot handle Jbaa's solid wastes especially during the summer and holidays.

#### **7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND ROLE OF THE IMMIGRANTS**

Jbaa has built excellent trade relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses.

The remittances sent by immigrants to their families in the village have been invested in construction activities in the village, particularly the construction of new houses and rehabilitation of agricultural lands.

#### **8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES**

Jbaa is governed by a municipal council which 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 employees. The municipality has further contracted 3 employees, two to take care of the library and one for maintenance issues. The municipal council rents its headquarters.

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

- Cooperative Association for Agricultural Development in Jbaa
- General Cooperative Association in Jbaa