

## MAJDEL ZOUN VILLAGE PROFILE

### 1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Majdel Zoun 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 100 kilometres away from Beirut and around 17 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Majdel Zoun is characterized by a moderate climate; its elevation is around 417 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm. Majdel Zoun area reaches 1086 hectares (10.86 km<sup>2</sup>).

The village is distinguished by its white soil suitable for the cultivation of fruit trees and vegetables.

### 2. POPULATION

The total population of Majdel Zoun is around 4300. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 1500 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country, mainly to Tyr and the Southern Suburbs of Beirut. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 750 migrated to countries such as Germany, Africa, and Gulf States (See Table 1).

**Table 1: Distribution of Population**

| Population | Number | In Percent |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Residents  | 2050   | 47.7       |
| Displaced  | 1500   | 34.9       |
| Migrants   | 750    | 17.4       |
| Total      | 4300   | 100.0      |

There are 2825 inhabitants during the winter in the village, while the number rises to around 3825 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 2300 voters, as estimated during the 2010 summer elections.

#### 2.1 Age Groups

The distribution of the population by age groups in Majdel Zoun is as follows: 46.5 % are less than 21 years, 47.9 % are between 21 - 65 years, and 5.6 % are 65 years and older (See Table 2).

**Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age Groups**

| Age Group     | Number | In Percent |
|---------------|--------|------------|
| Under 21      | 2000   | 46.5       |
| Between 21-65 | 2060   | 47.9       |
| Above 65      | 240    | 5.6        |
| Total         | 4300   | 100.0      |

## 2.2 Labour Force

Labour force participation in Majdel Zoun is 27 percent of the total resident population of the village.

Women participate in agricultural work of the village, especially in the cultivation of tobacco and olives; in addition to a few who occupy positions in the educational sector, sewing and nursing in Majdel Zoun or nearby villages. Additionally, many of the young people in the village are either engaged in government offices, or are waiting for the opportunity to travel and work abroad or to get employed in specific craft and professions.

Unemployment in Majdel Zoun is around 10 percent.

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

70 per cent in agriculture

15 per cent as government employees and in the military

15 per cent in private sector activities

## 3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The cultivated land accounts for 25 per cent of total arable land

**Table 3: Land use**

| Land use                | Area (in dunums) |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Area of arable land     | 10,000           |
| Area of cultivated land | 2,500            |

Table 4 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Majdel Zoun. The most common cultivated products within this area are olives and tobacco.

**Table 4: Agricultural Products**

| Products      | In Percent of cultivated areas (%) |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Olives        | 20                                 |
| Tobacco       | 20                                 |
| Citrus fruits | 5                                  |
| Almonds       | 4                                  |

There are however some problems facing the agricultural sector in Majdel Zoun such as:

- The high cost of pesticides for greenhouse cultivation.
- The lack of water for irrigation.
- High costs of land reclamation.

### 3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Majdel Zoun are breeding livestock such as cows, goats, chickens, and bees (See Table 5).

**Table 5: Livestock in Majdel Zoun**

| <b>Cows</b>                    | <b>Beehives</b> | <b>Chicken farms</b>                      | <b>Goats</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------|
| <b>20 head of milking cows</b> | 500             | 1 chicken farm for the production of eggs | 200          |

The village produces an average amount of milk per day which is not enough for domestic consumption. As for the production of eggs they are marketed in Tyre and surrounding villages.

### 3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Majdel Zoun, mainly in painting, aluminium, carpeting, and concrete carpeting (see Table 6).

**Table 6: Crafts and Trades**

| <b>Profession</b>         | <b>Number of Workers or institutions</b> |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Concrete carpenter</b> | 2 people                                 |
| <b>Construction</b>       | 4 people                                 |
| <b>Sanitary</b>           | 4 people                                 |
| <b>Tiling</b>             | 2 people                                 |
| <b>Electricity</b>        | 3 people                                 |
| <b>Baker</b>              | 2 bakers                                 |
| <b>Butchers</b>           | 1 butcher                                |
| <b>Barber</b>             | 1 barber                                 |
| <b>Oil changing</b>       | 1 person                                 |
| <b>Supermarket</b>        | 1 Supermarket                            |
| <b>Cellular shops</b>     | 1 shop                                   |
| <b>Groceries</b>          | 10 groceries                             |
| <b>Cloth shops</b>        | 1 shop                                   |
| <b>Concrete factories</b> | 1 factory                                |

## 4. EDUCATION

100 % of the school children had primary education. Most of the students attend the primary and intermediate schools in Tyre.

## **5. HEALTH STATUS**

Majdel Zoun health facilities are very limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. However, there is one health clinic in the village which provides specific services once per week. It is important to note that this clinic is also not effective and lacks the professionals needed to serve the health needs of the village.

## **6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

Majdel Zoun relies on one artesian well for both the provision of drinking water and irrigation services, which forces the villagers to buy water during the summer. It experiences several environmental problems, these problems can be identified as follow by: lack of wastewater management and the absence of a public sewage network; and the improper solid waste management due to the lack of a sanitary landfill. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place and then burned.

## **7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS**

Majdel Zoun's residents go to the neighbouring towns and villages on a daily basis to shop and rely on those villages especially Majdel Selem to cover their consumption needs. As for the immigrants they play a significant role in supporting the income of their families.

## **8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES**

Majdel Zoun 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 around 6 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council headquarters is owned by the villagers.

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

- Al Mahdi Scouts Association
- Al Risala Scouts Association
- Majdel Zoun Development Association