

QAAQAAYEET EL JESER VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Qaaqaayeet El Jeser 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 82 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 0.14 kilometres away from the centre of the Caza'. Qaaqaayeet El Jeser is characterized by a moderate climate. Its elevation is around 340 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600- 700 mm.

The village covers an area of around 825 hectares (8.25 km ²).

The village is distinguished by its slopes of hills and flat meadows, in addition to a small plain of land on the banks of the Litani River.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Qaaqaayeet El Jeser is around 10,000 (more than 40% are registered in Beirut). Around 15% of the village inhabitants migrated to work abroad.

There are 5000 inhabitants during winter in the village, while the number rises to around 6000 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 3200 voters.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The distribution of the labour force by economic activity in Qaaqaayeet El Jeser is as follows:

- Agriculture (50%)
- Trade (5%)
- Small industries and private businesses (15%)
- Employees (30%)

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Around 50% of Qaaqaayeet El Jeser is planted with olives.

Qaaqaayeet El Jeser Agro-food is limited to the production of olive oil which faces a marketing problem. It is expected that this problem will intensify with the increase of the production, because most of the olive trees were recently grown in the village (during the past 15 years).

3.2 LIVESTOCK

The residents in Qaaqaayeet El Jeser are rearing and keeping domestic animals such as cows (10 families, 1-2 cows per family), goats and sheep (3 families), and bees (7 families).

The village produces a limited amount of milk which does not cover the needs of the villagers.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Qaaqaayeet El Jeser , mainly in related construction activities: painting, sanitation, electricity, concrete building, rock sawing, etc.... Further, the village hosts around 11 parks on the banks of Al Litani River, 8 shoe factories (that stopped working), and a small number of commercial shops.

4. EDUCATION

100% of school children had primary education.

The village has a middle school that accommodates around 400 students. The rest of the students rely on the schools of nearby villages. As for the vocational training and university education it usually takes place in other villages such as Nabatieh, Saida and Beirut.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Qaaqaayeet El Jeser health facilities are limited to one clinic which is affiliated with the Ministry of Health and can accommodate around 60 to 70 patients per day. In emergency cases, residents of Qaaqaayeet El Jeser use hospitals and health centres in Nabatieh.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Qaaqaayeet El Jeser rely on two artesian wells. It lacks a public sewage network; while solid wastes are usually collected by Shkeif's Municipal Federation.

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

Qaaqaayeet El Jeser has built good trade and social relationships with the neighbouring villages and businesses, and relies on them to market most of its agricultural and industrial production.

As to the role of the immigrants it is confined to supporting the construction of private homes in the village.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Qaaqaayeet El Jeser 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 is also one employee, a treasurer, working in the municipality. The municipal council headquarters is a school owned by the Ministry of Education, which has been handed in to the municipal council.

Additionally, Qaaqaayeet El Jeser has a limited number of local institutions which deal with social matters in the village, such as the UNDP youth Gathering.