

## **RASHAYYA EL FOUKHAR VILLAGE PROFILE**

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

Rashayya El Foukhar is located in the district of Hasbaya. It is around 113 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 14 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Rashayya El Foukhar is characterized by a moderate climate. Its elevation is around 850 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600- 700 mm.

The village covers an area of around 825 hectares (8.25 square kilometers).

### **2. POPULATION**

The total population of Rashayya El Foukhar is around 4000. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 2000 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country specifically Beirut. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 1500 migrated to various countries.

There are 250 inhabitants during winter in the village, while the number rises to around 500 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 2000 voters.

### **3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

#### **3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

Most of people in Rashayya El Foukhar work in the agricultural sector. Rashayya El Foukhar has around 15% of land suitable for cultivation. Most of the cultivated land is planted with olives, figs and vine trees. As for the slopes in the village they are covered by forests of pine and oak trees.

The most common cultivated product within this area is olives. There are an estimated 100,000 old and new olive trees in the village.

There are only three families in the village that cultivate olives. As for the rest of the groves it is usually leased to the residents of nearby villages.

Apart from the olive oil which is produced in small quantities and consumed locally, there are no other agro-food products in Rashayya El Foukhar.

#### **3.2 LIVESTOCK**

The residents in Rashayya El Foukhar own some live stock (See Table 1).

Table 1: Livestock in Rashayya El Foukhar

<b>Cows</b>	<b>Goats</b>	<b>Chicken farms</b>
<b>5 cows owned by 3 families. 20 calves in one farm.</b>	100 heads owned by one family	5 farms producing around 4000-9000 chicken every two month.

The village produces a limited amount of milk which is consumed by the villagers. As for the surplus of chicken and meat produced in Rashayya El Foukhar, they are usually marketed in nearby villages such as Hasbaya and Marjayoun.

### 3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

Craft and trade activities in Rashayya El Foukhar are also very limited. However, there is one industrial blacksmith in the village. It is important to also note that there are no industrial enterprises or professions, except for a cooperative that produces pottery.

## 4. EDUCATION

There are no schools in the village. The 20 students that are under 18 years old are enrolled in the schools of Marjayoun and Hasabaya.

## 5. HEALTH STATUS

Rashayya El Foukhar health facilities are very limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. However, there is one health clinic in the village which belongs to Al Nour Charity Organization. In emergency cases, residents of Rashayya El Foukhar use hospitals and health centres in Marjayoun and Hasbaya.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The drinking water is usually secured from the Chebaa spring. The village also has an artesian well that is run by the municipality; however it is unfit for drinking. Further, Rashayya El Foukhar has an independent water network that is used for agricultural irrigation.

## 7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES

Rashayya El Foukhar has good relations with nearby villages.

## **8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES**

Rashayya El Foukhar is governed by a municipal council and is currently administrated by 12 members elected by the locals of the area. The council is assisted by several committees composed of locals from the village. There are also has two permanent employees working in the municipality (a policeman and a treasurer) and one contracted genitor. The municipal council owns a permanent headquarters.

Additionally, Rashayya El Foukhar has two cooperatives that mainly work with the pottery and agricultural productions. These are the:

- Agricultural Cooperative in Rashayya El Foukhar
- The Cooperative Association for craft production and marketing of pottery in Rashayya El Foukhar