

RIHANE VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Rihane is a village located in the district of Jezzine a city in the Southern Governorate of Lebanon (one of the eight governorates). It is around 83 kilometres away from Beirut, and around 10 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Its elevation ranges from 740 meters to 1460 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600- 700 mm. Rihane is characterized by a moderate climate and the average annual temperature is 22 degrees Celsius.

The village covers an area of around 19 square kilometres. The village is distinguished by its hills and flat meadows.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Rihane is around 8500. A number of the village inhabitants around 20% migrated to work abroad.

There are 1500 inhabitants during winter in the village, while the number rises to around 5500 people during the summer. The number of registered voters is around 3200 voters.

2.1 Labour Force

Labour force participation in Rihane is 25 % of the total resident population of the village. The economic activity in Rihane is very limited, as around 1000 people residing in the village work in the agricultural sector, while the rest of the inhabitants live and work in Beirut.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Half of Rihane's land is considered arable land, and around 1000 people working in the sector.

The most common cultivated products within this area are olives, figs, grapes, pine nuts, and walnuts, as well as a limited production of grains.

Rihane produces a limited number of agro-foods that are traded in neighbouring villages such as dried figs and olive oil. Farmers face marketing problems in olive oil, which is sold at lower prices than the market prices.

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Rihane are breeding animals such as sheep and goats, chickens, cows and bees (Table 1).

Table 1: Livestock in Rihane

Cows	Beehives	Chicken farms	Goats and sheep
Owned by 25 families (2-5 heads per family)	Limited numbers of families live on raising bees.	5	2 herds owned by 5 families

Milk production is sold locally and in neighbouring villages.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

Craft activities in Rihane are extremely limited, since there is one person working in aluminium, another one working in carpentry, as well as two other industrial blacksmiths.

4. EDUCATION

100% of the school children had primary education.

The village has one elementary school, while the students continue their secondary education in either Nabatieh or Jezzine. As for vocational and university education, the students usually attend the educational institutions located in Nabatieh, Saida and Beirut.

5. HEALTH STATUS

Rihane health facilities are limited, as there is no governmental or private health centre. However, there is one health clinic which is currently under construction and belongs to the Ministry of Health.

In emergency cases, residents of Rihane use hospitals and health centres in Nabatieh.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Rihane relies on one spring in the village for the provision of drinking water, which is managed by the municipality. There is absence of a public sewage network, as the sewage system that is not yet operational would cover only 30% of the village. Solid wastes are usually collected in one place and then burned.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES

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

3. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Rihane 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 two permanent employees (treasurer and writer) working in the municipality, as well as another nine daily contracted employees for the provision of specific services such as the collection of wastes and water management.

Additionally, Rihane has a very number of local institutions such as the UNDP Youth Gathering and the General Agricultural Cooperative of Rihane.