

TAIR DEBBA VILLAGE PROFILE

1. LOCATION AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Tair Debba is a village located the district of Tyre. It is around 90 kilometres away from Beirut and around 8 kilometres from the centre of the Caza'. Tair Debba is characterized by a moderate climate; its elevation is around 200 meters above sea level with an average annual rainfall of 600-700 mm.

The village is distinguished by its red soil suitable for the cultivation of citrus plants, as well as white soil suitable for the cultivation of olives and grains.

2. POPULATION

The total population of Tair Debba is around 5339. The village inhabitants witnessed internal displacement, by which around 1000 villagers were displaced to other parts of the country, such as the Southern Suburbs of Beirut, Saida and Tyre. Additionally, a number of the village inhabitants around 500 migrated to countries such as Germany, United Kingdom and Africa (See Table 1).

Table 1: Distribution of Population

| Population | Number | In Percent |
|------------|--------|------------|
| Residents | 3839 | 71.9 |
| Displaced | 1000 | 18.7 |
| Migrants | 500 | 9.4 |
| Total | 5339 | 100.0 |

There are 3839 inhabitants in winter in the village, while the number rises to around 4000 people during the summer. The number of registered voters according to the 2010 elections is around 2810 voters.

2.1 Age Groups

The distribution of the population by age groups in Tair Debba is as follows: 47.4 % are less than 21 years, 47. 2 % are between 21 - 65 years, and 5.4 %are 65 years and older (See Table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of Population by Age Groups

| Age Group | Number | In Percent |
|---------------|--------|------------|
| Under 21 | 2529 | 47.4 |
| Between 21-65 | 2520 | 47.2 |
| Above 65 | 290 | 5.4 |
| Total | 5339 | 100.0 |

2.2 Labour Force

Labour force participation in Tair Debba is 38 % of the total resident population of the village.

Crafts, trade and footwear are the main activities of Tair Debba, absorbing around 45 per cent of the labour force. The working women occupy positions as teachers and nursing in Tair Debba or they work in clothing stores or as secretary. Agriculture is not a dominant activity as it employs only 10 per cent of the labour force, while government employees including those in the security forces and army account for 20 per cent of the labour force.

Unemployment in Tair Debba is around 8 percent.

3. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

3.1 AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The cultivated area in Tair Debba is around 75 % of the area of the village. Around 4900 dunums of the total area of Tair Debba are considered arable land. The agricultural sector employs a limited number of people because most of those who cultivate olives work seasonally and in other sectors. This is also true for the cultivation of citrus fruits. (See table 2).

Table 2: Land use

| Land use | Area (in dunums) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Outlying area of the village | 5474 |
| Area of arable land | 4900 |
| Cultivated area | 4000 |
| Irrigated areas | 1500 |

Table 3 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Tair Debba. The most common cultivated products within this area are olives, citrus fruits, bananas, grains, tobacco and vegetables.

Table 3: Agricultural Products

| Products | In percent of cultivated area (%) |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Olives | 35 |
| Citrus Fruits | 30 |
| Bananas | 5 |
| Grains (Wheat and corn) | 2.5 |
| Vegetables | 1.9 |
| Tobacco | 0.4 |

Tair Debba also produces some agro-food such as olive oil and borghol. There are however some problems facing the agricultural sector in Tair Debba such as:

- Competition with foreign goods and products
- Lack of control over the distribution of medicines, which are sometimes not appropriate.
- Increase in the costs of production
- Lack of extension services

3.2 LIVESTOCK

Residents in Tair Debba are breeding livestock such as cows, goats, chicken, and bees (See Table 4).

Table 4: Livestock in Tair Debba

| Cows | Beehives | Chicken farms | Goats |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------|-----------|
| 20 heads of cows, 15 milkman | 100 | 2 | 170 heads |

The village produces an average of around 500 kilos of milk per day which are consumed by the villagers. Meat and chicken is produced in Tair Debba and marketed in Tyre.

3.3 CRAFTS AND TRADE SECTORS

There are several craft and trade activities in Tair Debba, mainly in painting, aluminium, carpeting, concrete carpentering (see Table 5).

Table 5: Crafts and Trades

| Profession | Number of Workers or institutions |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Concrete Carpenter | 16 people |
| Industrial Smith | 4 people |
| Carpenters | 2 people |
| Wholesale | 10 people |
| Industrial Smith | 5 people |
| Car mechanics | 3 people |
| Painters | 8 people |
| Furniture painters | 1 person |
| Construction | 10 people |
| Plumbing | 8 people |
| Tiling | 5 people |
| Electricians | 6 people |
| Bakers | 2 person |
| Barber | 7 people |
| Aluminum | 6 people |
| Butchers | 3 people |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Car Electricity | 3 people |
| Oil Change | 1 person |
| Supermarkets | 2 supermarkets |
| Cellular shops | 5 shops |
| Restaurants | 1 restaurant |
| Internet shops | 1 shop |
| Cloth shops | 11 shops |
| Shoe shops | 5 shops |
| Sewing shops | 5 shops |
| Glass replacement and installation | 1 shop |
| Car wash | 2 stations |
| Gas Stations | 1 station |
| Citrus fruit packing factory | 1 factory |
| Marble and tiles factory | 1 factory |
| Glass factory | 1 factory |

The crafts face many challenges, such as: - High costs of production and competition with foreign goods, especially in the sewing industry.

-Use of traditional techniques especially in auto mechanics.

- Reluctance of a number of young people to learn traditional professions and wait for an opportunity to migrate.

4. EDUCATION

100 % had primary education.

Some students are enrolled in the public school of Tair Debba, and others attend private schools in Maaraka, Tyre and Al Abasiya.

5. HEALTH STATUS

There is one health clinic in the village which provides general consultations and distribute medicine for chronic diseases. Residents also benefit from the services of a health clinic which is owned by the Imam Sadr Foundation.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Tair Debba's relies on one artesian well and on the water provided from Wadi Gilo. Irrigated land gets their water from the artesian wells. The absence of a public sewage network and flow of wastewater on the roads due to the improper wastewater management in the area cause major hazards to the environment.

On the other hand the high costs of emptying the wastewater pits and lack of proper solid waste management by which solid wastes are collected and disposed in Ras Al Ayn, are major problems that face the environmental conditions in the village.

7. RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEARBY VILLAGES AND IMMIGRANTS

It is apparent that some of the villagers from Tair Debba work in a number of shops and hospitals in Tyre. The village also benefits from providing educational services to nearby towns. Additionally, Tair Debba hosts a public market each Monday which is an attraction for shoppers in the district.

The role of the immigrants has mainly focused on support to construction.

8. INSTITUTIONS AND SERVICES

Tair Debba is governed by a municipal council which was founded in 2004, 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 8 contracted employees working in the municipality. The municipal council headquarters is owned by the villagers.

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

- Social and Cultural Club of the future.
- Renaissance Social and Cultural Club.
- Al Risala Scout Associations.
- Al Mahdi Scout Association.
- Democratic Union of Municipalities.